

Leamington Station Underpass Designs Explanatory Note

The proposed artwork, which is inspired by artist colour swatches, is routed in 'place'. Each colour represents a person, building, landmark, or object synonymous with Royal Leamington Spa. Each of the 7 designs are based on a specific theme, which include:

1. Arts and Culture
2. Sports and Leisure
3. Entertainment
4. Community
5. History
6. Nature and the Natural Environment
7. Innovation

The palette designs are not designed to be a comprehensive representation of the town's illustrious history. They are however intended to be a snapshot of how the respondents to the community engagement call out for this piece of work see Royal Leamington Spa in 2022, and how the artist interprets these as part of his artistic practice.

In some instances, the colour is taken directly from the thing it is referencing. In other instances, it is more cryptic, which encourages the viewer to think a little harder about its meaning. The following short guide provides some further details about the inspiration behind each colour:

1. Art and Culture

Wondrous Blue Motionhouse is a world-class dance and circus company based in Royal Leamington Spa, which tours work internationally, and has been pushing movement to its limits since 1988. 'Wondrous Blue' is inspired by their new performance for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, 'Wondrous Stories'

Pump Rooms Stone Royal Pump Rooms is home to Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum, and hosts arts and cultural activity throughout the year.

Art in the Park Canvas Art in the Park is Royal Leamington Spa's annual free arts festival that showcases live music, dance and theatre.

Sir Terry's Yellow Sir Terry Frost was a British abstract artist, born in Royal Leamington Spa in 1915.

Loft Crimson The Loft Theatre Company has produced live theatre in Royal Leamington Spa since 1922.

Woodbine Vinyl Woodbine is one of the UK's best and longest established independent studios.

2. Sports and Leisure

Bowling Green Warwick District Council's Victoria Park Bowling complex hosts the women's and men's national championships. It is the only venue in the world to have hosted 2 Women's World Bowls Championships - in 1996 and 2004. The venue has also hosted many international test matches for men's and women's teams and will host the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Lawn and Para Bowl events.

Renshaw Lawn Born in Royal Leamington Spa in 1861, the Renshaw twins William and Ernest Renshaw dominated the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club's tournament in Wimbledon during the 1880s and are credited with transforming tennis into a spectator sport

Randolph Gold Born in Royal Leamington Spa, Randolph Adolphus Turpin (7 June 1928 – 17 May 1966), better known as Randy Turpin, was a British boxer in the 1940s and 1950s. In 1951 he became world middleweight champion when he defeated Sugar Ray Robinson

Wisden White John Wisden, the cricket almanack publisher, who created a cricket ground in Royal Leamington Spa in the 19th century.

Rowing Blue The River Leam is popular with people who like to row, canoe, or simply hire a pedalo.

Real Tennis Claret Discreetly tucked away in the heart of Royal Leamington Spa is a members' tennis club with a history reaching back more than 170 years . Established in 1846, Leamington Tennis Court Club is the oldest purpose built tennis club in the world. Lawn tennis was invented in Leamington Spa by members of the club.

3. Entertainment

Spa Centre Red The Royal Spa Centre is a Theatre in Royal Leamington Spa, England. The Centre was officially opened on 15 June 1972.

Food Fest Spice Leamington Food Festival is a hugely popular annual event that takes place once a year in the Pump Room Gardens.

The Assembly Gold The Assembly Leamington is a 1,000-capacity live music venue with art deco interior, which presents an eclectic line-up and weekly club nights.

Lantern Glow The 'Leamington Lantern Parade' started in 2010 is a popular annual event, which attracts over 1,000 families and brings around 3,000 people to the town each year.

Bandstand Brass Music has been played in Pump Room Gardens gardens since the 1820s. By 1851 a hexagonal bandstand was shown on a Board of Health map, and in May 1889 a new bandstand, located in a more central position and manufactured by Walter MacFarlane and Co. was opened. The MacFarlane bandstand is one of a very few surviving structures of its type in the country and is a much-loved feature of the gardens.

Warwick Street Latte Warwick Street is one of several destinations in the town for food, shopping, and home to many of Royal Leamington Spa's coffee shops.

4. Community

Gurdwara Gold Opened in 2009. The Gurdwara Sahib Leamington and Warwick is a Sikh gurdwara located on Tachbrook Drive, Warwick, England. It primarily serves the community around Royal Leamington Spa, Warwick and Kenilworth. It is one of the largest buildings associated with Sikhism in the United Kingdom.

Church Stone All Saints is the historic Parish Church for the town and all its people. Built in the Gothic Revival style in the 19th century, it has been described as "one of the largest Church of England parish churches, rivalling many cathedrals in size." It is located in Royal Leamington Spa's Old Town, just south of the River Leam in what was the old core of the town.

Parade Cream Parade is the central shopping hub of Royal Leamington Spa, and upon it sit many of the town's high street stores, as well as some of the best examples of Regency architecture, for which the town is known.

Peace White The Peace Festival is an eclectic event that occurs in the heart of Royal Leamington Spa once a year. Taking place in the beautiful Pump Room Gardens over two days in June, the Peace Festival aims to promote awareness of world and local issues, fair trade practices and encourages local crafts, artists, traders, organisations and entertainers to share their skills and talk about their causes.

Pride Pink Warwickshire Pride is an annual festival that takes place in Royal Leamington Spa. It's a celebration of LGBT+ life and culture. "The original symbol for gay people was a pink triangle. It was initially used to shame gay people but was reclaimed by many gay and lesbian people. Pink was also on the original Pride rainbow flag and it's a colour in the trans flag. So, pink makes sense to represent the community on the Colour Palette." - Daniel Browne, Chair of Warwickshire

Street Art Indigo Royal Leamington Spa is now famed for its street art. It boasts work from highly respected artists on walls in Old Town and on the canals and waterways, thanks largely to efforts from Brink Contemporary Arts.

5. History

Cundall Brick John Cundall (1830-1889) was an architect whose designs peppered the town of Leamington Spa. Cundall's buildings have a distinct air of belonging to the same family. They are mainly unashamedly Gothic or Tudor revival, often without symmetry or a trace of stucco; and what is more, most of them are still standing and well-used.

Town Hall Red Leamington Spa Town Hall is a Grade II listed brick building at the bottom of the Parade. It is home to the local MP, Royal Leamington Spa Town Council, The University of Warwick, and Motionhouse. It is currently on a journey to become a Creative Hub, thanks to Future High Street Funding.

Regency White The town contains especially fine ensembles of Regency architecture, particularly in parts of the Parade, Clarendon Square and Lansdowne Circus.

Victoria Lace Queen Victoria's impact on the county of Warwickshire was profound. In 1838 she was successfully lobbied for Leamington Spa to use the word 'Royal' as a prefix. Moreover, she had visited the town eight years earlier: as Princess Victoria she stayed a night in the Regent Hotel in 1830, before continuing to Malvern. Queen Victoria also visited Leamington in 1858.

Elephants Grey Leamington Spa has a long history with elephants, thanks to Sam Lockhart, elephant trainer extraordinaire.

Satchwell Spring In 1782, Ben Satchwell with his friend William Abbotts found the second mineral spring in Leamington Priors (the first had been discovered at least two hundred years earlier, but never exploited) and the Abbotts Original Baths opened a couple of years later in 1784. This coincided with a nineteenth century trend for “taking the waters” and marked the beginning of an influx of visitors to Leamington.

6. Nature and the Natural Environment

Jephson Grass Jephson Gardens is a beautiful formal Victorian park in the centre of Leamington Spa. It's the perfect place for a relaxing stroll or family picnic. Lots of colourful flowerbeds and interesting sculptures make for a great day out.

Leam Valley Green Leam Valley is a nature reserve on the edge of Leamington Spa.

Weir White The town has two weirs on the River Leam; the Edmondscote Weir and the weir beneath the footbridge in Jephsons Gardens

Foundry Wood Foundry Wood is a managed access community woodland. Through volunteer work parties we have made the site accessible by creating paths and facilities for all to use. Now the woodland is open most days for you to enjoy this unique natural environment.

Midlands Oak The Midland Oak is an oak tree that grows in Leamington Spa, near the Lillington boundary, at the junction of Lillington Road and Lillington Avenue. A plaque nearby unveiled in 1988 states that the old tree, the original centuries old Midland Oak was reputed to mark the centre of England. The present tree was planted about 1988, grown from an acorn saved in 1967 when the old tree, which had died, was cut down.

7. Innovation

Joystick Fire Leamington Spa, and the surrounding areas of Southam and Warwick, is home to a significant gaming cluster, which is one of the largest in the UK. With an established history in game development spanning 30 years, the local area can call upon a uniquely skilled talent pool drawn here by the presence of key industry names including Codemasters, SEGA and Ubisoft.

Code Red Leamington Spa is home to a multitude of software companies who provide software technology, distribution, and software product development to businesses and consumers all over the world.

Range Flame Aga Rangemaster is the manufacturer of the eponymous cast iron cooker and oven (the AGA Cooker) headquartered in Leamington Spa.

Military Camo When the war was declared in 1939, the Government set up a Directorate of Camouflage as part of the Ministry of Home Security. Its main base was in Royal Leamington Spa. They moved to their new base in early 1940 and set up home in the Regent Hotel.

Racing Green Malcolm Sayer was an aircraft engineer during wartime and later automotive aerodynamicist. His most notable aerodynamic work being responsible for the engineering body development of the E-Type Jaguar. His last address was Portland Place, Leamington Spa.

Whittle Jet Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle, OM, KBE, CB, FRS, FRAeS (1 June 1907 – 8 August 1996) was an English engineer, inventor and Royal Air Force air officer. He is credited with inventing the turbojet engine. He lived and studied in Leamington Spa.

