

Reebok and Norman Walsh

The Bolton History of the Running Shoe



RAPIER A150
5-11 £5 5 0

This super lightweight shoe has every feature the top athlete can ask for.

- SELECTED KANGAROO UPPER
- EXTREMELY LIGHTWEIGHT FLEXIBLE CONSTRUCTION
- THE NEW NYLON HALF-SOLE WITH FOUR GRANITE STEEL INTERCHANGEABLE SPIKES
- TRANSLUCENT RUBBER, BALL OF FOOT AND HEEL PADS
- FOAM RUBBER TONGUE AND SOCK LININGS



ORBIT A160
5-11 £6 10 0

The top shoe in the Reebok range of track shoes.

- BLUE SUEDE KANGAROO UPPER
- SUPER-LIGHTWEIGHT CONSTRUCTION



CHALLENGER A100
3-5½ £2 0 3
6-11 £2 5 0

An inexpensive shoe suitable for competition and training. Full chrome upper, translucent rubber sole fitted with four screw-in-spikes and foam rubber tongue and sock linings.



ARENA A130
3-5½ £2 16 6
6-11 £3 3 0



Events Programme

5 July to 31 October 2025

Imagination

Curiosity

Wonder

Bolton
Library and
Museum Services

Welcome

This must-see exhibition celebrates the origins of Reebok, the global sportswear brand that was founded in Bolton.

The story begins with the pioneering work of Joseph William Foster, who designed racing pumps for the 1924 British Olympic Team. The business soon became one of the earliest mass producers of running shoes. The spirit of enterprise continued through Foster's grandsons, Joe and Jeff, who launched Reebok in the late 1950s.

The exhibition also explores Reebok's connections with another local sports shoe company, Norman Walsh Footwear, and their mutual ties with local running clubs like Bolton United Harriers and Horwich RMI Harriers.

Discover more about the exhibition with a **free tour**.

Join the curator on the following Tuesdays at 1pm

**Tuesday 8 July, Tuesday 12 August,
Tues 9 September, Tuesday 14 October,
Tuesday 11 November, Tuesday 9 December**



Family Day

Saturday 5 July, 11am to 3pm

Come along and celebrate the opening of the new exhibition! We've got fun activities for all the family to enjoy.

Explore the exhibition 11am tour

A chance to find out more about the exhibition.

Then from 12pm to 3pm, there's...

- **A craft activity inspired by classic Reebok designs.**
- **A sneaker customisation demonstration – Charlotte from Jarpz will demonstrate the process of creating customised trainers.**
- **A DJ playing hits from the 1980s and 1990s. Remember to wear your Reebok Club C or Hi-Top trainers!**

There will also be screenings of a newly commissioned documentary film exploring the history of Reebok, Norman Walsh and local running clubs. On the hour at 11am, 12 noon, 1pm and 2pm. Lecture Theatre.

Free

No booking

The 26 pound* running shoe.



Designed to run fast.
Our anatomically correct last
conforms perfectly to the
therapeutic curve of the runner's
foot motion.



Reebok engineered
Reebok Air, reducing
resistance, ensuring
smooth continuing
momentum.



The sole is high and wide enough
to allow for natural toe control.
This avoids blisters, broken toenails,
and toe cramping.



Reebok's Preformed Unit (PU) Sole.

Non-skid outer sole conforms
durably, flexibly and
traction, permitting use on a
variety of surfaces.

Another Reebok first: the
memory cushion we mould
around the foot and protrudes
bottoming out.

The Astec. Now available in the United States, these superb running shoes by the Reebok family are the culmination of 75 years of racing shoe specialization. These hand-crafted English running shoes are made in a proud tradition of excellence. Throughout its illustrious history, Reebok shoes have consistently won medals and held records in many of the world's major running events. And we at Reebok are dedicated to continually improve the design, engineering and construction characteristics of specialist running shoes, working together with athletes, coaches and medical authorities. Reebok... lightweight, fantastic, expensive.

Reebok
BRITISH RACING SHOES

Reebok International, U.S.A. Inc., 180 Wood Road, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 (610) 848-1330

* 26 pounds British Sterling currency exchange rate of 7/12/79 equals \$60 American.
* Actual weight of the Astec Process women's size 7 is less than 7 1/2 ounces (210 grams).



Astec Process



Astec
IWS STAR



Family Workshops



Here's a programme of workshops for all the family to join in...

Every Thursday in the Summer holidays,
12 noon to 3pm.

Join Rebecca from Bolton Contemporary for a craft activity inspired by Reebok's iconic running shoes

Thurs 24 July

Bolton's Olympics: Interactive quiz about the town's world champion athletes

Thurs 31 July

Fun Running: Make your own Olympic gold medal

Thurs 7 Aug

Amazing Shoe Designs

Thurs 14 Aug

Sneaker Art

Thurs 21 Aug

Meet the Author: Tom Palmer

Tom Palmer has written lots of children's books about football, fell running and rugby league. Come and have a chat about reading and writing sport. Have a sneak peek of his not-published-yet football book, *The Fear*. You can even take part in a penalty shoot-out!

Thurs 28 Aug



Creative Events

Silent Adventures:

Silent Disco Fun Run

Thurs 7 Aug, 1 – 2pm

Celebrate Bolton's amazing history of athletes, running clubs and running shoes with this silent disco and fun run. The multi-award-winning Silent Adventures will take you on a short, leisurely dance around the library and museum building, as well as Elizabeth Park. Everyone will get headphones, so you will be listening to some cool tunes as you do the tour!

Suitable for anyone aged 5 to 95; it's a sight-singing adventure like you've never experienced before!

Places are limited so booking is essential.



Trainer Customisation Workshop

Thurs 14 Aug, 12 – 3pm

Join Charlotte from Jarpz in a workshop to customise your training shoes.



© Charlotte Jarps

The workshop will suit people aged 11+. Charlotte will be demonstrating each stage of the process, and everyone will receive access to all the painting materials needed to design, prep, paint, and finish your own unique trainers.

The only thing that you need to bring is your shoes!

Places are limited so booking is essential.



SEND sessions

Join us for a creative activity specifically aimed at children and adults with additional needs.



Design Your Own Trainer

Reebok Remix in 3D

Step into the world of trainer design in this creative hands-on workshop inspired by the Reebok exhibition.

Using specially designed inspiration sheets filled with Reebok trainers from across the decades, you'll start by sketching your own unique trainer design. Then, bring it to life by building a 3D model of your shoe using recycled cardboard (pre-cut and ready for assembling) and a range of craft materials.

**Session for Children,
Saturday 12 July, 2 – 3pm**

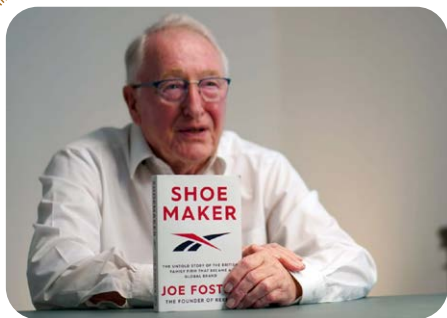
**Session for Adults,
Wednesday 9 July, 2 – 3pm**

Free

[www | eventbrite](http://www.eventbrite)



Talks and Film Screenings



Q&A with Joe Foster, the Founder of Reebok

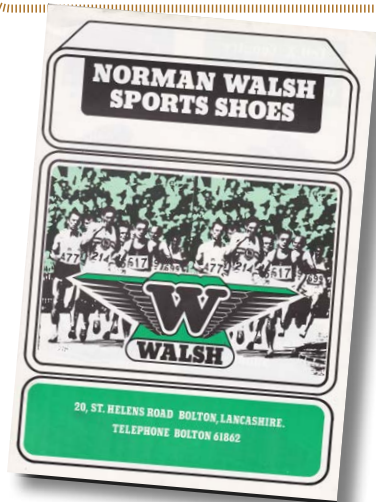
Joe will be talking about his memoir, Shoemaker, which tells the story of how he developed Reebok into one of the world's most famous sports brands.

Thursday 10 July, 1pm. Lecture Theatre, Bolton Central Library.

Fast Sprinting, Long Running: Bolton's Legendary Running Clubs



Tuesday 30 September, 1pm,
Lecture Theatre, Bolton Central Library.



Reebok, Norman Walsh and the Bolton History of the Running Shoe

Tuesday 22 July, 1pm.

Lecture Theatre, Bolton Central Library.

Reebok in Hollywood

Talk followed by screening of the film, Aliens (1986). Watch Sigourney Weaver as she does battle with frightening extraterrestrial creatures in her Reebok Alien Stompers!

Friday 24 October, 7 to 9.30pm



Libraries

Museums

Archives

Aquarium

Visitor Information

Bolton Museum

Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE

Tel: Museum **01204 33 2211**

email: **CustomerServices.Museum@bolton.gov.uk**

Group visits:

If your group is planning to visit us we would love to see you so please let us know when you intend to come.

Museum opening times:

Monday 9am - 5pm

Tuesday 9am - 5pm

Wednesday 9.30am - 5pm

Thursday 9am - 5pm

Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 5pm

Sunday 10.30am - 4.30pm

Stay in touch!

Follow us on socials to keep updated on all our exhibitions and events:



**Bolton Library
and Museum Services**



Smithills Hall Museum



Bolton_Library_Museum



@BoltonLMS

For information and contact details for all Bolton Library and Museum Services venues, please visit **www.boltonlams.co.uk**



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Museum Services