

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

DECEMBER 2025

## LATEST NEWS

### **Deck the Hall**

Derby Market Hall is set to be [the star of the show this festive season](#), as it celebrates its first Christmas since its £35.1 million restoration. With a host of independent local traders, festive pop-up markets, diverse eateries, bars, free entertainment, Santa and his elves all under its iconic Victorian roof, the Market Hall is being promoted as the go-to destination for Christmas shopping and festive gatherings in Derby. The city's [Festive Derby Light Trail](#) will also weave directly through the historic Market Hall. The illuminated trail will lead visitors from St Peter's Cross to Osnabruck Square, where they can sit among twinkling gnomes, reindeer, and polar bear. Passing through [Derby Market Hall](#), the trail then leads to the Market Place, where a giant teddy bear overlooks the Cathedral Quarter Ice Rink, and on to Derby Cathedral. The Light Trail runs until New Year's Eve.

### **Dracula's Favourite Haunts**

Dracula returned to Derby during Halloween with city-wide celebrations of Bram Stoker's famous vampire. Dracula's famous costume was invented in Derby. His cloak, evening dress, and even his charming manner derive from Hamilton Deane's 1924 stage adaptation, the premiere of which took place at Derby's Grand Theatre. Edmund Blake was the first Count Dracula. He was later portrayed by Bela Lugosi, Christopher Lee and thousands of actors on stage and screen. [Derby Dracula](#) aims to restore the city's place in the story of the world's most famous vampire by highlighting Derby's connections to Bram Stoker, Hamilton Deane and Bela Lugosi. A Dracula exhibition ([101 Years and Counting](#)) is on at Pickford's House to 30 May. Visitors are also being urged not to miss [Dracula By Night – A Gothic Christmas at Pickford's House](#) on 5 December.

### **Derby hits the headlines**

A travel feature, [Exploring the home town of the artist Joseph Wright of Derby](#), appeared in *The Guardian* online last week, at exactly the same time that *Wright of Derby: From the Shadows* took its place in [The National Gallery](#) in London. Written by freelance Caroline Butterwick, the piece explained just how much a visit to the artist's home town reveals the landscapes and industry that inspired him. Alex Rock of Derby Museum & Art Gallery was quoted as saying: "If you really want to experience the culture that Wright came from, you need to come to Derby".

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Frost Bite: a chilling way to bring Christmas and Dracula together**

6 December 2025

Derby Museum's annual [Christmas at Pickford's House event returns with a little more bite](#)... As Derby continues to celebrate Dracula's link to the city, locals and visitors are being invited to gather at Pickford's House for a fangtastic festive treat! Suitable for ankle biters of all ages, with making activities, photo opportunities and more. You'd be batty to miss it.

### **Bringing a touch of brass to the city**

12 December 2025

Featuring a blend of festive music and carols, the massed brass bands of the multi-award winning Derwent Brass and their special guests Derby Central Salvation Army, are set to perform at [Christmas at the Cathedral](#) in the magnificent surroundings of Derby Cathedral. A perfect pre-Christmas occasion, tickets are on sale priced £10-£13.

## **["No finer county..." \(Jane Austen\)](#)**

13 December 2026

In Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), Caroline Bingley says to her brother Charles that 'there is not a finer county in England' than Derbyshire. A talk - [Jane Austen, Derbyshire and the Romantic Imagination](#) - at Derby Museum & Art Gallery by Dr Paul Whickman about Austen's relationship to Derbyshire, and the role the county played in Austen's imaginative and creative process, will also seek to highlight the author's extraordinary contributions to the history of the English novel. Tickets from £5.

## **[A very special bear is coming to Derby](#)**

20 December 2025

Paddington™ will be visiting St Peters Quarter, Derby on a personal appearance tour of the city centre. Everyone is invited to [come along to say hello to everyone's favourite bear](#) from Peru and enjoy a heart-warming day out, between 11am-3:45pm. The event is free to attend.

## **[Anime-A-Go-Go](#)**

10 January 2026

Manga Entertainment launched in the UK in 1991, immediately creating a subculture of fans devoted to the new and [spectacular world of Japanese animation](#). For an anime fan a trip to HMV or the Virgin Megastore was not complete without heading down the VHS aisle to see what new and mild-altering Japanese animated film or series Manga had brought to the UK. Now, QUAD journeys back in time for four big screen showings of some 80s/90s anime classics in a single day. Tickets cost £30 per head.

## **[Pancakes and Pandemonium](#)**

22 February, 2026 (Shrove Tuesday)

Today, Shrove Tuesday is mainly associated with pancakes, but in Georgian and early Victorian times, it was an important holiday. Mills shut down and people felt free to eat, drink and get warm by playing all sorts of outdoor games. [Derby - on this day, 180 years ago](#) - will be the subject of a talk by Ian Collis at Derby Museum & Art Gallery. Tickets priced £10.

## **[Derby Museum & Art Gallery reveals two Wright exhibitions for 2026](#)**

Joseph Wright of Derby: Life on Paper

12 March 2026 - 17 May 2026

<https://derbymuseums.org/event/joseph-wright-life-on-paper>

and

Wright of Derby: From the Shadows

13 June 2026 - 1 November 2026

<https://derbymuseums.org/event/wright-of-derby-from-the-shadows/>

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## **[BLOGS & FEATURES](#)**

### **[Discover the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)**

Take a city break in Derby, and make it the base on a discovery tour of [the birthplace of the modern factory system](#). Darley Park, a cruise along the River Derwent on board a Derby Riverboat, Joseph Wright's paintings, and time at the Museum of Making (on the site of the world's first factory) are some of the Derby highlights of a World Heritage Site which then continues north, along the Derwent Valley.

### **[Wright time. Wright place.](#)**

The posters and billboards are up in London... And [The Year of Wright](#), which features a major exhibition at the National Gallery in London from 7 November to 10 May, is now helping to make Derby one of the most talked about cities in Britain. And, best of all, 't's coming home": on 12 June 2026, *From The Shadows* will go on show at Derby Museum and Art Gallery, reuniting 'Bird in the Air Pump' and 'The Orrery' in Derby for the first time in 80 years, and giving all visitors the chance to see the same exhibition of work **for free**.

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

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