Did you know?

Norfolk resident Anna Sewell had one novel published: *Black Beauty*. Printed by Jarrolds in Norwich, *Black Beauty* went on to sell over 50 million copies worldwide and was instrumental in changing the Victorians' attitude to the welfare of horses.

Julian of Norwich (1342 -1416) was the first woman to be published in the English language. She wrote *Revelations of Divine Love* which is now recognised around the world as one of the greatest spiritual classics. A copy can be seen today at the Museum of Norwich on Bridewell Alley.

Forty-three book titles are featured within the designs of the benches.

Norwich is home to many independent bookshops and beautiful Millennium Library.

Norwich is home to many famous and unsung literary pioneers. Step into the Story with VisitNorwich's Twenty Stories series to find out more at **visitnorwich.co.uk**

Find more about the writers and novelists depicted on the benches at **visitnorwich.co.uk/book-benches**

Be part of the next chapter.

Find out more about Norwich on @visitnorwich and sign up to our monthly City of Stories newsletter.

Scan for more info

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.

All of the benches on the trail are inspired by books. Some are open as if marking the place you want to pick up next; some are piles of books with engravings depicting famous authors from our county; others are books waiting to be chosen from a shelf; one is resting on its spine, with open pages to sit on.

Norwich was named England's first UNESCO City of Literature in 2012, and to honour this big accolade, a book theme was chosen for this new series of benches. Norwich has been a literary city for over 900 years and today has a thriving community of authors, poets, historians, novelists, and storytellers as well as the National Centre for Writing, where people can share, learn, and collaborate.

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).

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

Interreg France (Channel Manche) England
EXPERIENCE
European Regional Development Fund

NORWICH CITY OF LITERATURE

Norfolk County Council

NORWICH City Council

Norwich The City of Stories

Jarrolds

jarrolds.co.uk

At Jarrolds, we offer more than a shopping destination — we create unique experiences.

Awarded UK's Best Independent Department Store 2024 and 2025



St Julian's Church | The Julian Centre | All Hallows Guesthouse

DISCOVER WHERE JULIAN OF NORWICH LIVED AND WROTE
1342 - 1416

Julian Shrine

JULIANSHRINE.ORG



Norwich Ghost Walks

CITY WALKS

EVERY TUESDAY
Elm Hill Route

EVERY THURSDAY
River Route

7.30pm START
April - December

END OF OCTOBER
HALLOWEEN SPECIALS
EVERY NIGHT

BOOK YOUR TOUR NOW

www.ghostwalksnorwich.co.uk 07831189985

tombland BOOKSHOP

ANTIQUARIAN & SECONDHAND BOOKS BOUGHT & SOLD

OPPOSITE THE CATHEDRAL
Tombland Bookshop 8 Tombland Norwich NR3 1HF
01603 490000 | books@tomblandbookshop.co.uk
www.tomblandbookshop.co.uk | tomblander

Bindings restorations valuations

Norwich
The City of Stories

Norwich Book Bench Walking Trail

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



Image: author Ashley Hickson-Lovence, *Your Show*



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 palette 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.



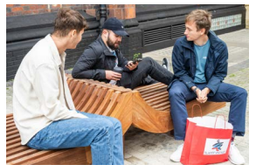
5 Riverside

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 Hamon's *Ritual Murder.*

If you love the benches why not visit the UEA for the bonus bench?



University of East Anglia

This stone bench sits in a quiet corner of the UEA campus, celebrating just some of the world-famous graduates from UEA's Creative Writing course – the first of its kind in the UK.



Published by VisitNorwich, Norwich, Norfolk, Great Britain, as part of Norwich Business Improvement District and in partnership with Norwich City Council. VisitNorwich and Norwich City Council cannot accept any responsibility for any error or omission which may have occurred. © Copyright and database right 2026. Ordnance Survey 100019747.