Take a Seat

As well as providing a place to sit, these benches represent a shared history, each telling their own story.

Take a seat and take time to reflect on the work of your community, on those people that make your city a better place to live. Breathe in the air, follow the bees as they buzz, spot the birds in the trees. The last year has been tough... you deserve it!

1 The Friends of Temple Newsam Park

The Friends of Temple Newsam Park are a voluntary organisation with over 300 members.

The bench has been designed by Emmeline North in collaboration with children from Temple Newsam & Halton Primary School.

Emmeline has included hidden characters and even a game in her final design, all elements found in artwork submitted by the children.

2 Chapel A Play

Chapel A Play are a community group of local mums based in Chapel Allerton.

They believe good outdoor play spaces encourage social cohesion and benefit the whole community.

The bench has been designed and painted by Kieran Hadley aka Third Eye Signs. The design centres around the act of saying hello!

3 New Wortley Community Association

NWCA run a vast array of projects supporting their community, including counselling services and support groups as well as a café, laundry, food store, and hygiene bank.

The bench was designed by their Women's group with the support of Graft Collaborative and then painted by the Youth Board. To complete this fabulously collaborative effort, their Urban Task Force will install the bench!

4 Pyramid Arts

Pyramid Arts invest in people with learning disabilities through the discovery, development, and disruption of the arts.

Julie Shackleton painted the bench, working alongside adults who have Profound Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD). The design is based on a piece of music created by the group during a lockdown Zoom session.

5 Beeston in Bloom

Beeston in Bloom is a community-led gardening group. They host gardening activities, plant sales and litter picks as well as heritage-focused events.

Their bench was designed by Jaydon Rowbottom and was inspired by the Beeston in Bloom activity packs distributed to families isolating during the first lockdown. The packs contained seeds which resulted in an explosion of flowers across the area!

6 Friends of Rothwell Country Park

The Friends of Rothwell Country Park help to care for the former colliery site spanning 123 acres. It was opened as a park after development with Leeds City Council, Groundwork and local people on 24th June 2000.

The bench, designed by Gill Stead, features all the colours of the rainbow to commemorate the NHS.

7 East Leeds Project

The East Leeds Project is a visual arts organisation based in Gipton. They work with art as a social action and focus on co-producing work along the Wyke Beck Valley.

Emma Hardaker has painted the bench using a design that echoes 'KIOSK', a mobile makerspace she made during her recent residency. Using vibrant geometric 'tiles', it references the Persian origin of the English word 'kiosk'.

8 Horsforth Walk of Art

The Walk of Art is a free, volunteer and community-led, inclusive, and creative festival that engages the entire community. They aim to showcase creativity by local artists and performers in everyday and unusual spaces.

The bench was designed by Hew Ma, whose designs feature quirky, fun-filled elements combining street art and illustration.

9 The Old Fire Station

The Old Fire Station is a community hub based in Gipton. It is home to 6 charities, a café, and a cookery school.

Buttercrumble used bright colours and the call to action 'Get Together' in their design, which acts as a reminder that we are stronger together as well as a celebration of how the community supported each other through the lockdowns.

10 Meanwood Street Art

Meanwood Street Art aim to bring bright and colourful street art to Meanwood and provide a platform for local artists to display their work.

Cassy Oliphant's design for a 'talking bench' features two children reaching out to each other. It symbolises hope, a return to normality and will give people a safe place to come together for a chat.

11 Friends of Middleton Park

FoMP were formed in 2003 to promote interest in and the protection of Middleton Park. They hold events all year round, which are free to attend and suitable for all.

Natasha Joseph worked with the group on their design featuring swans that were cared for by the community during the pandemic. The bench represents friendship and love.

12 Space 2

Space 2 is an award-winning arts and social change charity, based in inner East Leeds. It has a passion for the arts and the social and personal outcomes it inspires.

The bench will be decorated in traditional sign-painted style with reflections on places that were important to the residents but that have now long gone.

It will be a place to contemplate the passing of time and enjoy the comfort of shared memories.

13 Friends of Engine Fields

The Friends of Engine Fields have cared for the park for twenty one years. There are three ponds, and a stream, wildflowers, and lots of trees.

The bench has been painted by Paula Law in muted colours with a natural theme. It has been placed near the pond which is teeming with wildlife. If you sit quietly, you might spot the resident kingfisher.

14 CA Spaces

CA Spaces is a collaborative, volunteer-run group who bring colour, greenery, and playful art projects to all corners of Chapel Allerton.

Sited in the meadow-like grounds of Potternewton Heights, the bench features a design by Megan Dobbyn including flowers, greenery, and buzzy bees!

15 Friends of Springfield Park & Guiseley Wells

The Friends of Springfield Park & Guiseley Wells are a collaborative group of organisations who help look after the park.

The bench has been designed by Lucy Phillips of Codswallop CIC. It was inspired by the stories told by local residents describing how they used the natural environment to cope with the negative impact on their mental health during the first lockdown.

Leeds Civic Trust are proud to reveal our colourful community of benches!

15 hand-painted benches can be found all over our city, from Guiseley to Beeston, Horsforth to Gipton. Each is unique and has been funded by Leeds Civic Trust to commemorate the incredible way each community has come together during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Leeds Civic Trust is a charity that works with its members and community partners to help make Leeds a great place to live, work and play. To find out more about the work we do and about the community groups and artists involved head to our website: **leedscivictrust.org.uk or @leedscivictrust**

Share your images using #takeaseatleeds

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Take a Seat

A Colourful Community of Benches

1. **The Friends of Temple Newsam Park**
   Temple Newsam Park (Children's Play Area), LS15 0AE
2. **Chapel A Play**
   Chapel Allerton Park, LS7 4QW
3. **New Wortley Community Association**
   New Wortley Community Centre, LS12 1LZ
4. **Pyramid Arts**
   Bramley Park, LS13 3PG
5. **Beeston in Bloom**
   Sunnyview House Care Home, LS11 8QB
6. **Friends of Rothwell Country Park**
   Rothwell Country Park, LS26 0JY
7. **East Leeds Project**
   Fearnville Fields Gipton, LS8 3LF
8. **Horsforth Walk of Art**
   The Green, LS18 4RH
9. **The Old Fire Station**
   The Old Fire Station, LS9 6NL
10. **Meanwood Street Art**
    Monk Bridge Green, LS6 4RA
11. **Friends of Middleton Park**
    Middleton Park, LS10 3SH
12. **Space 2**
    Church of the Epiphany, LS9 6SW
13. **Friends of Engine Fields**
    Henshaw Lane Yeadon, LS19 7RW
14. **CA Spaces**
    Potternewton Heights, LS7 3DD
15. **Friends of Springfield Park & Guiseley Wells**
    Guiseley Wells, LS20 9BT

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GUISELEY 15
YEADON 13
RAWDON
HORSFORTH 8
MEANWOOD 10
MOORTOWN
CHAPEL ALLERTON 2
14
ROUNDHAY
HEADINGLEY
KIRKSTALL
BRAMLEY 4
GIPTON 7
12
HAREHILLS
9
HALTON
LEEDS
ARMLEY 3
HOLBECK
1
5
BEESTON
6
MIDDLETON 11
ROTHWELL