



## Press Release For News Editors

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### **T&R THEAKSTONS HELPS THE BEAT GO ON** Brewer of famous Old Peculier supports Ripley Blues concerts

T&R Theakston is sponsoring this year's Ripley Blues series of concerts in the North Yorkshire village.

Ripley Blues is now a significant part of the UK blues calendar and regularly draws in top names from the world of R'n'B. Headlining acts in this year's programme includes The Yardbirds; Wilko Johnson; The Blues Band; The Hamsters and Nine Below Zero.

Theakston's sponsorship of Ripley Blues follows the recent acquisition by the founding family of the famous eponymous Masham-based brewer from Scottish-Courage.

Simon Theakston, the director who led the family buy back, said: "At Theakston we have always had a reputation for supporting local initiatives and community interests.

"Now that the brewery is back in family control we are delighted to resurrect that tradition and support events like Ripley Blues which has won such a great following since it was launched in 1999 by organiser Andy Herrington."

Theakston has long been associated with live music and in 1982 organised the first of many blues and folk festivals in North Yorkshire. The company employs 20 staff in Masham, responsible for brewing, sales and marketing. The company is one of the few brewers in the country that still employs a cooper crafting wooden casks in which the beers mature.

The brewery has a visitor centre where guests can witness beer being brewed by traditional methods and learn more about the history of brewing. Theakston beers include Best Bitter, XB, Old Peculier, Mild and Black Bull Bitter.

Gigs planned for the year include The Yardbirds (May 8); Wilko Johnson (June 3); The Ian Parker Band (July 9); The Blues Band – led by legendary Manfred Mann front-man Paul Jones (October 2); The Hamsters (December 5) and Nine Below Zero (December 18 and 19).

Paul Jones, best known as the singer in Sixties Manfred Mann, and now front man with The Blues Band, said: "This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Blues Band being together we are delighted that Theakston supported this event in what is a very special year for us."