

Dereham Blues Festival

Dereham Blues Festival 2017 Line-Up Announced

Following a record number of applications from some of the region's and UK's finest blues and roots acts, the line-up for this year's Dereham Blues Festival has been announced.

Over 120 applications were received and over 50 bands, trios, duos and solo performers are now performing over the festival weekend July 6th to 9th, which is a record entry for the festival now in its fifth year. The acts will be performing at 15 different Dereham town centre venues throughout the weekend and the festival will end on Sunday afternoon July 9th with the traditional outdoor blues super-jam in the garden of The King's Head.

The festival will kick-start on Thursday 6th July with the opening concert featuring the internationally famous Andy Fairweather Low and his band The Low Riders. Local favourites The Dove And Boweevil Band will provide top quality support. The opening concert is kindly organised by the Friends of the Dereham Memorial Hall. Tickets for this concert are selling fast. Don't miss out if you want to see this top quality concert. Go to <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/boxoffice/venueplan/TRLuMQyEPNJW> to get tickets before they all go.

The festival then gets going on Friday July 7th evening when performers play in selected cafes, bars and clubs in the town centre. The next day (Saturday July 8th) blues and roots music will be heard cascading out from all of the 15 different venues from early afternoon onwards until late. So truly a "whole lot more than 12 bars of blues"!

To find out who is playing where and when, go to the programme pages on the Dereham Blues Festival website (<http://www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk/timetable-of-events.html>).

Festival Chairman John Vasco says "It is fantastic to see the festival growing year on year. Of the record 120 acts applying to play over two thirds are now from outside the region. This shows how the importance of the Dereham Blues Festival is growing into a UK-wide event. This year's festival is going to be bigger and better than ever. It is just a pity that we cannot give a slot to everyone that applied to play, such was the quality of acts applying."

So if you like blues and roots music put The Dereham Blues Festival dates July 6th to July 9th in your diaries and don't miss it. A warm Norfolk welcome awaits you in Dereham.

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Further information

Carolyn Coleman email: carolyn_selby@btinternet.com, tel. 01362 695084

Jim Niven email: rednef59@hotmail.co.uk; tel. 07528492288



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NOTES TO EDITORS

- This 2017 Dereham Blues Festival runs from Thursday July 6th to Sunday July 9th.
- 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 John Vasco who leads the devoted Blues volunteers, most of whom are themselves active gigging musicians. John took over the chairmanship role from the founding members Doreen and Stewart Aitken who have run the festival 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.
- Of the some 50 acts which will appear 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 and last year Dr. Feelgood.
- This year the opening concert will be held on Thursday July 6th, again at the Dereham Memorial Hall, and will feature the internationally renowned And Fairweather Low and his band The Low Riders.
- Last year's 2016 Festival opening Dr. Feelgood gig at the Dereham Memorial Hall attracted a sell out crowd.
- 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 fifth 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> .
- In 2017, the Festival is supported by headline sponsors Greenbanks Hotel and Busseys of Norfolk; main sponsors Greene King and Stephenson Smith, and business sponsor Orchard Caravans. For more details of our sponsors see notes below.

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DEREHAM BLUES FESTIVAL 2017 - OUR SPONSORS



One of the Headline sponsors of the 2017 Blues Festival is an independent family run business.

Over the last 27 years, Greenbanks hotel has evolved and seen the introduction of a swimming pool and self-catering accommodation. The property lends its self well to those less able, with level access to most areas including the pool and makes an ideal base to explore Norfolk , being set in the heart of the county.

The team at Greenbanks have successfully been awarded The Excellence Award by Trip advisor and Booking.com in the last few months.

Greenbanks Hotel is pleased to announce we will be supporting the 2017 Dereham Blues Festival. The event brings together visitors to the area and the local community through the common interest of music. The Festival also highlights what is available in and around Dereham area and is fast becoming a "must attend" event.

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 2017.

The company has particularly close ties to Dereham, as 2016 marked 20 years since the company opened a Ford dealership in Dereham and have since then added a Peugeot dealership to the area early last year.

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.

Mark Holland, sales development manager 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."



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

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

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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-70s 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 2017