

DERBY:

all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

SEPTEMBER 2025

LATEST NEWS

City Centre garden takes-on starring role on BBC TV's *Gardeners' World*

Down To Earth's Electric Daisy - Derby's urban garden, social hub and outdoor events venue - made a starring appearance on BBC2's primetime gardening programme *Gardeners' World* last month. The public garden on Bold Lane attracted more than 40,000 people in 2024, after opening two years ago. Given the full backing of The Eden Project's Tim Smit, the garden was created by Jamie Quince-Starkey and his Down To Earth Derby team. The show's own website described it as "a remarkable group of gardeners in Derby who are doing great things for the community". Presenter Adam Frost described it as "inspirational". And Quince-Starkey said, "We have finally hit the mainstream with all our ideas, what we are about and what we are trying to achieve".

Festé returns to Derby

Derby Festé is back for 2025. When the city's free outdoor arts festival returns on Saturday 27 September, visitors can "expect the unexpected" as the streets burst into life with a spectacular mix of dance, theatre, circus, parkour, and aerial performance. This year's programme is a tale for our times - celebrating the wonder of nature, confronting the challenges it faces, and exploring how we can come together to create change. From the magical and moving to the bold and hilarious, Derby Festé will once again captivate and delight audiences of all ages. This vibrant event is proudly presented by Derby City Council with project grant support from Arts Council England National Lottery funding. Festé is delivered in partnership with FABRIC, the Midlands strategic dance development organisation, with additional support from Derby Museums and QUAD.

New skatepark and padel courts set to bring world class facilities to Derby

Founded in London to unite communities through sport, Social Sports Society will open one of the UK's largest indoor padel centres in Derby this autumn, marking its third location outside London following the launch of successful venues in Birmingham and Manchester. Padel is now one of the UK's most rapidly expanding sports, known for its simple rules, fast-paced play and inclusive appeal. Flo Skatepark, meanwhile, will join Social Sports Society in the former Eagle Market space in the city centre shopping mall, Derby. This will result in a world-class skateboarding hub for the East Midlands. Supported by Sport England and accredited by Skateboard GB, Flo Skatepark will offer lessons for all ages and abilities, host regular events and lead creative programmes designed to get people active and involved. <https://shorturl.at/r7iDs>

Crowning glory as historic collection goes on show in Derby once again

Royal Crown Derby Museum has moved part of its collection from the Royal Crown Derby Factory on Osmaston Road to Bamfords Auctioneers. Bringing its own cabinets and huge banners, along with updated visitor interpretation panels, the result is that a growing collection of the Museum's prize ware will now be based in Bamford's main atrium/entrance area and will be available for public access during normal business hours: Monday to Friday 9am until 5.30pm, late opening until 6.30pm one day each fortnight and on four Sunday afternoons a year.

---o0o---

UPCOMING EVENTS

Make way for some Jazz, Funk & Soul

5 & 6 September, 2025

Derby's inaugural Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival is all set to offer the very best in Jazz, Funk and Soul music, and culture. Featuring some of the UK's finest musicians and DJ's day

tickets - giving access to all performances on the Saturday – are now available, along with individual performance tickets for the Friday.

The Railway People

13 & 14 September, 2025

Just six weeks after 40,000 people converged on Derby for the biggest event in the Railway200 calendar, the city is now ready to host two [Railway People Open Days](#). The event, at the Museum of Making in Derby will include displays of ephemera, photographs and documents from the Midland Railway Study Centre collections.

Take it to the Edge

20 September, 2025

[Edge-Lit](#) returns to Derby to celebrate the best in horror, thriller, fantasy and science-fiction writing. In this, its eleventh edition, Edge-Lit will offering another loaded day of panels, workshops, readings, and interviews with an array of genre fiction talent from around the UK and beyond. Attendees on the day will have access to a wide variety of activities, including a series of panel discussions, interviews and readings with the Guests of Honour, workshops and book sales.

This is one very Hungry Caterpillar

23 and 24 September, 2025

Suitable for young families, [The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show](#) is a vibrant celebration of Eric Carle's classics, and the perfect introduction to live theatre. This production faithfully adapts four stories by author/illustrator Eric Carle: Brown Bear, 10 Little Rubber Ducks, The Very Busy Spider and of course, the star of the show –The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Charity Abseil at Derby Cathedral

3 October, 2025

Anyone with a head for heights is invited to sign-up for the return of the charity abseil at Derby Cathedral. Visitors can climb the 189 steps up to the roof of the cathedral's iconic tower and enjoy expansive views of the city before being harnessed up, and braving the 212ft abseil back down. [The two-day extravaganza](#) will also feature live music, food and games.

All folk welcome...

10 to 12 October, 2025

A vibrant weekend of music from across a wide folk scene, featuring well-known acts, new discoveries, and special events is set to take over three city centre venues in October. The Old Bell Hotel, the Museum & Art Gallery on Wardwick, and 19 Chapel Street, will be the main venues for [Derby Folk Festival](#), alongside a number of fringe activities throughout the weekend.

Willkommen zum Oktoberfest, Derby

11 October, 2025

Taking place at one of Derby's event hotspots, Bustler Market, [Oktoberfest Derby 2025](#) will add traditional German food, a live authentic Oompah band and pure energy to a day filled with steins of Bavarian beer.

Snooker Seniors British Open comes to Derby venue

26 to 28 December, 2025

World Seniors Snooker have confirmed that [The Seniors British Open](#) will take place at Vaillant Live, in Derby at "Twixtmas". A new TV event, Live on 5, it will see snooker return to Derby for the first time since 1993 with eight players competing for a new Seniors Snooker Title. Already announced to play are Jimmy White, Ken Doherty, Joe Perry, Dominic Dale, World Champion Alfie Burden and Matthew Stevens. Snooker fans will get the chance to attend a Legends Lunch before play where they will get to meet two World Champions, Dennis Taylor and John Parrott.

BLOGS & FEATURES

Derby: The Pioneering City

Derby is a city powered by its people: its pioneers. A diverse community of visionaries, creators, innovators, and makers, who have never just dreamt about what's possible – but who brought it all to life, together. Now, [meet some of the visionaries, creators, innovators, and makers](#) who, over centuries, have helped to shape Derby's future.

Lara Croft, born in Derby

Who knew - apart from the thousands of visitors from all corners of the world - that [Lara Croft was "born" in Derby](#)? As the fictional archaeologist, loved by millions, in games and films, gets ready to celebrate her 30th birthday in 2026, there are more reasons than ever for wanting to find-out more about one of Derby's favourite daughters...

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