

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

AUGUST2025

## LATEST NEWS

### **Never Mind The Aurochs!**

Derby Museums is inviting its visitors to explore the hidden layer worlds of bedrock and earth - and then into the light, to look at our own human story of life on the surface - through [Earth Bound](#), a spectacular exhibition of sculpture, portrait photography and tiny but powerful creatures blown up to a huge scale. Now on show at the Museum of Making through to 18 January 2026, it features photographs by Kate Bellis and Alex Hyde, alongside work by sculptor Sally Matthews, who gave the initial energy to the exhibition. The sculptures by Sally Matthews prowl the gallery space - extinct animals vividly brought back to life, sculpted from compost, grass, feathers and grasses found in the areas where these beasts once roamed. Admission is free.

### **It's The Wright Year...at the Wright time. And in the Wright place.**

Joseph Wright is widely regarded as an artist who was completely in tune with his age: capable of illustrating the dramatic advances which were being made in the arts, science, philosophy, and religion in what was a golden era for the City of Derby. Better known to the world simply as "Wright of Derby", the year ahead will not simply earn his work even greater acclaim, but will also help to carry his name - as well as that of his home city - to a much wider audience. It's "The Wright Year" for Derby to become one of the most talked about cities in Britain. The focal point will be a major exhibition, organised by The National Gallery and Derby Museums Trust, [Wright of Derby: From the Shadows](#), which will be staged in London from 7 November 2025 to 10 May 2026. But Derby Museums has already lifted the lid on an artist who enjoyed national acclaim and took the 18th century art world by storm - but who rarely left Derby, a place that deeply shaped his identity and artistic output. Their latest exhibition, running to 7 September, is [Joseph Wright of Derby: Life on Paper](#).

### **Join The Spirit Run at Derby Market Hall**

[The Spirit Run Distillery](#) and Bar has been launched at Derby Market Hall. The venue is the latest venture from Darley Abbey Wines and will occupy the newly-renovated former Poultry Market. At the heart of it all will be the distillery, creating high-quality spirits inside bespoke, British-made copper stills. The Spirit Run Bar allows customers the chance to admire the iconic stills while enjoying a cocktail, a refreshing gin, or a glass of wine. Innovative gin and cocktail experiences will be available, and can be booked for mixed groups or private parties. Customers can also choose from eight draft beers, including selections from Derbyshire's Thornbridge brewery, and enjoy a rotating list of 'discovery wines'.

### **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, Derbion. 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/r7jDs>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Celebrate 200 years of rail travel with the Train Travel Trail**

26 July to 7 September, 2025

2025 is the 200th anniversary of the modern railway, and Derby has a deep and enduring link to the railway industry. Visitors to the city's Museum of Making are being encouraged to use its new [200 years of Train Travel](#) trail this summer. Family-friendly, it costs £1 to join.

## **Dracula themed origami**

12 August, 2025

Taking inspiration from the city's incredible links with gothic monster Count Dracula, and the *Dracula Returns To Derby - 101 years and counting* exhibition, artist Matt Edwards will teach participants how to [fold Dracula themed origami sculptures](#). This event is suitable for families, but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Suggested donation £3.

## **Calling all mums and daughters**

17 August, 2025

*Live Republic* is scheduled to present [Girly Pop Live](#) - a spectacular celebration of all things pop, at Chocolate Factory in Derby. The "full-on pop-party experience" will feature tribute acts to pop stars including Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift, Sabrina Carpenter, Beyoncé and Dua Lipa. Designed as a perfect day out for mums and daughters to enjoy, the event is for ages 5+.

## **Derby: "We will, we will, rock you!"**

23 August, 2025

The ever-popular [Fake-Fest](#) returns to Markeaton Park, promising "a scorching new line-up, infectious energy and special vibes". The event features a cast of six high-octane 'Fake Bands', with advance tickets costing from £40.

## **Create a playful portrait at Derby Museum and Art Gallery**

28 August, 2025

As part of Derby Museum and Art Gallery's ongoing *Joseph Wright: Life on Paper* exhibition, visitors are being invited to create their own [playful portraits](#) - making their own marks on paper, whilst learning new drawing skills and techniques. This event is suitable for families, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Suggested donation £3.

## **Come hungry, leave inspired**

29 August, 2025

Derby's urban garden and events space, Electric Daisy, is set to present a culinary experience called [FEED](#), where food, community and sustainability will converge on one unforgettable evening. With a menu by menu by Cherrypickle Catering, diners will be welcomed with a drink on arrival, followed by canapes in the garden and two further courses to be served seated under the pergola, in a communal dining setup. Tickets cost from £55.25 a head.

## **Look what's brewing at the Museum of Making in September**

3 to 7 September, 2025

[Derby Beer Festival](#) returns to the historic surroundings of the Museum of Making, bringing together over 130 real ales from the best of Britain's breweries, alongside a selection of ciders, world beers and craft keg. A range of food will be provided by the Museum's River Kitchen.

## **Be DEKA FIT in Derby**

6 to 7 September, 2025

For the first time ever, the full [DEKA FIT](#) experience is coming to the UK - and Derby has been selected as its host. Dubbed "the ultimate fitness test", it's a functional fitness challenge featuring 10 workout zones, each separated by 500 metres of running. Each event challenges endurance, strength, and conditioning in a different way.

## **Let the countdown to Lara Croft's 30th birthday begin**

11 October, 2025

Next year marks the Lara Croft's 30th birthday, and a full series of events is being planned to mark the occasion. In the meantime, the unofficial, one-day fan event **#TR29** is back for its 5th consecutive year in October, and it promises to be a big year for fans with panels, autograph sessions, photo opportunities and a line-up of event guests.

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## **BLOGS & FEATURES**

### **The Wright story**

This is [The Wright Year](#)...at the Wright time...and in the Wright place. Find out more about the current exhibition at Derby Museum & Art Gallery; the major exhibition coming-up at The National Gallery in London; and why Derby is set to become one of the most talked about cities in Britain.

### **“That’s Entertainment”!**

[Vaillant Live](#) is the new, cutting-edge destination for concerts, family events, sports, and conferences in Derby. Featuring a state-of-the-art 3,500-capacity auditorium with premium seating and hospitality options, all of the latest news about the arena can be found in [a blog posted as recently as 16 July](#).

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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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