



PRESS RELEASE: DEREHAM BLUES FESTIVAL 2022

The much loved and nationally listed Dereham Blues Festival (DBF) will return in 2022 after a two year break caused by the pandemic. The dedicated committee has met every month for the last 16 months to ensure that when the festival did return it did so with renewed verve, energy and pizzazz.

Negotiations are well under way to secure a fresh and dynamic headline act for the opening concert to be held at the Memorial Hall in Dereham. The festival is set to run from Wednesday 6 July through to Sunday 10 July 2022 and festival goers can expect to discover new venues taking part in addition to the regular favourite pubs and hotels. Local sponsors Minors and Brady, Dereham Taxis and Orchard Caravans have all pledged their support for the event, ensuring the festival is secured and on course to be better than ever with new and more varied venues wanting to take part.

DBF Chairman Harry Collins said "We are extremely grateful to our sponsors without whom the festival just could not go ahead and we and our venue partners are raring to go. The website has already opened the bands application page and applications have already been coming in thick and fast. There are so many bands desperate to get playing again that competition will be really hot for 2022. We will of course be selecting the cream of the crop to ensure a top-notch experience for festival goers." He urged bands, especially youngsters to get practicing their blues now so that they had time to get a video of a live performance submitted to the Festival before the applications close on 14 February 2022. The application page can be found at <https://www.derehamb bluesfestival.org.uk/wanna-play>.

" For 2022 we have a number of new initiatives for the wider Dereham community to look out for with competitions and opportunities for all sorts of people to get involved. For instance to help celebrate the return of the festival, Dereham Community Crafters are going to deck out the town with their wonderful creations. This enthusiastic group have already made a start and have researched and created some amazing patterns and designs. Judy Rogers who heads the Crafters said " the group are really excited about their plans but are trying to keep it top secret." To help them in Dereham Blues Festival team are asking anyone who has any shade of spare blue, white or shocking pink wool to donate to the crafters it would really help give them a boost. They also require old denim jeans. These and the wool and can be donated to the craft shop in Cuthbert court or directly to Judy Rogers can be contacted on 07368 394499. Any cash donations to buy wool yarn and materials would also be gratefully received. If you would like to help or get involved with Dereham Community Crafters email: derehamcommunitycrafters@mail.com

Harry Collins commented that " We are really excited, intrigued and appreciative of the enthusiastic support the Dereham Crafters have shown. In fact eager support right through the town has never been more enthusiastic. The 2022 Dereham Blues Festival is going to be just fantastic."

The DBF committee are also organising a creative competition for artistic youngsters in the town. We are looking to see if any of the town's creative students could design a new logo for Dereham Blues Festival. Harry urged art tutors in the town to encourage their students to apply. The winning design is intended to be used on T-shirts, badges and posters etc. Both digital and hand produced art work will allowed but should be no bigger than A4 and submitted as a 300dpi file with a maximum size of 5Mgb. The competition will open in the New Year and entries can be submitted to the website. All entries will be displayed on the website and the winner will receive a T shirt with their design on it along with other Festival goodies.

As a new event within the festival the committee also hope to organise a Busker's Blues Jamboree which will comprise of both top quality and new young buskers and local choirs. The outdoor busking



Jamboree is planned to take place on the afternoon of Saturday 9 July in the centre of Dereham. This special event is dependent on the group securing dedicated sponsorship so that the best buskers can be attracted to the town. If your business would like to support this event please contact Dereham Blues Festival via the Festival website <https://www.derehambluesfestival.org.uk/support-us/sponsor-us> or telephone 01362 860491.

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