

SHETLAND BLUES FESTIVAL 2014

Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September

The eleventh Shetland Blues Festival will take place over the weekend of the 12th to 14th September 2014. Six visiting acts have been confirmed for this year's festival, which will be run as a two centre event.

Tickets are available from the Shetland Box Office for gigs in Mareel and in the Vidlin Hall, with all bands playing both venues over the weekend. The popular Saturday afternoon pub trail will be on as well as a Sunday afternoon in the Lounge.

From the USA, Bob Malone and his Band will be stopping over during their UK tour. Bob Malone's sound is a one of a kind hybrid of blues, rock and New Orleans R&B, delivered with high energy piano virtuosity and a voice all his own. Currently on tour as part of John Fogerty's touring band, Bob Malone and his band will be on fire by the time they reach Shetland.

From Holland via Austria one of Europe's, if not one of the world's, best acoustic blues guitar players and singers comes Hans Theesink (pronounced Taysink). Hans has been playing and recording blues music since the early seventies and has recorded with Ry Cooder, Terry Evans, Richard Thompson and Eric Bibb amongst others. With a rich baritone that exudes the blues, this legend will be a highlight in the history of the Shetland Blues Festival.

Travelling from Northern Ireland, Kaz Hawkins will be kicking off her UK tour in support of her new album *Get Ready*. Winner of *Blues & Soul* magazine "RISING STAR AWARD 2014" Kaz will be bringing her mix of Blues, R&B and gospel from East Belfast to Shetland. Called "A Vocal Force" on stage, she envelops the fighting spirit of a true powerhouse singer with comparisons to her idol Etta James, Mavis Staples, Janis Joplin, Kaz is loved for her down to earth attitude; she brings fun to every performance and is loved not only by her fans but anyone who meets her.

Return visitors this year are Dale Storr with his New Orleans Piano show and The King Bees. Dale has recently played sold out performances at Nottingham Theatre Royal and in his home town of Sheffield with his updated New Orleans Piano show, after being here in 2010 we thought Dale was due a return to the festival.

Another popular previous act are The King Bees, back with a slightly different lineup but still playing that laid back soulful blues featuring Marc Patching on guitar. Currently recording a new album this good time music band are not to be missed.

Last but not least Shetland Blues Festival welcomes triple UK Blues Award 2014 nominee Half Deaf Clatch from Hull. Half Deaf Clatch has been playing acoustic blues for the past three years and has broken onto the UK Blues scene with the outstanding album *A Road Less Travelled*, the songs are blues on subjects of today. Nominated for Emerging Artist Of The Year, Acoustic Act Of The Year and Songwriter Of The Year 2014 is shaping up to be a breakthrough year for this new artist and with a new album, *The Blues Continuum*, being readied for release at the festival exciting times are ahead.

A weekend ticket costing £35 is available and will give access to both Mareel and Vidlin gigs over the three days of the festival, full ticket information is available at the Shetland Box Office. Latest news and information about the festival will be available at www.facebook.com/shetlandbluesfestival.