

NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 28 | Summer 2026

We hope that, as you read this newsletter, you are enjoying some sunny weather and finding time to relax with friends and family.

Although there are a few more weeks of the summer ahead, as we move closer to the autumn, I think we are all aware that world events are causing energy prices to increase and this can make it harder to manage household costs, especially during the colder months.

If you are worried about covering your household bills this winter, do remember that NewstrAid's Retailer Support Scheme is here to help retailers and retail staff who may be under financial pressure. You can find details of how to access more information about the scheme on page three of this newsletter.

The new school year will begin soon. This is an exciting time for children, as they meet new friends and start new classes. However, it can also be expensive for families, with costs for uniforms, sports equipment, and school supplies.

To help with these costs, NewstrAid has launched a Back to School Grant. This support is designed to help families prepare for the new school year and you

can find more information on page two. If our Back to School Grant is of interest, please apply as soon as possible so support can be in place before the autumn term starts.

We are only able to provide this kind of financial help because of all the companies who support us. With that in mind, big thanks go to News UK who have renewed their Corporate Sponsorship and 'welcome' to Retail Spark who have just become a new 'Silver' sponsor. Without this support, we could not assist the many newstrade colleagues that we do.

And finally...Do you enjoy quizzes? Do you have colleagues who love testing their knowledge? Or are you just looking for a fun team activity? Why not enter a team into the NewstrAid Trivia Challenge this October? It's an online event, so there is no need to travel. It's also a great chance to show that retailers are the most knowledgeable people in the industry! You can find full details on page four.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Take care of yourself and your loved ones.

**Neil Jagger
and The NewstrAid Team**

FREE Retailer Packs

Just a reminder that Retailer Support Scheme promotional packs are available to retailers including posters for display and wallet cards to distribute to staff. If you would like a free pack, email us mail@newstraid.org.uk



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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

New Back to School Grant

Our new Back to School Grant provides financial support for essential back-to-school items, including uniforms, stationery, books, school equipment, kits and IT devices.

Up to £500 per child is available to those with a trade connection of two years or more. Applicants must also meet a number of financial and eligibility criteria, including being in receipt of qualifying state benefits.

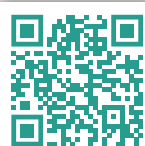
Applications opened on 20 July and close on 28 August 2026, giving families the opportunity to apply during the summer holiday period.



For more information about the Back to School Grant and details of how to apply, visit NewstrAid's website

<https://www.newstraid.org.uk/school/>

or contact the welfare team on: **0800 917 8616**.



Summer Payments

In June we distributed a summer payment to over 300 of our regular beneficiaries. These payments are awarded to those whose circumstances are unlikely to change such as the elderly and individuals who are unable to work due to long term disability.

We are always really touched by the letters and messages of thanks we receive following the delivery of these payments (examples right).

"Thank you so much for all the kind help I have received from you and for the beneficiary payments you have provided to me. Saying thank you doesn't feel enough but I want you to know how thankful I am".

"Just a note to say thank you for the benefit money I received in my bank account on June 1st. This is going to be a big help towards the running of my home"



Mark Gilhespie (InPost Newstrade) and Simon Gage and Jon Bunting (Smiths News) receive their Excellence Plus Award from Neil Jagger.



Excellence Plus Awards for InPost Newstrade and Smiths News

Wholesalers InPost Newstrade and Smiths News have been recognised for their ongoing and invaluable support of NewstrAid through a special Excellence Plus Award. Both companies provide essential assistance to the charity by collecting lottery money and by distributing this newsletter and other communications to retailers who contribute to the charity's work through our lotteries and donations.

To thank them both, Neil Jagger presented each with a special award and certificate in recognition of their help. Neil said: "NewstrAid quite simply could not operate without the work that these wholesalers do on our behalf. Presenting them both with an Excellence Plus Award is just a small way to acknowledge how important they are to us and how grateful we are to them and their staff. Thank you!"

News UK Renews Corporate Sponsorship

NewstrAid is delighted to announce that News UK has renewed its corporate sponsorship of the charity for a further 12 months.

Neil Jagger, CEO of NewstrAid, said: "We are incredibly grateful to News UK for renewing its corporate sponsorship and for its ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of people across our industry."

Daisy Dunlop, EVP, Director of Corporate Affairs at News UK, said: "News UK remains committed to supporting NewstrAid and its work across the newspaper and magazine sector. The charity provides essential services to current and former colleagues navigating difficult circumstances, and we are pleased to renew our corporate sponsorship for another year. We highly encourage anyone in the industry who may be struggling to explore the support available through them."

News UK

Did you know?

NewstrAid are offering **Back to School Grants** to eligible newstrade families who are struggling with the costs associated with the new school term.

True or False?

NewstrAid can help with the cost of white goods and electrical household items?

True!

Our one-off grants can fund a range of things including essential household equipment.

How your money helps



ELLIE Funding for essential furniture

Following an increase in rent and needing to reduce her work hours to care for her ill son, shop worker Ellie started to struggle financially. When her daughter's bed broke she could see no way of funding a replacement so contacted NewstrAid for help.

Following a full assessment and a visit from a welfare volunteer, NewstrAid agreed to fund a new bed for her daughter.

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.



DIPAK Support during illness

Having been diagnosed with cancer Dipak had to take 3 months off work to recover from an operation. As the owner of a shop this meant he had no income during this time and had to take on extra staff to ensure the shop continued to operate. He was feeling very stressed and worried about both his health and his financial situation.

Following a visit from a Welfare Volunteer it was clear that Dipak was in need of support and NewstrAid awarded him with a grant from the Retailer Support Scheme.

Retail Spark become corporate sponsors

Independent retail marketing specialist Retail Spark has become the latest company to support NewstrAid, signing up as a 'silver' corporate sponsor for the first time.

Neil Jagger, CEO of NewstrAid, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Retail Spark as a Silver Sponsor. Their support will help us continue to provide vital assistance to hundreds of beneficiaries in the months ahead."

Darren Powell, Business Development Manager at Retail Spark, added: "We are delighted to become a Silver Sponsor for NewstrAid and proud to play a part in helping the charity continue the invaluable work in our sector."



Mindful May Book tokens

The winners of the book token giveaway we featured in the last newsletter have now been notified and received their tokens earlier in the summer. The answer to the question was 'Oliver Twist'.

To celebrate our Mindful May reading initiative we were also delighted to provide our regular beneficiaries and welfare volunteers with a book voucher which was very well received.

"Thank you so much for the gift token. I usually buy my books from charity shops, it will be a real treat to just choose something up to date from a book shop. What a lovely idea"

"Thank you so much for my Gift Card it was a lovely surprise. It's my birthday on Monday and to celebrate I'd planned a few days away. I shall now buy a book to enjoy while I'm enjoying my break away."

AGM and Area Committee Awards

On 1st July we held our AGM and Area Committee awards in London. The event included a celebration of the work of our Area Committee members and long serving Welfare Volunteers.

If you are interested in joining one of our Area Committees and helping organise some of the regional events that take place, please get in touch mail@newstraid.org.uk

We help shop staff as well as business owners

NewstrAid's Retailer Support Scheme

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.



NewstrAid 
The helping hand of the Newstrade

All grants are non-repayable



Fundraisers

Marketforce

During June, magazine distributors Marketforce committed to walk 2,026 miles to raise money for NewstrAid. Involving staff from across the business the challenge included group walks, team challenges and inter-office competitions.

We are delighted to announce that they succeeded in walking 2,302km and raising more than £1,500 for NewstrAid as a result. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Golf Day

On June 10th the annual Thames Valley Golf day took place in aid of NewstrAid. Involving 76 golfers and raising over £1,400 for the charity.

Fishing Day

On 8th July 79 people across 9 boats took part in the East of England fishing day off Ramsgate harbour raising £2,000 for the charity.

NewsTeam Conference Raises £1,000

For the third consecutive year, NewsTeam has raised £1,000 in support of NewstrAid. The funds were raised through a charity raffle held during the Suonal/NewsTeam Annual Conference in Rhodes in May 2026.

Neil Jagger, CEO of NewstrAid, commented: "We are extremely grateful to the 100 NewsTeam delegates whose generosity will help us continue providing vital support to those who need it most."

Prize Draw

WE ARE GIVING AWAY £150 of Amazon Vouchers!

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

The question was: *What is the name of our annual spring campaign that focuses on mental health and wellbeing and that this year is promoting the benefits of reading?* The correct answer was: *Mindful May*

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

When is the NewstrAid Trivia Challenge event taking place?

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

All correct answers received before 30th September 2026 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/

TRIVIA CHALLENGE

We are hosting an industry wide virtual Trivia Challenge on
Thursday 15th October from 4pm.
£10 pp or £50 for a team of 6

This fun event will include trivia questions, video tasks and photo challenges which can all be completed using your smartphone or tablet.

For more information and to register a team visit:
www.newstraid.org.uk/trivia2026

Thanks to event sponsor

 NewsTeam



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 weekly 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
 - Smiths News: mynewsaccount@smithsnews.co.uk
 - NewsTeam: retail@newsteamgroup.co.uk
- 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**
- Text the word **NEWS** and your **box number** to: **88440*** (eg. NEWS 1234)
- 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

Suite 2 Thremhall Estate, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 7TD

Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616

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



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