



Registered Office: Town Hall, Albert Road, Colne, Lancashire BB8 0AQ

NEWS RELEASE

After months of preparation, this year's Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival is finally here!

The directional signs are up, the venues have been decorated and the acts have arrived for what promises to be a weekend to remember!

As the musicians carry out their last minute sound checks, scores of fans have already started to descend on Colne, ready to listen to some unforgettable Blues tunes.

With some top-class, headline acts, some new, young talent and some Festival favourites, the 27th Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival is ready and raring to go!

From authentic electric Blues, through to rock and acoustic sets, there really is something for every one of the thousands of visitors expected this August Bank Holiday weekend.

Nine Below Zero kicks-off the proceedings on the International Stage at 8pm on Friday night, with hundreds more musicians following suit at the seven official venues throughout the four day Festival.

Some other names to look out for on the International Stage this weekend include Wilko Johnson, former Whitesnake guitarist Bernie Marsden, much requested Dave Edmunds, rising British Blues/Rock trio Wille and The Bandits and American singer Nikki Hill.

In fact, there's something for all Blues music fans at all of the official venues – the new British Stage at Pendle Hippodrome Theatre, the new Afternoon Acoustic Stage and the roadhouses - Colne & Nelson Rugby Club, The Admiral Lord Rodney, The Crown Hotel, Colne Legion and The Little Acoustic Stage at The Little Theatre. Once again we would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support, especially Barnfield Construction, who, once again this year, are sponsoring the official roadhouses.

Highlights on the British Stage will include The Swing Commanders, Tipitina, Rebecca Downes, Connie Lush and, of course, the Cliff Stocker Tribute Night.

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And the Afternoon Acoustic Stage ones to watch include Bernie Marsden, Dave Kelly, The Cats, Dave Ferra and Blue Swamp.

The Festival Box Office will be open all weekend for anyone wanting to buy a last minute ticket to see some of the big names on the main stage; and for those simply wanting to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy some great live music, then you can buy a British Stage Badge, which will give you access to the British Stage for the whole four days and an Acoustic Stage Badge, which will give you access to the Afternoon Acoustic sessions at the International Stage on the Saturday and Sunday; both cost just £5, or pay just £1 for a Roadhouse Wristband which will get you into all of the five official roadhouses for the full weekend.

Festival spokesperson, Sue Madigan, said: "We are really excited about the changes we have made to this year's event. Every year we try to cater for all musical tastes and keep the Festival alive and fresh with different ideas and initiatives, and we are sure this year's changes will bring a whole new feel to the Festival.

"If you have not visited before, then make sure you do. It truly is a unique experience and there are not many people who can say they have the Best Blues Festival in Europe right on their doorstep!"

For a detailed line-up of all the acts and times they will be performing, visit our website www.bluesfestival.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01282 661234.

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For further information contact Sue Madigan, Publicity/PR Manager, on 01282 661231 or e-mail susan.madigan@pendleleisuretrust.co.uk

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