

## **WEYFEST 09. The Rural Life Centre, Tilford, nr Farnham, Surrey 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

WEYFEST, the increasingly popular music festival, has pulled off a major coup this year with the announcement of one of the world's biggest rock bands as headliners. Rock legends JETHRO TULL will be performing at Weyfest in September, in one of only a handful of UK concerts this year.

Formed in 1968 and lead by Ian Anderson, the mighty Tull have been recording and playing live ever since, celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year with another sold-out world tour, including 29 concerts in major venues throughout the UK.

Initially formed as a blues band, the eclectic nature of their musical development has seen Tull receive awards for achievements in progressive rock, folk music and everything else in between, including a Grammy for Best Hard Rock / Heavy Metal album – beating Metallica in the process!

Tull have sold in excess of 50 million albums and broken house attendance records everywhere, including an unprecedented five-night sell out at New York's Madison Square Gardens. This year their tours cover India, Russia, most of Europe, Beirut, North America .... and Tilford!

Still lead by Ian Anderson, the famously long haired, bearded manic figure, renowned for his unusual habit of standing on one leg whilst playing the flute as only he can, the band has lost none of its dazzling musical prowess and dexterity even if the dancing and twirling around the stage has lessened with the years! Now a respected and successful business man, Anderson's onstage demeanour is in sharp contrast with his real-life persona. He has won awards for Scots Business Man of the year, has an honorary doctorate from Edinburgh University, and was awarded the MBE last year for services to music. He is also a generous supporter of many charities and has released an album and performed concerts in aid of the UK's homeless.

It is fitting that he is bringing his band to The Rural Life Centre, a museum preserving aspects of rural life of the past, as Jethro Tull of course took their name from an 18<sup>th</sup> century agriculturist, the inventor of the seed drill!

Other highlights of Weyfest, to be held at the Rural Life Centre in Tilford on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September, include return performances by The Beat, Osibisa and local legend Jackie Lynton. Nik Turner brings his band of fellow ex Hawkwind members Space Ritual, along with Mungo Jerry, John Otway & Wild Willy Barrett, Rory McLeod, the amazing Rodney Brannigan, award winning blues-harp maestro Errol Linton and many, many more. And another treat for Tull fans and lovers of rock/blues guitar will be Mick Abrahams and his band Blodwyn Pig. Mick was a founder member of Jethro Tull and is regarded as one of the UK's foremost guitarists.

All the usual Weyfest attractions will be there and more. Weyfest was short-listed for "Best Family Festival Of 2008" and even more family fun is promised for this year. The festival site is bordered by the Rural Life Centre's famous working light railway, with regular trips offered on both steam and diesel trains – popular amongst children and adults alike! The dedicated Children's Play Area will include a host of activities, including music workshops designed specifically for the very young. Daleks will mingle with Storm Troopers and other sci-fi characters throughout the weekend, with the traditional Lantern Parade topping off the festivities.

Tickets are on sale now online at [www.weyfest.co.uk](http://www.weyfest.co.uk) , with the early bird (first 750 tickets) weekend ticket price of just £59. Day tickets, child tickets, camping etc. also available. See [www.weyfest.co.uk](http://www.weyfest.co.uk) for details.