

DERBY:

all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

OCTOBER 2026

LATEST NEWS

A golden anniversary, a centenary celebration, and 500 years of Bess

Derby is preparing to mark the 50th anniversary of its city status in 2027. It was granted by Queen Elizabeth II on 7 June 1977 during her Silver Jubilee year, with the official letters patent presented on 28 July 1977. Retiring chairman of Derby Civic Society, Ashley Waterhouse believes that next year will provide a "fantastic opportunity" to create a year-long celebration of the city's history, people, industry, culture, heritage and future. And Visit Derby plans to make full use of the upcoming year to reinforce the city's growing reputation as a leading heritage and visitor destination. Two other key moments in the city's history and heritage will also be marked during 2027: the centenary of All Saints becoming Derby Cathedral; and the 500th anniversary of the birth of one of the most famous women in British history, Bess of Hardwick, who is entombed beneath a magnificent alabaster monument in Derby Cathedral, which was the parish church of All Saints when she purchased the vault in 1590.

90 minutes from London: a cultural weekend break

Derby has created a niche for itself - as a "new" UK city break destination for the Autumn. Now boasting two major new venues - [Ultra Warehouse](#) and [Vaillant Live](#) - both of which can attract huge audiences, as well as the recently opened social hub [Bustler Derby](#), there's a buzz about the city like never before. And while a major *Wright of Derby: From the Shadows* exhibition in the Museum & Art Gallery and a first-of-its-kind exhibition focusing on the city's association with Lara Croft and Tomb Raider both continuing to draw the crowds, Visit England has also included two separate references to the city's appeal in their Autumn News round-up for 2026. (See new blog, below).

Dracula's Bazaar: Gothmas Edition - where Christmas meets the macabre

<https://www.visitderby.co.uk/events-1/draculas-bazaar-gothmas-edition>

Visitors to Derby are being invited to step into a darker kind of festive this winter at Dracula's Bazaar: Gothmas Edition... "where Christmas meets the macabre". Derby Dracula - which researches, marks and celebrates the city's place in the story of the world's most famous vampire - was created to remind Goth fans and Dracula disciples "that the Count in evening dress and cloak, the aristocrat who passes unnoticed in a London drawing room: that figure was made on a Derby stage in May 1924, not in Bram Stoker's novel". The Gothmas Edition of a regular Dracula's Bazaar is scheduled for the weekend of 4 to 6 December, at Derby QUAD & Cinema.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet the (local) makers

10 to 11 October, and 14 to 15 November, 2026

Visitors to Derby are being invited to explore [Artisans Uncovered](#) - two weekend occasions when talented local makers, artists and independent traders will come together inside Derby Market Hall to showcase their craft. With Christmas now fast-approaching, it's also the perfect opportunity to search for something special at some of the many stands.

Cheers to beers, in Derby

14 to 17 October, 2026

The new-look Derby Market Hall will also be hosting the city's [Heritage Beer Festival](#) for the first time this autumn, partnership with Derby CAMRA. This will showcase an impressive selection of over one hundred cask ales, keg beers, ciders, and perries. The

festival aims to champion the best of the region, featuring standout local producers alongside award-winning breweries from across the UK and beyond.

Britain's Most Haunted

17-18 October, 2026

Celebrating Derby's status at the Most Haunted City in the UK, visitors are being invited to step into the eerie enchantment of the [Haunted Derby Festival](#), where ghostly tales, mysterious legends and spine-tingling experiences await around every corner.

Storytellers and interactive encounters will shine a light on Derby's darker past and its most curious characters.

Helios by Luke Jerram

20-31 October, 2026

A spectacular seven-metre model of the sun is set to light up Derby Cathedral this Autumn, marking the start of its centenary celebrations. Internationally acclaimed artist Luke Jerram will bring his latest touring installation, [Helios](#), to the city from October 20 to 31, giving visitors the chance to get up close to a breathtaking recreation of the sun.

Admission is free. Special Evening Viewings will take place on certain dates (Adults £7, Children £3, under 5's free).

Derby: birthplace of modern art?

22 October, 2026

Was Derby artist, Joseph Wright, the original modern artist? Decide for yourself as you listen to a talk by Matthew Wilson - [Wright of Derby: The Shock of the New](#) with Matthew Wilson - at Derby Museum and Art Gallery. Wright of Derby's paintings offer us the vision of a world on the fault line of the old and the new...

The School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is back!

24-31 October, 2026

There's a chance to join a spellbinding Halloween adventure at Bluebell Dairy, in Derby, where magical experiences, enchanting entertainment and autumn fun await around every corner. Bigger and more magical than ever for 2026, [Bluebell's Wizarding Adventure](#) invites young witches, wizards and their families to step into a world of spells, potions and pumpkin-filled fun. New for 2026 are The Wandering Wand Maker and a Potion Class.

Fireworks will be bigger, better AND longer this year

6 & 7 November, 2026

Derby's best fireworks display returns to the County Cricket Ground with a new look for 2026 – as it turns into a [Fireworks Weekend](#). And with ongoing improvement works taking place around the ground, the event will have a more intimate, mainly seated format this year, with a limited capacity. Tickets are priced from £10, and are already on sale.

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BLOGS & FEATURES

Halloween thrills and Bonfire Night magic

Discover [an unforgettable half-term treat](#), in Derby, through Visit Derby's latest website blog. Set to be packed with Halloween thrills, Bonfire Night magic, ghostly tours, costume parties and spooky excitement, the blog features full details of all the reasons to visit Derby at some point during the upcoming half term holiday.

Enjoy a Cultural Autumn Weekend Break in Derby

Derby has created a niche for itself - as [a "new" UK city break destination for the Autumn](#). Now boasting two major new venues – Ultra Warehouse and Vaillant Live- both of which are capable of attracting huge audiences, as well as the recently opened social hub Bustler Derby, there's a fizz to the city like never before.

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For further details, visit:

<https://www.visitderby.co.uk>.

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