



## Preparations for the 2019 Dereham Blues Festival in full swing

Tickets for the opening gig kicking off the 2019 Dereham Blues Festival on July 10th featuring the sensational American blues guitarist Hamilton Loomis are selling as fast as his electric fingers move up and down his guitar fret board.

The headline concert at the Dereham Memorial Hall on Wednesday July 10th features Hamilton and his top band which also includes the Grammy award winning jazz saxophonist Fabian Hernandez. It is fabulous to think that a Grammy award winning musician is coming to Dereham to play alongside such a rising star as Hamilton Loomis.

Support on the night will come from top local Norfolk blues man and British Blues Award nominee Ron Sayer backed by top local band the Shunters. Ron is a firm favourite among blues fans locally and up and down the country.

Don't miss this fabulous gig and to avoid disappointment, hurry and get your tickets straight away via the festival website [www.derehamb blues festival.org.uk](http://www.derehamb blues festival.org.uk) or at [www.ticket source.co.uk/date/594723](http://www.ticket source.co.uk/date/594723).

Thereafter follows four days packed with the very finest music that is the Dereham Blues Festival featuring some 52 top blues acts drawn from the all over the East Anglia region and the UK from Thursday 11th July through to the super jams on the final day, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

13 Dereham town centre venues including clubs and pubs, bars and restaurants, cafes and even on the platform at the railway station will host live blues and roots music every day starting in the afternoons and running through to the late evening. A unique feature of the festival is that entry to all the venues is completely free. So order some refreshments at the venues and sit or stand to listen to and even dance to some of the hottest blues sounds around.

Once again this year the festival organisers received more band applications to play than there was space in the program, even though this year the festival has been extended by an extra day to five days from July 10th to 14th. The full programme and timetable have now been published and is available on the festival website [www.derehamb blues festival.org.uk](http://www.derehamb blues festival.org.uk).

A brand new website by local software developer David Smith, available from the 29<sup>th</sup> April, includes the facility to create and print out your own schedule of acts you want to see, so now there are no excuses for missing your favourite bands!

As summed up by the Dereham Blues Festival's chairman Harry Collins "I am so looking forward to this year's festival which will be bigger and better than ever. Together with all the hard working volunteers who organise the festival we are proud to be associated with an event that brings so much to Dereham and boosts its place on the map economically, socially and musically. Finally a big thanks must go out to the venues for hosting the music and of course the bands who come increasingly from far and wide to make the town centre come alive over the five days of the festival.

Truly a whole load more than 12 bars of blues."

Don't miss the 2019 Dereham Blues Festival July 10th – 14th. It's going to be fabulous.

**ENDS**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**



## Further information

Carolyn Coleman email: [Support@derehambluesfestival.org.uk](mailto:Support@derehambluesfestival.org.uk), tel. 01362 695084

Jim Niven email: [Media@derehambluesfestival.org.uk](mailto:Media@derehambluesfestival.org.uk); tel. 07528492288

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## 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 [www.hamiltonloomis.com](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: .

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: [info@derehambluesfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@derehambluesfestival.org.uk)

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 in 2017 Andy Fairweather Low and the Low Riders. 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: [www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk/about/sponsors](http://www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk/about/sponsors)

The 2019 Dereham Blues Festival will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

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) and will remain open until February 2020.

