Factsheet – Pride of Derby Timeline Bench & Artwork

On location at The Spot, in Derby city centre, a bench engraved with a timeline of key events in Derby has been installed as part of the 2016 renovation of the area. Below are the facts and stats on this bench.

**Lead designer:** Derby City Council, Engineering

**Manufacturer:** Evans Concrete Products Limited

**Length:** 30 metres / 98 feet

**Weight:** 92 tonnes

**Material:** 38 cubic metres of concrete. The concrete was manufactured from Black granite which is quarried from Clee Hill, Shropshire

**Time to manufacture:** 18 weeks

**How were they made:** It had a degree of complexity. The bench was cast in 63 sections using bespoke moulds. They were finished using different processes to give it the hard granite look. This involved being acid etched and hand polished to a very high finish. The timeline was then etched, by specialist finishers, on the highly polished sections which were then installed on location over two weeks.

**Lifespan:** Typical lifespan is 100 years

**Etching:** The Pride of Derby Timeline tells the story of Derby in images starting with the completion of the UK’s first silk mill in 1721. It chronicles other key events in the history of the city up to the opening of the Derby Arena in 2015.

**Timeline designer:** Smith of Derby

**Cost of artwork:** £17,500

**Timeline & symbols:** See below
Timeline & Symbols

1721 - The Silk Mill – engineered by George Sorocold for the Lombe brothers, as the site for the world’s first factory.

1734 - The birth year of Joseph Wright – Painter of “A Philosopher Lecturing on the Orrery”.

1745 - Bonnie Prince Charlie in Derby during the Jacobite rising.

1750 - The origin date of Royal Crown Derby Porcelain Company – one of the oldest remaining English porcelain manufacturers.

1773 - The origin date of Derby’s first theatre – Theatre Royal – which spanned a life of nearly 100 years.
Timeline & Symbols

1805 - The birth date of Andrew Handyside – builder of the Handyside Bridge, a former railway bridge in Darley Abbey.

1820 - Birth year of Florence Nightingale, “The Lady with the Lamp”.

1839 - The year the first train steamed into Derby from Nottingham, changing the town forever.

1840 - The Arboretum was donated to the town by Joseph Strutt, a former Mayor of Derby.

1853 - A ‘School of Art’ has existed in Derby since 1853, moving to Green Lane in 1878.
Timeline & Symbols

1856 - Founding of John Smith & Sons clockmakers, now Smith of Derby. The Icon depicts the previous feature piece clock located at ‘The Spot’.

1866 - Derby Market Hall is opened to the public.

1870 - The ‘Plimsoll Line’, ‘Waterline’, or ‘International Load Line’, was created by Samuel Plimsoll to indicate the legal limit to which a ship may be loaded for specific water types.

1874 - The birth year of Derby legend Steve Bloomer, played football for Derby County from 1892 – 1906, and again in 1910 – 1914. Also played baseball for Derby County in the 1890s.

1880 - Derby Tramways Company introduced Horse-drawn trams to the city – ‘The Spot’ being one of the line’s extensions.
1884 - The founding year of Derby County Football Club.

1891 - Queen Victoria visits Derby.

1893 - Derby is lit by electricity for the first time. The power station opened in 1893 and was connected to a few public buildings at the time it opened.

1904 - Derby Corporation Tramways replaces Horse-drawn tams with electric trams.

1908 - Rolls Royce opens a factory in Derby where both cars and aircraft will be made.
Timeline & Symbols

1927 - All Saints’ Church becomes a Cathedral.

1929 - Derby’s City Hospital is opened.

1932 - Electric trolleybuses introduced, replacing electric trams entirely 2 years later.

1946 - Derby County Football Club, “The Rams”, wins the FA Cup.

1947 - The first mainline diesel locomotives, Nos. 10000 and 10001, were built by LMS Derby Works.
Timeline & Symbols

1972 - The first RB211 engines built by Rolls Royce enter service on the Lockheed Tristar.

1975 - The Eagle Market opens to the public.

1977 - Derby was given its city status on a visit by Queen Elizabeth II.

1992 - The University of Derby was established.

1992 - The first Carina E, drove off the new Toyota production line.
Timeline & Symbols

1996 - Derby based Video Game designers, Core Design, created the Tomb Raider series. Lara Croft Way, a street not far from ‘The Spot’, is named after the Game Series’ Heroine.

2014 - Ceramic Artist Paul Cummings enlists the help of the skilled workers at Johnson Tiles to create the unique tribute in time for Remembrance Day.

2015 - ‘The Derby Arena’ is opened to the public. The Arena incorporates the first Velodrome built since the London 2012 Olympics.