

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 25 | Autumn 2025

Over the past few weeks, our team has been busy meeting retailers from across the UK. We started with a visit to a Fed meeting in Portsmouth and, more recently, hosted an exhibitor stand at the Better Retailing Festival in Birmingham.

It was fantastic to hear how well our work is recognised and valued by the retail community, and even better to see that support in action. Thanks to the generosity of attendees, over £1,000 was raised for NewstrAid at the Better Retailing Awards Dinner following the Birmingham event.

Did you know that 66% of our beneficiaries are retailers or retail staff? Many of them receive vital assistance through our Retailer Support Scheme, which continues to make a real difference in the lives of those working in the trade.

We're thrilled to share that dmg media, publishers of the Daily Mail, have

generously agreed to provide us with corporate sponsorship for the next 12 months. We are extremely grateful for their continued support, which will help us make an even greater impact in the year ahead.

We also ran a hugely successful Scavenger Hunt this Autumn, with teams taking part from all over the UK and even as far afield as Cyprus! It was a fantastic event full of fun, teamwork, and creativity.

If you have some time to spare and would like to make a real impact, why not join one of our Area Committees or become a Welfare Volunteer?

As a volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to visit and support a group of our beneficiaries in your local area, helping us continue the vital work we do in communities across the UK.

If you're interested, please get in touch using the contact details in this newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!

Neil Jagger and The NewstrAid Team

NewstrAid Retailer Support Scheme

Financial & emotional assistance for retailers and their staff

For more information contact us for **FREE** on **0800 917 8616**
email: mail@newstraid.org.uk

www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-support-scheme/

NB. Financial support must be for commitments outside the business and will be subject to eligibility checks.



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Win £150 of Amazon Vouchers!



NewstrAid 
The helping hand of the Newstrade OLD BEN

We are the helping hand of the newstrade



Financial Support



Grants



Welfare Volunteer Home Visits



Support For Disabled & Carers



Help For Children



State Benefits Advice



Debt Advice



Emotional Support

Free Helpline:
0800 917 8616



www.newstraid.org.uk

dmg media awards £10,000 corporate sponsorship to NewstrAid

We are delighted to announce that dmG media has awarded £10,000 of corporate sponsorship to NewstrAid, strengthening support for those in the newspaper and magazine industry facing financial hardship.

The news publisher's generous contribution will directly support NewstrAid's vital welfare and wellbeing services including financial aid, emotional support, debt advice, and practical guidance for those in need.

Neil Jagger, Chief Executive of NewstrAid, said: "We are hugely grateful to dmG media for this sponsorship. It will enable us to reach even more people from the newstrade community who are struggling with financial, health, or personal challenges. Having the backing of a leading international media company

underlines the importance of our charity's work and helps ensure that those who helped build the industry are not forgotten."

Shaun Jones, Head of Circulation at dmG media, added: "dmG media is proud to support NewstrAid in their mission to provide care and assistance for people within the newstrade sector. We recognise the crucial role they play in safeguarding wellbeing across the industry and are pleased to contribute to their ongoing impact."

With the help of partners like dmG media, the charity continues to deliver essential services and assistance to individuals and families nationwide.

dmG::media

Daily Mail The Mail i

Support for current beneficiaries facing fuel poverty this winter

As the UK faces an ongoing energy crisis, with over 6 million households reportedly living in fuel poverty according to National Energy Action, NewstrAid has provided a financial boost to around 350 of its beneficiaries by distributing a Winter Comfort Grant to help with heating costs during the colder months.

Fuel poverty is defined as spending more than 10% of household income on energy bills, a reality for millions of families across the country. NewstrAid's Welfare Manager, Katie Babooram, said: "Energy bills are currently around double what they were just two years ago, and for countless families, unaffordable bills and the reality of living in cold, and often damp conditions have become an everyday struggle."

To coincide with the distribution of funds the charity also ran its annual awareness campaign on social media, Woolly Wednesday. The initiative

encouraged everyone across the newspaper and magazine industry to come together on Wednesday 29th October and spread the word about the support the charity offers by wearing their woollies for the day and sharing the #WoollyWednesday social posts.

"Thank you so much for your continued financial support and also for the additional payment you have sent towards covering the cost of heating. This was such a lovely surprise, it will really help me and I really appreciate it."

NewstrAid Beneficiary



"Just a quick thank you for the very kind winter comfort grant we received yesterday... We will now be able to have the heating on that little bit extra as the nights close in and it gets colder."

NewstrAid Beneficiary



Better Retailing Festival

We had a great time at the Better Retailing Festival in Birmingham on October 16th.

It was fantastic to meet all the retailers attending the event and to spread the word about how NewstrAid is supporting retailers and shop workers across the country.

In the evening, we also hosted a raffle which was drawn during the Better Retailing Awards.

Thanks to the generosity of those attending we raised over £1,000 for the charity which was a wonderful result. All the money raised will be used to provide support to retailers and their staff who might be going through a tough time.

A huge thank you to Newtrade Media for inviting us to host the raffle and to everyone who took part!

Did you know?

Around **60%** of the people we support are from the retail sector.

True or False?

NewstrAid only supports retired people.

False!

We support those currently working in the newstrade as well as those who have retired.

How your money helps



SUPPORT FOLLOWING BEREAVEMENT

Phil had a long history of working in the newstrade and after he lost his wife to brain cancer, his income significantly reduced and he found he was struggling to keep up with his bills. His brother-in-law got in touch with NewstrAid to see if we could offer any help.

After speaking to the welfare team and following a full financial assessment, John was awarded regular benefit which provides him with financial support throughout the year to help him manage his bills and outgoings.

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.



SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

Bella is a carer for her father and also looks after her young son. She started to suffer with some mental health issues after she was made redundant from her role as a supervisor for McColls, and this, coupled with her caring responsibilities meant she had not been able to find a new job and was continuing to struggle financially. She approached NewstrAid for help with the cost of a new school uniform for her son.

Following a visit from a NewstrAid Welfare Volunteer and full financial assessment, it was clear that her financial situation was not likely to improve until she found work. NewstrAid awarded her with regular benefit to help cover the ongoing costs associated with her son until she was able to find employment.



GENERAL HARDSHIP FUND

Tariq applied to NewstrAid online via Lightning Reach. He had worked as a shop assistant for 8 years but was recently involved in an incident at work which had led him to stop working. He found himself falling into arrears with his Council Tax and was struggling to pay utility bills and buy food whilst he looked for work.

Following a visit from a NewstrAid Welfare Volunteer it was clear that Tariq was actively looking for work but did not have enough money to cover his weekly expenditure. He was awarded a grant from the General Hardship Fund to help with living costs, as well as a one-off payment to help him clear his Council Tax arrears.

Help for those struggling with household bills this winter

As the colder weather starts to draw in, we are urging newspaper and magazine retailers and shop staff worried about making ends meet, to make use of the Retailer Support Scheme. The scheme provides both financial and emotional assistance to help ease pressures caused by rising household bills, particularly over the challenging winter months.

"Each winter we see increased demand for support," said Katie Babooram, Welfare Manager at NewstrAid. "We want every retailer and shop worker in the newstrade to know that they are not alone. Our Retailer Support Scheme is here to ensure no one is left struggling with household bills."

The scheme cannot help with business costs but does offer a wide range of non-repayable grants to support those facing personal financial hardship. This includes help with rent, utility bills,



council tax, essential household items, and disability aids. It also provides access to state benefits advice, debt advice, mental health resources, and bereavement support.

Katie added: "By providing practical and financial help, our Retailer Support Scheme ensures that those working on the front line of our industry do not have to choose between keeping warm and feeding their families."

Retailers and shop staff who may be in need of help should contact NewstrAid's free helpline on **0800 917 8616** or apply online at **www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-support-scheme**.

Help for Hobbies

In 2023 NewstrAid awarded a Help for Hobbies grant to a beneficiary whose granddaughter had a passion for ice hockey but was struggling to cover the costs of her hobby. Little did we know that two years later she would become one of the youngest players to be signed by the Solihull Vixens Ice Hockey Team. One of only 6 elite teams in the country.

Find out more about Help for Hobbies on our website: **www.newstraid.org.uk/help-for-hobbies/**



Scavenger Hunt 2025

On Thursday 11th September teams from all over the UK and some as far afield as Cyprus, took part in our second ever Scavenger Hunt. Despite a number of teams sadly having to pull out at the last minute due to the London tube strikes, the event still saw nearly 100 people enjoying 90 minutes of fun video and photo challenges as they explored their local area.

Congratulations to the eventual winners from NewsTeam, who completed their challenges and answered the questions in Paphos!

The event not only managed to bring together many different people from



NewstrAid's Jo Willis completes an optical illusion task

across the trade, but it also raised more than £2k for the charity.

We hope even more people will take part next year....

Prize Draw

WE ARE GIVING AWAY

£150 of Amazon Vouchers!

Thank you to everyone who entered our Summer edition prize draw and congratulations to the winner who received their prize in October.

The question was:
On what date will this year's Scavenger Hunt take place?
The correct answer was: **11th September.**

If you would like to enter the next prize draw, please answer the following question:

Of the people NewstrAid supports, what percentage are from the Retail Sector?

As always, the answer is in this newsletter. Please send your answer to mail@newstraid.org.uk

All correct answers received before 31st December 2025 will be entered into the prize draw. Terms and conditions apply. See the NewstrAid website for details www.newstraid.org.uk/about/newstraid-policy-documents/

Carol Service 2025

**Monday 1st December
at 6.45pm**

St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London EC4Y 8AU

Join us for an evening of seasonal readings and carols featuring the St Bride's Choir, all in aid of industry charity NewstrAid.

The service will be followed by wine, festive snacks and a Christmas raffle in the Bridewell Hall next door.

£20 per ticket £15 concessions (65+)
Children under 12 yrs go free with a paying adult.

NewstrAid
The helping hand of the Newstrade



**Ticket
booking
website**



**Enter our
Christmas
raffle**

If you no longer want to support NewstrAid

Thank you for making a regular contribution to NewstrAid through your news wholesaler's weekly invoice, either as a 40p a week Retailer Charitable Donation (RCD) / NewstrAid Charitable Donation, or by membership of the NewstrAid 200 Club / Old Ben 200/400.

Your money allows us to make a real difference to the lives of people from our own industry who need help. We are very grateful for this support. However, if you would like to cancel your Retailer Charitable Donation, your membership of the 200 Club, or both, please do one of the following:

- Contact your supplying wholesaler using the relevant address from the following:
InPost / Menzies Distribution: enquiries.headoffice@menziesdistribution.com or
Smiths News: mynewsaccount@smithsnews.co.uk or NewsTeam: 3 Saline Street, Airdrie ML6 9BE
- Text the word **NEWS** and your box number to: 88440* (eg. NEWS 1234)
- Fill in the opt-out form on our website: www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-donations/
- Email NewstrAid at: mail@newstraid.org.uk
- Write to us at: NewstrAid, Suite 2 Thremhall Estate, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford CM22 7TD
- Call us on 01279 879569 or on Free Helpline 0800 917 8616

You can also use any of these contact details to let us know that you no longer wish to receive this newsletter but please be aware that this will automatically cancel all contributions.

**If using the text option please include a space between NEWS and your box number for example NEWS 1234. You will get an automatic TEXT REPLY confirming your cancellation, if you do not receive a reply, please check that you have correctly spelt NEWS, left a space and included your box number.*



NewstrAid Benevolent Fund

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Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616

www.newstraid.org.uk Tel: 01279 879569 mail@newstraid.org.uk



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