



## NOTES TO EDITORS

This 2019 Dereham Blues Festival will run from Wednesday July 10th to Sunday July 14th.

For full info, biography, music and media kit on Hamilton Loomis, the opening act for this year's 2019 Dereham Blues Festival please see <http://www.hamiltonloomis.com>. You can download high res images from the website here: <http://www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk/about/media-centre>

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>.

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](mailto:derehambluesfestival.org.uk/contact.html)

Dereham Blues Festival is now a not for profit company under its chairman Harry Collins who leads the devoted team of Blues volunteers, most of whom are themselves active gigging musicians. The founding members were Doreen and Stewart Aitken who ran the festival in the early years since the first event back in 2013.

Some 50+ acts perform in the festival, drawn from "local grown" talent from Norfolk and East Anglia and from all over the rest of the UK.

The festival kicks off each year with a well known national or international blues act. Previous years have seen Paul Jones (Manfred Mann and The Blues Band) in 2014, in 2015 Mud Morganfield, in 2016 Dr. Feelgood and Andy Fairweather Low in 2017. Last year's 2018 festival opening gig featured Georgie Fame and attracted a sell-out crowd and rave reviews.

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.

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. As founding members, they remain fully involved and are determined that the blues festival has a long future.

The festival is run by an entirely volunteer group of twelve local Norfolk blues enthusiasts and is supported by the Norfolk Blues Society - <http://www.norfolkbluessociety.org.uk>.

We are proud to be associated with following sponsors of the Festival and we thank them for their support: East Bilney Garage who are the Headline Sponsors; Heineken, Main Sponsors; Stephenson Smart, a Main Sponsor, and Orchard Caravans, a Business Sponsor. Please see our website for more details at: [derehambluesfestival.org.uk/about/sponsors](http://derehambluesfestival.org.uk/about/sponsors)

Applications from bands wanting to play in 2020 will be accepted from September 2019 via the new website [www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk](http://www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk)

### Further information

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