



CHARITY UPDATE

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

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Corporate liveryman raises £33,000 in Everest attempt

Damian Walters, chief executive of the British Institute of Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom Installation (BiKBBi) and a corporate liveryman of The Furniture Makers' Company, has raised a huge £33,000 for our charity through his attempted climb of Mount Everest.

Damian set off on his journey on Saturday 8 April, but was forced to abandon his climb at 28,300 feet, 700 feet from the top, when life threatening winds and stormy weather conditions made it too treacherous for the expedition to continue.

In his pursuit for the summit, Damian endured a two month trip that included extreme weather, severe altitude sickness, a two stone weight loss and conditions that prevented many climbers from reaching the top or some from coming back down.

Damian self-funded his trip but has raised £33,000 for us through corporate sponsorship and donations from the industry, friends and family.

Damian's suit and flag sponsors included Cabinet Maker, Chimera Insurance, Classi Seal by Classic Marble, Designer Contracts, Geoflex Shield, HIPPO™, Furniture Village, Instant Print W1, KBB Review, NICEIC, The January Furniture Show, TradePoint and UK Special Risks.

Damian said: "The past two months on Everest was harder than I could ever imagine, but an incredible expedition



Corporate liveryman Damian Walters has raised £33,000

nevertheless. I'm immensely proud of reaching the point I did and I see it as a great personal victory.

"It is easy once you're up there for climbers to succumb to a 'summitting at any cost' mentality, but returning home from the mountain is more important to me and of course my family.

"I want to thank the sponsors, particularly my main sponsor Classic Marble, for helping me to raise £33,000 for such a worthy cause that's close to my heart."

Dr Tony Smart MBE, Master of The Furniture

Makers' Company, said: "On behalf of The Furniture Makers' Company, I would like to congratulate Damian for achieving something truly special. This accomplishment needs to be recognised and celebrated, particularly as he has been raising money for our charity."

Christopher Hackett, Classic Marble's managing director, said: "Everyone at Classi would like to congratulate Damian for what has been a huge challenge. We are delighted to have been the main sponsor for his expedition up Everest."

Upcoming fundraising events

9 August 2017

Teesside Golf Day at Catterick Golf Club, Catterick Garrison

19 September 2017

Bed Show Gala Dinner at The International Centre, Telford

27 September 2017

National Golf Day at Oxfordshire Golf Club, Milton Common

26 October 2017

Royal Charter Dinner at the Honourable Artillery Company, London

25 November 2017

Celtheath Christmas Ball at the Lancaster Hotel, London

26 April 2018

Northern Big Shots at the Coniston Country Estate, Skipton

For more information about any of our events, please contact events manager Sally Kent at events@furnituremakers.org.uk or call 020 7256 5558.

Message from Jonny Westbrooke, CEO



Each year we award grants to help people who work or have worked within our industry who are going through tough times.

Through our various educational initiatives, we continue to make strides in encouraging students and young professionals to pursue a career in the furnishing industry.

This wouldn't be possible without the very generous donations from companies and individuals.

It may sound obvious, but we can only help people in times of need if they know that we exist in the first place. This being said, I strongly encourage you to spread

the word of the support that we provide. We want people to know that we are here for them when they need it most.

The easiest way of doing this is by displaying our charity poster in your workplace so your employees or colleagues can find out more about us.

You can request copies of the poster by contacting the team at Furniture Makers' Hall, or by downloading it from bit.ly/charityposter.

Also, let your retired employees know that we can help them in times of need.

For more information about us, go to furnituremakers.org.uk.

How we help

Our charity was set up over 100 years ago to help people from the furnishing industry in times of hardship.

We are here to help anyone from our industry when times are tough with one-off grants, services, time and support.

Your support helps our charity and ensures we will always be here to assist people like Gerald, Elaine and Ann.

Gerald, a retired woodworking machinist for Shapland & Petter Furniture Makers, is unable to walk down to the local shops or go for a drink in the pub because of deteriorating medical conditions that affect his mobility.

The lack of contact with the outside world was leaving him feeling socially isolated.

He managed to save up for a mobility scooter, but discovered that he wouldn't be able to use it because the pavement outside

his home is too narrow, and he risked tipping off the edge of the kerb.

Being resourceful, he found a ramp with the idea of driving into the road, but he was unable to manoeuvre it into place.

The only solution left for Gerald was to have the kerb dropped.

However the cost of this was more than he could manage, at nearly £1,400.

Having worked in the furniture industry for more than 20 years, Gerald applied for one of our welfare grants.

We were delighted to pay for the kerb to be dropped, just in time for the spring.

Gerald has since been able to get out and about and feel part of his community again.

Elaine fell into rental arrears after suffering a serious heart attack that forced her to give up her job as a carpet winder.

She soon began to struggle without her earnings as her housing benefit didn't cover the rent. Worse still, when Elaine applied for support from her local authority she discovered that her flat was affected by the 'Bedroom Tax'.

She was eventually re-housed to an affordable, one bedroom flat, but it had bare floors. With no money to buy carpet, the stress of debt and the effects of living in a cold flat was making Elaine's health even worse.

Fortunately, a local welfare agency pointed Elaine in our direction and supported her to complete an application for a welfare grant.

We were able to clear her rent arrears and pay for carpets to be fitted before winter. Elaine said she was "over the moon" at the generosity she received and is loving how cosy her flat now is with the carpets.

Ann's husband Ron spent his entire career working for Utility Furnishings in Edmonton. Deaf since the age of seven following meningitis, Ron went to a special school where woodwork was his passion. He began work with the company as soon as he left school.

The couple met when Ann was only 15, getting engaged when she reached 16. She was able to help Ron communicate, telling him what people were saying and helping him to follow the plot when they went to see a film.

When Ron's health began to deteriorate and he could no longer work, our charity was able to help with a small regular grant which was a huge relief to the couple. Sadly, after several operations, Ron passed away but Ann was relieved to know that our support would

continue, especially as her own health was beginning to deteriorate. She now has curvature of the spine and with our help, she was able to buy an adjustable bed so she can have a good night's rest.

Although housebound and in chronic pain, Ann keeps cheerful with the help of her faithful companion, cat Tiddles, and loving and supportive family and friends.

"I like to remember every day all the ways in which I am lucky," she says. "Having The Furniture Makers' Company as one of my friends means a lot to me."

If you know anyone who works or has worked in any sector in the furniture industry who could benefit from our support, please contact Robin Lomas by emailing welfareofficer@furnituremakers.org.uk.



575 students awarded the School Design Prize

We are delighted to announce that we have been able to send 575 books to students around the country as part of our School Design Prize campaign, thanks to the generosity of our corporate members, including BrightHouse, companies and individuals.

Now in its fourth year, the School Design Prize is part of our wider programme of activities designed to raise awareness of the furnishing industry among GCSE and A Level students and inspire them to consider a career within our industry.

Towards the end of the academic year, we send schools a prize to be presented to the Design & Technology student the teacher

thinks is most deserving, for a good piece of design coursework linked to furnishing.

The prize is a copy of Modern British Furniture – design since 1945 by design historian Lesley Jackson.

Each book contains a certificate inside the cover and a letter describing the award.

Along with the book, we include a poster designed by a student, explaining the career opportunities within the furnishing industry.

If you would like more information about the prize or would like to sponsor a book for a school near you, please contact Damilola Bamidele by emailing grantsandeducation@furnituremakers.org.uk.



Ella Lemaire was a School Design Prize winner in 2016

Become a supporter of the charity



Terry, a recipient of a welfare grant

There are lots of ways that you can help The Furniture Makers' Company but one easy way is by becoming a supporter.

If you are passionate about the preservation of the furnishing sector but don't have the time to join The Furniture Makers' Company as a member, becoming a supporter allows you to contribute to the industry's only charity by making a small annual donation of £25.

You could be a small business owner, designer, or an employee at a retailer or manufacturer. Whoever you are, you can rest easy knowing your annual donation of £25 will go a long way to helping us educate students and young professionals to safeguard the future of our industry and

support those who have fallen on hard times.

On signing up as a supporter, you will receive:

- A charity poster to display in your workplace
- A fundraising toolkit
- Regular updates about how we're using your vital donations
- News about fundraising events in your area of the UK
- Personal pride that you're supporting the industry charity.

If you would like more information, please contact George Cooper by emailing marketing@furnituremakers.org.uk.

Furniture Makers supports young talent with Apprentice Award

We are delighted to announce that two young apprentices working at furniture manufacturers based in Lancashire have been named joint winners of our first ever Apprentice Award.

Jade Ansell, who works at Silentnight Beds in Barnoldswick, and Liam Field, who is employed by The Senator Group in Accrington, fought off stiff competition from other apprentices, with seven shortlisted candidates attending a judging day at Furniture Makers' Hall, London in June.

Jade works as a manufacturing apprentice at the bed manufacturer. She has recently completed an NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Furniture, Interiors and Wood Machining at Burnley College. She is soon going to begin a Level 3 Institute of Leadership and Management Diploma.

Liam, who is also studying at Burnley College for a Higher National Certificate in Furniture Design and Make, is a CNC technician.

Part of the Manufacturing Guild Mark, the Apprentice Award recognises the efforts and career progression of apprentices working in the furnishing industry and is open to anyone studying and working towards a retail, manufacture or service apprenticeship at a UK company.

The two winners will officially be presented with the award at the Company's annual Royal Charter Dinner on Thursday 26 October 2017 at the Hall of the Honourable Artillery Company, London.

Paul von der Heyde, chairman of the Manufacturing Guild Mark, said: "On behalf of The Furniture Makers' Company, I would like to congratulate Jade and Liam for their outstanding progress. All of the candidates were of an extremely high quality. It's fantastic to meet a group of such committed young people who are working hard and seeing the results of their work pay off.

Jade said: "I am overwhelmed to have been short listed and named joint winner for the

Apprentice Award. I would like to thank Silentnight for believing in me and investing in my future and my tutors at Burnley College who have always been so supportive. This is a great honour and fantastic recognition of my work."

Liam said: "Being short listed for the Apprentice Award and making the last seven was a proud moment for me and a great experience. Going on to win the award is a great honour and the whole process exceeded my expectations.

"To be recognised by a prestigious organisation like The Furniture Makers' Company fills me with pride and I'd like to thank my manager Ben Hamilton and The Senator Group for nominating me and giving me the chance to showcase my abilities."

For more information about the award, go to furnituremakers.org.uk/apprentice-award.

Support our 2017 Royal Charter Appeal

We encourage talent with our extensive education programme, working with school children, students and young professionals across a range of industry activities.

The cost of higher education continues to rise, which is why scholarships and bursaries are needed more than ever.

A scholarship can make a huge difference to the recipient and in many cases enables a student, who otherwise would not have the chance, to continue their education.

In order to meet this need, in 2015 we launched the Royal Charter Appeal, a fundraising campaign that raises money for furniture students wishing to undertake study, while commemorating our Company being issued with a Royal Charter by Her Majesty The Queen in 2013.

Last year our Royal Charter Appeal raised £20,000, thanks to kind donations from individuals and companies including Blue Crush Communications, Chimera Insurance Agency, Community Playthings, CPS Group, Ercol, Fishpools, KI and Panaz.

In 2017 we plan on repeating this, so we can support even more students like Abigail Butler, an MA student at the London Metropolitan University/CASS, who received a scholarship in 2015 to help fund her studies.

Commenting on receiving the scholarship, Abigail said: "I am very grateful to The Furniture Makers' Company and to London Metropolitan University for all of their support. I hope that one day I will be in the position to support younger designers and furniture makers in the way that I have been supported."

With your help, we hope to raise even more this year for scholarships and bursaries.



Abigail Butler, an MA student at London Met, received a scholarship in 2015

Universities & colleges

The list of establishments we currently intend to raise money for are:

- Bath School of Art & Design
- Birmingham City University
- Burnley College
- Cass/London Met
- Chichester College
- City of Oxford College
- DeMontfort University
- Kingston University
- London South Bank University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Plymouth University
- Royal College of Art (RCA)
- Wendy Shorter Institute
- Wolverhampton University
- Warwickshire College

Benefits to students

In addition to a scholarship or bursary, the recipient will enjoy:

- Membership of the Young Furniture Makers
- Automatic long listing for the annual Young Furniture Makers Exhibition
- Priority booking on the Student Industrial Tour
- Dedicated support and mentoring from a matched professional within the industry.

Whether you are a company or an individual donor, your financial support will enable a student to continue their education and make our industry stronger.

How to sponsor a scholarship or bursary

For more information on how to be a key sponsor or individually donate, please contact:

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The Furniture Makers' Company
12 Austin Friars
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e/ fundraiser@furnituremakers.org.uk

The Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers' Charitable Funds incorporating the Furnishing Trades Benevolent Association is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1015519) and is a registered company in England and Wales (no. 02759359)