

Northern Soul Survivors

The
Soul
Survivors
Magazine

■ A Soul Galore Weekender Special Supplement

August 2017

Les Csonge & Ann Taylor give us an insight into their world of "Northern Soul" from their early beginnings as teenagers in the early 70's growing up in Blackpool and Bacup Lancashire right up to their forthcoming Soul Galore Weekender on the South Coast of England this October 13th-15th 2017 at the Leas Cliff Hall Folkestone.

Les Csonge

"I guess you would have to say I was the, now stereotyped, description of an early Northern Souler, white, working class from Lancashire.



My mother worked in a biscuit factory and my dad (RIP) was a HGV driver"

At age 15 I got a job working on the hot dog and burger stall in the car park under the Mecca

in Blackpool, it was crazy busy. At closing time the queues would be 5 deep, full of wide eyed youngsters clutching vinyl records, buzzing like bees around the van. Earlier at 12 midnight many were jumping on a coach to go to this place called Wigan. I did not understand why at the time but I guess, not surprisingly, it was not too long before I was joining them on the trip"



Les Blackpool Mecca 70's

The 70's Soul Scene had a lot more to it than just underground Northern, we had Soul and TSOP in the charts that local pubs like The Crown would be playing before we would head to the Blackpool Casino at the Pleasure Beach, many smaller clubs like Barbarellas



and others would be playing a great mixture of both Northern & Motown.

Before the legendary Saturday Nights at the Mecca with Colin Curtis & Ian Levine I used to go to the Sunday Sessions in the Highland room, it was open to age 16+ and was like a stepping stone to the main event for me.

I can remember vividly my very first visit to Wigan Casino (pictured), the hairs stood up on the back of my neck just as they are now as I recollect it and when I hear a certain tune, the heat as you went through the doors and pure energy and sense of belonging was addictive, the whole room was clapping in unison to then breaking now legendary tunes of Richard Searling, Russ Winstanley, Kev Roberts and many more great DJs.

Ann Taylor

I grew up in Lancashire - loving Motown and other Soul music since the age of about 11, I started going to the Wigan Casino All Nighters in 1974 and like a lot of people pretending to stay at a friends house overnight! I also went to Blackpool Mecca and afterwards would catch the coach to Wigan.

There were also some really good local clubs around - especially Ginger (Taylor) and Eddie's events and Accrington British Legion, where you could get your Soul "fix", I gravitated towards people who had a real passion for the music and not simply a "liking" for it.

I left the north of England in 1980 to attend college in Croydon and was away from

the scene for several decades (like a lot of people for one reason or another) then I had what I suppose you might call a "mid-life crisis" and decided to explore the Soul scene down south, I had a yearning to promote and DJ.

I saw Martha Reeves at the Jazz Café and an ex-Wigan Soul fan I met that night encouraged me to go for it! This person I met was Les who is now my partner.

I bought some decks (Technics), mixer and speakers - and of course MORE records and started in a local pub in Teddington on Thursday nights.

Some local Soul fans and DJs became regulars, we outgrew the pub so I set up Teddington Fridays at the Constitutional Club down the road which is now in its 6th year and regularly gets 150+ attendees from all over London and the South.

The Dome All Dayers (Sundays) in Tufnell Park are also into the 6th year with a fabulous large retro room and

dancefloor and coincidently the venue of the old Capitol Soul Club, we have people travelling from all over the UK to this and it gives us the opportunity to have great guest DJ's (Sean Chapman 24th September).

Our biggest project to date is the forthcoming Soul Galore Weekender in Folkestone, October 13/14/15th which was inspired by the great Soul Galore record by Jackie Wilson (Brunswick) I find it difficult to play a set without Jackie - he can do no wrong... his voice is like an instrument and what a showman, I love the pace of this song it's a real "belter" as we say Ooop North!

Ann - Cats Whiskers
Burnley 70's



“There’s a whole lot of Northern in the South”

(Derek Mead, Soulmine Records & Bisley/Lakeside Nightshift)

Although both Northerners by birth and youth Ann has lived in the South for over 37 years whilst Les has lived in the Midlands, South West, Oxfordshire and 3 years in the USA now settled in Surrey.

“There is definitely a difference between the North and South when it comes to Northern Soul music and events though we would say more an expansion rather than a divide”

When I first moved south I found a lot of the events were much smaller, often in pubs without a dance floor, sometimes mixing the music up with Ska and other genres.

For me it has always been about Dancing and for that you need a decent size dance floor, when you combine that with great tunes and passionate people the magic happens and a great atmosphere is created.

For many years we have both travelled up north regularly to the larger traditional Northern Soul weekenders like Blackpool, Prestatyn, Cleethorpes and many others and more recently international events in Europe and now USA.

An All Nighter / Weekender was the natural progression from the successful monthly nights and Sunday All Dayers so people could experience the Togetherness and feeling

of a larger event down South and that is how Soul Galore was born.

We searched for a suitable large venue for months, trying to find somewhere with a big enough dancefloor and good accommodation, several holiday camps and locations later we discovered the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone, the minute we walked in we just knew this was it.

Because it was a South based event we knew there would also be a lot of people who would like Modern Soul and other genres like Rare and Underplayed and another passion of ours Disco Soul so we added appropriate dedicated rooms for all of them, we also wanted to keep the cost sensible and at £25 for an all



Day/Night (2pm-6am)

Ticket £34 Full Week-

end Wristband (Fri-Sun) and with inclusive Hotel packages starting at £99 Sat night £169 full weekend we think we have managed to create a real value for money event.

Live Acts have always been popular and we were delighted to convince Kiki Dee to come and sing her 60's/70's Motown recordings and of course the classic Magic Carpet Ride backed by Snake Davis & The Suspicions whilst on the Modern side chart topping acts Soulutions and Peter Symphonien will be in the amazing Channel Suite.

NORTHERN

MODERN



OCTOBER
13, 14, 15
2017



MOTOWN

DISCO



Kiki
Dee

LIVE
ON
STAGE



Soulutions



Snake Davis
& The
Suspensions

Peter
Symphorien



FRIDAY 13TH, SATURDAY 14TH, SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER

THE LEAS CLIFF GRAND HALL + CHANNEL SUITE

GRAND BURSTIN HOTEL + SOUTHCLIFF HOTEL, FOLKESTONE, KENT

NIGE BROWN
MARTIN STANFORD
TROWBRIDGE MATT
BILL BROTHERTON
DEREK MEAD
JULIE LAMBERT
DENNIS HYDE
TOM PAGE
PADDY SHEVLIN
RESIDENT DJ
ANN TAYLOR

DJs

KEN LUNN
SEB NILSSON
CARMEN MCCULLOCH
DANNY NORTH
DARREN LAMBERT
DAVID CRABTREE
ALFIE LINNEY
MOLDIE
IAN GREGORY
THE MITCHELL BROTHERS
RESIDENT DJ
LINDSAY JOBLING

DJs

COLIN CURTIS
PAUL GARLAND
CHRIS BOX
NEIL HANRATTY
TOMMY GUNN
MAXINE WOON
KEITH WOON
CHILLY
RESIDENT DJ
JOHN HERBERT



TEL/TEXT 07784 949272
www.soul-galore.com

USE CODE SSM TO GET A £10 DISCOUNT OFF ANY WEEKENDER PACKAGE

WWW.**SOUL-GALORE**.COM

FRI. 13TH **WEEKENDER** SUN. 15TH

OCTOBER 2017 FOLKSTONE KENT

FROM 2PM **MODERN SOUL** TO 6AM

Saturday in the Fabulous Leas Cliff Hall Channel Suite

Friday & Sunday at the Grand Burstin Hotel

Featuring
live on Stage
Soulutions &
Peter Symphorien

+

COLIN CURTIS ★ PAUL GARLAND ★ CHRIS BOX ★ NEIL HANRAFFY ★ FITZROY ★ TOMMY GUNN ★ MAXINE WOON ★
KEITH WOON ★ CHILLY ★ Resident DJ JOHN HERBERT

Tel/Text 07784 949272 www.soul-galore.com

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OCTOBER 13, 14, 15 2017
AT THE GRAND BURSTIN HOTEL

FRIDAY: 4pm
WELCOME PARTY IN THE LOUNGE

SATURDAY: 12pm
DISCO SOUL LUNCH IN HOTEL - THEMED DRESS ENCOURAGED. PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED. 70s AND BEYOND.
DJs in the Ballroom through to midnight

LIVE MUSIC WITH The Soul Man (aka Peter Symphorien) 4pm

SUNDAY: 10am
GOSPEL SOUL, CHILLED SOUL

Resident DJ Nick Doodney
+ Markus Yearley, Sue Hill, Les Csonge, Ian Gregory PLUS Guests

INIGHT SATURDAY £65 2 NIGHTS FRIDAY & SATURDAY £125. DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST
SATURDAY £25. DINNER, LIVE MUSIC & DISCO (no accommodation)
SATURDAY £10 (TICKET ONLY) LIVE MUSIC & DISCO
Buy tickets from www.buytickets.at/soulinites
Tel: 07784 949272 www.discosoul.co.uk