

# DERBY:

## all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

SEPTEMBER 2026

### LATEST NEWS

#### Highly influential

Results from a recent Visit Derby 'Influencer Campaign' have proved extremely positive, with reels and posts attracting high levels of engagement with would-be visitors to the city. Latest examples include Emma Cookes (@petite.blondine) [Brilliant Weekends in the UK](#) post on Instagram, which also appeared on Facebook and TikTok; and Amy Hulley's (@amyenvoyage) [Underrated Place to Visit in the UK](#) fabulous reel on TikTok, which also can be seen on Instagram and Facebook. Amy's video features haunted pubs, Highland cows, the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site and the world's first modern factory... all of which are "less than 90 minutes from London by train". At the same time, Visit Derby created a media campaign with *The Standard* to produce the following travel feature by freelance Devinder Bains showing Londoners [Why Derby needs to be on your radar](#).



Wright of Derby: From the Shadows Exhibition - Image Credit: Derby Museums

#### Take a fresh look at 'dracula.city', as All Hallows' Eve approaches

Derby has announced details of its 'Dracula Returns A.D.2027' conference, which will be held in Derby from 14 to 16 May in 2027. The announcement also coincided with the launch of a new website: [www.dracula.city](http://www.dracula.city). It underpins the fact that this truly is Dracula's city, while also acknowledging that Whitby is Dracula's town). In explaining the move, Derby Dracula – which researches, marks and celebrates the city's place in the story of the world's most famous vampire – reminds Goth fans and Dracula disciples "that the Count in evening dress and cloak, the aristocrat who passes unnoticed in a London drawing room: that figure was made on a Derby stage in May 1924, not in Bram Stoker's novel".

#### Lara Croft takes the city by storm

The first full week of the first ever UK exhibition dedicated in its entirety to Tomb Raider and Lara Croft has proved a huge success at Pickford's House. A terrific write-up in the gaming publication [Push Square](#) clearly helped, as did coverage on ITV Central and BBC East Midlands. [Engagement on social media channels](#) has been high, with visitor

and Tomb Raider fans also getting involved on their own socials. This museum-quality exhibition marks not only 30 years of one of the world's greatest games in the interactive entertainment industries, but also the first appearance of one of the most iconic figures of gaming. Free of charge to enter, and currently confirmed to run until 28 November, this ground-breaking event coincides with the 30th birthday of Lara Croft; the annual Tomb Raider gathering in the city; the launch of a new book; the imminent arrival of another Tomb Raider movie; and the possible appearance in the city centre of a 9-foot statue of the star.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Wright of Derby, the comedian!**

10 September, 2026

Because art history as a discipline tends to take itself very seriously, many of the jokes in Wright's early paintings have been overlooked. In this talk, Dr Bendor Grosvenor will go in search of Wright's sense of humour. Priced at £15 a head, it is part of The Year of Joseph Wright a curated series of talks about the life and work of coinciding with [the exhibition](#), exploring new and ongoing research from leading professionals across the country.

### **Pride in Derby, 2026**

12 September, 2026

[Derby Pride 2026](#) promises to be an exciting and inclusive event, celebrating the LGBTQ+ community and families at Markeaton Park in Derby. This vibrant festival aims to foster a sense of belonging and acceptance for everyone, regardless of their background or identity. Admission is £3.50 per person.

### **The Peter Pan Drone Lightshow**

12 September, 2026

A spectacular drone light show will transform the Derby night sky this September, bringing the world of Neverland to life through light, music and storytelling. [Neverland: The Peter Pan Drone Light Show](#) is a one-night-only outdoor event at The Central Co-op County Ground, where the night sky becomes the stage for a breath-taking storytelling experience. Tickets start from £15.99.

### **Fans of horror, fantasy and science-fiction gather in Derby**

19 September, 2026

The annual horror, fantasy and science-fiction writing day, [Edge-Lit](#), makes it a dozen with its return to Derby in 2026 – while once again serving up a wide array of interviews, talks, workshops and more for lovers of genre fiction. 'Guests of honour', authors and speakers will be serving up information and inspiration to help writers - as well as providing a fascinating insight for readers into how authors go about developing their work. Tickets are priced at £35.

### **Derby Feste returns for 2026**

26 September, 2026

[Derby Festé](#) is a free outdoor arts festival which invites locals and visitors alike to enjoy a truly family-friendly celebration right in the heart of the city. Involving, for the first time ever, Derby Market Hall, it will spill out into the surrounding streets, with a spectacular mix of dance, theatre, circus, parkour, and aerial performance. As the billboards say: expect the unexpected!

### **Save the date for a daring Derby challenge**

3 October, 2026

Derby is reaching out to daredevils, and those with a head for heights, to come and join-in [a charity Abseil at Derby Cathedral](#). A climb of 189 steps up to the roof of the cathedral's iconic tower will end in participants being harnessed-up, and then braving a

212ft abseil back down. Abseiling slots are available between 8.45am and 5.00pm. Registration is £20 with a minimum fundraising target of £100 (excluding Gift Aid).

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## **BLOGS & FEATURES**

### **Top 5 Derby Beer Gardens**

Discover the top five beer gardens in Derby - in [a carefully crafted selection of outdoor havens](#) where it's possible to unwind in the city centre and enjoy refreshing drinks in scenic surroundings. From The Exeter Arms' beer garden, to The Flowerpot, each venue in this online blog offers an opportunity for socialising with friends and family.

### **Lara Croft in Derby**

Visit Derby has produced a comprehensive guide to all activities and events within the city, from now, to November. [Tomb Raider 30: Return to Croft Manor, Return to Derby](#) celebrates 30 years of Lara Croft and the legacy of the Tomb Raider. Highlights include a recreated Croft Manor experience at Derby Museums and the return of TR30 at Derby Quad featuring special guests and fan activities.

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**For further details, visit:**

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

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