

DERBY:

all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

JUNE 2026

LATEST NEWS

How a star was born

The image below shows a cosplayer in Derby - one in a series taken by Visit Derby for use by the travel media. Lara Croft was 'made' in the city, and there will be a lively series of exhibitions and events staged there during this, her 30th 'birthday', year. The star in the pavement - one of many flagging-up famous people and characters associated with Derby - commemorates the fact that... *"No-one could be more homespun than video game character Lara Croft. She may be fictional but the highly intelligent and athletic English archaeologist - beloved by millions in games and films - was "born" at Core Design in Derby. Lara first appeared in the video game Tomb Raider in 1996 and after a couple more games, Crystal Dynamics took over the series in 2003. Critics say that Lara is 'a significant game character in popular culture'".* Plans are being put in place to make it a fitting 30th birthday celebration, to mark the occasion - including [an exhibition at Pickfords' House, starting 24 July.](#)



Cosplayer at the Lara Croft star Derby - Image Credit: Ash Stanley/Visit Derby

Save the date for Festé

Now firmly established as one of the biggest and best urban outdoor arts festivals in the UK, [Derby Festé](#) is one of the highlights of the city's events calendar - offering locals and visitors alike the chance to enjoy a free large-scale live event packed full of spectacular performances, street theatre, music, dance and circus. Derby Festé has grown in size and stature over the years, with thousands of people enjoying the spectacle of live daytime and evening performances by some of the best outdoor artists including those who come to Derby as part of their international tours. So save the date, and expect the unexpected, as the streets burst into life once again on 26 September 2026 with a spectacular mix of dance, theatre, circus, parkour, and aerial performance.

Derby's newest Indian restaurant hot-listed in the 'Curry Oscars'

Derby's newest Indian restaurant is wowing diners with its authentic tapas-style food. More than 1,000 people have already rated [House Boat](#) on St Peters Street on Tripadvisor and Google as 'excellent', making it the best Indian restaurant in Derby. Johns Geo, who runs House Boat with his friends, says: "We were so happy to be shortlisted among the best in the UK by the Asian Restaurant and Takeaway Awards

(ARTA). We were also in the running for Regional Restaurant of the Year in the East Midlands region. And last month, a TV crew from India filmed New Year celebrations at House Boat. They recorded Vishu, the Malayalam New Year festival, which will be broadcast across Indian TV news channels”.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Gimme, Gimme, Gimme - ‘Mamma Mia Immersive Dining’!

5 June, 2026

For the first time, Derby Conference Centre is set to host a Mamma Mia immersive dining event. A dancing, singing, prosecco-sipping spectacular, [this immersive dining experience like no other will feature ABBA’s greatest hits performed](#) live, and a high-energy compère keeping the party spirit alive from start to finish. Tickets from £43.40.

The Urban Wine Festival

7 June, 2026

The annual [Urban Wine Festival at Electric Daisy](#) brings people together to discover new wines, savour delicious food, and enjoy a lively, social atmosphere. Featuring over 60 wines from around the globe the third edition of this event will once again give visitors the chance to soak up the vibrant garden environment, enjoy live music and share the experience with friends, family, and the wider community. Entry from £11.25.

Download Festival 2026

10 to 14 June, 2026

Visitors to this year’s [Download Festival](#) are being invited to make Derby their base for the event... The UK’s premier rock festival *is a mammoth rock event*, based at the spiritual home of rock Donington Park. Headliners for #DLXXIII are Limp Bizkit, Guns N’ Roses and Linkin Park, alongside a line-up of over 90 bands across the entire weekend.

Biodiversity & Regenerative Food Festival

13 June, 2026

The [Biodiversity & Regenerative Food Festival](#) will bring together and celebrate the growers, producers and organisations that contribute to a regenerative local food system and a wilder, more nature-filled region. The event - based on Derby’s Cathedral Green - will feature regenerative and organic growers, bakers, makers, street food vendors, crafters, charities, community groups and live demonstrations.

Wright of Derby: From the Shadows

13 June to 1 November, 2026

The Year of Wright, which began at the National Gallery in London last November with its first exhibition ever dedicated to Joseph Wright (1734-1797), reaches a peak on Saturday 13 June when [Wright of Derby emerges “from the shadows”](#). It was the acquisition and exhibition of a new self-portrait in Derby created the spark which has led to this collaboration between The National Gallery in London and Derby Museums.

The Opera Babes at Derby Cathedral

19 June, 2026

[The Opera Babes](#), Karen England and Rebecca Knight, are an exceptional classical crossover duo whose rise began with their moving performance of “Un bel dì vedremo” - a moment that captured national attention during the World Cup 2002 coverage. Their debut album, *Beyond Imagination*, went on to top the UK Classical Chart for eleven weeks and reach millions of listeners worldwide. What makes them so inspiring is their journey: from performing to the public in Covent Garden, to appearing alongside the world’s leading orchestras.

Georgian Walking Tours

27 June, 11 July and 1 August, 2026

Danielle Burton is set to lead groups of visitors on a journey through time in Derby - sharing fascinating stories and insights along the way. It's an opportunity to experience the charm of [the city's Georgian era](#), while exploring the beautiful buildings of the past. Tickets are priced at £12 per person.

Save the date for Japan Fest 2026

11 July, 2026

[Japan Fest Derby](#) returns this summer, transforming QUAD into a full day celebration of Japanese culture, entertainment, film and food. A family-friendly cultural festival celebrating both traditional and contemporary Japanese culture, visitors can expect live performances, hands-on activities, cosplay, cinema screenings, authentic food, traders and interactive experiences all under one roof live stage performances.

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BLOGS & FEATURES

A Derby Day for travel media

Visit Derby is organising a special media experience aboard 'The Time Travel Express' on Tuesday 16 June 2026: a press familiarisation day celebrating Derby's rich heritage, cultural attractions, and the arrival of East Midlands Railway new Aurora train. The day will take travel writers, journalists, editors and influencers back to the 18th century, to be amongst the first to see *Wright of Derby: From the Shadows* exhibition at Derby Museum & Art Gallery, which has travelled to the Midlands following its successful run at the National Gallery. It will also give those on board a chance find-out more about the city's close links to Lara Croft and Count Dracula. Media interested in this are being invited to contact [Michelle Booth](#) at Visit Derby for further details.

Going batty over a new Dracula Trail

While Derby might not be the first place you would immediately associate with Bram Stoker's *Dracula* - the city's links with the Count have been discovered to run so deeply that there's now [a new Dracula Trail](#) for visitors to now follow around the town centre. To see a copy of the self-guided trail, visit:

https://www.visitderby.co.uk/application/files/8317/7876/4296/Dracula_Trail_Digital_version_2026.pdf

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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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