

Summer Soulstice

In memory of Andy Weekes 1963-2006



...Soul on a Summer's day!

Saturday 27 June 2020

11am-11pm @ Old Elizabethans Memorial Playing Fields, Mays Lane, Barnet, EN5 2AG

It started as a small gathering of friends and family in 2007 to celebrate a dear friend's life and to raise money for a local cancer charity. Summer Soulstice has now become an award winning, one day boutique soul festival in Barnet, north London, which has featured some of the biggest names in the world of UK black music.

This special fundraising event continues to raise funds for independent charity Cherry Lodge Cancer Care, as well as other local causes close to the organisers' hearts. The generosity and support of everyone involved and those who support the festival each year, come rain or shine, has raised over £400,000 and all in the name of Andy Weekes. Andy sadly passed away from Renal Cell Carcinoma 14 years ago and this money helps Cherry Lodge to continue their good work, improving the quality of life for people living with cancer, as well as their carers, family and friends.

Over the years DJs like Nicky Holloway, Dr Bob Jones, Stretch Taylor, Richard Earnshaw, Jeff Young, Bigger, Ash Selector, Soul II Soul's Aitch B and other, have spread the love at the three musical arenas within Summer Soulstice.



The main stage has played host to live performances and PA's from the likes of Incognito, Omar, The Real Thing, Shaun Escoffery, Aswad, Alison Limerick, Andy Abraham, Beggar & Co... the list goes on.

Summer Soulstice attracts people of all ages, who mingle in the music areas, the bars, food outlets and other stalls. Families with younger children have a free kids fun area and there's jugglers and plenty of entertainment throughout the day at the historic green surrounds of the Old Elizabethans Memorial Playing Fields situated between Barnet and Elstree. There's also a small pre-booked camp site available but spaces are limited as popularity grows year on year!



So what kind of person was Andy Weekes that has moved so many people to put on this annual music event in his honour?

Summer Soulstice Chairman and organiser Dave James says “Andy lived life to the full, he made friends with everyone and his passions were sport. He loved playing cricket, soccer and rugby (especially the social side) and of course he LOVED soul music.”

Andy’s younger brother and fellow organiser, Richard Weekes describes him as a ‘friend’. “Whether it was on the way to school in the morning, on the sports field or in the pub, you always wanted him by your side. You knew you were in for a good time.”

“He was a whole lot of fun that’s for sure,” says Giles Pratt, the man who had the initial idea to honour his friend, “having known him from my teens it was a real shock when he died so prematurely. I thought it would be a good idea to do an annual charity soul event in his memory which would be in line with his musical taste and huge personality. Let me tell you, if he were still alive he’d be the first one in and the last one to leave!”

Andy was indeed a big character on the UK soul scene selling official merchandise for all the major American soul artists at concert venues during the 1980’s & 1990’s, before he emigrated to the USA himself. His death was an enormous loss to both his family, including his only son Braeden, & to all his friends on both sides of the Atlantic. But Andy Weekes’ name lives on in all their hearts and with every Summer Soulstice that takes place on Barnet’s own ‘field of dreams’.

DJ Jester Groove another of the organisers talks of when he first met Andy back in 1998. “I was on Soul24-7 Radio and he was an avid listener. After many conversations via e-mail, we finally met on one of his trips back home from the USA to see his family back in Barnet. Nothing was too much trouble for Andy, he had a heart of gold and I still miss his coolness and witty banter to this day.”

And of course Andy lived his life to the full and doing all of these things to the soundtrack of his life... classic and modern soul. Summer Soulstice is his legacy and we want to continue to raise money for our chosen charity and other, smaller local causes, close to our heart and which are pertinent to our ethos... Please join us as we do it one more time in June 2020!



more

“Without the enormous support Summer Soulstice give us, Cherry Lodge would have great difficulty in coping. Their extreme generosity finances, among other things, the annual salary of one of our much-needed cancer nurses and we all know how important an organisation like Cherry Lodge is to the community. Thank you Soulstice Crew, we love you.”

Dr. Margaret Clark, Chair of Trustees, Cherry Lodge Cancer Care



Registered charity number 1011629

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Headliners!

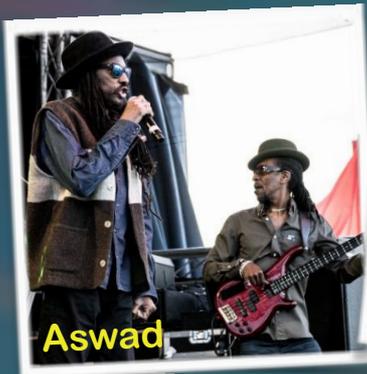
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As well as our incredible DJ line-up, we never really imagined that such musical luminaries of the U.K. (and U.S.) black music scene would grace our little festival! But since 2008, we've had just that, from full live sets and comeback concerts, to long awaited performances and special one-off PA's, here are just some of the amazing main stage acts we've had from recent years...



Aswad



Incognito



Alison Limerick



Andy Abraham



Howard Johnson



The Real Thing



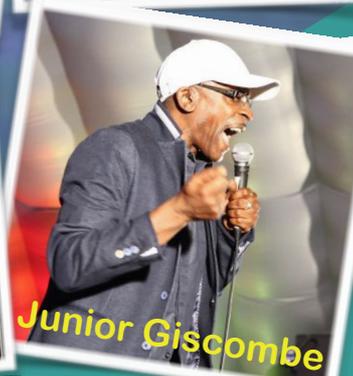
Kenny Thomas



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