



Derby Cathedral Quarter Is 'Greater' Than Ever

This Autumn marks a double milestone for the Cathedral Quarter – the historic, cultural, leisure and independent shopping heart of Derby city centre.

This time last year, the Cathedral Quarter was crowned Best City Location in the prestigious Great British High Street Awards – an accolade which has attracted even more visitors to the area and encouraged more independent and national premium retailers to open or relocate.

The Cathedral Quarter is also celebrating its tenth anniversary as a Business Improvement District (BID).

Local businesses have come together under the BID to create the now iconic Cathedral Quarter brand and have developed a wide range of initiatives to promote the area, improve the visitor experience and attract investment and new businesses.

Plans are now on the table for a third five-year BID programme which, if voted through, will launch in Spring 2018 and build upon the successes of the past ten years.

So, a year on from being celebrated as a Great British High Street – what makes the Cathedral Quarter so special?

The Cathedral Quarter is the historic and cultural heart of the city centre. It has retained some outstanding architecture nestled around the magnificent Cathedral and is home to the renowned Joseph Wright Collection – with so much more to see and explore.

The area has more than 40 specialist retailers – combining independent niche boutiques with well known national names such as Joules, White Stuff, Doc Martins, Bang and Olusen and Jack Wills - and with the highest concentration of premium and designer brands in the city.

The historic Market Hall is a one-stop destination for everything from fresh produce to fashion and giftware and recently celebrated its 100th year anniversary.

Everyone deserves to be pampered and the Cathedral Quarter has nearly 50 hair, health and beauty salons for men and women.

Daytime entertainment is an important part of any thriving city centre and the Cathedral Quarter has its own special CQ Saturdays free street entertainment programmes for summer and then Christmas with an array of music, dance, comedy and street theatre.

This Christmas the Cathedral Quarter will again welcome the festive outdoor ice rink which is an annual favourite for skating fans young and old.

The area is particularly renowned as a foodie paradise. There are more than 100 places to eat and drink with a world of choice and cuisine to suit everyone's palate and pocket and local venues regularly dominate the annual Derby Food and Drink Awards.

Derby city centre, and particularly the Cathedral Quarter, has national Purple Flag status – celebrating it as a safe and inclusive evening destination, with Derby winning the ATCM Night Time Economy Management Award for 2017As well a range of bars, pubs and restaurants there is a wealth of venues to enjoy a special evening out, from contemporary dance performances at Déda to a range of films for all the family at QUAD.

Visitors to the Cathedral Quarter are matched in numbers by the large numbers of people who work and study in the area at the vast business community of professional firms, creative industries as well as college and university campuses and enjoy a great work/life balance in vibrant surroundings.

Travelling to and from the Cathedral Quarter couldn't be easier. The area is close to the main Derby Bus Station. Numerous taxi ranks border the pedestrianised areas and extensive parking is available at one of the surface and multi storey car parks – offering thousands of places from as little as £1 per hour.

Alternatively, visitors can make a night of it at one of the first class hotels in the Cathedral Quarter – whether on a city break or visiting the city on business.

Local business person Martin Langsdale is chair of the Cathedral Quarter Board and Management Group, which drives forward activities under the area's BID status.

He said: "The Cathedral Quarter is now a recognisable brand and a high quality lifestyle destination. It is an historic and unique area of Derby, full of interesting and creative businesses.

"This diversity led to us beating off stiff competition in our city location category from Broadmead in Bristol and the Castle Arcade district of Norwich to clinch the coveted title as a Great British High Street and really helped to put on the map with a far wider audience.

"Businesses in the Cathedral Quarter and our Rangers, whose role includes meeting and greeting visitors, all tell us that visitor numbers have increased in the past year - particularly those who have made their first visit to the Cathedral Quarter.

"We have also seen more businesses opening here from niche independents to national names such as Jack Wills.

"The first anniversary of winning that well deserved title coincides with our tenth year as a BID and the unveiling of plans to further extend the work to make even more improvements to the area.

"I hope that these milestones encourage even more people to come to this area and enjoy the individual, diverse and inspiring experience enjoyed by so many people in the Cathedral Quarter."

To find out more about what the Cathedral Quarter has to offer, please visit the website www.derbycathedralquarter.co.uk which has information about all the different businesses in the area as well as news about the latest events.

You can also follow on Twitter @DerbyCQ, on Instagram @cqangers and 'like' the Facebook page: CathedralQuarterDerby.