

# DERBY:

## all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

MAY 2025

### LATEST NEWS

#### **Wright of Derby emerges from the shadows**

A major exhibition, organised by the National Gallery and Derby Museums Trust, [Wright of Derby: From the Shadows](#), will be staged at the National Gallery in London from 7 November to 10 May 2026. It will be the first exhibition dedicated to Joseph Wright at the National Gallery, and the first to focus on his 'candlelight' series. The exhibition is organised in partnership with Derby Museums where it will travel to in 2026. On show will be a number of masterpieces from this period including 'Three Persons Viewing the Gladiator by Candlelight', 'A Philosopher giving that Lecture on the Orrery in which a lamp is put in place of the Sun' and 'An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump'. This marks the first time in 35 years that these works will be brought together. Seventeen of the artworks will be coming from Derby Museums, who hold the world's largest collection of Wright's work.

#### **Derby: 200 years at the heart of UK rail innovation**

As the home of Britain's rail industry and the future headquarters of Great British Railways (GBR), [Derby has been at the forefront of railway innovation for 200 years](#). From pioneering the nation's first purpose-built railway workshops to shaping the future of rail travel, Derby's rich rail heritage continues to drive progress. Central to the [Railway 200](#) celebrations, Derby will commemorate this milestone with a series of events, showcasing its pivotal role in the industry. Explore historic sites, discover its incredible contributions, and celebrate two centuries of rail excellence.

#### **Derby welcomes Vaillant Live**

[Vaillant Live](#) is the new name for Derby's flagship Becketwell entertainment venue. In the making for several years, and opened as recently as 5 April, the 3,500 capacity destination for concerts, family events, sports and conferencing, Vaillant Live will bring a world-class, purpose-built entertainment venue to Derby. The new name comes as [Vaillant](#) becomes the sole sponsor of the new venue. The first events to be revealed include In Conversations with Tim Peake, Miriam Margolyes and I'm A Celebrity's, GK Barry, live music including Wet Wet Wet and Bjorn Again, and comedy from Paul Chowdhry, John Bishop and Jason Manford. It's anticipated that the new £45.8 million venue will host over 200 cultural and commercial events each year, attracting an additional 250,000 visitors to Derby city centre annually.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Derby's Cult Film Festival - Paracinema**

2 to 5 May 2025

[Paracinema](#) is Derby's film festival celebrating off-mainstream movies - bringing together a mix of horror, fantasy, science-fiction, comedy and plenty of genre-bending features and shorts each year. Tickets are available to individual events, or purchase a pass to attend all events at a significant discount.

#### **Sadler Gate Spring Market**

3 May 2025

The [Love Sadler Gate Spring Market](#) is coming this Bank Holiday Weekend, filling Sadler Gate, Blacksmiths Yard, and The Strand Arcade with amazing local talent. Visitors will be able to discover artisan crafts and delicious food - as well as a great city centre atmosphere, and a fantastic day out for all the family.

## Meet Varney the Vampire

10 May 2025

Doffing its cap to the city's close connections with Dracula, a New Model Theatre show by Robert Poulter, that has taken two incidents from the extremely long Penny Dreadful novel of 1837, is set to be staged at Derby Museum & Art Gallery at the start of this month. [Varney the Vampire](#) is part of the ongoing [Dracula Returns to Derby](#) project. Tickets from £5.

## Cheers!

7 June 2025

Organisers of the [2025 Derby Gin & Rum Festival](#) are promising "an exciting party vibe" at The Chocolate Factory this year. With over 120 different spirits for on offer - including new favourites with samples from hand-picked and award-winning guest distillers - the event will also feature a new Tequila Bar, along with plenty of live music.

## Derby's in it for laughs

14 June, 11 July, 29 August, 26 September, 17 October and 7 November 2025

The popular [Derby Comedy Club](#), at Derby Conference Centre, home - once a month - to everything hilarious, consists of different comedians from all over the country, visiting Derby to appear at the Club. Tickets start from just £14 with two tickets for £24.

## The Derby Rum & Reggae Fest

14 June, 2025

After the Rum & Reggae Fest at the Chocolate Factory sold out in record time last year, organisers have announced an upgraded Derby "takeover" - to take the sunshine vibes to the majestic Elvaston Castle on the outskirts of the city. As a result, [the festival-sized production](#) at a stunning castle venue will be expanded to accommodate more than 2,000+ reggae lovers. "Sixth release" tickets are now available, priced from £33.25.

## Sujata Setia: A Thousand Cuts

To 15 June, 2025

Sujata Setia is the FORMAT25 Award, Lishui Photography Festival Exhibition Award and Genesis Imaging Award winner. Derived from the ancient Asian form of torture, "Lingchi", her exhibition [A Thousand Cuts](#), studies patterns of domestic abuse in the South Asian community. On show now at Derby QUAD.

## Turn up and tune in to Dracula

11 July 2025

There's a chance to meet Dracula in Derby once again, at a spooktacular evening of live music at Dubrek Studios in the city centre, showcasing [six acts featured on the Dracula Returns! album](#). Set to run from 18.45 to 23.00, tickets cost £5.

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## BLOGS & FEATURES

### New interactive guide to what's happening in Derby is launched

There's an exciting buzz in Derby as we head into the Spring and Summer months. On 24 May, Derby Market Hall will open its doors, bringing a vibrant new space for shopping, dining, and local culture. This historic venue has been transformed into a must-visit destination. But that's not all - Vaillant Live has also opened its doors, offering a fresh venue for live music and events in the heart of the city. [And now, VisitDerby is offering an interactive guide to discover what's happening in Derby](#): just click on any listing for more details.

### The Top 25 Places to Eat & Drink in Derby in 2025

Updated as recently as 28 March, VisitDerby has come up with [a very tasty listing of 25 top places to eat in the city in 2025](#).

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**For further details, visit:**

<https://www.visitderby.co.uk>.

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