

Contact details:

The festival is supported by the Norfolk Blues Society:

<https://www.norfolkbluessociety.org.uk>



T: 07703 744181 or 01362 860491

Email: derehambluesfestival.org.uk/contact.html

Web: www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk







Twitter: @12barsoblues

Fast Facts

-  2020 festival will run from Weds 08/07-Sun 12/07
-  Now in its 8th year – running since 2013
-  Over 50 blues & roots acts will perform
-  Typically, 50% of acts are from East Anglia
-  Over 12 town centre venues play host
-  Over 2000 people visit Dereham for the event
-  All venues are free to enter (excluding opening night)
-  Opening act always features a top blues musician playing to a sell-out crowd at Dereham Memorial Hall
-  Founded by blues devotees Doreen & Stewart Aitken
-  The festival is a not-for-profit company
-  Run entirely by volunteers passionate about blues



FAQs

-  **Who founded The Dereham Blues Festival?**
Doreen & Stewart Aitken, who first ran the festival in 2013.
-  **Who plays at the festival?**
50+ acts drawn from all over the UK, including a large from Norfolk.
-  **Who goes to the festival?**
Several thousand people visit The Dereham Blues Festival every year from all over the country. It is popular with everyone from aficionados to families with young children – and everyone in between!
-  **Who runs the festival?**
The festival is run by volunteers as a not-for-profit company.
-  **What are the aims of The Dereham Blues Festival?**
To keep blues music alive in East Anglia and to provide a platform for a range of blues acts to play to an increasing fanbase.
To create an inclusive and fun event for the whole town and the wider region to enjoy whilst promoting Dereham as a great place to visit.
-  **What venues do blues acts play during The Dereham Blues Festival?**
Over 12 town centre venues play host, including bars, pubs, cafes, the local cricket club and the train station – entry to these venues is free of charge.
-  **Who chooses the bands to play?**
A small team of volunteers choose from the bands who have applied to play at the next festival. They use their knowledge of blues to allocate bands to particular venues.
-  **Who have been previous headline acts?**
2014-Paul Jones/ 2015-Mud Morganfield/ 2016-Dr. Feelgood/
2017-Andy Fairweather-Low/ 2018-Georgie Fame/ 2019-Hamilton Loomis
-  **How is the headline act chosen?**
The opening concert is organised by the Friends of Dereham Memorial Hall whose chairman chooses the headline artist in conjunction with the festival committee members.

Contact details:

The festival is supported by the Norfolk Blues Society:

<https://www.norfolkbluessociety.org.uk>

T: 07703 744181 or 01362 860491

Email: derehambluesfestival.org.uk/contact.html

Web: www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk

Twitter: @12barsoblues

FAQs (continued)

-  **What does the festival do for Dereham?**

The market town of Dereham has seen significant growth over the past few years and the blues festival reflects and supports this social and economic development. The 2000+ visitors provide a real economic boost to the town and its businesses.
-  **What are the origins of The Dereham Blues Festival?**

The festival grew out of the vibrant Norfolk Blues Society which has been going for 8 years, and was also founded by Doreen & Stewart Aitken.
-  **Where is Dereham and how do I get there?**











Dereham is 16 miles west of Norwich and 30 miles east of King's Lynn, just off the A47. Buses run to the centre of Dereham from Norwich And King's Lynn on a regular basis.
-  **How do the bands get paid?**

The hosting venues pay a fee to the bands for playing at that venue. Large audiences visit most venues.
-  **How long do the bands play for and when?**

On average, each band plays an hour-long set. Depending on the programme, bands move around the venues and play several over the course of the week.

Dereham, the heart of Norfolk, it's where the beat is!

Communications Bullets

-  The 2020 Dereham Blues Festival will run for 5 days from 08/07-12/07.
-  Full information, biography, music and media kit for the 2020 opening act, Mike Sanchez & The Portions, can be found at www.mikesanchez.com You can download high res. images from: www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk/about/media-centre
-  The Dereham Blues Festival started in 2013, attracting approx. 500 people.
-  The festival has grown each year, now attracting 2000+ people and featuring more venues than ever, becoming a go-to event on the blues calendar.
-  The festival kicks off each year with a well-known headline act and throughout the subsequent four days features 50+ acts, many from East Anglia.
-  Previous headline acts include Andy Fairweather-Low, Georgie Fame and last year's barnstorming Hamilton Loomis.
-  All venues are free to enter except the opening headline act at Dereham Memorial Hall, tickets for this are available at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/>
-  The market town of Dereham has seen significant social and economical growth over the last few years and Dereham Blues Festival aims to support and reflect this development, with many local businesses reporting boosts in trade during festival week.
-  The festival continues to be a success thanks to its two lead organisers Doreen & Stewart Aitken, who remain heavily involved alongside a dedicated Group of volunteers chaired by Harry Collins.
-  This year's festival sponsors are: East Bilney Garage, who are the headline sponsors; Stephenson Smart, who are main sponsors; Dereham Taxis, also main sponsors; and Orchard Caravans, who are business sponsors. For more details visit www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk/about/sponsors