

# DERBY: all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

JANUARY 2025

## LATEST NEWS

### **From zero to hero in time for 2025**

From the worst place in Britain for a shortbreak, to one of the Best Places to Go in 2025. As we reached the end of 2024, *Condé Nast Traveller* identified [some of the best places to go in the year ahead](#). Included amongst them is Derbyshire, where the city gets a strong namecheck for the new-look Derby Market Hall which the magazine says, “Will emerge from a sparkling £35m restoration in spring,” adding, “Completed in 1866 by the same engineer who worked on the Royal Albert Hall’s dome, Derby Market Hall will feature a food court, artisan stalls and entertainment”. Further debunking a *Which?* report of 2024 which called it the worst city to visit in the UK, the message is now clearly out there: Derby (which also made it into VisitEngland’s “2025 Hotlist”) is now ‘trending’ as a place to visit in 2025.

### **Turner250 will reopen debate of who is Britain's greatest artist**

2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775–1851), possibly the most widely admired and influential British artist of all time. Events in honour of one of greatest British artists are being staged across the country throughout the year, during which time the subject of whether he was the greatest British artist of all-time will once again be debated. Coincidentally, art historian Dr Bendor Grosvenor, best known from the BBC series *Britain's Lost Masterpieces*, has just written a new book, *The Invention of British Art*. Front-and-centre in his radical retelling of British art history is the role played by landscape and portrait painter Joseph Wright, of Derby.

### **If the hat fits...**

What's not to like about behind-the-scenes, hard-hat tours of venues which are just a few months away from being opened to the public? It's such a privilege to get to see, and hear, how things are taking shape. And the main feedback from Becketwell Live - Derby's new £45.8 million entertainment and conference venue in the heart of the city centre - is that [everything is well on schedule for the Spring opening](#). What's even better is that its innovative design, state-of-the-art facilities, and sheer attention to detail will make this one of the finest theatres in Britain. The keys will be handed over to the venue management company ASM Global on 20 January...and the curtain will rise in the Spring.

---o0o---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Free entry to a fantastical museum of curiosities**

(To 16 February 2025)

The gallery at Derby QUAD has been transformed into a [Victorian Steampunk Museum](#), exploring fairytales through digital magic, participation and storytelling. The exhibition will offer visitors a chance to “experience fantasy worlds via the enchanted periscope, wonder at magical items from the fairytale realms, read stories beyond their imagination”. Entry to Lockheart & Hawkins’ fantastical museum of curiosities is free.

### **A chance to see The Missing Act**

(To 23 February)

[The Missing Act](#) is an exhibition of new paintings by artist Max Gimson, winner of the ninth [Jonathan Vickers Fine Art Award](#). Established by Foundation Derbyshire in 1998, with the help of a legacy from the late Jonathan Vickers, this biennial Award brings to Derbyshire a rising artist every two years to produce work on the theme of ‘A Sense of

Place', inspired by the county's people, heritage and landscape. Gimson's body of new work will go on show in solo exhibitions at both Derby Museum and Art Gallery and the Mall Galleries in London.

### **Godzilla-A-Go-Go 2.0**

(18 January, 2025)

After a hugely successful first event in August 2024, [Godzilla-A-Go-Go](#) returns to Derby QUAD & Cinema in January 2025 for another day of fantastic man-in-suit action, featuring four classics from *Godzilla*'s Showa era. Tickets are now on sale. Passes to see all 4 films are priced at £30 (standard), £25 (concessions) and £18 (under 16 years old).

### **Further acts announced for Psychic Dancehall festival**

(22 March, 2025)

Pram, and Pleasure Pool form part of the next wave of announcements for new Midlands electronic and experimental music festival, due to be staged in Derby on 22 March. This new announcement adds Birmingham post-rock cult legends Pram to the [Psychic Dancehall](#) festival line-up, alongside Glasgow's Pleasure Pool whose *Love Without Illusion* album has been described as "one of the freshest dance music albums of the past five years". Early bird tickets have now sold out for what is certain to be a capacity audience at The Wardwick and Dubrek Studios in Derby.

### **City with a smile plays it just for laughs**

(29 May-8 June)

[The Ram Comedy Festival](#) in Derby, an independent comedy festival for the city, is now scheduled to take place from 29 May to 8 June 2025. The city with a smile will host up to 70 shows across multiple venues, showcasing what a thriving hub Derby is for live comedy. A new website is already starting to fill-up with details of all events.

### **Derby Summer Sessions**

(3-13 July)

Markeaton Park, the city's most-visited outdoor destination, will host TK Maxx presents Derby Summer Sessions. With its great transport links, proximity to the University of Derby, and serene character, this setting promises to create an unforgettable experience for 15,000 music lovers this summer as [TK Maxx presents Derby Summer Sessions](#), when the Big Top Tent will also ensure that nothing can dampen the spirit of this festival. While Simple Minds will headline, The Human League is the latest band named in the line-up for 2025. Tickets start from £65.55 per person.

### **One of the first announcements from Derby's new entertainment venue**

28 October, 2025

It has been announced that Wet Wet Wet will bring their Autumn 2025 tour to Derby, as part of [Becketwell Live](#)'s Opening Season. The new new £45.8 million entertainment and conference venue, Becketwell Live forms the second phase of a £230 million city centre regeneration scheme, is set for completion in the Spring. It's anticipated it will host over 200 cultural and commercial events each year, attracting an additional 250,000 visitors to Derby city centre annually.

---o0o---

## **BLOGS & FEATURES**

### **UK cities of culture**

Next year, Bradford will be lauded nationally and, to a degree, internationally as the 2025 UK City of Culture. And quite rightly so. Its proposal was selected by the UK Government in May 2022 from a record-breaking 20 bids, following Derry-Londonderry (2013), Hull (2017) and Coventry (2021). But what of the other cities who bid for the 2025 title? How many of those - predominantly, post-industrial cities - have continued their bid to become a "must-see" UK destination of choice? Find out [here](#) why 2024 has been an exceptional

year for Derby - and why it now stands on the cusp of becoming one of the UK's newest shortbreak destinations....

*ENDS*

---o0o---

**For further details, visit:**  
<https://www.visitderby.co.uk>.

**For all media enquiries, interview opportunities and images, please contact:**  
Michelle Booth, Tourism Officer  
Tel: 01332 643414  
Email: [michelle.booth@derby.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.booth@derby.gov.uk)