



Join the UK
Footwear Benevolent Society

A friend to those in need
by the trade for the trade

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Who we are?

We are a charity that seeks to help those in need who work in the shoe industry and have worked in the footwear industry in the past. 100% of income raised from our fundraising activities is paid directly to our beneficiaries. The running cost of the charity is met through investment income.

Loyalty is of the utmost importance to us and we take pride in tending to the needs of the members of our ever-growing family.

Set up in 1836, Footwear Friends has spent nearly 180 years aiding beneficiaries, cementing a long standing relationship with those who have given so much to the industry.

The Footwear Benevolent Society could never have achieved such a high level of generosity over so many decades without the universal support that it has received through successive generations. With such a strong and proud heritage, the need to evolve and grow is more important than ever.

Unlike any other charity, Footwear Friends offers support and aid to those who have worked in ALL sectors of the footwear industry. This includes, manufacturing, retail, repair, wholesale, design and component manufacture.

£80,000 is distributed annually and makes an enormous difference to people's lives. With today's challenging economy we receive more and more requests for help. Our financial needs are increasing and it is only with the assistance of generous donations that we can help more people from the footwear industry.



History

The society was set up back in 1836 when it was called, The Benevolent Society of Master Boot and Shoe Makers.

Formed by five gentlemen who each deposited five shillings for the relief of aged members, widows and orphans related to the trade; the society still to this day, supports the same community.

For well over 170 years, people who have worked in the footwear industry have been able to turn to Footwear Friends for help and support from within their own industry. Since foundation in 1836 the Benevolent Society has assisted thousands of people and continues to do so through a programme of financial and other support for those in need.

As the industry has changed so has the society. It originally provided financial support and almshouses for retired workers from manufacturing who had fallen on hard times. Today, Footwear Friends provides financial help and assistance to individuals of all ages working in all areas of the footwear trade from manufacturing and shoe repair to design and retail.

[Top Left: Almshouses circa 1890](#)

[Bottom Left: Board of trustees 1920s](#)



Our Purpose

Through a range of services, Footwear Friends provides support and information to those who have worked in the footwear industry.

Whether it's a new chair or financial support, Footwear Friends is on hand to offer support and security to those who have fallen on hard times. As a charity we aim to:

- Increase the number of people we help in the footwear industry
- Initiate activities and campaigns which will raise funds
- Provide information and support for people in the industry
- Promote the great work of those who have given years of their lives to the footwear industry
- Assist those in need
- Support and help to establish Footwear Friends throughout the UK in furtherance of the charity's mission

Left: Mrs C.K. Newton

"Footwear Friends has supported me for 53 years and I am now aged 101. It is comforting to know that there has always been someone else caring about me. I worked in manufacturing in Northamptonshire but Footwear Friends helps all footwear people no matter where you live or what your job was or who you worked for."

Mrs C.K. Newton - 101st Birthday, December 2014



Mrs Dix

Testimonial by Mrs Dickerson, Mrs Dix's Daughter

"My mother has asked me to thank you for the lovely flowers and card brought by your charity welfare officer for her 100th birthday. Also for the cheque which was a nice surprise, mum is grateful for your generosity. We celebrated the big day with a party at my daughter's home and the lovely weather made it very enjoyable, we were able to sit in the garden. About 30 family and friends came to share her day and she managed to cope very well although it left her rather tired."

Mrs Dix - 100th Birthday, July 2013

Mr Gray

Testimonial by Mr Gray

"I was initially referred to Footwear Friends via the footwear industry's union and have been receiving regular assistance from the charity for a number of years. Following the death of my wife the charity was very sympathetic and considerate during this very sad time and were able to offer help towards the cost of the funeral, which made a great difference. Many thanks to all of the Footwear Friends donors who make such grants possible for people like me."

Mr Gray, January 2015



Get Involved

Be it time, money or connections across the industry, we'd be hugely grateful for your assistance.

A number of organisations associated with the footwear industry have provided regular contributions to our funds over a number of years: The Pattenmaker and Cordwainer Livery Companies, the British Footwear Association, Drapers Magazine, and the International Golf Championship of the Shoe, Leather and Allied Trades are ongoing supporters and we have also been helped through various fundraising activities organised by a number of companies and individuals.

But, with the demand for assistance remaining high, we need your help to raise funds to ensure that we can continue to assist those in need.

There are many ways to help support Footwear Friends from simply making a donation to getting involved in up and coming events and sponsorship. Any involvement is greatly appreciated.

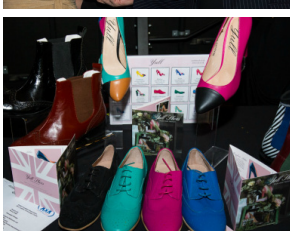
Visit www.footwearfriends.org.uk for further information on how you can get involved.

Top: Ken Gray and David Jameson on the Wainwright Walk

Middle: Meltonian Marathon

Bottom: Mike Heron in the Windermere row

Annual Awards



Annual Awards

As well as looking after the old, Footwear Friends also holds an annual awards event to seek out the future of creative design talent.

Eight years ago we established an annual Design Awards competition with the aim of encouraging and developing young talent in the footwear industry. Supported by the footwear courses run by a number of Universities and Colleges the number of entrants has continued to rise each year with a record 29 entrants in 2014.

Each year, about 15 aspiring young footwear companies go through a Dragon's Den experience and the winners receive cash prizes and mentoring support. The awards culminate in an evening event at which about 130 members of the industry, plus press, see the prizes distributed.

An update on some of the previous winners and details of the 2014 winners can be seen on our website.

Trustees

Our Trustees come from various parts of the footwear industry and have many years of experience within the trade. What they have in common is the desire to assist present and former employees from the trade who have fallen on hard times. The current Trustees are listed below:

Malcolm Collins

Tim Cooper

Janice Donaghue

Simon Goodman

Harvey Jacobson

Richard Kottler

Peter Lamble

David Lockyer (Chairman and President)

Justin Morgan

Paul Spencer

Kevin Traynor (Honorary Treasurer)

Co-opted members:

Richard Paice

Grant Expenditure

Allocation of grants by category for the last five years.

As can be seen from this overview our support is invaluable to the day to day needs of our beneficiaries. From help with everyday mobility aids to leisure and recreation we help to enhance the quality of life of our footwear friends.

Category	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014
Mobility Aids	18	11	8	7	6
Property Maintenance	21	17	14	11	18
Home Appliances	4	9	1	5	7
Funeral Costs	3	0	3	0	4
Holidays	4	4	2	1	1
Furnishings	3	12	10	7	5
Utility Bills	4	1	3	8	3
Personal	0	3	2	3	0
Non Specific	3	11	7	3	6
Regular Allowance	71	59	54	52	50
Regular Mid-Year Grant	183	168	164	161	161
Regular Christmas Grant	189	178	185	176	170
Christmas Bonus Grant	177	166	168	163	156
Total Grants	680	639	621	597	587
Total Number of People Assisted in the Year	232	225	215	204	207

Personal Donations

Gift Aid Declaration

Charity: Footwear Benevolent Society
(Footwear Friends)

Details of Donor

Title

Forename(s)

Surname

Address

Postcode

I want the charity to treat:

* The enclosed donation of £

as Gift Aid Donations

* tick as appropriate

I am a UK taxpayer. Please treat all donations I make or have made to the Footwear Friends for the past 4 years as Gift Aid donations until further notice.

I am not a UK taxpayer

Date / /

Signature

Company Donations

For a donation payment to qualify for relief the following criteria need to be met:

- It is a payment of money during the year in question;
- Not subject to any repayment conditions;
- The company making the donation is not a charity itself;
- There are no associated acquisitions (e.g. side deals dependent on donation being made);
- Payment is not a dividend; and no significant associated benefit is being received by company or party related there to (e.g. tickets for events, free membership).

The information above is based on advice from accountants assisting Footwear Friends. We advise donors to seek tax advice from their own accountant in order to determine whether relief from corporation tax would be available in respect of their donations.

Notes

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the charity.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year.
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains tax equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 1.)
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity. Alternatively, ask your local tax office for leaflet IR113 Gift Aid.
6. Please notify the charity if you change your name and address

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