

# This is durham

A county with breathtaking dales, a dramatic coastline, a vale steeped in history and a vibrant city at its heart.

29/1/2026 till 30/1/2026

## Discover Big Library at Ushaw

Ushaw's Big Library contains over 50,000 books including unique early manuscripts and rare first editions. Books on open display in January will showcase some of the highlights from our literature collection, including works by JRR Tolkien, Lord Byron, Percy Shelley and the first English translation of Cervantes' Don Quixote.

meet@ushaw.org

<https://ushaw.org/whatson/discover-big-library-26/>

+44 0191 373 8500

Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens, Woodland Road, Durham , County Durham, DH7 7DW

30/1/2026 till 30/1/2026

## Post Christmas Murder Mystery Dinner 2026 - Lumley Castle Hotel

Lord Spinner Webbe has invited friends and family to his grand home for Christmas/New Year celebrations. His Lordship has a reputation for practical jokes and a love of riddles and secret passageways throughout his home.

events@lumleycastle.com

<https://www.lumleycastle.com/events/>

+44 0191 389 1111

Lumley Castle Hotel , Chester le Street, County Durham, DH3 4NX

30/1/2026 till 30/1/2026

## Sam Avery "Thunderstorm"

In his trademark punchy style, Sam takes you on a whirlwind journey through the chaos of the modern.

peter@funnywaytobe.com

<https://thewitham.org.uk/event/funny-way-to-be-comedy-sam-avery-thunderstorm-16/>

TheWitham, 3 Horse Market, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8LY

+44 01833 650930

30/1/2026 till 30/1/2026

## Verdi "Requiem"

With over 250 musicians and conducted by the celebrated Tim Burke (Musical Director of the Royal Northern Sinfonia Chorus and Tête à Tête Opera), this performance promises to be a true highlight of the musical year.

choral.society@durham.ac.uk

+44 0191 334 1419

Durham Cathedral, Durham City, County Durham, DH1 3EH

31/1/2026 till 31/1/2026

## Christmas Party Night - Lumley Castle Hotel

Get ready to celebrate the festive season in style with our lively Christmas Party Night! Enjoy a delicious two-course dinner followed by a fun-filled evening of dancing and entertainment. Whether you're gathering with colleagues, friends, or family, this is the perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit.

events@lumleycastle.com

<https://www.lumleycastle.com/events/>

+44 0191 389 1111

Lumley Castle Hotel , Chester le Street, County Durham,  
DH3 4NX

31/1/2026 till 31/1/2026

4/2/2026 till 4/2/2026

14/2/2026 till 14/2/2026

**Discover Redhills: Past, Present and Future Guided Tour**

Whether you're passionate about Durham's coalfield heritage, curious about social change, or simply looking for a unique experience, a Redhills tour offers a rare insight into the power of community and solidarity.

amin@redhillsdurham.org

<https://redhillsdurham.org/events/>

+44 0191 323 3658

Redhills Durham Miners Hall, Flass Street, Durham City, County Durham, DH1 4BE

31/1/2026 till 31/1/2026

**Funny Way To Be Comedy: Carl Hutchinson - Greatest Hits!**

Join Carl as he celebrates 10 years of touring as he presents his best and favourite routines from over the years.

comedy@funnywaytobe.com

<https://thewitham.org.uk/whats-on/>

The Witham, 3 Horsemarket, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8LY

+44 01833 650930

12/2/2025 till 31/1/2026

**The Stick Man Trail at Hamsterley Forest**

Families can join a new forest adventure as the much-loved character Stick Man, based on the beautiful picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, returns to Forestry England Hamsterley.

[https://www.forestryengland.uk/hamsterley-forest/the-stick-man-trail-hamsterley-forest?utm\\_source=social&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=stick-man&utm\\_content=hamsterley](https://www.forestryengland.uk/hamsterley-forest/the-stick-man-trail-hamsterley-forest?utm_source=social&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=stick-man&utm_content=hamsterley)

Hamsterley Forest , Redford, Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL13 3NL

+44 01388 488312

3/1/2026 till 31/1/2026

**Tom Bolton's The Magic Corner**

Surround yourself in the world of magic in this interactive and immersive show!

info@themagiccorner.co.uk

<https://themagiccornerbooking.resova.co.uk/items/view/10>

The Magic Corner , 19½ Old Elvet, Old Elvet, Durham, County Durham, DH1 3HL

+44 07796 874436

3/1/2026 till 31/1/2026

**Watch the Deer Feeding in the Park - Raby Castle**

Witness a Wildlife Spectacle at Raby Castle this Winter. Watch the feeding unfold as our Estate Ranger drives the tractor through the sweeping parkland. Raby's magnificent Red and Fallow Deer will emerge from the trees and gather in anticipation of their daily feed, set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Castle and its surrounding landscape.

admin@raby.co.uk

<https://www.raby.co.uk/events/deer-feeding-in-the-park/>

+44 01833 660202

Raby Castle, Park and Gardens, Staindrop, County Durham, DL2 3AH

1/2/2026 till 1/2/2026

**Crime and Punishment - Ken Bradshaw**

A deep dive into Durham's murky past with stories of botched hangings, serial killers, people falling to their death doing stunts in the cathedral and why the crimes of the Vikings resulted in Durham being established in 995.

kenlm@phonecoop.coop

+44 07591 468066

Millennium Place, Durham, County Durham, DH1 3RG

27/9/2025 till 1/2/2026

**S&DR200 - Dressed for Departure: Fashion in the Age of Rail**

An exhibition showcasing historic fashion, toys and artworks that reflect on how the railway reshaped lives and culture.

<https://www.sdr200.co.uk/article/16701/Dressed-for-Departure-Fashion-in-the-Age-of-Rail>

The Bowes Museum, Newgate, Barnard Castle, County Durham , DL12 8NP

26/1/2026 till 1/2/2026

**Wellness Week at Dalton Park**

Press pause and make time for you during Wellbeing Week at Dalton Park Outlet. From 26th January – 1st February.

guestservices@dalton-park.co.uk

<https://www.dalton-park.co.uk/wellbeing-week>

Dalton Park, Murton, Seaham, County Durham , SR7 9HU

+44 0191 526 6500

2/2/2026 till 2/2/2026

**Merryoaks Community Hall Book Club**

Join Our Community Book Club! This month we are reading: A Thousand Splendid Suns, a 2007 novel by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini.

[susan.walker@lowesbarnco.org.uk](mailto:susan.walker@lowesbarnco.org.uk)

+44 07557 978580

Merryoaks Community Hall, Park House Road, Durham, County Durham , DH1 3QF

2/2/2026 till 2/2/2026

**Sung Eucharist for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)**

Our celebrations of God becoming man in Jesus Christ at Christmas reach their climax on Monday 2 February when we mark the ancient feast of Candlemas when Mary and Joseph presented the Christ Child in the Temple in Jerusalem in an act of thanksgiving.

visitor.desk@durhamcathedral.co.uk

<https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/events/sung-eucharist-for-candlemas-2>

Durham Cathedral, Durham, County Durham, DH1 3EH

+44 0191 338 7178

4/2/2026 till 4/2/2026  
22/2/2026 till 22/2/2026**Aurora Night - Grassholme Observatory**

The event will begin with a personal welcome from our astronomer, Gary Fildes. Gary is a very experienced science communicator and astronomer, and founder of the Kielder Observatory, where he was Director and CEO for over 11 years.

[gary@grassholmeobservatory.org](mailto:gary@grassholmeobservatory.org)

<https://bookwhen.com/grassholmeobservatory?tags=Aurora#focus=ev-s9fs-20260125200000>

Grassholme Observatory, Grassholme Reservoir, nr Mickleton, County Durham, DL12 0PW

+44 0345 155 0236

5/2/2026 till 5/2/2026

**Spotlight Tour - Joséphine, A Woman of Taste and Fashion - The Bowes Museum**

Join Rachel Whitworth, Curator of Fashion & Textiles for an insightful introduction to the new Joséphine: A Woman of Taste and Fashion exhibition.

[hello@thebowesmuseum.org.uk](mailto:hello@thebowesmuseum.org.uk)

<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/a-woman-of-taste-and-fashion-spotlight-tour/>

The Bowes Museum , Newgate, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8NP

+44 01833 690606

30/1/2026 till 6/2/2026

**Durham Restaurant Week**

Durham Restaurant Week is set to return at the end of January, serving up a tempting menu of cut-price deals to help diners banish the winter blues and give city centre businesses a welcome post-Christmas boost.

, Durham City, County Durham , DH1 3NJ

+44 0191 384 1212

10/1/2026 till 7/2/2026

**New Skills for the New Year - Knitting and Crochet Classes**

For the first several Saturdays of 2026, Petrichor will be devoted to learning new skills and encouraging us all to be a bit more adventurous in our making. Saturdays, booking required.

Petrichor Wool Studio, 9b North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 7PG

hello@petrichorwoolstudio.co.uk

<http://www.petrichorwoolstudio.co.uk/newskills2026>

+44 07818 960554

10/1/2026 till 8/2/2026

**Beamish Pantomime 2026: Dick Whittington and his Cat**

Our Beamish Pantomime is back... oh yes it is! Join us in our 1950s welfare hall for a show like no other, full of music, mischief and a little touch of magic!

Beamish, The Living Museum of the North , Beamish, County Durham, DH9 0RG

museum@beamish.org.uk

<https://www.beamish.org.uk/events/pantomime-2026/>

+44 0191 370 4000

20/9/2025 till 28/2/2026

**Bisque Pottery Workshops**

Join Mud & More Pottery to paint your own bisque cat or dog figurine, cast from 18th and 19th objects in The Bowes Museum's collection.

The Bowes Museum, Newgate, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8NP

hello@thebowesmuseum.org.uk

+44 01833 690606

3/2/2026 till 28/2/2026

**Jo Pickering Students - The Witham**

Professional artist and tutor Jo Pickering has been teaching art classes at The Witham for the past 5 years. Her classes are very popular and students have enjoyed working in a variety of media from drawing, watercolour and oil painting. These are some of the art works completed in the class.

The Witham , 3 Horsemarket, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8LY

info@thewitham.org.uk

<https://thewitham.org.uk/event/jo-pickering-students/>

+44 01833 631107

22/3/2025 till 1/3/2026

**Joséphine, A Woman of Taste and Fashion - The Bowes Museum**

Discover the timeless elegance, craftsmanship and innovation of Joséphine Bowes' textile collection.

The Bowes Museum , Newgate, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8NP

hello@thebowesmuseum.org.uk

<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/josephine-a-woman-of-taste-and-fashion/>

+44 01833 690606

14/6/2025 till 1/3/2026

**Nathan Coley You Create What You Will and Tate Modern on Fire - The Bowes Museum**

For the first time together, The Bowes Museum hosts Nathan Coley's works, You Create What You Will (2014) and Tate Modern on Fire (2017).

The Bowes Museum, Newgate, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8NP

hello@thebowesmuseum.org.uk

<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/nathan-coley/>

+44 01833 690606

26/7/2025 till 1/3/2026

**Pippa Hale: Pet Project - The Bowes Museum**

See the museum's renowned ceramic collection re-imagined into a vibrant and interactive experience for all ages.

The Bowes Museum, Newgate, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8NP

hello@thebowesmuseum.org.uk

<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/pippa-hale-pet-project/>

+44 01833 690606

31/1/2026 till 12/4/2026

**Architecture & Design in the Age of Louis XIV at Ushaw**

Architecture & Design in the Age of Louis XIV: Treasures from Ushaw's Library Collection, experience a visual tour of 17th-century France through the lens of the Cabinet du Roi, a magnificent suite of books created to broadcast the glory of Louis XIV, the Sun King.

meet@ushaw.org

<https://ushaw.org/whatson/architecture-design/>

+44 0191 373 8500

Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens, Woodland Road, Durham , County Durham, DH7 7DW

17/1/2026 till 10/5/2026

**S&DR200 - Tracks of Change - Perfume by Yann Nguema**

S&DR200 culminates with Perfume, a free exhibition at Preston Park by world-renowned, visionary projection artist Yann Nguema.

Preston Park Museum and Grounds, Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, TS18 3RH

<https://prestonparkmuseum.co.uk/perfume>

26/9/2025 till 31/5/2026

**Journey of a Century: From the Forbidden City to the Palace Museum - Durham University Oriental Museum**

Jointly organised by the Palace Museum and the Oriental Museum.

Durham University Oriental Museum, Elvet Hill, Durham City, County Durham , DH1 3TH

oriental.museum@durham.ac.uk

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/things-to-do/whats-on/events-calendar/2025/09/journey-of-a-century/>

+44 0191 334 5691

1/3/2025 till 31/5/2026

**S&DR200 Festival**

The 27 September 2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway (S&DR), which gave birth to the modern railway. To celebrate this landmark anniversary, the nine-month S&DR200 Festival will take place across Durham and Tees Valley from March to November 2025.

Various locations , , County Durham ,

<http://www.sdr200.co.uk/programme>

7/1/2026 till 30/9/2026

**Little Dragons - Durham University Oriental Museum**

Join us at the Oriental Museum on Wednesday mornings

oriental.museum@durham.ac.uk

for Little Dragons, our FREE session for children under 5 and their families/carers. Each session will be packed full of exploring the museum galleries, fun craft activities, singing, games and stories.

Durham University Oriental Museum, Elvet Hill, Durham City, County Durham , DH1 3TH

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/things-to-do/whats-on/events-calendar/?day=07&month=01&year=2026&search=all&keywords=little+dragons&categories%5B%5D=Event+Venues%3EOriental+Museum>

+44 0191 334 5691

14/11/2025 till 11/12/2026

**Live Music Nights at South Causey Inn**

Sit with us and enjoy live music every Friday, where we welcome a brilliant mix of local musicians from all across the North East to our cosy indoor bar - with a roaring log-burning fire.

South Causey Inn , Stanley, County Durham, DH9 0LS

[enquiries@southcausey.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@southcausey.co.uk)

<https://southcausey.co.uk/what-is-on-south-causey-inn/live-music-nights/>

+44 01207235555

3/1/2026 till 26/12/2026

**Durham parkrun**

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you! Nearby Sunday 2k junior parkrun events for 4 to 14 year olds and their families can be found here.

Graham Sports Centre, Maiden Castle , Stockton Rd , Durham, County Durham, DH1 3SE

[durham@parkrun.com](mailto:durham@parkrun.com)

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/durham/>

3/1/2026 till 26/12/2026

**Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens - parkrun**

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you! Nearby Sunday 2k junior parkrun events for 4 to 14 year olds and their families can be found here.

Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens, Woodland Road, Durham, County Durham, DH7 7DW

[ushawhistorichouse@parkrun.com](mailto:ushawhistorichouse@parkrun.com)

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/ushawhistorichouse/>

+44 0191 373 8500

16/1/2026 till 31/12/2026

**Archaeology 'Open Lab' - an Auckland Project Exhibition**

Archaeologists uncovering the hidden history of Auckland Palace are inviting the public behind the scenes as historic finds from eight years of excavations are analysed in a new 'open laboratory' in Bishop Auckland town centre. Fridays weekly between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.

The Hearth (formerly Mrs M's), 1 Market Place, Bishop Auckland, County Durham , DL14 7NJ

[enquiries@aucklandproject.org](mailto:enquiries@aucklandproject.org)

<https://aucklandproject.org/event/archaeology-open-lab/>

1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026

**Barnard Castle Farmers' Market**

Barnard Castle Farmers' Market is one of the North East's most popular markets featuring a wide range of artisan food and crafts from the region. Open 9:00 to 14:00 on the first Saturday of each month.

The Cobbles , Horsemarket, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8LY

[barnardcastlefarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:barnardcastlefarmersmarket@gmail.com)

<http://www.barnardcastlefarmersmarket.co.uk/>

1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	<p><b>Barnard Castle Market</b> Stroll through the stalls, savour delicious local treats, and soak up the friendly atmosphere. Every Wednesday 8.00am to 16.30</p> <p>Marketplace, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8NF</p>	<p>market@barnardcastletown council.gov.uk</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/BarnardWednesdayMarket/">https://www.facebook.com/BarnardWednesdayMarket/</a></p> <p>+44 (0)1833 690970</p>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	<p><b>Bishop Auckland Market</b> Stroll through the stalls, savour delicious local treats, and soak up the friendly atmosphere. Every Thursday and Saturday 8:00-17:00</p> <p>Market Place, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 7NP</p>	<p>ehcp@durham.gov.uk</p> <p><a href="https://www.durham.gov.uk/markets">https://www.durham.gov.uk/markets</a></p> <p>+44 (0)3000 261 016</p>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	<p><b>Consett Market</b> Stroll through the stalls, savour delicious local treats, and soak up the friendly atmosphere. Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8:00-16:00</p> <p>Middle Street, Consett, County Durham, DH8 5QP</p>	<p>ehcp@durham.gov.uk</p> <p><a href="https://www.durham.gov.uk/markets">https://www.durham.gov.uk/markets</a></p> <p>+44 (0)771 416 9208</p>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	<p><b>Durham Food Producers' and Crafters' Market</b> Durham's Food Producers' and Crafters' Market is now on the first Thursday of each month – open from 9am until 4.30pm, or until stock has sold out.</p> <p>Market Place, Durham city, County Durham, DH1 3NJ</p>	<p>info@durhammarkets.co.uk</p> <p><a href="http://www.durhammarkets.co.uk">http://www.durhammarkets.co.uk</a></p> <p>+44 0191 384 6153</p>
23/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	<p><b>Fireside Afternoon Tea and Waterfall Walk at High Force</b> Monday - Saturday Celebrate in the heart of Upper Teesdale with our cosy Fireside Afternoon Tea at High Force Hotel.</p> <p>The High Force Hotel, Alston Rd, Forest-in-Teesdale, Durham, County Durham, DL12 0XH</p>	<p>admin@raby.co.uk</p> <p>+44 01833660202</p>
3/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	<p><b>Heritage Coastal Path parkrun, Easington</b> A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you! Nearby Sunday 2k junior parkrun events for 4 to 14 year olds and their families can be found here.</p> <p>Heritage Coastal Path, Off Crawlaw Avenue, Easington Colliery, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 3QQ</p>	<p>heritagecoastalpatheasington@parkrun.com</p> <p><a href="https://www.parkrun.org.uk/heritagecoastalpatheasington/">https://www.parkrun.org.uk/heritagecoastalpatheasington/</a></p>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	<p><b>Mental Health Swims - Seaham</b> Mental Health Swims is an award-winning, mental health peer support community. The regular dip at Seaham takes place on the last Sunday of every month - booking required.</p> <p>The Slope Beach , Seaham, County Durham , SR7 7EE</p>	<p><a href="https://www.mentalhealthswims.co.uk/">https://www.mentalhealthswims.co.uk/</a></p>
28/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	<p><b>Room on the Broom Trail at Hamsterley Forest</b> This interactive family trail is packed with Room on the</p>	<p>enquiries.hamsterley@forestengland.uk</p>

	Broom themed activities, fascinating forest facts and plenty of hands-on fun.	<a href="https://www.forestryengland.uk/hamsterley-forest/room-on-the-broom">https://www.forestryengland.uk/hamsterley-forest/room-on-the-broom</a>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	Hamsterley Forest, Redford, Hamsterley Forest, County Durham, DL13 3NL	+44 01388 488312
	<b>Saturday Outdoor Market</b> Every Saturday, the Market Place is transformed by up to 30 small independent traders...it becomes a traditional, bustling, fresh air market and a great shopping experience.	info@durhammarkets.co.uk <a href="https://durhammarkets.co.uk/saturday-outdoor-market/">https://durhammarkets.co.uk/saturday-outdoor-market/</a>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	Durham Market Hall, Market Place, Durham, County Durham, DH1 3NJ	+44 0191 384 6153
	<b>Seaham Seaside Market</b> Seaham Seaside Market is a weekly market held every Friday.	stalls@events2gogo.com <a href="https://www.facebook.com/seahamseasidemarket/">https://www.facebook.com/seahamseasidemarket/</a>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	Church Street, Seaham, County Durham, SR7 7HF	+44 (0)7769 352637
	<b>Sedgefield Farmers Market</b> The market is run by Sedgefield Development Trust - and is held every first Sunday of the Month, on the village green, from 8.30am to 12.30pm - and includes a free community stall, music tent & health bus. The free stall is available to clubs and societies for promotion or fundraising.	roger@clubleys.co.uk <a href="http://www.sedgefield-farmersmarket.co.uk">http://www.sedgefield-farmersmarket.co.uk</a>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	Village Green, Sedgefield, County Durham, TS21 2AB	+44 01740 620609
	<b>South Causey Monthly Dog Walk</b> Join the South Causey Dog Walking Club every 1st Saturday of the month at 10 am for a picturesque stroll through the beautiful Beamish Valley.	southcausey@hotmail.com <a href="https://www.southcausey.co.uk/offer/monthly-dog-walk/">https://www.southcausey.co.uk/offer/monthly-dog-walk/</a>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	South Causey Inn, Beamish Burn Road, STANLEY, County Durham, DH9 0LS	01207 235 555
	<b>Stanley Market</b> Stroll through the stalls, savour delicious local treats, and soak up the friendly atmosphere. Every Thursday and Saturday 8.00-16:00	ehcp@durham.gov.uk <a href="https://www.durham.gov.uk/markets">https://www.durham.gov.uk/markets</a>
1/1/2026 till 31/12/2026	Front Street, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 0JE	+44 (0)191 373 0220

*Please note that this information is correct at the time of going to print but Visit County Durham cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.*

If you have an event or an exhibition that you'd like us to include then please e-mail us at [visitor@thisisdurham.com](mailto:visitor@thisisdurham.com). Events will be advertised at the discretion of Visit County Durham.

**Durham's Visitor Contact Centre – for all the information you'll need to plan and enjoy your break in Durham. Whatever information or advice you need when visiting Durham get in touch and we'll be delighted to help you.**

**Call:** **03000 26 26 26****Opening Hours:****Email:** [\*\*visitor@thisisdurham.com\*\*](mailto:visitor@thisisdurham.com)**Monday to 9.00am - 5.00pm**  
**Friday****Visit:** [\*\*www.thisisdurham.com\*\*](http://www.thisisdurham.com)

Calls are charged at a local rate, mobiles may vary. Texts - standard network charges apply.