



Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham - S60 1DX - 01709 720002 - www.yorkshireblues.com

April 30th – 1st & 2nd May 2010



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PRESS RELEASE

Yorkshire welcomes the world
for an International Blues Festival.

A brand new Blues Festival is coming to Yorkshire in May 2011! The Yorkshire Blues Festival will stage the Alexis Korner memorial stage as the main arena for the 3 day event – 30th April to 2nd May 2011. Alexis was known as 'the father of British blues' and his influence has spread to every area of modern British and world music. The Alexis Korner stage will present many musicians who worked with him during his lifetime, such as Jack Bruce, Andy Fairweather Low, Animals & Friends, Spencer Davis and The Blues Band. (See full listing in additional information.) A second stage will feature blues rock and the modern generation of blues artists.

Norman Beaker, the renowned guitarist and band leader (The Norman Beaker Band) who played with Alexis and who has worked with B B King, Buddy Guy, Jimmy Rodgers and Chuck Berry to name but a few is excited to continue his long-standing relationship with the Alexis Korner charity events, which took place in the 1990's with an electric atmosphere of blues seeping out of every corner.

The Yorkshire Blues Festival will celebrate the blues and it's influence on all areas of the music industry. Norman said 'I can think of no finer way to do this then by commemorating the legacy of Alexis Korner and the many musicians he inspired.' The festival will also raise funds for selected charities such as Bluebell Wood Hospice and McMillan Cancer Support. Alexis was cared for at the Beechwood Centre and such charities will benefit from this event.

Holding the event at Magna, between Sheffield and Rotherham on the M1, was paramount in the venue decision. The venue provides comfortable facilities for a festival under one roof, with two stages, snacks or dining, real ales and wines and relaxation areas. The venue can accommodate the numbers of guests expected to enjoy the festival and lies in the heart of Yorkshire with fantastic rail, road and air links and plenty of accommodation in close proximity – the

Yorkshire Festival international festival

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location will be able to stage this major blues event for many more years to come.

We have four targets in staging this event.

- The first is to maintain and promote the general public's interest in blues music and it's many influences on other areas of the music industry.
- The second is to raise funds for a number of worthy charities.
- The third is to showcase an international event in Yorkshire, bringing many people from around the world.
- Finally, the organisers wish to stage an event that reflects blues music in a down-to-earth, sympathetic way.

The Yorkshire Blues Festival will aim to highlight the cream of British and American Blues. For more information including upcoming line-ups see <http://www.yorkshireblues.com/>

For further details or press please contact the Yorkshire Blues Team.

Tickets and enquiries – Magna – 01709 72 000 2

Email – info@yorkshireblues.com



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Further information for editors

We have compiled the following for inclusion in articles.

Interview – Norman Beaker - <http://www.normanbeakerband.com/>

“Tell us about your connection with Alexis Korner”

Norman Beaker

“Alexis was the catalyst for many of the worlds foremost UK bluesmen from Paul Jones , Jack Bruce, Mick Jagger , Brian Jones, Robert Plant, Steve Marriot and , many others, including of course myself!. It was Alex who persuaded John Mayall to move down to London and from John of course came a whole movement of Blues in this country. In the early 70’ I started to do some gigs with Alexis, and he taught me a hell of a lot, not only musically but band ‘man management’ and tolerance. We became very close, and he took on the mantle of Godfather to my eldest son also named Alexis. He along with Chris Barber brought many artists from the US to our shores and gave us the opportunity to see first hand the magical names we had only heard about. So it is fitting for me to keep the great mans name alive, his legacy is far reaching, and I’m proud to be a part of the music that Alexis helped to create in the UK which later went around the world.”

“Why did you decide to create the Alexis Korner Memorial again?”

Norman Beaker

“When Rudi and Joe had this dream, which is a now thankfully a reality, of a Yorkshire Blues Festival, they asked me if I would like to curate the main stage, which is named The Alexis Korner Stage, after a hearty meal and a meeting, (dry) I might add, the enthusiasm of all parties to make this work prompted me to offer to re create the Alexis Korner Memorial Concerts I used to organise, so the format will be the same on the Sunday as then; my band is the house band for a myriad of the very most legendary exponents of Blues music, it will be a none stop show featuring artistes who have worked with Alex or directly inspired by him, I know it will be a great night.”



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“Where do you see the ‘blues as an industry’ going in the next few years?”

Norman Beaker

“I think in times of financial strife, Blues always holds its own, but the Festival scene gives the public a chance to pick up on new acts too, that they maybe would not usually chance. Blues is not a fad, and it has its roots spreading out through, soul, jazz, folk, country so the Blues umbrella, is a very broad church, that reminds me I forgot Gospel.

I am really excited about this new venture, driven by peoples love of the music and the tenacity and business acumen to make it happen, I am only a small part of this team, but very pleased to be on board.”

Interview with Rudi Enos, Yorkshire Blues Festival director

“Tell us how the idea for the festival happened?”

Rudi Enos

“I had been pushing for a one day festival in firstly, Sheffield and then Rotherham for several years but the right set of circumstances did not come along. Then I met the management of Magna, who were keen, so keen in fact that we are involved in another event with them in March, also for charity, the Rotherham Real Ale & Music Festival. I knew Norman and had always thought that the Alexis Korner Memorial gigs he did in the 1990’s should have had more exposure, as they were fantastic events, and celebrated one of my all time heroes. Alexis is mostly unsung to the general public, but blues fans know he was instrumental in kicking the whole thing off, British blues that is, in the UK and in the USA. Norman said, “when do we start?” and we were inspired. Then Jack Bruce and Andy Fairweather Low said yes and some other big acts said maybe, and we were off.”

“How do you choose acts for the festival?”

Rudi Enos

“Usually you start with who is available! In our case, I sat down with my business partner Joe Dudziak who has his own band, ‘Big Thrill’ and looked at



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the talent, both now and what may be touring next May. Joe and I had booked some 200 bands in two years at a venue we were running a couple of years ago and knew which of the current crop of bands touring the UK and Europe would be good additions to the festival. A lot of them became firm friends, like Norman but our criteria is clear, they have to have a feeling for the blues, be it rocky, moody, jazzy or pop-p-y. The blues is a broad church and all are welcome."

"Where do you see the festival going?"

"I don't know, no one does but I know where I would like it to go. Even though we are working for charity, there must be a strong commercial context to what we promote or next year wont happen. You have to sell tickets, put bums on seats, but there also has to be a higher reason for what you do. In our case that means raising funds for worthy causes, mostly cancer research related such as McMillan or Weston Park Cancer Charity which is local to us. One of my best friends was treated there before he died and their work left me with a lasting and profound sense of thanks to them. Alexis died of cancer so there is a logical link to support that area too. In addition, the bands contribute so much by playing.

I would like the first event to be a success and then to look around to add to the artistic element of the event. To end up with an Internationally recognised celebration of the 'art of blues' is our long term goal."

Interview with Matthew Beck – MD Magna Science Adventure Park, Rotherham.

"Tell us about Magna's involvement with the festival?"

"Magna is working with the festival organizers to ensure we deliver a quality experience for ticket holders and provide the best food and drink services, whilst looking after the artists and production crew".

"What other events do you have there?"

"We are busy preparing our 10th year anniversary in 2011 and have welcomed some really big names to Magna over the years such as Kaiser Chiefs and Arctic Monkeys. Due to the sheer scale of Magna it is a flexible and unique event space that can cater for lots of opportunities

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and we are really looking forward to hosting the Blues festival”.

Lineup so far – Alexis Korner Stage

Saturday 30 th April 2011	Sunday 1 st May 2011	Monday 2 nd May 2011
Animals&Friends+Spencer Davis	Jack Bruce	The Blues Band
Andy Fairweather Low	Micky Moodie Band	Nine Below Zero
Martin Turners	Zoot Money	Chris Farlowe
Wishbone Ash	Larry Garner	TBD
Deborah Bonham	Herbie Goins	TBD
TBD	Geoff Whitehorn	To be decided
To be decided	Norman Beaker	
	Big Thrill	

Jack Bruce, Andy Fairweather Low, The Blues Band, Animals&Friends+Spencer Davis, Nine Below Zero, Martin Turners Wishbone Ash, Deborah Bonham, Chris Farlowe, Herbie Goins, Larry Garner, Norman Beaker, Mud Morganfield (son of Muddy Waters), Miller Anderson, Papa George, Big Thrill.

Lineup so far – Yorkshire Stage

Saturday 30 th April 2011	Sunday 1 st May 2011	Monday 2 nd May 2011
Dr Feelgood	The Hamsters	Aynsley Lister
TBD	Paul Lamb & The Kingsnakes	Connie Lush & Blues Shouter
To be decided	The Stumble	Danny Bryants Redeye Band
Frank White Band	Cliff Stockers	Chantel McGregor
TBD	legendary Slack Alice	King King
To be decided	TBD	
Cutters Law	To be decided	

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Links to bands websites – not complete

Some further bands are agreed upon but not yet confirmed or contracted. More details will be made available soon.

<http://www.jackbruce.com/>

http://www.rockartistmanagement.com/page/animals_and_friends

<http://www.spencer-davis-group.com/BioSpencer.shtml>

<http://www.andyfairweatherlow.com/>

<http://www.thebluesband.net/>

<http://www.ninebelowzero.com>

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

<http://www.drfeelgood.org/>

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

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

<http://www.mickymoody.com/index.php?l=en&s=news>

<http://www.connielush.com/>

<http://paul lamb.com/>

<http://www.simplyws.co.uk/chrisfarlowe/index.html>

<http://www.normanbeakerband.com/>

<http://www.herbiegoins.com>

<http://www.myspace.com/larrygarnerblues>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoff_Whitehorn

<http://www.deborahbonham.com/>

<http://www.myspace.com/mudandthedirtyaces>

<http://www.chantelmccgregor.com/>

<http://www.kingkingblues.com/>

<http://frankwhite.info/>

<http://www.thestumble.com/>

<http://www.myspace.com/bigthrillband>

<http://www.cutters-law.co.uk>