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Neighbourhood Weekender 2019 Review – Indie's Hottest Festival

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Neighbourhood Weekender returned to Victoria Park, Warrington this past Bank Holiday Weekend. NBHD Weekender, now in its second year, is becoming one of the best festivals to watch some of the biggest bands and hottest new artists. This year's edition did not disappoint, with massive headliners and huge acts filling every corner of the park.

Neighbourhood's Big Saturday

Saturday saw indie-pop band Yonaka open the mainstage. Their infectious sound and high energy kicked off the day right. Yonaka really put on a big show for all other artists to follow! Maisie Peters, Maximo Park and others put on massive shows to packed tents and stages across the afternoon, and whilst a few traffic and travel hiccups changed line ups slightly, nothing could derail the day.

The Hunna came out to an extremely busy Stage 2. Their massive set was a huge crowd-pleaser, felt like it was never ending in the best way, and they had the crowd screaming 'She's Casual' back at them. After that, Pale Waves, who'd just arrived back from the States early Saturday morning, took to Stage 2. Pale Waves always put on a show, that's why they're climbing festival line ups as fast as they are! Their massive set lit up the tent and everyone belting all of their anthems. It didn't hurt that Stage 2's DJ played classic rock hits and got everyone dancing between each set.

<u>Tom Grennan</u>'s Main Stage set was a well-deserved sequel to his performance last year. He's a true performer with a massive range of festival belters. 'Royal Highness' and a few others always go down well.

George Ezra headlined the main stage, taking his last tour into a huge set for a festival crowd. His well-practised back and forth was a crowd-pleaser, as were his huge hits, 'Casio', 'Budapest' and 'Shotgun'. You Me At Six took over Stage 2 to finish day one with 10-years of amazing indie hits. Their set was one of the standouts of the weekend and they've proved themselves as worthy of a headline set as ever.

An Even Bigger Sunday Line Up

The weather picked up, the sun was shining and the rain had given in by the time acts took to the stage on Sunday afternoon.

Liverpool's own Clean Cut Kid opened the Main Stage, and they own the fact they're really not an afternoon act. They like to be a few drinks in, performing for a drunk crowd. This didn't stop them from being absolutely incredible and having people belt out 'Vitamin C'. Jade Bird followed with a whole host of songs you won't realise you already know. Meanwhile, The Amazons filled up Stage 2 with an electric crowd chanting back every word they said, you almost couldn't fit in the tent.

Gerry Cinnamon was probably the most anticipated artist of the weekend. Flares were being lit almost every minute, to the point where the stage was obscured in a mist of rainbow fog. No one was more beloved by the crowd than Gerry Cinnamon, a man we'll probably see as a headliner by next year.

The UK's Best Festival Band

Whilst the audience's favourite is likely Gerry Cinnamon, my clear favourite performance has to be by The Vaccines. It's been about 9 years since they popped onto the scene, and in that time they've become the UK's best festival band. The Vaccines played belters on belters, banger after banger. They're veterans of the festival circuit and nail it every time, with high energy hits like 'If You Wanna', 'I Can't Quit', 'Nightclub' and 'Norgaard'. Though they also played unreleased track 'Jump Off The Top'. Hopefully we'll properly hear this soon, as it was an instant classic.

<u>Circa Waves</u> took to Stage 2 as the headline act. Or, as they introduced themselves 'Circa Slaves' – as they were a last minute substitute due to one of Slave's expecting the birth of his second child. Circa Waves were undoubtedly the best choice. Their huge set covered all three of their albums, including hits like 'Times Won't Change Me', 'Somebody Good', 'Fire That Burns', all culminating in 'T-Shirt Weather', and I estimate around 17 pits in a row. One man lost his shoe, don't know if he got it back, but it was probably worth it.

Neighbourhood Weekender 2019 was a resounding success

Neighbourhood Weekender 2019 was more than a success. They've cemented their status as one of the UK's premier festivals, and the foremost name in classic and indie rock. If Neighbourhood Weekender 2019 was this good, I can't wait to see what Neighbourhood Weekender brings in the future.

After another hugely successful festival this year, Neighbourhood Weekender at Victoria Park, Warrington will return in 2020! Get ready for another bank holiday full of music, arts, food and fun on May 23rd and 24th.

The organisers of Neighbourhood Weekender are announcing in delight its return for a third year! A special limited early bird pre-sale will be available from Friday 31st May at 9.30am until Friday 7th June at 9.30am for weekend tickets only.

Neighbourhood Weekender early bird presales will likely sell out immediately, so don't miss out! It's sure to be another massive event.

Early Bird Weekend tickets will go onsale Friday 31st May at 9.30am via www.nbhdweekender.com, www.gigsandtours.com and www.ticketmaster.co.uk.

Follow Neighbourhood Weekender on Twitter here and Instagram here.

Photo Credit:

Laurence Howe Photography for George Ezra, Tom Grennan and The Vaccines Graham Joy Photography for Jade Bird

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Apart from working as a music journalist, David works in communications within the charity sector. He's a big fan of everything travel, coffee and dogs and a complete expert on everything Bastille and Lorde.

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