

DERBY: all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

MARCH 2026

LATEST NEWS

Go, Team Derby!

2025 was a big year for Derby - and according to Councillor Nadine Peatfield, leader of Derby City Council and East Midlands Deputy Mayor, 2026 is set to be equally exciting. Speaking at an [Annual Business Event](#) in the city, Peatfield described it as “a landmark year for Derby” as it witnessed the opening of a number of major schemes, such as Vaillant Live arena the refurbished Derby Market Hall and the University of Derby’s £75 million Cavendish Building. Asked about the efforts that had been put in place to improve the external perceptions of Derby, and to boost its visitor economy following *Time Out* naming the city one of the UK’s top places to visit in 2026, she said: ““I know that VisitDerby is positive about our city - but we need everybody to be positive. The visitor economy is so important to all businesses, because it creates secondary spend and footfall”. Looking at what’s planned for 2026, she highlighted developments in the Market Place. The renovation of Guildhall is also coming to fruition, alongside plans to bring in more housing, and commercial and shopping space at ‘Station Gateway’.

Come as you are, to Derby

[Come As You Really Are](#) is a nationwide project presented by award-winning artist and Spider-Man enthusiast Hetain Patel, and commissioned by arts organisation Artangel, in partnership with Derby Museums. The exhibition opening at the Museum of Making in Derby this month serves as a contemporary portrait of the UK as seen through the lens of the nation’s hobbies. At the heart of the exhibition is a new film by Patel, blending high-end cinematic production with everyday scenes that highlight the joy and dedication found in pastimes often enjoyed quietly at home or with friends. Visitors to the Museum of Making will recognise the model railway, which is lovingly created and maintained by volunteers here at the museum and has a starring role in the film. The exhibition runs until 22 March.

Two AA Rosettes for The Pepperpot Restaurant

The Pepperpot Restaurant in Derby has been awarded two AA Rosettes for Culinary Excellence, less than two years after first opening its doors to the public. The AA Rosette scheme is one of the UK’s most respected and longstanding benchmarks for restaurant quality. Two rosettes places it among an elite group of establishments recognised for creativity, consistency, and excellence at a national level. This latest accolade signals the next step in The Pepperpot’s rapid rise to national recognition. After opening on Valentine’s Day 2024, the restaurant quickly earned its first AA Rosette just over a year later, and has now progressed to two rosettes in record time. Dan Fincher, Head Chef at The Pepperpot said: “From day one, our goal was to create something truly special for Derby, a restaurant that champions outstanding ingredients, refined technique, and warm hospitality. This recognition reflects the passion, discipline, and creativity of our entire team”. The award also builds on the recognition of the city’s ‘Nightingale Quarter’.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Artisans Uncovered

7 & 8 March, 2026

The first of three [Artisans Uncovered](#) events at Derby’s new-look Market Hall during 2026 will bring together a wide range of talented makers, artists and independent traders. Visitors to the city that entire weekend will be able to browse the stands, and enjoy all of the facilities and refreshments on offer in this historic setting.

Wright on Paper

14 March, 2026

One of the key events during the 'Year of Wright' is set to open in March, in the build-up to the arrival in the city of The National Gallery's landmark exhibition. While The National's acclaimed exhibition, *Wright of Derby: From the Shadows*, is due to travel to Derby and go on show from 12 June to 1 November, [Joseph Wright of Derby: Life on Paper](#) will appear at Derby Museum & Art Gallery from 14 March to 17 May.

Derby's Psychic Dancehall Festival

21 March, 2026

Derby's [Psychic Dancehall Festival](#) returns to the city this year with Pye Corner Audio and Haiku Salut leading the first wave announcement. The electronic and experimental music event also sees Ivan The Tolerable, Finlay Shakespeare, Madrigirl and Hexial joining the bill. Many more artists and DJs are still to be added. Adding a third venue, Psychic Dancehall will take place at The Wardwick and Dubrek Studios in Derby alongside new space Electric Daisy.

A grand pottery throwdown

28 & 29 March, 2026

More than 37 potter from across the UK are coming to Derby for a day of workshops demos, talks and sales at Derby Museum and Art Gallery on The Wardwick. Admission to the [TOASTED](#) ceramic fair is free, with 50 free ceramic bags going to the first 25 people through the door each day - as well as a chance to win £50 on a 'People's Choice Award'.

Physical rock'n'roll with no compromise

31 March, 2026

[Sky Valley Mistress](#) are set to bring their explosive duel-drumming live show to Derby as they tour upcoming album *Luna Mausoleum*. The new album is out now via New Heavy Sounds and Sky Valley Mistress will be performing tracks live at The Vic Inn for "an absolute belter of a gig for just £5 a ticket". The band is a ferocious duel-drumming duo delivering raw, physical rock 'n' roll with no backing tracks, and no compromises.

Watson at Derby Cathedral?

11 April, 2026

The magnificent setting of Derby Cathedral will provide the backdrop for an extraordinary evening celebrating 25 years of [Russell Watson](#)'s outstanding career at the pinnacle of classical music. This special anniversary concert will showcase a selection of classical favourites and arias, performed by candlelight and accompanied by a full choir.

An Afternoon Tea that's a moo-ving experience

Selected dates from April to September 2026

Bluebells Dairy Farm, on the edge of Derby's city centre, has created a [Highland Cow Afternoon Tea](#) comprised of a relaxed afternoon spending time with Highland cows and calves before sitting down to a delicious homemade spread. This is available on 18 April and on other weekends throughout the summer, priced at £55 per head. The chance to spend some time with the Highland calves is an especially moo-ving experience.

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BLOGS & FEATURES

A visit to The National Gallery

Wright of Derby: From the Shadows is the first exhibition dedicated to Joseph Wright of Derby (1734-1797) at the National Gallery, and the first exhibition to focus on his 'candlelight' paintings and night scenes, which he created between 1765 and 1773. Enjoy this [visit to The National Gallery](#)...

Top 5 Sushi Spots in Derby - A Food Lover's Guide

Craving sushi? From authentic Japanese experiences to fresh, flavour-packed sushi rolls and casual Asian fusion spots, Derby is blessed with an especially rich mix of some of the finest flavours from Japan. Here are [the top 5 places to dive into sushi in the city](#).

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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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