

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

OCTOBER 2025

## LATEST NEWS

### **A star is born**

Derby is celebrating the recent announcement that *Game of Thrones* star Sophie Turner will play Lara Croft in the upcoming Prime Video TV series *Tomb Raider*. The news comes at the same time that the fictional archaeologist, loved by millions in games and films, gets ready to celebrate her 30th birthday on 14 February 2026. News of Phoebe Waller-Bridge's long-awaited collaboration with Amazon, alongside the fact that all six of the original games are being remastered and released, makes this an excellent time to also celebrate the fact that Lara Croft is one of Derby's most famous daughters. The 5th annual #TR29 event at Derby QUAD on Saturday 11 October, meanwhile, will more than likely be yet another sell-out occasion, as visitors from near and far flock to Lara's home town. And, as well as enjoying a full programme of events on the day, they will be making their pilgrimage to the Lara Croft mosaic and cast-iron "star"-in-the-pavement.

### **Calling all influencers - Derby needs you!**

Travel influencers and bloggers: dust down your Media Kits, and get ready to send them to Visit Derby. The city which has so far had around £4.48bn of investment in its infrastructure since 2011 - with a further £2.6bn already earmarked for future development - and which has some massive stories to tell in 2026 (including its part on The National Gallery's "Wright of Derby Exhibition" in London from 7 November 2025 to 10 May 2026; and the 30th birthday celebrations for Lara Croft), has received a modest amount of funding for an influencer campaign later this year. Watch out for more details, or contact Ian Weightman ([ian@ianweightman.co.uk](mailto:ian@ianweightman.co.uk)) in the meantime.

### **Wright of Derby: 'From the Shadows' to becoming a 'hot ticket for Autumn'**

Broadcaster and *The Times* culture writer, Nancy Durrant, included The National Gallery's *Wright of Derby: From the Shadows* exhibition in the newspaper's 20 Hot Tickets To Book round-up last month. It was one of just four listed in her Visual Arts recommendations; and she wrote: "You'll probably recognise many of the fantastic pictures that The National Gallery is bringing together, but their maker, Joseph Wright of Derby remains strangely short of being a household name". This exhibition featuring some of his "hyper-dramatic candlelight pictures", she goes on to say, might go some way to fixing that. It runs from 7 November to 10 May, and will then travel to go on show in Derby Museum & Art Gallery in 2026.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Water Portals in Derby**

Runs through to 11 January, 2025

Derby QUAD is currently hosting [WaterPortals](#) - an interactive journey that invites visitors to dive into the hidden world of water. The installation by digital artist Henry Driver, reveals the crucial roles which tiny organisms play in sustaining ecosystems, while highlighting how they are under threat from climate change; and visitors are being invited to explore, interact, and reflect on how small actions can make a big difference in protecting our shared environment.

### **Fungus Walk in Derby**

5 October, 2025

[Mushrooms, toadstools and fungi...](#) Visitors can join local ecologist, Beverley Rhodes, who will lead a walk of around two and a half hours through the Morley Hayes Wood, near Derby, to explain more about the amazing array of woodland fungi, different types

of mushrooms and toadstools, and its ecology. Following the walk, participants will be served a home-cooked meal and a glass of wine at the Morley Hayes Hotel. Price per person £28.95.

### **Derby Folk Festival will hit the right note**

10-12 October, 2025

Full details have now been announced for the 2025 [Derby Folk Festival](#). It will all combine to offer a weekend of top class folk music by well-known acts, recent discoveries, and through special events - all within city centre venues.

### **Ten years of antics**

16 October

[A Decade of Antics](#) marks the ten year anniversary of Samantics: a celebration of the moment when he found the thing to do with his in his life which at last made sense. It's taken a decade ten years to turn a hobby into a career, but what has taken shape is one of the most energetic, heartfelt and honest stage shows in the country. Find out what it's all about in Derby at The Old Bell Hotel this month.

### **Hacienda classics at Derby**

18 October, 2025

The world renowned house music [DJ Graeme Park](#) will be bringing his Hacienda classics to Derby in October, as Show Me Love and Electric Daisy present one incredible day of house music for another sell out audience at this urban garden venue within the city centre. Early bird tickets and first release tickets have already sold out. Second release tickets are priced at £22.25.

### **Out, out brief candle...**

25 October, 2025

A thoughtful, moving and passionate reimagining of Shakespeare's most intense tragedy is to be performed at Derby Cathedral by the Derby-based award winning 1623 Theatre Company. [Partners of Greatness](#) puts the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in the spotlight, while leaving the rest of the play in shadows, and follows this fierce and fearsome partnership from shared ambition to bloody hands, from guilty minds to total despair.

### **Read all about it**

8 November, 2025

An [Autumn Book and Craft Market](#) is set to be held in the newly reopened Market Hall in Derby city centre next month. The Market Hall also houses shops and food counters selling local produce - making it a bustling location for keen seasonal shoppers.

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## **BLOGS & FEATURES**

### **Dracula Returns to Derby**

In 1924, the iconic theatrical adaptation of Dracula made its world premiere right here in Derby. But when the curtain rose, the monstrous figure from the novel had transformed. Derby's Dracula was no longer a terrifying creature, but a suave and charming figure, donning evening attire and an elegant opera cloak. This depiction became the blueprint for Hollywood's Dracula, captivating audiences worldwide. 2026, meanwhile, will mark the 75th anniversary of Bella Lugosi's appearance on stage in Derby in later adaptation of the play, as well as his decision - while playing at the Hippodrome in Derby - to withdraw from the production, and effectively retire from the role. Find all upcoming Dracula events in Derby, as well as a Dracula Trail, [here](#).

### **Half term, Halloween & Bonfire Night**

The latest blog on the Visit Derby website covers the period between 26 October and 5 November, when locals and visitors alike can [experience an unforgettable half-term](#),

filled with Halloween thrills and Bonfire Night excitement in the city. It's a "guide to the top events and activities that will ignite your holiday spirit..." .

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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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