

DERBY: all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

JULY 2025

LATEST NEWS

Take a bite out of Derby by using this new self-guided trail

Visitors to Derby can now explore a [Dracula Trail](#) across the city centre. The trail reveals Derby's spooky link to Dracula which marks 100 years since the world-famous character's stage debut in the city in 1924. What's come to light recently is that Derby is the place where the first-ever theatrical adaptation of Stoker's novel was staged; and, where the renowned actor Bela Lugosi finally decided to put a metaphorical stake through the heart of the Count Dracula he helped to create. This new self-guided trail explores those moments, and visits 20 locations where visitors can get their teeth into the story of Dracula's return to Derby.

Wright moves

A previously unknown portrait by 'Wright of Derby' has been unveiled at Derby Museum and Art Gallery. The portrait, which depicts Wright's friend, the musician and composer Edward Miller, was discovered in 2024 by the Hall family while sorting through the belongings of a late relative at a home on the Scottish Borders - described as a "treasure trove of antiques". Amongst over 20 family portraits, there were three whose identities were a mystery. One bore a simple inscription on the reverse: 'Wright'. Struck by the detail of the lacework and tassels, reminiscent of Wright's early self-portrait in Van Dyck dress - also found at Derby Museum and Art Gallery - Joy Hall began researching the artist, and "stumbled upon" Joseph Wright. The newly discovered portraits are now part of Derby Museums' permanent collection. *Edward Miller* is on display in the [Joseph Wright Gallery](#). The Wass portraits will then be displayed at the [Museum of Making](#).

Factory Food Court opens

Following hard on the heels of the opening of the new-look and completely transformed Derby Market Hall, another new food court is the latest venture to open in Derby, on the opposite side of the River Derwent. [Factory Food Court](#) attracted more than 3,000 visitors on their opening weekend. Vendors include Curry Cartel, Kebab Guys, Karachi, Jerk Station and Mucho Picante.

Documentary movie on Thomas the Tank Engine to premiere in Derby

Alstom has announced that Thomas the Tank Engine documentary, [An Unlikely Fandom](#), will receive its UK premiere during this summer's [The Greatest Gathering](#). Alstom's three-day festival in Derby will be the world's largest-ever gathering of historic and modern rolling stock. It forms part of the wider, year-long festivities for [Railway 200](#). The documentary film explores the profound influence of the beloved children's television series on popular culture and its enduring legacy. It delves into the origins of Thomas the Tank Engine, its global impact and the passionate community of fans that have grown around it. It was directed by Brannon Carty, an independent filmmaker from Greensboro, North Carolina, who will travel from the USA to take part in a Q&A following the screening on Saturday 2 August. For more details of Derby's Railway heritage, click [here](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TK Maxx Presents Derby Summer Sessions 2025

4 to 13 July, 2025

[TK Maxx presents Derby Summer Sessions 2025](#) will now be held at the new £45.8 million entertainment and conference venue Vaillant Live, which only opened its doors to the public in April. Acts include The Human League, Blossoms, Rag/N/Bone Man,

Simple Minds Faithless, Jess Glynne and UB 40 ft. Ali Campbell. Ticket prices range from £53.25 to £106.25.

Dinos in Derby

12 July, 2025

Derby's [Jurassic Day Out](#) in the Cathedral Quarter returns for its fourth year this summer and, as well as already being the county's largest free dinosaur event, it promises to be bigger and better than ever before. This year's "new" dinosaurs will include a Parasaurolophus and a Stygimolock.

Rebuilding Derby Cathedral - brick by brick

25 July to 21 August, 2025

This summer, Derby Cathedral invites visitors to experience [Brick by Brick - Building a Solid Foundation](#), an art installation and festival highlighting the importance of environmental sustainability through creativity and community engagement. At the heart of the festival is a first-of-its-kind, model of Derby Cathedral and the surrounding city centre, crafted entirely from LEGO bricks by the renowned artist [Brick This](#).

And, YNot?

31 July to 3 August, 2025

With fewer than 5% of all tickets for the [2025 YNot Festival](#) still available at the time of writing, the advice for anyone wanting to join the party in The Peaks at Green View Farm, Pikehall, is to "do it now". The line-up includes The Prodigy, Courteeners, Madness, The Wombats, Primal Scream, The Last Dinner Party and Franz Ferdinand.

Spend an evening with Jack the Ripper

8 August, 2025

Whitechapel, 1888. Between August and November a series of women are brutally murdered. The identity of the killer remains a mystery. Until now..? It's the greatest unsolved case in criminal history. One that continues to confuse and confound. [An Evening with Jack the Ripper](#) with award winning producer and broadcaster Steve Morgan will delve into Victorian London in an attempt to finally unmask The Ripper.

Take Pride in the city

9 August, 2025

The first ever event celebrating Derby's vibrant LGBTQ+ community with open hearts and the inclusive spirit of the city's Sadler Gate community, will take place in the city centre this summer. Visitors can "expect a joyful celebration with delicious food, amazing street entertainment and more" at [Pride Festival](#).

If Hydrangeas are your thing...

10 August, 2025

Derby's magnificent [Hydrangea Open Day](#) will be held in Darley Park on 10 August between 10am and 3pm. Volunteers will be on hand to answer all hydrangea-related questions. Within the hydrangea garden is the National Collection of Hydrangea paniculata containing more than 150 different cultivars. Guided tours of the garden are scheduled for 11am and 2pm. "Meet opposite the café, and keep your fingers crossed for fine weather"!

Let's all Assemble in Derby

25 October, 2025

Assemble - [Derby's Making Festival 2025](#) - is a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, which celebrates making in all its shapes and forms. The previous event, in 2024, saw audiences of over 1,000 in attendance and featured more than 60 makers on-site, with demonstrations in everything from ceramics and embroidery to laser-cutting, weaving, jewellery-making, metalwork, robotics and automata.

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BLOGS & FEATURES

School Summer Holidays

Visit Derby has been able to draw together a host of events in and around the city centre, which are designed to keep the whole family entertained during the upcoming summer school holiday. [Click the link](#) to discover more about Superhero picnics, outdoor cinema, magic shows and the Darley Park Weekender.

The Best Ale Houses in Derby

Raise a glass to the rich tradition of ale in England with a guide to [the best ale houses in Derby](#). This feature highlights the ale houses which serve up a diverse selection of local brews, craft beers, and traditional ales. Travel writer and Communications Director for the British Guild of Travel Writers, Mark Jackson, has made a series of videos, visiting several top ale houses in Derby. These can be viewed [here](#).

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For further details, visit:

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

For all media enquiries, interview opportunities and images, please contact:

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