

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

MAY 2026

## LATEST NEWS

### **The Year of Wright is proving to be very influential**

In recent months, Visit Derby has been in conversation with a wide range of travel “influencers”, to identify a select few with the right follower interests, reach, and who also want to develop ongoing collaborative efforts. As a result, a number of highly respected influencers have been invited to Derby, and to the National Gallery in London, to gather together material to produce reels and content focusing on the world-renowned 17th century artist Joseph Wright. At its heart, *Wright of Derby: From the Shadows* is a major exhibition which ends on 10 May in London, before travelling to Derby Museum and Art Gallery for its opening there on 13 June. One of the key messages of the year is that in order to know Wright, you also need to know Derby. But the influencers involved in this carefully constructed campaign will also be looking at other - historic, and contemporary - reasons why now is as good a time as any to discover this city. Posts, reels, blogs and links will be shared in this monthly media newsletter during 2026, and up to the end of the Wright of Derby exhibition in Derby, on 1 November... [Starting with this one, by art historian, comedian and presenter \(and author of \*The History of Art in One Sentence\*\), Verity Babbs.](#)

### **Be Bookish in Derby**

Tickets are now on sale for the summer [Derby Book Festival](#), which is scheduled to take place between 22 and 31 May. It will showcase a broad programme of more than 70 book-related events for all ages, in venues across the city centre, that brings together politics, history, popular culture, environment, with appearances by celebrated and favourite authors. Highlights of the Festival will include Waterstones Book of the Year winner for *The Artist*, Lucy Steeds; Guardian sports journalist Jonathan Wilson on the history of the World Cup; Labour Minister Chris Bryant MP talking about his fascinating biography; and a talk by Jo Hamilton about her experience of The Post Office Scandal. There will also be an event featuring a new biography of Joseph Wright of Derby (on 19 July) at Derby Museum and Art Gallery with Steve Farnsworth. This will coincide with the much-anticipated exhibition of Joseph Wright’s paintings which will transfer from the National Gallery.

### **A new pottery ‘throw down’ venue opens in Derby**

[Craftcore](#), Derby’s first fully-equipped ceramic studio officially opened its doors to the public last month. An immersive, experiential studio “where creativity comes to life”, it offers its visitors not only the chance to make full use of its state-of-the-art facilities, but to also meet expert ceramicists, and have an opportunity to experience hand-building, throwing, and glazing. Moving forwards, there will also be bespoke pottery-throwing sessions, drop-in sessions, private parties, and tailored team-building workshops. This hands-on introduction to the art of ceramics was opened on 13 March, and is also now available to schools and other businesses.

---o0o---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Flash, Flash, I love you...**

9 May, 2026

Derby QUAD is set to show four of the best science fiction films the 80’s has to offer. Killer time travelling robots, the violent future of law enforcement, intergalactic invaders, teens and space opera rule [this marathon seven hour screening](#) of *Flash Gordon*, *The Last Starfighter*, *The Terminator*, and *Robocop*. A Day Pass is priced at £30, or £25 (concessions).

### **The Ethical Atelier at Electric Daisy**

9 May, 2026

Electric Daisy has gathered together an eclectic collection of sustainable makers, creative workshops and industry panel discussions for its [Ethical Atelier](#) day. All stalls and panel discussions are under cover - in the 'jungle', 'pink gypsy caravan', and 'veranda' - so this event will go ahead come rain or shine! Pre-booked ticket essential: £5pp, with under 18s free.

### **Secure your Loose Articles**

10 May, 2026

Manchester post-punk agitators [Loose Articles](#) - heavily championed by Steve Lamacq on BBC 6 Music – are set to headline a night of ferocious, forward-thinking punk at Derby's Victoria Inn. Specialising in discordant, hypnotic repetition and sharp, sardonic storytelling, the band “channel nights out, radical politics and tongue-in-cheek defiance into an in-your-face, danceable punk assault”. They've featured on Spotify's The Punk List, been highlighted by NME, Under The Radar, and even appeared on BBC One's Football Focus. Expect sweat, noise, sharp politics and songs made for the dancefloor.

### **The Letters of Bram Stoker, with Dacre Stoker**

14 May, 2026

On the 15th May 1924, Hamilton Deane produced the first official stage adaption of Dracula, which opened at The Grand Theatre on Babington Lane, Derby. To celebrate [Derby Dracula Day](#), The Derby Dracula CIC and Derby Museums present a series of events celebrating Derby's place in the Dracula story, with special guest, author Dacre Stoker, Bram Stoker's Great Grand-nephew.

### **Bingo Loco x Ultra Warehouse**

16 May, 2026

One of the newest and biggest venues in Derby, which is gaining a nationwide reputation for its rave and live music nights, is having a 'mash-up' with Bingo Loco to create one of the biggest nights out of the year in the city. Full details can be found [here](#).

### **Howzat?**

20 May, 2026

Derbyshire County Cricket Club, in Derby, is set to host England Women in their first [Vitality IT20 match](#) of the World Cup summer, against New Zealand. It will be the first time England and New Zealand have faced off at The Central Co-op County Ground since 2021, when Heather Knight scored a match-winning century in an ODI victory.

### **Sh\*tty Breaks: Marketing Derby Bondholder Event**

28 May, 2026

Ben Aitken is a travel writer with a difference. He takes a wry and witty approach to travelling, and his six books have included living for a year in Poland, following Bill Bryson round the country, joining OAPs on coach tours, moving in with an 85 year-old during lockdown and, his latest, featuring some of the UK's uncelebrated and least visited cities. As a keen supporter of underrated cities, he's also a 'fan' of Derby and wants to sing its praises for all to hear. [Share Ben's love of the city](#) and discover even more reasons to shout about Derby. This event will be filmed and made available as a digital recording after the Festival.

### **Derby Young Traders Market**

30 May, 2026

[The Young Traders Market](#) campaign, delivered by the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF), is a national initiative designed to support and inspire the next generation of market traders. Derby is embracing the concept, with a day in its new-look Market Hall scheduled for the end of the month.

---o0o---

## **BLOGS & FEATURES**

### **A 2020 vision for Derby 50:50**

Derby is set to come alive with [50:50](#) on 6 June during a vibrant, city-wide celebration bringing together music, art, dance, and community spirit. Inspired by the cultural connection between Derby and Osnabrück, this free event will transform the city into an immersive festival of creativity. The event marks the 50th anniversary of the Osnabrück twinning in 2026, and 50th anniversary of Derby's city status in 2027.

### **What to do in Derby during the late May Bank Holiday (23-31 May)**

Visit Derby has created a guide to the top events and activities taking place in and around the city during the half term and May Bank Holiday Weekend. Packed with family-friendly ideas, outdoor adventures, creative activities and interactive exhibitions, full details can be found [here](#).

*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)