

Footwear Friends

a friend to those in need



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter 2015 to keep you informed of what is happening with YOUR charity, Footwear Friends.

FUNDRAISING

The 70th International Golf Championship of the Footwear and Allied Trades took place at the luxurious and beautiful Druids Glen Resort in Ireland, about 30 miles south of Dublin from 17-19th June. More than 100 golfers competed for the Championship Trophies and the numerous Regional Trophies, the Men's Champion taking the prestigious "News Bowl" and the Ladies Champion the impressive "Shoe & Leather News" Trophy.

The Trade Banquet on the Thursday night in the Ballroom was attended by 120 people. Thanks goes to all the sponsors, and the very successful raffle and auction held on the evening. Footwear Friends would also like to thank all of the participants in the event. We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped to make this event a real success and in particular the members of the Championship Committee who worked tirelessly to arrange and organise the three days.

In 2016 the Championship returns to the UK and will be played at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire, the last visit being in 2006. The event will take place from the 22nd June – 24th June and anyone not on the mailing list who would like to play as a member of the trades or as a visitor please

visit

www.shoeanleathergolfinternational.co.uk
for more information.



We are very fortunate to have the support of two very long established livery companies, namely The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers (www.cordwainers.org) and The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers (www.pattenmakers.co.uk). Footwear Friends are very grateful for their continued and substantial support of the Charity.

Again additional funds were raised through the Footwear Industry Awards held in February of this year and the Drapers Footwear Awards in June. Footwear Friends are very grateful to all involved in making this possible.

The Executive Committee of Footwear Friends continuously strives to find new ways of raising funds to assist those who

have fallen on hard times from all sectors of the trade, such as manufacture, wholesale, repair, retail and apparel trades.

One such initiative is Africa Shoes. If your company has unwanted samples or old stock then Africa Shoes will gladly take them off your hands and donate the proceeds to Footwear Friends. Please visit www.africashoes.com.



Northamptonshire Manufacturers' Dinner

The Annual Northamptonshire Footwear Manufacturers' Dinner was again held at the Kettering Spa Hotel on the 14th May. The event was hosted by the BFA and was attended by more than 70 people. There was a very generous table collection in support of Footwear Friends.

INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISERS

Our thanks go to Individuals who are or have been involved in the footwear trade and who take the initiative to raise funds for the charity. Special thanks go to Brian Keech who has repeatedly participated in the Waendel Walk and raised funds for Footwear Friends through sponsorship.

On the 22nd March 2015 eight members of staff from Oliver Sweeney took part in the "Back to the Trenches" challenge and through sponsorship raised vital funds for the charity. This challenge involved running the course in extremely muddy conditions with various military designed obstacles in their tracks, some of which saw them dodging barbed wire, climbing hills and facing mud slides. Carried sandbags and tyres, crossed lakes and took on trenches to name but a few of the things they had to tackle.

Footwear Friends would welcome any fundraising initiatives by supporters. If you would like to take up your own personal challenge in aid of Footwear Friends, please visit our website on www.footwearfriends.org.uk to download our fundraising pack which provides you with ideas and information. If fundraising is not for you then you may wish to make a donation to Footwear Friends, you can do this by cheque



or via our website. Please be assured that all of your contribution, whether in sponsorship or donation will be used directly to assist those who are struggling to make ends meet. We offer assistance in form of one-off grants or, in some cases of real hardship, ongoing support. Your donations are crucial to our continued ability to operate as fully as we do.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Should you know anyone in the footwear trade who may need assistance from Footwear Friends please contact our staff who will be happy to assist with any enquiries. The charity does not only assist people who have worked in the industry but also those who are currently still employed.

BENEFICIARIES



Footwear Friends assists many people of all ages with various footwear trade backgrounds.

Around £ 80,000 is distributed annually to our beneficiaries and makes an enormous difference to people's lives. With today's challenging economy we receive many requests for help.

One of these beneficiaries is Mrs Dix, our oldest beneficiary, who celebrated her 102nd birthday in June and Treasurer Kevin Traynor and Rachel Plimmer, who represented the British Footwear Association, presented her with a bouquet of flowers from Footwear Friends to mark the occasion. Mrs. Dix is very grateful for all the help she has received from the charity and told the Treasurer that the help she received has made a difference to

her and knowing that there is someone who remembers her.

Whilst Mrs. Dix is our oldest beneficiary, Footwear Friends assists people of all ages who have or are working within the footwear sector. Checks are made to ensure that those assisted have proven work history within the trade. Whilst most applicants are referred to us by local agencies and charities with a close knowledge of the special problems of the individuals concerned, applications from individuals are given equal consideration.

For more information on how Footwear Friends assists those in need and a few case histories can be found on our website www.footwearfriends.org.uk



The Annual Awards Evening is an important date in the Footwear Industry's calendar. The event, now in its 9th year, allows us to celebrate the best of British entrepreneurial talent in the presence of key players in the sector and the media. It is also a great opportunity to network and meet up with old friends from the trade. All proceeds go to those in the industry who need our support that is not available elsewhere.

This year we will be returning to St. Mary at Hill Church, very close to the centre of London.

Once again we have, seen a large number of applicants for the Annual Awards, which was founded by former President Richard Paice in 2007 and it continues to be a very popular event. Please see below an update on how the awards have assisted last year's winners:

Matt Horan – Rollasole - Cordwainers Award

It was our first recognition in the industry after many years so personally it was a fantastic recognition of all the hard work over the years and it put our brand on the

FOOTWEAR FRIENDS ANNUAL AWARDS 2015

We are delighted to announce that The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers have agreed to sponsor this year's main award, namely The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers Award for Innovation and Micro-Pak Ltd. will be sponsoring, once again, the runner up prize. As in previous years Philip Meltzer has kindly provided funding for the Joe Meltzer Travel Award and the BFA ARE sponsoring the BFA/FN PLATFORM Award. We are grateful to all of our sponsors without whom the Awards would not be possible.

map within the industry.

We were able to commit full time to a PR agency that has boosted our profile significantly over the last 12 months.

We have established ourselves with Debenhams and have recently secured a trial contract with Accessorize who we launch a range with next month. Our international growth has been fantastic with big inroads made into the US and Middle East.



Annual Awards 2014 Winners

Above from left to right, Matt Horan, Jane Cunneen, Jonathan Matthew and Sarah-Jayne Matthew

Our guest speaker for the evening is one of the best-known commentators on the fashion business, Eric Musgrave.

This year the event is sponsored by Annette Cove Associates, Chatham Marine, Clarks, Dune, Pavers, Rainbow Club, SATRA, Schuh, T&A Footwear Ltd. and Wm. Lamb Footwear Ltd. and we are very grateful for their support which makes this event possible.

For details on the venue and how to book your tickets please visit the annual awards website www.annual-awards.org/

Jonathan Matthew – Solillas – Micro-Pak Ltd. Award and FN PLATFORM Award

In 2014/15 Solillas continued to grow in the UK, the summer saw the brand carried in all Office stores UK wide, as well as

Topshop, House of Fraser and Selfridges. We launched our premium Luxe collection in Selfridges and significantly grew our international retail network.



The BFA/FN Platform Award helped the brand show at the February FN Platform in Las Vegas. This show helped crystallise orders with several large US majors. Our US brand presence has increased over the last 12 months and we are now carried in numerous fashion forward high end boutiques including Fred Segal in Los Angeles.



The Micro-Pak Award helped provide mentoring guidance, which has helped the company shape its strategy for SS16 and beyond and plan for international growth.

In mid 2015 Solillas won the Drapers Award for Best New Business which was also an honour and a huge surprise up against some great competition.

Our SS16 range will be shown at Pure, Moda, MICAM, FN Platform and Sole Commerce. The company now has distributors in Korea, Hong Kong and Canada, as well as relationships with fashion forward majors in Japan, the US and Middle East.

Solillas would like to give a huge thanks to Footwear Friends and Micro-Pak, BFA and FN Platform for the awards, and a further thanks to the BFA for their ongoing support to Solillas.

Jane Cunneen/Scott O'Connor – Dear Frances – Joe Meltzer Travel Award

The Footwear Friends Award has assisted Dear Frances in the development of our brand throughout AW15 and helped us to realise our wholesale distribution goals for the season. For Winter 2015, we will add over 10 new stores to our list of retail partners, increasing our exposure both locally in the UK and internationally in the USA,

Japan, France, Canada, Germany and Australia.

Through the award scheme, we were lucky enough to gain ongoing mentorship with Georgina Goodman, which has offered a wonderful opportunity for us to learn from her invaluable industry experience, in particular streamlining our business strategy and seasonal merchandising advice.

Dear Frances now presents four seasons per year and will unveil the new season SS16 this September in London and Paris and for the first time in New York.

Advertise your Christmas greetings in Drapers

Finally, with the festive Season fast approaching, now is the time to think about how you plan to wish your customers and suppliers the compliments of the season. Why not join us in the composite advertisement that will appear in the Drapers issue on the 4th December? For more details on how to participate, please contact the Footwear Friends office at info@footwearfriends.org.uk



HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR FOOTWEAR FRIENDS BROCHURE YET?

A new brochure which details the activities of Footwear Friends has been produced. If you haven't received a copy and wish to do so please contact the Footwear Friends office who will be happy to e-mail a copy to you.