



From top: The Big Chill; hanging out at Standon Calling; T4 on the Beach



BEST-KEPT SECRET

SECRET GARDEN PARTY

Like stepping into a magical universe, this year's theme is 'fact or fiction', so expect weird and wonderful characters in this gorgeous lakeside spot.

Where: It's a secret! But we know it's somewhere near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

When: 22-25 July

Headliners: Gorillaz Sound System, Mercury Rev, Marina and the Diamonds, Skatalites, The Jessie Rose Trip

How much: £142 for weekend with camping

Book it: www.secretgardenparty.com/2010

THE BIG CHILL FESTIVAL

The original – and still the best – boutique festival, this spacious and eco-conscious festival appreciates all kinds of music.

Where: Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

When: 5-8 August

Headliners: Massive Attack, MIA, Roots Manuva, Kruder & Dorfmeister, Kelis, Plan B

How much: £155 for weekend with camping

Book it: www.bigchill.net/festival

STANDON CALLING

A three-day fancy-dress party set in a stylish 16th-century mansion for the more discerning festival-goer. Dahling.

Where: Standon, Hertfordshire

When: 6-8 August

Headliners: Buena Vista Social Club, Liars, Efterklang, The Phantom Band, Clock Opera, Sound of Rum

How much: £95 for weekend with camping

Book it: www.standon-calling.com

« BBC Radio 1 DJ Annie Nightingale (left) on The Big Chill: "I played last year at 2am to the coolest young crowd, all singing along to remixes of Dizzee Rascal's *Bonkers* and La Roux's *Bulletproof*. Utterly exhilarating."

SUMMER SUNDAE WEEKENDER

A festival with frills: there's great food, delicious cocktails and top comedy performers, as well as storming live sets.

Where: De Montfort Hall and Gardens, Leicester

When: 13-15 August

How much: £105 for the weekend

Headliners: Tinchy Stryder, The Futureheads, Los Campesinos!, Frightened Rabbit, Errors, Tunng, Turin Brakes, The Go! Team

Book it: www.summersundae.com

DON'T GET SCAMMED

Ed Parkinson, UK Country Director of Viagogo.co.uk, Europe's leading ticket exchange website, gives us advice on how to avoid online ticket fraudsters:

- Be wary of search-engine results. The site that comes up on top might not be the official festival site, despite authentic-looking logos.
- Research a site before buying tickets. Is the company UK-based? Has the site had any negative reviews? Most official sellers will list fraudulent sites to prevent you being ripped off.
- Never buy from a source without clear terms and conditions. Good sellers will explain these.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- If you didn't manage to get your tickets from official festival sources, try www.viagogo.co.uk – the official secondary ticketing partner of the Isle of Wight, Reading/Leeds, Latitude and Big Chill festivals. They sell on any unwanted tickets from legitimate ticket holders. As well as official festival websites, use trusted sellers like www.ticketmaster.co.uk, www.seetickets.com and www.gigsandtours.com, or try www.viagogo.co.uk for festival ticket exchanges.

THE BEACH PARTIES

BEACH BREAK LIVE

Eight miles of silky white sand... Oh, and did we mention it has its very own dry ski slope?

Where: Pembrey Country Park, South Wales

When: 14-18 June

Headliners: Calvin Harris, Chase and Status, Ellie Goulding, The Futureheads, Plan B, Example, New Young Pony Club, Daisy Dares You, I Blame Coco

How much: £89 plus booking fee

Book it: www.beachbreaklive.com

T4 ON THE BEACH

Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside... especially when it's with the T4 gang and a hot line-up of pop bands. Hands in the air, beach-lovers!

Where: Weston-super-Mare beach

When: 4 July

Headliners: Alexandra Burke, JLS, N-Dubz, Tinie Tempah, Jason Derulo, Scouting For Girls

How much: £37 plus booking fee

Book it: www.channel4.com/T4

THE DAY-TRIPPERS

BEST FREEBIE

RADIO 1'S BIG WEEKEND

Join the Radio 1 crew for the party to kick-start your summer. If you were quick enough, they handed out these golden tickets for free. Result!

Where: Faenol Park, Bangor, North Wales

When: 22-23 May

Headliners: Pixie Lott, Lost Prophets, JLS and Ellie Goulding

How much: 20,000 free tickets

Book it: www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/events/bigweekend

BBC Radio 1 DJ Fearne Cotton (right) on Big Weekend: "I first went there to watch *Lost Prophets*, two years before I started working at Radio 1. Even if it's peeing with rain, the atmosphere is amazing. It's a great platform for new bands but also to see incredible headliners, like Kasabian last year. I was with my best mates and we were jumping around to *Fire*. It's also the first place I saw *Vampire Weekend* play live and they were electric." >>>



FOREST TOURS

If you go down to the woods today, you might just see... JLS. The Forestry Commission hosts a season of live music in tree-lined UK hideaways.

Where: Seven forest sites in Kent, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Suffolk, Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire

When: 10 June-7 July

Headliners: JLS, Blondie, Katie Melua, The Saturdays, Doves, James Morrison, Keane, Status Quo

How much: Tickets from £26.50

Book it: www.forestry.gov.uk/music >