

DERBY: all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

JULY 2026

LATEST NEWS

Derby hotel breaks into UK'S Top 10 Hotels in Tripadvisor Traveller's Choice

Derbyshire hotel, restaurant and golf destination, [Morley Hayes](#), has been named the 7th Best Hotel in the UK & Channel Islands in the [TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards Best of the Best 2026](#) - making it the highest-ranked hotel in the Midlands for the third consecutive year. It is also one of only a handful of hotels within this year's Top 25 list that remains family-owned and owner-managed, having been under the same family stewardship for almost 35 years. The four-star hotel has climbed six places in TripAdvisor's annual rankings, rising from 13th position in 2025 to achieve its highest-ever ranking. Morley Hayes joins a distinguished group of hotels across the UK. Of the Top 25 hotels, ten are in London. *Royal Lancaster London* claimed the top spot, with *Hotel 41 in London* ranking second. Located close to Derby city centre, the hotel overlooks countryside and parkland golf courses, and features 32 luxury bedrooms, three restaurants and extensive golf facilities. It also boasts a two AA Rosette Dovecote Restaurant.

Hot Goth Summer where Dracula fans could bite off more than they can chew

Visitors to Derby QUAD can escape the sunshine at [Derby's Hot Goth Summer](#) from 3 to 5 July. Derby was the city which gave Count Dracula his premiere - the first public performance, in 1924 of a theatrical adaptation of Bram Stoker's world-famous novel. Hamilton Deane's authorised adaptation transformed the monstrous creature from Stoker's novel into the suave, tuxedo-and-cape-wearing gentleman we all know today. At its heart is Dracula's Bazaar Gothic Market, featuring a wide range of dark delights over all three days. The weekend will also include the Hot Goth Summer Film Festival, taking-in three days of film screenings which celebrate the most iconic of Gothic creatures - the Vampire. The weekend will feature a range of free and ticketed events around QUAD, taking in creative and craft workshops, roleplaying game sessions, and venue trail. Tickets from £35.

"Award winning" Visit Derby!

Visit Derby has been awarded one of the inaugural 'Florence Stoker Awards' for its continued support of The Derby Dracula project. Organisers of the award explained Visit Derby was one of the first organisations to fully grasp the potential of the city's link to Dracula. The Florence Stoker Award is Derby Dracula's annual recognition of those whose work has shaped and stewarded Dracula's cultural identity. It is presented each year on 15 May - the date of the 1924 Grand Theatre premiere that gave Hamilton Deane the first licensed adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Derby its place in the cultural history of the world's most famous vampire. Bram's widow, Florence Stoker controlled the rights, and it was she who licensed Deane to the book as a stage play. Other Florence Stoker Award winners on the day were Dacre Stoker, for donating so much time, energy and faith to the Derby Dracula project; and Catherine Atkinson, MP, for mentioning the Derby's connection to Dracula in the House of Commons.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Vive La France

5 July, 2026

After a very popular season of 'QUAD Essentials', focusing on classics of the French New Wave earlier this year, Derby QUAD is offering Francophiles and movie buffs a chance to cross the channel for another look at [some classic French cinema](#) - this time with a broader scope, taking in titles from the 1950s all the way through to the 1980s.

An evening with Elizabeth I, in Derby

10 July 2026

Visitors to Derby are being offered the chance to 'meet' Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I at her political zenith. This glittering presentation in the Grand Regency Ballroom of the Old Bell Hotel within Derby city centre is set to transport the audience back in time to [learn more of Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare on England's voyage into the Renaissance](#).

Doctor Johnson's Wedding

11 July 2026

Visitors to Derby on 11 July are invited to [step back into 1735](#), to discover how young Dr Samuel Johnson - the creator of the English Dictionary - eloped to marry his bride. Everyone is welcome to become a part of the wedding party in this historical re-enactment by The Derby Living History Society. Admission is free.

Dare you join the dinosaurs in Derby?

18 July, 2026

A Jurassic sized day out is set to return to Derby city centre for a fifth year. Featuring dinosaur attractions, activities and events, including an appearance from some gentle giants - and a performance from the King himself, the fearsome Tyrannosaurus Rex – this is Derbyshire's [largest dinosaur event](#) of the year, bringing a roaring good time for all the family.

Lara Croft: 30 Years On: From Derby to Global Icon

24 July to 28 November, 2026

2026 marks 30 years since the creation of Tomb Raider and its heroine, Lara Croft, by Derby games studio Core Design. Since her debut in 1996, Lara Croft has become one of the most recognisable female characters in video game history. To celebrate the anniversary, [Derby Museums is turning Pickfords' House into Croft Manor for a new exhibition](#) co-produced with collector Luke Earle. It will feature original Tomb Raider development materials on loan from former Core Design developers, memorabilia and collectables from private collections, interactive activities, and themed 'cosplay' days throughout the exhibition. Admission is free.

Y-Not make Derby your base for this music festival?

30 July to 2 August, 2026

This year's [Y Not Festival](#), will bring four days of world-class live music, comedy and rolling countryside views. Headliners include The Libertines, Two Door Cinema Club, The Streets, The Reytons, Kaiser Chiefs, Happy Mondays and Sophie Ellis-Bextor. And the "Strawberry Fields" area will be packed with arts, workshops and circus-skills. Set in the Peak District at Pikehall, Derby is a great place, and great base for festival go-ers.

Young Blacksmiths are welcome here

1 August, 2026

The Museum of Making in Derby is hosting a Craft & Making Summer Club during July and August. Amongst the highlights are a morning, and afternoon [Blacksmith Experience for 13 to 16-year olds](#) - offering them the chance to learn the basics of forgery, and create a metal piece to take home. This session will be delivered in the Museum Workshop, led by maker, Jack Sampson (Insta @jacksampsonblacksmith).

Kickstart 3 UK Amiga Retro Computer Expo

7-8 August, 2026

After two successful shows in Nottingham, [Kickstart 3 UK Amiga Retro Computer Expo](#) has found a new home at Reach Conference Centre in Derby - a city with deep roots in gaming history as the birthplace of Core Design, the studio that would eventually give the world Tomb Raider. Two of this year's guests are living proof of that local legacy. Simon Phipps created Rick Dangerous in a Derby office back in 1988, the very first game Core Design ever made, and also built the cult classic Switchblade. Billy Allison, another Derby native, is the creator of the much-loved Bubba 'n' Stix.

BLOGS & FEATURES

Now at Derby Museum & Art Gallery, through to 1 November, 2026...

A major exhibition - organised by the National Gallery in London and Derby Museums - [*Wright of Derby: From The Shadows*](#), is set to run in Derby through to 1 November. It was the acquisition and exhibition of a new self-portrait in Derby that first created the spark which has led to this collaboration between the National Gallery and Derby Museums. *Wright of Derby: From the Shadows* has received tremendous reviews during its time at the National Gallery - and even sparked a debate as to whether or not this showed that Derby was, in fact, "the birthplace of modern art". And it all helped to shape the belief that there is no Wright without Derby, and that you cannot truly experience Joseph Wright without visiting Derby. Entry to the exhibition is free.

Spectacular summer events in Derby city centre for the school holidays

Visit Derby has taken all of the hard work out of searching for things to see and do within its city centre during the school summer holidays, and a recent post on its website is now filled with enough information to keep the whole family entertained for weeks. The blog features a wide range of [summer activities taking place between 24 July and 3 September](#).

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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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