

# DEREHAM BLUES FESTIVAL

## New features for 2019 Dereham Blues Festival – July 10-14th

Calling all music lovers especially fans of blues and roots music! The bigger and better than ever 2019 Dereham Blues Festival is upon us with some sensational new features.

It all kicks off on Wednesday 10th July with a fabulous opening concert at the Dereham Memorial Hall featuring a true international star, Hamilton Loomis and his top band featuring the Grammy Award winning saxophonist Fabian Hernandez. Hamilton hails from Galveston, Texas, and he is carving out a real hot reputation for playing some of the hottest Texas blues around. He is a true class act who has honed his craft over many years from early childhood.

Augmenting what will be a fabulous night of music at the Dereham Memorial Hall on the 10th July, local blues man and top favourite Ron Sayer is providing the support act, backed by The Shunters comprising three of the very best local musicians.

The opening concert is always amazing, with top talent from the UK attracting accolades in past years – and this year will be an equally brilliant a start to the 2019 blues festival with the incredibly talented Texan, Hamilton Loomis and his band. What a start to this year's blues festival the opening concert is going to be.

A few tickets for the opening gig are still available but don't leave it too long – they will sell out! You can see a video of Hamilton and his band on our brand new website and also follow the link to buy your tickets. These are a bargain this year at just £20, with two top performers. See [www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk](http://www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk)

Then follows not three days as in past years, but four days of wall to wall blues filling Dereham town centre from Thursday evening through to Sunday afternoon (11th to 14th July), culminating in the famous blues jam sessions (bring your guitar) at several venues. All information about the 2019 Dereham Blues Festival can be found at <https://www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk>

For the duration of the festival, 13 town centre venues ranging from pubs, bars, cafes, restaurants, the cricket club and the railway station will host 50 different blues acts drawn from East Anglia and even further and wider afield across the UK. That's more than 100 free gigs, all pulsating with top quality live music pouring out into the streets.

Entry to the venues is free. So grab your favourite refreshment and sit, stand and even dance the hours away to the high energy high quality and stunning musicianship.

The full programme is available on the festival's brand new, redesigned website and you can view all the exciting events by [artist](#), [venue](#) or by [date and time](#). You can even select acts from the full schedule to build your own personalised timetable to keep with you as you tour the town, making sure you don't miss a single minute of the more than twelve bars of blues that is this year's Dereham Blues Festival.

In another first for the festival, this year will see the production of a CD, Dereham Blues volume 1, which features many of the bands that have performed at the festival and gives a real taste of the talent on offer every year. This will be on sale during the festival and from the website.

The Festival Chairman Harry Collins says he can't wait for this year's event. Harry says: "The annual Dereham Blues Festival is always eagerly anticipated each year. This year even more so, being longer spread over five days in including a top international blues artist from the US. The Dereham Blues Festival makes a huge and vibrant lift to the town centre. So come on down. I guarantee you'll have a fabulous time."

## ENDS

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> June 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.

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, many 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 of the Friends of Dereham Memorial hall, 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.

