

DERBY:

all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

APRIL 2025

LATEST NEWS

Ding-dong! The Bell brings The Spirit of Ecstasy to city centre

A fleet of over 50 classic Rolls-Royce cars, including one which was used by King George V, will go on display in Derby's Cathedral Quarter on Saturday 17 May. [Wings and Wheels](#), will see the magnificent fleet of cars, owned by The Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club, displayed on The Market Place, along Iron Gate and around Cathedral Green in Derby's Cathedral Quarter. Included amongst those on display will be iconic Silver Ghosts; a 1939 Rolls-Royce Wraith which was used by dignitaries like Winston Churchill; and a Rolls-Royce Phantom which was delivered to the Royal Yacht Britannia in 1926. Making a special appearance on the day, will be a 1970s Rolls Royce Shadow, which the owner says has never been cleaned but is mechanically perfect. As well as the display of vehicles - which will also include a Phantom used by actress Gracie Fields, and English playwright and composer, Noel Coward - there will be a special exhibition of artefacts linked to The Old Bell Hotel itself.

New-look Derby Market Hall will open to the public on Saturday 24 May

Derby has spent several years, and £35.1m, transforming its historic Market Hall into a flagship dining, retail and events destination that will showcase the very best of Derby, Derbyshire and the East Midlands. Reopening on [Saturday 24 May](#), the venue will be a flexible space that incorporates a modern street food dining area and bars, traditional and contemporary retail units, and creative spaces for artisan makers and traders. An ongoing programme of events, activities and entertainment will bring the Market Hall to life throughout the week with regular themed markets, live music, DJs, craft workshops and more.

Fitness fits-in nicely at the Arena

Derby Arena is making history, by securing the UK's first-ever full [DEKA FIT](#) event. The "Super Bowl" of the fitness world, DEKA FIT is the ultimate fitness test: a functional fitness challenge featuring 10 workout zones, each separated by 500 metres of running. It is designed for all fitness levels, and tests endurance, strength, and conditioning in a high-energy competition environment. Anyone age 10yrs+ is eligible to enter the event on 6 and 7 September in Derby. With participants coming from not just the UK but across the world, this is a huge opportunity for the city to once again showcase the Arena, which is marking its 10th anniversary in Derby.

Dracula takes another bite out of Derby

One of literature's most iconic characters, Dracula was created by Bram Stoker in 1897 and more than 125 years later remains a figure known and still feared worldwide. With over a thousand adaptations of the character since the novel's release, the hypnotic hold of the vampire remains as strong as ever, and Derby's four-day [Dracula Returns](#) conference will mark the city's major role in the Count's journey to legendary status. The conference is set to run from 15 to 18 May at the Museum of Making and partner venues, consisting of keynote speakers, talks and presentations. Alongside that will be a lively thread of evening programming, featuring: a Derby Dracula Day celebration on 15 May; a 'Poetry Doesn't Suck' vampire poetry slam on the 16 May; and the Monster Mash music night on the 17 May. The conference is aimed squarely at anyone wanting to get their teeth into Dracula's incredible journey: from the pages of the novel; to the stage, in Derby; and to the big screen worldwide. And it will also be attended by the Great grandson of Edmund Blake, John Eastwood, who will be appearing as the iconic Dracula, 101 years after his great grandfather originated the role.

UPCOMING EVENTS

They're back...

4 to 22 April, 2025

[The Derbion Dinos](#) are returning to the city, to create an eye-catching spectacle for Easter. Visitors will come face-to-face with 14 roaring, moving dinosaurs, and will have a chance to stand beside the mighty Tyrannosaurus Rex, watch a Pteranodon prepare to take flight, and step inside a Baby Dino Egg. Housed within the Derbion Shopping Centre, The Dino Trail is entirely free.

Eco-friendly river cruises in Derby

From 5 April, 2025

The 45-minutes [Outram](#) zero-emission, solar power, electric boat *Mill-to Mill* cruise will depart from the temporary Causey Bridge Boarding Platform, on the opposite side of the river to the Museum of Making. Starting in April, the route will take visitors through Darley Park, alongside the historic Chester Green and up to the picturesque suburb of Darley Abbey before returning to Causey Bridge. Tickets cost from £8. Keep a lookout for Kingfishers.

Enjoy a Choccy Woccy Easter in Derby

5 to 21 April, 2025

Hop, skip, and jump into the most eggciting event of the season. Choccy Woccy's Doo Dah Machine is rolling into Bluebell Dairy, bringing chocolatey mayhem, springtime fun, and EGGstra-special surprises... Full details can be found [here](#).

Save the Date - Sadler Gate Spring Market

3 May, 2025

Sadler Gate is set to come alive with independent traders, artisan stalls, delicious street food, and live entertainment. The [Love Sadler Gate Spring Market](#) at the beginning of May will fill Sadler Gate, Blacksmiths Yard, and The Strand Arcade with amazing local talent, and a city centre Spring festival atmosphere.

Derby Monster Mash

17 May, 2025

[The Derby Monster Mash](#) will celebrate the centenary of Dracula's links with Derby during an evening of "monster-themed live trash punk sleaze rock, in true go-go garage style". The Monster Mash is being presented as part of the ongoing Dracula Returns to Derby promotion to mark the way in which the character's first ever physical appearance too place in Derby during a stage performance of the play in 1924.

The Return of the Legends

10 September, 2025

Following their sell-out tour, Legends of The Dance Floor, in 2024 Strictly Come Dancing legends Brendan Cole, James Jordan, Pasha Kovalev, Vincent Simone, and Ian Waite have announced an even bigger tour for 2025: [The Return of The Legends](#). The show has already been booked to be staged at Derby's all-new Becketwell Live in September.

Come and see Derby Folk this Autumn

10 to 12 October, 2025

A weekend of incredible music from across [the entire spectrum of the folk scene](#) is set to take over three city centre venues in Derby, in October. The Old Bell Hotel, the Museum & Art Gallery on Wardwick, and 19 Chapel Street is where the magic will happen, along with a strong fringe throughout the city. All of the weekend's events can be enjoyed with a single ticket, priced £88. Early Bird tickets will then be available until 31 May, followed by standard pricing.

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BLOGS & FEATURES

11 to 18 April. 'Easter in Derby!'

Visit Derby has produced a comprehensive guide to the events and activities happening throughout [Easter in and around the city centre](#). A one-stop-shop for family-friendly Easter adventures, showcasing a range of fun-filled experiences for all ages, it features everything from egg hunts and interactive workshops, to Spring Markets and a major beer festival.

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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