

If you would like to become involved in Stafford Shoes in any way at all then please select from the options below to register your interest with us - please tick box[es].

- I would like to become a Member of the Stafford Shoes Group and support you in your aims (membership is free).
- I would like to offer my help to the Stafford Shoes Group in some of the activities that you undertake
- I have information about the shoe industry in Stafford which I would like to share with you

Please complete the form below and send this page to Stafford Shoes. Thank you for your interest.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Date _____

The information you provide above will be kept by the group and only be used to communicate with you on matters relating to Stafford Shoes. You can at any time have your details deleted from our records by contacting the group.

Please take time to visit our website and leave any comments or suggestions - all are welcome.

www.staffordshoes.org



Stafford Shoes

c/o Community Council of Staffordshire
Friars Mill
Friars Terrace
Stafford
ST17 4DX
Tel: 01785 255942
Email: staffordshoes@gmail.com
www.staffordshoes.org

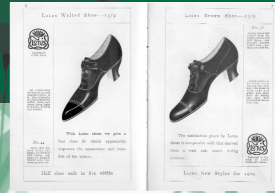
stafford shoes – a local voluntary group promoting the shoe making heritage of Stafford.

stafford shoes

'the heart and sole of Stafford'

stafford shoes
– a local voluntary group
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The Stafford Shoes Group aims to raise awareness of the substantial shoe making industry that once existed in this market town.

It is hoped that as a group we will act as an inspiration for those with an interest in, or a connection with, the shoe industry in Stafford. The action of the group may one also lead to the development of physical presence that will equally celebrate shoe making in the town.

Stafford Shoes – The Vision

Stafford Shoes is an independent voluntary group established with the aim of raising awareness of the important role that the boot and shoe manufacturing industry played in Stafford and the surrounding area and of the potential that it can still play today and in the future.

In achieving this aim we will engage in a variety of activities including;

- Fund raising
- Education, training and lifelong learning

- Tourism
- Community engagement and capacity building
- Social, economic and environmental activities
- Volunteer support
- Cultural enhancement
- Business development

We believe that these activities based on and around boot and shoe making in Stafford presents an ideal opportunity for the town to celebrate its heritage locally, regionally and nationally for the benefit of the town and its communities.

The history of shoe making in Stafford

This leaflet provides a flavour of the industry and of how significant it was to Stafford and its people, right up to 1998.

Below are some interesting facts and snippets:

Surprising as it may seem the tradition of shoemaking in Stafford dates back many years - a Shoemakers Guild was formed in 1476.

In the 1700s William Horton appeared on the scene, settling in Chetwynd House and producing shoes from the warehouse at the rear in Mill Street.

Records show that over 148 different shoe and boot making companies existed at one time or

another in Stafford and in addition over 50 associated companies.

Stafford was exporting over 5 million shoes per year to South Africa alone and was supplying most of the boots to the British Army.

Stafford was one of the first areas in the country to elect a working man to parliament. It is thought that his success was due to the support of one of the boot and shoemaking unions.

Many existing companies in the town owe their existence to boot and shoe making and many Stafford people will find boot and shoe makers in their family.

If you have an interest in Stafford's shoe making industry and have memories you can share with us – please fill out the form overleaf or contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

