



STAFFORD'S MUSEUMS

The Ancient High House,
Stafford Castle and Izaak Walton's Cottage



MORE INFORMATION

This leaflet can be made available on request in other formats, to enquire please telephone 01785 619 354.



THE ANCIENT HIGH HOUSE
Greengate Street,
Stafford ST16 2JA
Telephone 01785 619 131
www.staffordbc.gov.uk/heritageevents



STAFFORD CASTLE
Newport Road
Stafford ST16 1DJ
Telephone 01785 257 698
www.staffordbc.gov.uk/heritageevents



IZAAK WALTON'S COTTAGE
Worston Lane, Shallowford,
Stafford ST15 0PA
Telephone 01785 760 278
www.staffordbc.gov.uk/heritageevents



TOURISM INFORMATION CENTRE
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LT
Telephone 01785 619 619
www.visitstafford.org



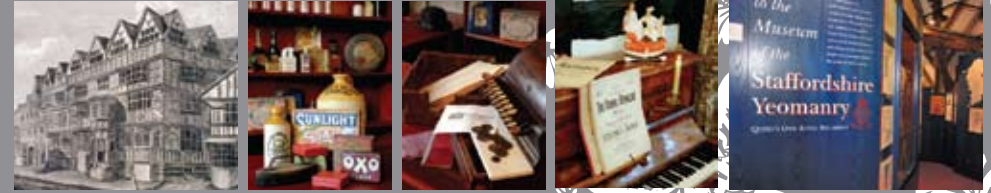
STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
Civic Centre, Riverside,
Stafford ST16 3AQ
Telephone 01785 619 000
www.staffordbc.gov.uk



THE ANCIENT HIGH HOUSE

Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2JA

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EMAIL ahh@staffordbc.gov.uk
WEB www.staffordbc.gov.uk/heritage



The Ancient High House has graced Stafford's Greengate Street for over 400 years. Built in around 1595 for the wealthy Dorrington family, the ornate timber framed building is reputed to be the largest surviving timber framed town house in England from the Tudor period.

In 1986 the house opened as a museum and now provides a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the people who have lived there over the centuries. Visit the Civil War Room where King Charles 1st and Prince Rupert stayed during their brief visit to the town; view the Stuart Bedroom with its magnificent four poster bed; admire the elegant splendour of the Wallpaper Room with its Georgian displays; visit Mr. Marson in his Edwardian Shop; and observe the grand comfort of the Victorian Room.

To learn more about how the house was built the Castle Room has an interesting display showing and explaining the method of construction and the materials used - our visitors young and old find this room fascinating!

The attic floor is home to the Staffordshire Yeomanry Regiment Museum. As a local volunteer force the Yeomanry saw active service for over 200 years. The extensive range of items on display reflects their illustrious and distinguished history.

An exciting programme of exhibitions by regional artists takes place in two gallery spaces and a changing history exhibition gives visitors the opportunity to view a range of artefacts not generally on public display.

There is a school and group tour programme and occasional themed tours, talks and workshops to support our history exhibitions. Throughout the year we have an exciting range of events, activities and workshops that bring added colour and bustle to the rooms. With hands on activities, children's games and quizzes there is something for all the family.

Our ground floor shop offers a wide range of gifts, souvenirs, traditional toys and local crafts. And we stock an extensive range of local history books.

The Ancient High House is also licensed as a venue for weddings and civil ceremonies.



OPEN

ALL YEAR ROUND

> Tuesday to Saturday
> 10am to 4pm

ADMISSION

Admission is **FREE** with the exception of some events, workshops and guided tours.

ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Because of the many steps, access to the house is extremely difficult for people with severe mobility impairment. However guides are always willing to give any assistance possible.



OPEN

APRIL TO OCTOBER

- › Wednesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays
- › 11am to 4pm.

NOVEMBER TO MARCH

- › Saturday and Sunday
- › 11am to 4pm

ADMISSION

Admission is **FREE** with the exception of some events, workshops and guided tours.

ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

The Visitor Centre is wheelchair accessible and there's a disabled toilet on site. Access to the grounds and the Keep is extremely difficult for people with severe mobility impairment. However guides are always willing to give any assistance possible.

Originally built by Robert de Toeni (later known as Robert of Stafford) in the Norman period, Stafford Castle has dominated the local skyline for over 900 years. An impressive example of the motte and bailey system, Stafford Castle enjoyed mixed fortunes throughout the medieval period. In the 14th century Ralph became the 1st Earl of Stafford. He ordered the building of a stone keep in 1347 and the following year was granted a licence to crenellate and so constructed the battlements.

In 1444 Humphrey Stafford was created Duke of Buckingham and the castle entered its heyday. By the early 17th century however the condition of the castle had deteriorated and during the English Civil War the Parliamentary Committee of Stafford ordered it to be demolished. Rebuilt by the Jerningham family in the early 19th Century using the same foundations, the keep was again a magnificent four storey structure. However, given over to caretakers and then abandoned again in the 1950s it became derelict once more.

Now after recent restoration work and a programme of archaeological investigation Stafford Castle is considered one of the best surviving examples of Norman earthworks in the country. Extending to over 26 acres the site consists of Keep, inner bailey, outer bailey, woodland, herb garden, visitor centre and car park. The Keep is open to the public during Visitor Centre opening hours. Why not take the circular walk along the castle's woodlands trail to find out about the site's flora and fauna. Visit the fragrant herb garden and discover what herbs were used for in medieval times.

The Visitor Centre has an audio visual display which tells the history of the castle; hands on items including arms, armour and costumes and a timeline to put the history of the castle into context. Visitors can try brass rubbing and coin minting. The shop offers a wide range of gifts, souvenirs, traditional toys, local crafts and we stock a large number of local history books. Also on sale are ice creams, chocolates and soft drinks.

A full and exciting events programme includes the annual Stafford Festival Shakespeare production each summer.

There is a school and group tour programme, occasional themed tours, talks and workshops. Tours can be booked all year round.



IZAAK WALTON'S COTTAGE

Worston Lane, Shallowford, Stafford ST15 0PA

TELEPHONE 01785 760 278

EMAIL iwc@staffordbc.gov.uk

WEBSITE www.staffordbc.gov.uk/heritage



OPEN

MAY TO AUGUST

> Sunday only

> 1pm to 5pm

ADMISSION

Admission is **FREE** with the exception of some events, workshops and guided tours.

ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

With support the Cottage ground floor and some of the grounds are wheelchair accessible. Guides are always willing to give any assistance possible.

This thatched cottage was owned by Izaak Walton the celebrated author of the *Compleat Angler*. He left the cottage in his will to the people of his home town of Stafford and now the museum pays homage to his illustrious life.

Inside we learn about Izaak Walton the merchant, churchman, biographer, writer, angler, and Royalist. We learn of his great contribution to the genre of biography and his influence as an early conservationist.

Within the cottage the period rooms are furnished to reflect the rural trappings of the 17th Century. There are also rooms dedicated to Izaak the writer and biographer and to the history and evolution of angling.

The ground floor shop has a range of gifts, souvenirs and local arts and crafts.

Visit the fragrant herb garden and wander around the scented rose garden before treating yourself to an afternoon tea or ice cream.

Nestled within the beautiful Staffordshire countryside, its tranquil environment is perfect for a calm and relaxing afternoon.

There is an events programme in the summer months and school and group tours programme on request.

The cottage is also a venue for small and exclusive weddings and civil ceremonies.

