

# NewstrAid newsletter

Issue 20 | Summer 2024

## Welcome to our Summer Newsletter for 2024.

As you probably know, NewstrAid was founded in 1839 to help the desperately poor newspaper sellers in London and one of our founding fathers was a certain Mr Charles Dickens. 185 years on we are still providing essential help and support to this ever-changing industry and details of some of the more recent events we have organised to mark this special birthday can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Aside from the anniversary activities, I was delighted to address the Fed's annual conference in Birmingham recently and tell them of the great work NewstrAid is doing to help colleagues from the trade who are facing hardship and to remind the 250 delegates that over 60% of the people we help are retailers. More details of our Retailer Support Scheme can be found below and if you or someone you know needs



NewstrAid's support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I was also thrilled that a number of Fed members approached me at the conference to become Welfare Volunteers. This important role involves visiting beneficiaries to have a chat, a cup of tea and make sure they are ok. If you feel you could spare some of your valuable time to become a Welfare Volunteer, please do get in touch by emailing [mail@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:mail@newstraid.org.uk) or calling **0800 917 8616**.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and that you have a great Summer...when it finally arrives!

**Neil Jagger and The NewstrAid Team**

## Retailer Support Scheme

Since launching the Retailer Support Scheme in the Spring we have received a number of applications for help from newsagents and those that work in shops selling newspapers and magazines. Please do contact us if you or a member of your staff are struggling with household bills due to an unexpected change to their circumstances.



## 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](mailto:mail@newstraid.org.uk)  
[www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-support-scheme/](http://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 

## 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](http://www.newstraid.org.uk)

# How to apply for financial help from NewstrAid

If you are applying to NewstrAid for support, it is likely that you are going through a challenging time. With this in mind we have done our best to make the process as easy as possible.

In most cases, we ask that applicants use the application platform provided by our trusted partner, Lightning Reach, which uses secure technology to make it as quick and safe as possible for you.

[www.newstraid.org.uk/how-to-apply-for-help/](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/how-to-apply-for-help/)



It's a simple 4 step process which should take you approximately 15-20 minutes to complete online. Guidance can be found on our website.

The profile you create on the Lightning Reach portal can also help you to find and apply for support from other organisations easily and securely.

For help with completing your application contact the NewstrAid Welfare Team on **0800 917 8616**.



## What happens next?

Once we have received your application we will come back to you with any further questions, after which your case will be considered by the NewstrAid Welfare Committee who will decide if we can help and in what capacity.

We will do our very best to assess your application as quickly as we can.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: [mail@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:mail@newstraid.org.uk) or call **0800 917 8616**.



## NewstrAid's AGM 2024

NewstrAid's AGM took place on June 26th at the Rubens Hotel in London. Following the meeting, a number of trophies were presented to the Area Committees and individuals who had made significant contributions to the charity's work during 2023. Certificates were also given to each Area Committee recognising their contribution to NewstrAid through the 200 club lotteries.

NewstrAid has 13 Area Committees located all around the UK. If you are interested in joining the committee in your local area, please contact [tom@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:tom@newstraid.org.uk). You can also find out more on the NewstrAid website <https://www.newstraid.org.uk/area-committees/>



## Did you know?

In the first quarter of 2024, **67%** of the payments we made were to help people from the retail sector.

## True or False?

NewstrAid offers access to a free Debt Advice Helpline?

**True!**

Call **0800 987 5685** for free, impartial advice from the Debt Advice Foundation.



Members of the Scottish Area Committee at the Curry Night

## Scottish Curry Night

On 1st July our Scottish Area Committee hosted a very successful curry night in Paisley for retailers in the West of Scotland. The special evening, which was generously sponsored by The Scottish Sun, The Record and The Fed, saw more than 40 independent retailers in attendance.

An auction and raffle, sponsored by The Herald, The Scotsman and The Fed, raised over £600 for charity funds. Scottish Chair, Abdul Qadar said *'This is our second curry evening following an Edinburgh event last year and we are delighted with the support from the trade which resulted in a good amount being donated to the charity.'*



# Beneficiary Stories



## Support for children and dependants

Following the death of her husband from cancer, Priya was left to care for their teenage daughter on her own, whilst struggling with her own poor health. Her daughter had recently been diagnosed with scoliosis and had been advised that she would need major surgery within a year. On top of this she was in the middle of doing her A-levels and the worries of both were making her quite stressed. The family had discussed a holiday which they felt would be beneficial but needed some financial help to make it possible.

*Priya was already in receipt of regular benefit from NewstrAid to help support everyday living costs but due to the family's current circumstances she was awarded an additional one-off grant of £250 to help fund a trip with her daughter.*



## Support during illness

Kim had worked in shops selling newspapers and magazines for 5 years but due to ill health was unable to work full-time and was struggling financially and finding it difficult to cope. She applied for help from NewstrAid via Lightning Reach.

*In the first instance she was put in touch with the Debt Advice Foundation to help manage her finances and was given details of the resources available on our Wellbeing Website to support her mental health. Her application was then considered by the Welfare Committee and following a financial review, she was given a Cost of Living Crisis Fund grant and a one-off grant to clear her rent and energy bill arrears. In addition, because of her long-term financial situation, the committee agreed she should become a regular beneficiary to receive ongoing support to meet her living costs.*



## Advice only

Nadeem had owned an off licence that sells newspapers and magazines for 12 years and contacted NewstrAid because his business was struggling.

*Unfortunately, NewstrAid cannot help with any business related problems. As he had no concerns at home the team advised him to contact Business Debtline for further help and gave him details of NewstrAid's Wellbeing Website to find resources that might help look after his mental health during this stressful time.*

NB All beneficiary names have been changed.

**Could you help us?**

We are looking for retailers to become NewstrAid 'Champions' and help us to spread the word about the help we provide to the retail community via social media etc. If you are interested in getting involved then please contact us: [tom@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:tom@newstraid.org.uk)

## A month in the life of NewstrAid... A snapshot of how we help

*In May 2024 we...*



Helped **11 households** with a **Cost of Living Crisis Fund Grant**.

Awarded **22 one-off grants** to help with the purchase of white goods, disability aids and to support general living costs.



Issued **5 grants for children** to help purchase school uniform, pay for hobbies and support with general hardship.

Launched our new **Retailer Support Scheme** providing financial and emotional assistance to independent retailers and their staff.





## 185th Anniversary

This year we have been busy marking our 185th year with a variety of events and activities. Our **Anniversary raffle** raised over £500 for the charity and a special **Scavenger Hunt** event in June saw over 100 participants from the newspaper and magazine industry complete a variety of fun tasks in towns across the UK and beyond. Congratulations to the Menzies Edinburgh team who were crowned the ultimate winners! Thank you to everyone who has helped us celebrate our special birthday so far this year.



*The NewstrAid team start their Scavenger Hunt in Bishop's Stortford*

## Birthday Biscuits!

To mark our 185th birthday we sent a special biscuit to our regular beneficiaries and Welfare Volunteers during May. Judging by the lovely messages that came into the office, these sweet treats were very well received and allowed us to celebrate this special year with the people we assist on a regular basis and the many volunteers who help us provide this support!



*"Congratulations on NewstrAid's 185th Anniversary. NewstrAid has been a godsend to me and my family for over 20 years and has helped me through difficult times. The iced biscuits are lovely."*

*"Thank you very much for including me with the small celebration biscuits... I kept one and gave one to my friend... best wishes to everyone; I don't feel so on my own with you in the background"*

## 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:

*Retailers represent what percentage of NewstrAid's beneficiaries?*

The correct answer was:

*More than 60%*

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

**How many Area Committees does NewstrAid have across the UK?**

As always, the answer is in this newsletter. Please send your answer to [mail@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:mail@newstraid.org.uk)

All correct answers received before 30th September 2024 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/](http://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 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:  
Menzies Distribution: [enquiries.headoffice@menziesdistribution.com](mailto:enquiries.headoffice@menziesdistribution.com) or  
Smiths News: [mynewsaccount@smithsnews.co.uk](mailto:mynewsaccount@smithsnews.co.uk) or  
NewsTeam: **3 Saline Street, Airdrie ML6 9BE**
- Fill in the opt-out form on our website: [www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-donations/](http://www.newstraid.org.uk/retailer-donations/)
- Email NewstrAid at: [mail@newstraid.org.uk](mailto: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.



**NewstrAid Benevolent Fund**

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

**Free Helpline: 0800 917 8616**

[www.newstraid.org.uk](http://www.newstraid.org.uk) Tel: 01279 879569 [mail@newstraid.org.uk](mailto:mail@newstraid.org.uk)

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