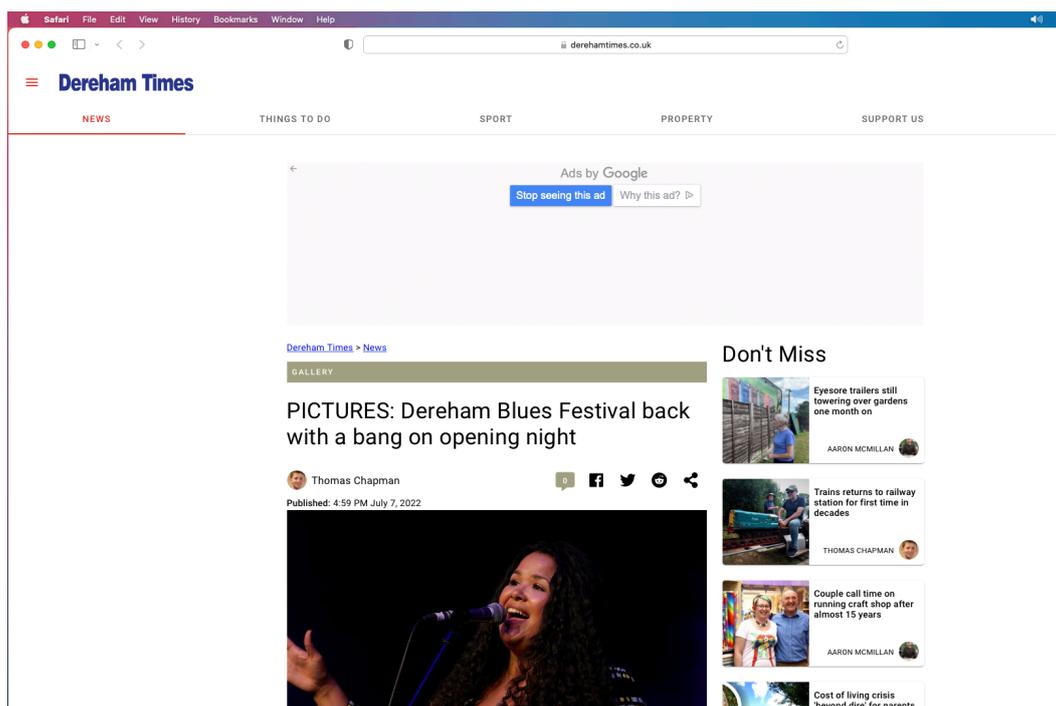


Some Feedback on the 2022 Dereham Blues Festival

[Dereham Times - 7th July] Dereham Blues Festival back with a bang on opening night

[<https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/dereham-blues-festival-2022-opening-night-9127622>]



After a two-year, Covid-enforced absence, the musical extravaganza got off to a flying start at Dereham Memorial Hall courtesy of headliners When Rivers Meet and Kyla Brox. A sell-out crowd was left beaming from ear to ear on Wednesday evening as Dereham Blues Festival made a triumphant return.

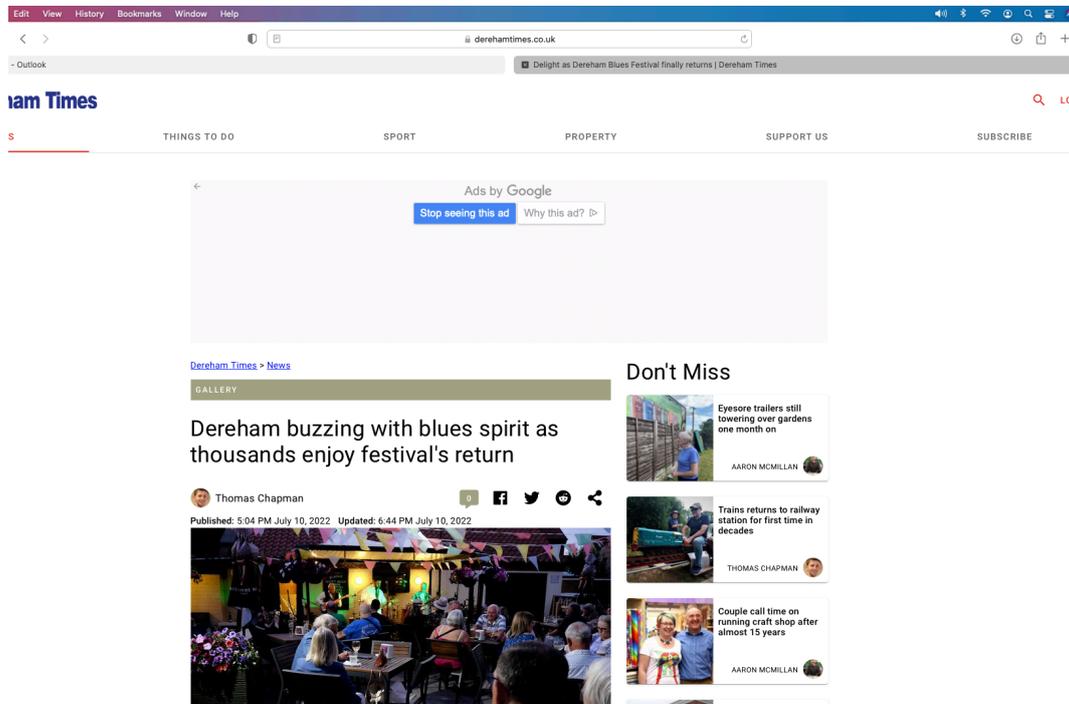
They were capably supported by local community choir Rockavox, who performed in the bar area before the main gig began.

The popular event, which has been attracting thousands of blues enthusiasts to mid Norfolk since 2013, is now [set to continue with another four days of entertainment](#).

[Dereham Times - 10th July] Dereham buzzing with blues spirit as thousands enjoy festival's return

[<https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/dereham-blues-festival-2022-pictures-9134488>]

Blues fever swept Dereham over the weekend as a beloved music festival finally made its



comeback.

Organisers of Dereham Blues Festival had promised a "bigger festival than we have ever seen before" following a two-year absence due to Covid. And they certainly kept their promise as the five-day extravaganza delivered a huge variety of music from around 70 bands and artists, playing in 20 unique venues.

Then came another four days of entertainment in venues from pubs and bars to sports and social clubs, including everything from classic blues to rock and roll.

For the first time ever, this year's edition even offered an open-air busking event at Ellenor Fenn Garden on Saturday afternoon, giving up-and-coming acts the chance to showcase their talents.

[Dereham Times - 12th July] Organisers overwhelmed as return of Dereham Blues Festival proves a big hit

<https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/successful-return-for-dereham-blues-festival-9139556>

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Dereham Times website. The main article is titled "Organisers overwhelmed as return of Dereham Blues Festival proves a big hit" by Thomas Chapman, published on July 12, 2022. The article includes a photograph of two women shaking hands. To the right of the main article is a "Don't Miss" section with three smaller articles: "Eyesore trailers still towering over gardens one month on", "Couple call time on running craft shop after almost 15 years", and "Door staff disarmed man with metal pole outside Wetherspoon pub".

The organisers of Dereham Blues Festival were over the moon after the musical extravaganza proved a big success on its return after two years away.

Venues across the town were packed with punters from Thursday to Sunday as thousands of blues enthusiasts descended on mid Norfolk.

A "bigger festival than ever before" had been promised in the build-up to the event, and it certainly delivered following a two-year, Covid-enforced absence.

Around 70 bands and artists played in 20 venues, with some, such as Darby's in Swanton Morley, getting involved for the first time.

Doreen Aitken, festival secretary, said the whole organising committee was delighted with the outcome after months of hard work.

"We wanted something that would raise everybody's spirits after Covid, and I think we did that," added Mrs Aitken.

"The festival has been tremendously missed. There were some people who were massively impacted by Covid, and this was a release for them.

It wasn't just fans who came from far and wide for the blues festival, but artists too."It was incredible to see so many happy, smiling faces.

Some travelled from as far afield as Ireland and Scotland to be involved, demonstrating just how much the event has grown since the inaugural edition in 2013.

Mrs Aitken said she was pleased to see so many young people enjoying a genre often stereotyped as being for "old timers". You can see how much joy it brings to people."

Social Media Comments from Festival goers and the Bands

"I would like to say an absolute MASSIVE thank you to all the organisers of The Dereham Blues Festival. Wow!!! What a FANTASTIC Event. Thankyou!! Thankyou!! Thankyou!!"

"Glad you enjoyed your first time at the Blues Festival. Great evening, fantastic music."

"I've just returned from the 2022 Dereham Blues Festival. Once again I enjoyed it very much. My thanks to all involved. "

"Many thanks to you all for all the hard work put to produce such a fantastic festival."

"We wanted to thank you for having us at your amazing festival. We were so welcomed by everyone and so well looked after by the venues. Everything was extremely well organised by you, meaning we we're able to get on and play and feel really relaxed. Thank you so much again. It is truly something special you have created."

"Fantastic day of gigs today"

" Really looking forward to it..."

"Great fun Another fantastic crowd."

"We had a great time yesterday"

"Phenomenal voice, well done Kyla!"

"Phenomenal artist and dress!! Not many others up to this standard in the U.K. Singers (not dresses) x"

"Danced 9.5 miles (24,700 steps) watching 7 bands at The Dereham Blues Festival;"

"Can't wait to see you guys, feels like it's been forever! 🥰"

".....we had such a great gig there and the crowd were fantastic."

"What a warm and welcoming crowd"

"Here's to a fantastic Dereham Blues Festival, back again, better than ever!"

"Just wanted to post a few words reflecting on the great times we've had over the last few days at the Dereham Blues Festival. It really is a privilege to be a part of such a fantastic event, thank you to the organising committee, volunteer helpers and all the awesome musicians who helped to make this happen. We are really proud to include ourselves in that group this year! Extra special thanks to all the music lovers who joined us at any of our gigs, we had an absolute ball and it looked like you did too! We were absolutely blown away by the reception we got and hope to see you all at another show soon. Much love to you all for helping to keep the Blues live! ❤️"

"..... playing for such appreciative crowds is a real pleasure!"

"First time and was absolutely fantastic."

"..... Awesome"

"Dereham Blues Festival..... What can you say..... Perfect weather, perfect venues, perfect bands, perfect audiences, perfect atmosphere. Massive thanks go to Stewart Aitken and Doreen Aitken, the parents of the festival, it was their vision and dogged hard work to get the first festival going way back in 2012, now in 2022 with a committee to help and support them they have pulled off the best yet, much love to them both and huge respect and admiration to Harry Collins chairman of the festival committee and Mark Gregory, sound man, cameraman and all round lovely guy. Finally, thanks and recognition should go to the small army of volunteers who did all the leg work to enable it to go smoothly. Dereham Blues Festival.... I salute you, x"

"Fantastic event, loved it all, huge thanks to everyone who organised & helped!"

"..... Hope everyone enjoyed it as much as us, it was a blast!"

"..... my personal goal was to play at the DBF and this year my dream came true, thank you very much Stewart and Doreen and hard working committee..... faith hope and love ❤️"

"...Excellent ..."

"Great festival (as always), great music and great weather!!"

"..... the venue was so packed they couldn't allow any more festival goers in! It was hot! Big thank you to the festival organisers and all the people that came Roll on 2023!"

"..... super talented..... well done."

"I'm defo going to this gig 😎"

"Kyra Brox was fantastic. Great lead guitar as well. Loved When Rivers Meet....."

On the Dereham Blues Festival Blues Busk

“Fantastic day, loved it 🤗🎸🎵🎵”