



Suited & Booted

## DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

### A Message from Maria

We're on the move again! We left London Wall Buildings at the end of June and found temporary accommodation on Cornhill in the City of London but now need to find somewhere longer. We are busy packing up to move mid-December and hoping to finalise a new lease in the next few weeks that will give us a longer tenure and a more secure base from which to grow our fantastic charity. We are trying to continue being located in, or on the edges of, the City. One option is to find sites that will soon be redeveloped, and which can be let to a charity on non-commercial terms, pending the start of the works. Our contacts and supporters are very kindly helping us to find potential properties.

Over the last six months we have been extremely busy helping our clients look their very best for job interviews and the world of work. Our clients include young people just starting off in life, perhaps being interviewed for an apprenticeship or their very first job. We have a developing partnership with the National House Project, helping young people in care to build friendships and networks of support. Our young clients from the National House Project travel to us from all over England and Wales and we help with interview outfits, formal wear and that all-important feeling of confidence and support.

We fit out all our clients in a suit and give them the confidence that they need to succeed. Unity Works, one of our referral agencies, recently commented, 'Biggest thanks goes to Suited & Booted whose kindness and support towards people with LDDA has been invaluable and their work allows us to support greater independent living and real-world opportunities for our clients.'

We're lucky to have a brilliant team of volunteers and everyone plays their part – stylists, wardrobe assistants, reception, logistics, admin support and shoe buyers – the help that we get is phenomenal and our volunteers are the bedrock of Suited & Booted. We're growing our team of volunteers to help with all aspects of running our charity. **Should anyone like to volunteer** for Styling or other help please do get in touch: [info@suitedbootedcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@suitedbootedcentre.org.uk) and we would be delighted to hear from you. Enormous thanks to all our volunteers for their hard work, dedication and passion in keeping Suited & Booted running.

Please remember to follow us on [Instagram @suitedbootedcentre](#) and [Facebook suitedandbootedcentre](#). We are so grateful to all of you for your continuing support.

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## 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

Suited & Booted was founded by Dr Maria Lenn in October 2012. Since then it has helped over 13,000 vulnerable unemployed men to look smart and deliver their best at their job interview.

We were delighted that over 50 supporters and volunteers came together last month to celebrate the charity's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Facilitated by our supporters Tony and Enid Kench, St Michael's Church Cornhill kindly offered the perfect setting on a beautiful autumn evening for a celebratory garden party. Champagne, drinks and delicious canapés were generously sponsored by Wates Group.



The high point of the evening was a toast to the Suited & Booted Charity proposed by Dame Siân Phillips (introduced by Maria).

## Costume Extravaganza

Costumes from the Georgian Period (1714–1830)

With a surprise Christmas magical element!

A fascinating talk with mannequins, costume examples (both male and female) and a live display!

**Wednesday, 7 December 6.30pm-9.30pm**

We are grateful to international law firm **Weil Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP** for hosting this event at their offices

**110 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AY**



Our guest speaker, Isabel Nellie Walters, has 10 years' experience working as a Costume Maker in Tailoring, Fittings and Alterations, specialising in Menswear. Isabel graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA)



last year after being awarded 1st Class in the Post Graduate Diploma in Costume and has been awarded Excellence in British Craftsmanship in Historic Dress by the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust.

Isabel is also a member of the Warner Brothers UK Talent Scheme. Isabel is currently working as a props maker at the Royal Opera House, who formed a partnership with Suited & Booted earlier this year.

Tickets: £30 (including drinks and nibbles)

**To purchase your ticket(s), please click here**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/costume-extravaganza-tickets-461680267107>

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Marathon Walk

On 10 September Maria, with wonderful supporters Sheldon Odartey and Zita Čepaitė, walked 26 miles – a whole marathon – to raise funds for Suited & Booted. An official event had originally been organised by Weil, Gotshal and Manges, but the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II resulted in that and other events over the weekend being formally cancelled. Our three walkers, mindful of the Queen’s lifetime support for so many charities, decided they would still go ahead.



Here they are, exhausted but happy, at the finish. Their walk raised an amazing £2,700 in sponsorship for Suited & Booted and we are really grateful to everyone who supported their efforts.

## Pub Quiz

By an unfortunate coincidence, our July Pub Quiz took place on the UK’s hottest day ever! Travel was severely disrupted and the quizmaster arrive a quarter of an hour late for the start after a four hour journey. Some supporters understandably heeded the health warnings not to travel, or simply couldn’t get there. However, five intrepid teams made it to Steam Wine Bar where, refreshed with chilled wine and cold beer, they enjoyed a fun quiz in an air conditioned cellar bar. A closely fought battle produced a new winning team, Chubb, who succeeded in breaking the long sequence of Livery Company victories. The evening also raised about £700 for our charity.



Giles Ward of Chubb receives the winners’ trophy (Quizmaster Mike in the background).

**Our next Pub Quiz at Steam will be on Wednesday 1 February 2023. Mark your diary now!**

## Santa in the City Fun Run



Santa in the City is a 4½km fun run – in full Santa regalia (see photo)! – at 7pm on **Thursday, 8 December**. The run follows an iconic route with views of St Paul’s Cathedral, the Tower of London and the Globe Theatre before finishing at Millennium Bridge. Weil, Gotshal & Manges have kindly offered to cover registration fees. If you would like to run for Suited & Booted, or sponsor our runners, please email Maria at [maria@suitedbootedecentre.org.uk](mailto:maria@suitedbootedecentre.org.uk) or phone her on 07808531654. Or you can sponsor Wendy Rowley from Weil, who is running for Suited & Booted, at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wendy-rowley2>

## Thank You to our Supporters

Suited & Booted is enormously grateful to all the people, companies and organisations who generously support us with clothing or financially.

On this occasion we would particularly like to mention

- The London Sock Company have produced an amazing video, ‘Believe. Walk Brighter’, featuring Suited & Booted volunteers and clients, and are generously supporting us. <https://londonsockcompany.com/share-a-pair-charity-sock-donation/>  
Check out their Three Lions Collection, officially licensed by the England Football Association.
- Lisa and Em at Just Add Style are kindly making a donation to Suited & Booted from sales of their beautiful silk products. You will find some wonderful Christmas present ideas at <https://just-add-style.com/>
- Sebastian Volney, Director at James Byron Talent Solutions, is a specialist in recruitment and jobs for responsible fashion and retail. <https://www.jaymesbyron.co.uk/>  
He is generously enabling Suited & Booted to share in the success of his business.

We would also like to say a special ‘thank you’ to the following for their recent donations to Suited & Booted: AKO Foundation, Schroders, Rose & Lily Lodge, Ropes & Gray, Hiscox, Barber Charvet Trust, the Worshipful Company of Bowyers and Wates Group.

## Our wonderful clients

Our stylists are often able to find more than one outfit for our clients to help with a working wardrobe.

Here is one happy client modelling three fabulous looks beautifully styled by one of our new volunteers Moyra.



## And amazing volunteers

A huge thank you to our wonderful moving volunteer heroes who moved us into our new space on Cornhill at the end of June.

It took eight hours, four loads and we couldn't use the lift, but they did it! Taking good care of Cedric (our mannequin) too!

What amazing teamwork from Veterans Aid, former clients and our in-house logistics team. We are so grateful. Thank you so much.



## Ways you can help Suited & Booted

We would love it if you could make a donation through our website

<https://www.suitedbootedcentre.org.uk/donations/money-donations/>

However, here are some other ways you can support our work

### *Amazon Smile*

If you buy anything on Amazon, buy it through Amazon Smile and nominate The Suited & Booted Centre Ltd to benefit.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/charity?orig=%2F>

It's just like normal Amazon and won't cost you a penny more, but Amazon will give us a percentage of what you spend.

### *Easyfundraising*

This works on a similar principle to Amazon Smile. Make your online purchases through <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> Nominate The Suited & Booted Centre Ltd and they will give us a percentage of what you spend. Easyfundraising covers hundreds of retailers such as Argos and John Lewis, and includes things like a Tui holiday or AA Breakdown Cover.

### *Computer Ink Cartridges*

Now you can recycle your computer ink cartridges through Recycle4Charity, generating a donation to Suited & Booted and helping to save the planet. We've already raised nearly £150 through this scheme and saved over 5kgs of plastic ink cartridges from landfill. It's very simple:

Go to <https://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Register.aspx>

Choose The Suited & Booted Centre Limited as your charity and create an account.

Save your computer ink cartridges (not toner or laser).

When you have collected enough to generate a donation of at least £2, download a Freepost label and send them off!

### *Nectar Points*

Have you built up an unused balance on your Nectar account? You can now turn some of those Nectar points into a cash donation to Suited & Booted. You'll need a Crowdfunder account. If you haven't got one already, go to

[https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/user/sign\\_up](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/user/sign_up)

Then link your Nectar card to your Crowdfunder account

<https://help.crowdfunder.co.uk/en/articles/6127192-how-do-i-donate-my-nectar-points-to-a-charity>

and you're ready to make a Crowdfunder donation to The Suited & Booted Centre Ltd using your Nectar points.

## Meet the Volunteers – David Smith

Hello, my name is David and I am a volunteer with Suited & Booted. I am a Registered Nurse who has been working with children and young people with mental health and behavioural problems for the



last 41 years; I retired a few years ago although I still like to keep my hand in and now work part-time which has freed me up to do other things.

I have been volunteering at Suited & Booted for nearly 8 years and I volunteer one day a week. I heard about Suited & Booted by reading an article in The Observer and then a few weeks later I heard Maria (Lenn, charity founder) talking on BBC Radio London and took this as a sign to make contact.

There is so much to do at Suited & Booted and I have had a go at all roles in my 8 years with the charity. I started off working in the wardrobe where donations are sorted, to working with clients and getting them ready for their interview or new job by styling them; most days I will see and style 5 or 6 clients. Getting a client into their interview clothing is the most rewarding aspect of the work and all volunteers play a part in that and it is always good to see the difference in someone

once they are suited & booted; the difference is not only physical and there is often a newfound confidence in many clients.

I live in Surrey with my husband and I have two grown up children; one lives in Paris and the other is getting ready to move to New York. I love to travel and I have been to France four times this year and had a trip to Latvia and now having children living abroad gives me more reason to travel.