NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 29 | Autumn 2026

I hope you are well and have managed to enjoy our rather crazy summer – record-breaking temperatures, hosepipe bans and lawns that seemed to turn brown overnight!

As we are now moving into the cooler autumn and winter months it is more important than ever that we spread the word about the support our charity can offer the industry.

Paul Bacon, NewstrAid's Operations Manager, and I recently had the pleasure of meeting hundreds of retailers at the Better Retailing Festival in Birmingham, as well as The Fed's trade shows in Leicester and Mitcham.

It was incredibly encouraging to hear first-hand how much NewstrAid's work is valued and supported by retailers across the country.

One of the key messages we want to reinforce is that NewstrAid's support is available not only to you as a retailer, but also to your shop staff.

So please make sure your team knows about NewstrAid, the support we provide and how to contact us. If you or any of your staff are facing hardship and could benefit from financial, practical or emotional support, we are here to help.

For the first time this year, we introduced our Back to School Grant, helping parents with the financial pressures of school uniforms, equipment and sports kit. The response was fantastic and you can read about how the grant has helped others from the newstrade on page 2 of this newsletter.

As we move into the winter months, NewstrAid's support becomes even more important. This year, we have increased our Winter Fuel Grant by £100 for all our regular beneficiaries, helping them manage the additional costs of keeping their homes warm during the colder weather.

All of our contact details are included in this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to get in touch – we're here to help.

Neil Jagger and The NewstrAid Team

We help **shop staff** as well as business owners

NewstrAid's Retailer Support Scheme



All grants are non-repayable

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.

Page two
Back to School Grants

Page two
ANL Corporate Sponsorship

Page three
How Your Money Helps

Page four
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

Helping with Back To School Costs

Launched for the first time this summer, our **Back to School Grant** proved extremely successful with more than £22k being awarded over the school holidays. Specifically aimed at helping families cover the cost of essential back to school items, awards were used for a wide range of things from laptops and equipment to school uniforms and stationery. Details of some of the families we helped are below.



GAV

Gav had previously received financial support from NewstrAid through the Cost of Living and General Hardship Funds. He was also struggling with the school costs for his 3 children and applied for a Back to School Grant.

NewstrAid awarded a grant for each of the children.

"Thank you for this it has helped with the costs for things that are essential for the kids which is amazing! Thank you again for the help it is very much appreciated."

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.



AYSHA

Aysha works in a shop selling newspapers and magazines and was struggling to cover the cost of a laptop and school clothing for her 16-year-old daughter who was due to start Sixth form in September.

She applied for the Back to School Grant and was awarded £500 to help with her daughter's school costs.

"This is great, thank you very much."



DEBBIE

Existing beneficiary Debbie was caring for her great nephew but struggling to cover the cost of his new uniform and stationery as he was about to start a new school.

After applying for a Back to School Grant Debbie was successfully awarded £350.

"Thank you so much! You've no idea how much this will help towards getting my little one's uniform and relieve some of the stress. I am so grateful - thank you again."

Help and Support Whatever the Weather

As we enter the colder winter months it is important to note that NewstrAid is here to assist in all weathers. To help with ever-growing energy bills our Board of Trustees agreed to award an increased **winter comfort grant** this year. This meant that more than 300 households who are currently in receipt of regular financial assistance from NewstrAid received a financial boost of £250.

In addition, our **General Hardship Fund** provides grants of up to £250 per household to those struggling with the cost of living and to make ends meet.

Finally, if extreme weather conditions such as **flooding** or **storms** affect you over the coming months, we are here to provide **practical, emotional and financial support.**

Get in touch if you need assistance.
T: 0800 917 8616
E: mail@newstraid.org.uk

Trivia Challenge 2026

On 15th October 16 teams from across the newstrade joined together online to go head-to-head in the first **NewstrAid Trivia Challenge**. Including quiz questions, as well as photo and video tasks, the event was lots of fun and a team from **Smiths News** were crowned the ultimate winners.

ANL Renews £10,000 Sponsorship for 2026

Daily Mail

ANL has renewed its support for NewstrAid with a further £10,000 corporate sponsorship donation for 2026, continuing a partnership that has helped the charity significantly increase the number of newstrade colleagues it supports.

Neil Jagger, CEO of NewstrAid, said: *"Industry support like this is essential in helping NewstrAid to continue to expand its reach and increase the number of people it is able to support each year."*

Shaun Jones, Head of Circulation at ANL, added: *"Associated Newspapers Limited is proud to continue our support for NewstrAid with a further £10,000 contribution in 2026. We have seen the important difference the charity makes to people throughout the newstrade community and are pleased that our support since 2022 has helped NewstrAid reach an increasing number of industry colleagues."*

Did you know?

The average age of the people we help is 42.

True or False?

NewstrAid supports more than 1000 people from the trade every year?

True!

In 2025 we provided financial, emotional and practical assistance to 1,074 people.

Welfare Volunteer Long Service Award

At our Annual General Meeting in the summer, NewstrAid officially launched a Long Service Award to celebrate the commitment and contribution of our Welfare Volunteers. Eight volunteers were in attendance at the event and received the inaugural Long Service Badge. A further five awards were presented In September during our annual Welfare Volunteer Lunch (pictured).

NewstrAid's Welfare Volunteers play a vital role in supporting beneficiaries who receive regular financial assistance from the charity. Through home visits and telephone calls, they provide a personal connection for individuals whose circumstances are unlikely to change, including older people and those unable to work due to long-term illness or disability.

Georgia Cannon, who manages NewstrAid's volunteer network, said: *"We are really excited to be celebrating the work of our volunteers in this way. They are the human faces of NewstrAid and this initiative highlights the*



invaluable contribution they make in helping the charity maintain a personal and community-focused welfare service for people working in, or retired from, the newstrade and wider sectors."

Become a Welfare Volunteer

NewstrAid is always keen to hear from people within the newstrade who would like to support colleagues and former colleagues through volunteering. Full training and DBS checks are provided.

For more information, visit **www.newstraid.org.uk/welfare-volunteers**, email **mail@newstraid.org.uk** or call **01279 879 569**.

Better Retailing Festival & Awards Raises More Than £1,200

Retailers and industry suppliers showed their support for NewstrAid at this year's Better Retailing Festival & Awards, helping to raise more than £1,200 through a raffle held during the event on 14th September 2026.

Parin Gohil, Managing Director of Newtrade Media, commented: *"We're delighted that this year's raffle raised more than £1,200 for NewstrAid. The charity provides important support to people throughout our industry, and we'd like to thank everyone at the event who got involved and helped us achieve such a great total."*

Paul Bacon added: *"A significant proportion of the people we support have a connection to the retail sector, so having a presence at an important industry event like the Better Retailing Festival & Awards is particularly valuable. Raising more than £1,200 is a fantastic result and we are extremely grateful to everyone who entered the raffle and helped make it possible."*

How your Money Helps



NITA
Household Repairs

Nita owned and ran a newsagents for more than 10 years but when ill health forced her to stop working, she was awarded regular benefit from NewstrAid to help with her day to day living costs. Her Welfare Volunteer got in touch when a water pipe in her house started to leak and she was struggling to cover the £700 repair costs.

NewstrAid awarded her with a one off grant to cover the cost of the repairs.



RAVI
Personal Debt

As a shop owner, Ravi had paid into the NewstrAid 200 club lottery for many years. However, when his relationship broke down and he ended up leaving the family home, he was too embarrassed to ask for help. It was only when his energy and council tax arrears became too large for him to cope with that he decided to contact NewstrAid.

Following a visit from a Welfare Volunteer, NewstrAid awarded Ravi with a grant to help with his bills and give him some breathing space to get on top of his finances.



SCOTT
Help for Children and General Hardship

Scott had worked for McColl's as a shop assistant for 4 years when he was diagnosed with ADHD and autism, something he was struggling to cope with. He was signed off work, was falling behind on his rent and bills and struggling to give his ex partner maintenance money for their young daughter.

Following a visit from a Welfare Volunteer, NewstrAid awarded a children's grant and a one-off grant to help him clear his bills and support his daughter while he got his finances back on track.

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.

Curry Nights

The Fed, Perth

On August 19th retailers from all over Scotland and members of NewstrAid's Scottish Area Committee met in Perth to enjoy delicious South Indian Curries and listen to talks from several speakers concerning issues faced by shopkeepers.

Following the meal, a raffle was held raising over £400 for the charity . Many thanks to Scottish Fed President Uthay Soundararajan and Deputy Vice President Natalie Fullerton for making NewstrAid part of a wonderful evening.

Southern Area Committee

Our Southern Area Committee hosted a Curry Night in Brighton on October 5th, inviting the area's most prominent retailers to enjoy a delicious 3 course meal.

Area Committee member David Piper welcomed the guests with a few words about NewstrAid and its community which was followed by short talks from co-sponsors Trovr and Shopt which were well received.

Including raffle proceeds,the whole evening raised over £600 for NewstrAid and was a very enjoyable event.

Thank You!
Huge thanks to **NewsTeam** who raised **over £1,000** for NewstrAid at their October Company Conference this year by hosting a raffle. This is the third year that they have raised money for the charity at their conference, and we are very grateful for their continued support.



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: *When is the NewstrAid Trivia Challenge event taking place?*
The correct answer was:
Thursday 15th October

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

What is the average age of the people NewstrAid helps?

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

All correct answers received before 30th December 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/

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** (Mon to Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm)



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

InPost

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

LinkedIn/newstraid-benevolent-fund
www.facebook.com/newstraid.benevolentfund