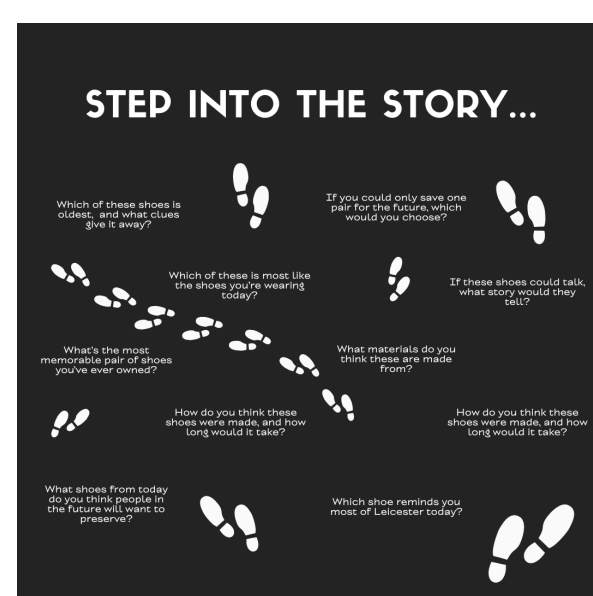
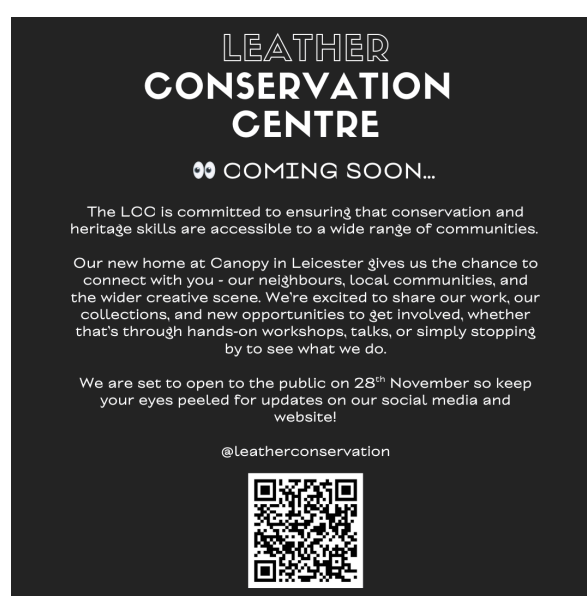


Design 2025

LCB Depot's exhibition & events programme highlights work from different creative practices every month.

This month the focus is on design from architecture, to branding, fashion, digital design and more, with work from established professionals and emerging creatives. Exhibitions and events run from **29th - 24th October 2025**

Find out more [@lcbdepot](https://lcbdepot.co.uk/event/design2025/) or at <https://lcbdepot.co.uk/event/design2025/>



Step Into the Story

Leather Conservation Centre

Step Into the Story is an interactive installation by the Leather Conservation Centre that uses shoes as a way to connect audiences to history, design, and material heritage. The display will present a small but varied selection of historic shoes from the Centre's handling collection, ranging from work and utility footwear to examples linked with fashion and craft traditions.

Rather than traditional labels, the installation uses playful prompts to spark curiosity and dialogue. Visitors might be asked:

- Which of these shoes is oldest – and what clues give it away?
- Which of these is most like the shoes you're wearing today?
- If you could only save one pair for the future, which would you choose?

- If these shoes could talk, what story would they tell?
- What's the most memorable pair of shoes you've ever owned?
- Which shoe reminds you most of Leicester today?
- Do you think shoes are items of fashion, function, or both?
- How do you think these shoes were made, and how long would it take?
- What materials do you think these are made from?
- Whose footsteps would you most like to walk in?
- What shoes from today do you think people in the future will want to preserve?

These accessible questions encourage guessing, debating, and reflection, with short answers revealing hidden stories about craft skills, social history, and conservation.

Step Into the Story is not just a display for the audience to passively read and absorb, it is one they can help to create. Instead of only absorbing information, visitors are invited to share their own thoughts and memories. Every question has space for audience members to

add their responses on a post-it note, so that the wall of answers grows into a conversation between the objects, the Centre, and the community. By doing so, the display reflects not just the history of shoes, but the living stories and perspectives of everyone who engages with them.

By combining authentic historic objects with interactive engagement, the work opens up conversations about conservation, design, and the social lives of everyday objects. Designed to be inclusive and engaging, the installation invites visitors to “step into the story” while teasing the Centre’s forthcoming opening at Canopy.

Artist Bio

The Leather Conservation Centre (LCC) is an internationally recognised centre for the conservation of leather and related materials. Founded in 1978, the LCC has worked for over four decades with museums, libraries, archives, and private clients worldwide, offering conservation treatment, training, and

research. Alongside this specialist expertise, the LCC is also committed to public engagement and outreach, seeking to make the histories and techniques of leather accessible to wider audiences.

In 2025 the Centre relocated to Canopy in Leicester, embedding itself within the city's vibrant cultural ecosystem. This move marks a new chapter for the organisation, expanding its focus on inclusive education, research collaboration, and community programming, while continuing to provide high-quality conservation services at an international level.

[@leatherconservation](#)

[leatherconservation.org](#)