

Derbyshire Makes 2026

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMME

Festival Apr-May 2026





Image credit: Marlon Bonilla

THE FESTIVAL: APRIL-MAY

A free festival across Derbyshire, celebrating making of all kinds

A highlight of the Derbyshire Makes programme, this free festival unfolds across Derbyshire from April to May.

Six vibrant hub festival days sit at its heart, each bringing communities together for hands-on making, workshops and performances for all ages – including standout work by acclaimed UK artists.

Alongside these Saturday festivals, a wider programme of projects, commissions and events will take place across the county for more people to enjoy and take part in.

SHOWCASE EVENTS:

Thingamabob Show
Matt Pang

Giant Wheel Parade
Autin Dance Theatre

MakeLAND
John Whall

The Living Room
Maison Foo

See Derbyshire Makes website for further details.



Image credit: Richard Tymon

THE FESTIVAL HUBS

A celebration of making across 6 Derbyshire towns

Six Derbyshire towns will host festivals every Saturday from 11 April to 16 May.

Visit the festivals to experience artists talks, craft-based demonstrations, workshops, making opportunities, as well as exhibitions, performances and more.

Each festival is coordinated by local organisations, informed by the stories and histories unique to that area.

FESTIVAL DATES:

11 April	Cromford Mills Arkwright Society
18 April	Chesterfield Junction Arts
25 April	Swadlincote People Express
02 May	Heanor Make/Shift
09 May	Glossop High Peak Community Arts
16 May	Bolsover Junction Arts



Image credit: Richard Tymon

THE MAKORY

Derby Museum's mobile makerspace

Home to exhibition displays and artist-led, drop-in workshops, The Makory is Derby Museum's mobile makerspace – bringing making and heritage directly to you. Touring town centres, schools and communities throughout the festival, get on board to learn new skills.

The tour will shine a light on local inventors and inventions from the past and present – helping to inspire future innovators. Look out for The Makory coming to a location near you.

THE MAKORY TOUR

29 March	Matlock
18-19 April	Buxton
25 April	Ashbourne
03-04 May	Belper
09 May	Glossop
16 May	Bolsover
17 May	Creswell Crags
23 May	Hardwick Hall



Image credit: Richard Tymon

DARE TO DREAM

A collective act of imagination for Derbyshire

Encouraging conversations about heritage, place and aspirations for the future, Derbyshire Makes' signature mass participation project invites people of all ages to take part in a series of community sewing bee events throughout the year.

Join a sewing bee session to create a flag or banner from repurposed materials, featuring your hopes and dreams for a better future. And when thousands of dreams meet, something powerful becomes visible. Be part of the finale in 2027.

COMMUNITY SEWING BEE:

10 May
Glossop Market Hall

30 May
Hardwick Hall

20 June
Ashbourne Arts Festival

10 October
Masson Mills



Image credit: Richard Tymon

WOMEN WHO MAKE

An invitation to slow down, show up and make space

Women Who Make is a bold, welcoming space within Derbyshire Makes that champions women's creativity, labour and lived experience by bringing together artists and makers who identify as women to share skills, stories and solidarity.

Through talks, guided walks, creative gatherings, and collective making, Women Who Make explores themes of value, care, courage, circular futures, enterprise and belonging.

The programme is co-curated by a small cohort of women who make across Derbyshire.

EVENTS:

- Festivals
- Creative Women Networks
- Wednesday Webinars
- Creative Workshops
- Women-only Walks



Image credit: Visit Peak District & Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE MAKES HISTORY

Making is central to our heritage

www.derbyshiremakes.co.uk/history

Derbyshire's remarkable heritage of making and manufacturing has shaped its landscapes, livelihoods and communities for generations.

With funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Derbyshire Makes History will bring these stories to life through six newly commissioned films. It will champion heritage craft skills through hands-on activities in the Makory and bursaries for craftspeople, while also supporting Derbyshire's heritage organisations with grants, training and events to help them thrive.

HERITAGE BUSINESS MARKETPLACE:

21 MAY

The Great British Car Journey.
Ambergate.

DERBYSHIRE MAKES 2026

An inspiring celebration of making in all its forms across

A FREE FESTIVAL

Returning for a second year of programming cultural activity across the county – an inspiring celebration of making in all its forms.

Launching with the free Derbyshire Makes Festival, an annual event taking place this spring. Pick up a detailed programme from March in venues across the county or download from the Derbyshire Makes website.

JOIN IN

People from across Derbyshire and beyond are invited to be a part of Derbyshire Makes: families, young people, adults and the elderly.

DISCOVER, MAKE, SHARE AND CELEBRATE DERBYSHIRE

Visit derbyshiremakes.co.uk to plan your visit to the free festival events, and find out more.

YEAR ROUND PROJECTS

As well as the annual spring festival, new projects such as Derbyshire Makes History, The Makory, Women Who Make and Dare to Dream take place throughout Derbyshire. These projects create a collaborative, countywide programme activating museums, archives and heritage sites, whilst connecting artists, arts organisations, libraries, and schools.

GET INVOLVED

Derbyshire Makes also includes opportunities for communities, creative practitioners, industry partners, designer makers, and heritage organisations, with peer support, grants, competitions and network events - all through the theme of creative innovation and making.

Find out more information on the Derbyshire Makes website.

derbyshiremakes.co.uk



@DerbyshireMakes

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