

Experience



VisitNorwich
The City of Stories



Norwich
Business
Improvement
District

Stefan Gurney

Executive Director Norwich BID

Norwich Wine Week



Wayfinding



Banners





Alert



ALERT

Norwich Business Crime Initiative

Brought to you by Norwich BID



Helen Vinsen

Project Marketing Manager

Norwich Summer Sessions



Light Installations



Book Benches











Did you know?

- Anna Sewell lived in Norfolk, and her famous novel *Black Beauty* was first printed in Norwich.
- Julian of Norwich was the first woman known to have written a book in the English language. *Revelations of Divine Love* was written between the 13th and 15th centuries.
- Forty three book titles are featured within the design of the benches.
- Following the trail, you can see the historical Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall on King Street, where you can explore the power of words and ideas through courses, events, and conversations.
- All our stone benches were designed and created by Ryan James and are made of stone sourced from the UK.
- Norwich is proudly home to many independent bookshops, and you can find all the books mentioned on our benches in our beautiful Stone Benches at The Forum.
- Find more about the writers and novels featured on the benches at willowhall.co.uk/book-benches

Thanks to all the partners who have brought the book benches to Norwich as part of the EXPERIENCE project including Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council, National Centre for Writing and Norwich Business Improvement District (BID).

EXPERIENCE was a £245 million project co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Norwich Future Challenge 2015 to 2023. Managed by Norfolk County Council. EXPERIENCE aims to create an area where you can find local services and engagement with the great outdoors, heritage, and culture. The project also supported local tourism and hospitality businesses across Norwich in developing new, low environmental impact, off-season tourism experiences.

Norwich Book Benches

A new exciting chapter began on the streets of Norwich in 2023 encouraging people to meet, dwell and enjoy the sights and sounds of the city within the eight districts of Norwich.


Enjoy a stroll around Norwich with this series of book benches celebrating Norwich's UNESCO City of Literature status.

All of the benches are designed around the shape of a book, some open as if marking the page where you want to pick up the story. Some are piles of books with engaging designs that will want to be chosen from a shelf and one is writing on its spine, with over pages to sit on.

It is not a surprise that the theme of books was selected as Norwich was England's first UNESCO City of Literature in 2022, and as a consequence the benches. Norwich has been a literary city for over 200 years and today has a thriving community of authors, poets, historians, novelists, and storytellers as well as the National Centre for Writing, at Dragon Hall, King Street, Norwich, where people can write, learn, teach, and collaborate.


SHARE Your story on the trail and be part of the next chapter. [#NorwichBookBenches](https://www.instagram.com/norwichbookbenches)

Left page: photos by Willow Hall. Right page: photos by Willow Hall and Ryan James.




1 Gentleman's Walk

Flanked by Norwich Castle, and situated on Gentleman's Walk by Norwich Market, this bench is designed to look like a book on its spine, with wooden pages to relax on.




2 Rampant Horse Street

These benches come as a pair. Either side of the medieval St. Stephen's church, find wooden books arranged as though they were stacked on a shelf.




3 All Saint's Green

The only metal bench on the trail, this design represents the eight areas of Norwich city centre through a pallet of colours.




4 Rouen Road

Created entirely of UK stone, this cascade of books is engraved with both the names of authors who lived in Norwich, and titles of books about the region.




5 Riverside

Beneath the willow trees, find a stack of stone books neatly arranged as the perfect place to watch the river Wensum flow by.




6 St Martin-at-Palace Plain

The largest bench on the trail. Designed by sculptor Ryan James, a 3.1m long stone book features a backrest of 25 smaller books, each engraved with names of books that have a relationship with Norwich.




7 St George's Street

Situated outside Norwich University of the Arts on St George's Street, sit back and relax on this double ended wooden bench.



8 Upper St Giles Street

Three stacks of stone books are arranged on the corner of Upper St Giles and Cow Hill. Their covers depict Anna Sewell's – *Black Beauty*, Julian of Norwich – *Revelations of Divine Love* and S T Hemon's – *Ritual Murder*.



University of East Anglia

In a quiet, green corner of the campus, celebrating just some of the world-renowned Creative Writing programme, the first of its kind in the UK, founded in 1970.



Trail approx. 5.75km or 7,000 steps not including UEA bench.

Scan for more info

Trail route
 Route with no steps
 Car parks
 'Changing Places' toilet (RADAR key disabled accessible)
 Museums
 Norwich Market
 Norfolk Way Art Trail Light Installation

UEA is 2 miles along Earham Road.





'Creating a trail of benches in the shape of books will provide a legacy in the city of Norwich, celebrating the history of literature, defining it as the first UK UNESCO City of Literature in 2012. The creative benches highlight the books and authors, past and present attached to Norwich, the City of Stories. I am delighted to feature on the bench at St Martin-at-Palace Plain, I hope it provides a place to stop, reflect and enjoy Norwich for many years to come'.

Stephen Fry



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Goodnight Norwich

Chief Inspector Ed Brown
Norfolk Constabulary

Goodnight Norwich

**Don't
dismiss
night
safety.**



Call to Action

Go to goodnightnorwich.co.uk

- Industry toolkit
- Social Media Assets
- Posters

<https://goodnightnorwich.co.uk/industry-toolkit/>

