



Dracula Lunchtime Bites (Season 2)

'Dracula Lunchtime Bites' are a series of short, free online talks which are intended for anybody interested in Dracula, vampires and the Gothic. They are organised by The Derby Dracula, a successor to the 2024-25 'Dracula Returns to Derby' project.

Wednesday 17 September 2025, 12.30-13.00

The Sublime Landscapes of Dracula

Mark Rees (University of Wales Trinity St David)

In this talk, Mark Rees will explore how the dramatic landscapes in Dracula—from Whitby's windswept cliffs to the eerie Carpathian Mountains—evoke the Gothic sublime: nature's power to inspire awe, terror, and a sense of the unknown. Were these places spooky before Stoker? Contemporary images reveal whether he created or echoed their haunted atmosphere.

This talk is free, but you will need to book in advance (it takes less than a minute). You can book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/draculalunchtimebites. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to you during the morning of 17 September.

Wednesday 15 October 2025, 12.30-13.00

Queering the Slayer, from Dracula to Buffy

Claire Mead (Independent Scholar)

Marginalised and misunderstood, the vampire is usually more so associated with queerness than its counterpart the slayer. In this talk Claire Mead explores what's at stake in a queered interpretation of the slayer from the original Dracula to modern depictions, to understand how this at first sight archetypal hero subverts our assumptions.

This talk is free, but you will need to book in advance (it takes less than a minute). You can book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/draculalunchtimebites. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to you during the morning of 15 October.

Wednesday 12 November 2025, 12.30-13.00

Dinner with Dracula: Blood, Bites and the Taste of Home

Dr Alessandra Pino (Independent Scholar)

In *Dracula* (1897), food offers moments of comfort until it curdles into something sinister. In this talk, Dr Alessandra Pino explore how, from chicken paprikash to cold suppers, meals reflect longing, otherness and fear. More than just a device, food has its own story to tell in shaping the Gothic atmosphere of Stoker's novel.

This talk is free, but you will need to book in advance (it takes less than a minute). You can book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/draculalunchtimebites. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to you during the morning of 12 November.

Wednesday 17 December 2025, 12.30-13.00

Cloaking the Count: The Iconic Sartorial Image of Dracula and its Origins

Dr Graham Rowe (University of Derby)

The 'iconic' sartorial image of Dracula has the Count clothed in a high-collared black cloak, with a brilliant red lining. Surprisingly, however, there are only two references to a cloak (and none to a cape) in Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897). Furthermore, there is no mention of a red lining to the cloak: Harker describes Dracula as "a tall old man, clean shaven save for a long white moustache, and clad in black from head to foot...without a single speck of colour about him anywhere." In this talk Dr Graham Rowe will explore the origins, confluence, and consolidation of Dracula's now iconic, scarlet-lined cloaked image.

This talk is free, but you will need to book in advance (it takes less than a minute). You can book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/draculalunchtimebites. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to you during the morning of 17 December.

Wednesday 14 January 2026, 12.30-13.00

Vampires under the microscope: Medicine and Illness in Vampire media

Gabi Garcia (Independent Researcher)

From blood transfusions to biotech, discover how vampirism reflects our deepest fears about illness, aging, and the body. Join Gabi Garcia for a journey through vampire fiction and media—examining infection, decay, and outbreaks. Come dissect and diagnose the vampire body through a medical lens.

This talk is free, but you will need to book in advance (it takes less than a minute). You can book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/draculalunchtimebites. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to you during the morning of 14 January 2026.

Wednesday 11 February 2026, 12.30-13.00

Lord Byron - The man behind the myth of the vampire

Symon Quay (University of Bedfordshire)

The depiction of Count Dracula in Bram Stoker's 1897 novel as a bloodthirsty member of the upper class is, perhaps, a significant part of his appeal to film and television audiences today. But how did the popular image of the vampire change from the wild beasts of eastern European folklore to the suave and sophisticated member of the nobility we know today? In this talk, Symon Quay traces the ancestral bloodlines of Dracula to real events in the life of the famous poet George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824).

This talk is free, but you will need to book in advance (it takes less than a minute). You can book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/draculalunchtimebites. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to you during the morning of 11 February 2026.

Wednesday 11 March 2026, 12.30-13.00

Bram Stoker's Dracula: From Folklore to Forensics

Dr Kate Roach (University College London)

Count Dracula bursts onto the 19th-century scene fit for a world in which science is synonymous with progress, and folk belief with the past. In this talk, Dr Kate Roach shares a bite-sized history of the transformation from ruddy-faced, bloated folkloric vampire to debonair creature, supremely adapted to thrive in any modern, techno-scientific world.

This talk is free, but you will need to book in advance (it takes less than a minute). You can book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/draculalunchtimebites. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to you during the morning of 11 March 2026.

Wednesday 15 April 2026, 12.30-13.00

'For now, goodbye ladies and gentlemen. I'll see you in Transylvania' - Gothic Radio and Contemporary Horror Podcasting

Cooper King (University of Edinburgh)

Gothic and horror audio dramas have long kept audiences in chilling fascination. Why is audio horror so successful? What led to the emergence of podcasts like *RE: Dracula*, *The Magnus Archives*, and many others? In this talk Cooper King will take you on a bite sized journey through time beginning with *The Witch's Tale*, Orson Welles' *Dracula* and *War of the Worlds*, continuing through today.

This talk is free, but you will need to book in advance (it takes less than a minute). You can book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/draculalunchtimebites. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to you during the morning of 15 April 2026.

Wednesday 13 May 2026, 12.30-13.00

Dracula Returns to Derby – one year on

The Dracula Returns to Derby team

In the session that's closest to Derby Dracula Day, the Dracula Returns to Derby team reflect upon what has happened with the Derby Dracula project over the past year, looking at key events, and future plans.

This talk is free, but you will need to book in advance (it takes less than a minute). You can book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/draculalunchtimebites. Details of how to join the talk will be emailed to you during the morning of 13 May 2026.