

Dereham Blues Festival

The Dereham Blues Festival Is Ready For The Opening Chords

New strings are on the guitars. The drums are tuned. The singers' vocal chords are warmed up. The set lists are prepared and the songs all rehearsed. The band playing areas in the 12 town centre venues in Dereham are cleared and the shelves and cellars are all stocked with extra refreshments.

Yes, the 2018 Dereham Blues Festival all kicks off on Thursday 12th July and over the next four days through until the Sunday evening July 15th, the town will be alive to the sounds of blues and roots music cascading from the venues. Truly a lot more than 12 bars of blues.

This year again some 45 bands, trios, duos and solo performers will be pouring their hearts and souls out to several thousand blues enthusiasts who make the special trip to Dereham to visit the town during the festival.

The opening gig on Thursday July 12th features the jazz and blues icon Georgie Fame playing to a sell out crowd at the Dereham Memorial Hall. Music and refreshments will be available before the gig starts. So why not come down early to make it a celebratory start to the Festival.

Then over the next four days the town comes alive with a top lineup of local, regional and UK blues acts filling the venues. For an up to date program of the four day festival go to the website <http://www.derehamb bluesfestival.org.uk/timetable-of-events-18.html> . Remember apart from the opening gig at The Dereham Memorial Hall on July 12th, entry to all the venues is free over the four Festival days.

On Sunday afternoon the festival culminates with several jam sessions. Such is the popularity of these sessions that this year there will be Sunday afternoon blues jams at The Cherry Tree, The George, The Gemini as well the traditional jam at The Kings Head Hotel in the beer garden.

The festival Chairman Harry Collins says, "This year's Dereham Blues Festival is going to be better than ever. So come on down and join the crowd in the town. You will be most welcome and you will have a fantastic time."

Date: 2nd July 2018

Further information

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Dereham Blues Festival

NOTES TO EDITORS

- This 2018 Dereham Blues Festival runs from Thursday July 12th to Sunday July 15th. Printed programmes will be distributed and available in local venues soon.
- The Dereham Blues Festival started in 2013 and in its first year attracted 500 people to the market town. More information: <http://www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk>
- Dereham Blues Festival is now a not for profit company under its new chairman Harry Collins who leads the devoted team of Blues volunteers, most of whom are themselves active gigging musicians. The founding members were Doreen and Stewart Aitken and ran the festival in the early years since the first event back in 2013. As founding members, they are still very much involved and are determined that the blues festival has a long future.
- Over 50 acts performed in 2017, around a third were "local grown" talent from Norfolk and East Anglia and some two thirds are coming to play from all over the rest of the UK.
- The festival kicks off each year with a well known national / international blues act. Previous years have seen BBC Radio 2's Paul Jones (Manfred Mann and The Blues Band) in 2014, in 2015 Mud Morganfield, in 2016 Dr. Feelgood and last year Andy Fairweather Low.
- Last year's 2017 Festival opening concert at the Dereham Memorial Hall featuring Andy Fairweather Low attracted a sell out crowd.
- This year's 2018 opening concert will be held on Thursday July 12th, again at the Dereham Memorial Hall, and will see the internationally renowned Georgie Fame perform.
- For more information about the Dereham Memorial Hall, events and the work the Friends of Dereham Memorial hall do please see their website <http://derehammemorialhall.co.uk> .
- The market town of Dereham in Norfolk has seen significant growth over the past few years and the town's blues festival reflects and supports this continued social and economic development.
- The estimated 2000 or so festival visitors provide a real economic boost to the town as well as bringing the place alive throughout the festival weekend in July.
- Now in its sixth year the Dereham Blues Festival continues to be a growing success story in the region thanks to its two lead organisers, Norfolk Blues Society founders Doreen and Stewart Aitken.
- By attracting over 2000 music fans from across the country the festival is quickly becoming one of the go-to events on the Blues calendar. Email: derehambluesfestival.org.uk/contact.html
- The festival is run by an entirely volunteer group of eight local Norfolk blues enthusiasts and is supported by the Norfolk Blues Society - <http://www.norfolkbluessociety.org.uk> .
- For information on Georgie Fame go to <http://www.georgiefame.co.uk> and for official publicity images go to <http://www.jbaconcerts.com/georgie-fame-images.html>
- We are proud to be associated with following sponsors of the 2018 Festival and we thank them for their support. The sponsors are Busseys of Norfolk (Headline Sponsor), Stephenson Smart (Main Sponsor), Greene King (Main Sponsor) and Orchard Caravans (Business Sponsors).

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DEREHAM BLUES FESTIVAL 2017 - OUR SPONSORS

Busseys

Founded in 1911, Busseys a Main Ford and Peugeot Dealer in Norfolk have always been keen to support local events and businesses and are Headline Sponsors of the DBF in 2018.

The company has particularly close ties to Dereham since we opened our Ford branch in 1996 and added our Dereham Peugeot branch in 2016. The town has always been very supportive and that's why we are honoured to sponsor such a local event.

Paul Bussey, Marketing Director at Busseys said "We are extremely proud to be a headline sponsor at this years Dereham Blues Festival and look forward to a weekend full of good music!".



Greene King was founded 200 years ago, in 1799, by 19 year-old Benjamin Greene. As a company, we pride ourselves on consistently offering exceptional value, service and quality to all our customers. This ethos is central to everything we do in our business.

James Ramm, regional sales manager (Anglia) at Greene King said, "Greene King has been brewing in and serving East Anglia for over 200 years, and we have always looked to offer our support for events close to home."

"Our pubs are part of communities, so we are proud to once again sponsor the popular Dereham Blues festival, which is a brilliant home-grown event that goes from strength to strength every year. Many of our beers will be served at festival venues, including the Bull, Gemini, Kings Head Hotel and the Cherry Tree, so blues fans can enjoy great local ales alongside a line-up of top notch acts from around the UK."



Stephenson Smart is a firm of chartered accountants with offices in King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth, Fakenham, Downham Market, Wisbech and March.

We have provided expert, tailored advice to clients for over 100 years, working together to deliver the very best for them.

We are delighted to support the Dereham Blues Festival in their efforts to organise such quality entertainment in the community.



Based in Wells-next-the-sea, Orchard Caravans has been a family business since 1967, starting with a small caravan park in Wells-next-the-sea that it still operates today, it is a very much loved Orchard Holiday Park and run to a very high standard.

Caravan sales was introduced back in the mid 70's and has grown into one of the biggest new and used static caravan distributors to trade and retail in East Anglia. Offering the full service from supply, transportation, siting and commissioning with a full after sales service, park owners and their customers can rely on a company that is an NCC approved Holiday Caravan distributor. Orchard Caravans is delighted to support the Dereham Blues Festival in 2018.