

Equality Matters

Glastonbury

July 2019

This year's Glastonbury festival saw many amazing music artists perform across a weekend of fun, however, here's a few things that happened that we feel we should be talking about!

Stormzy was the first solo black British artist to ever headline at Glastonbury and was also the second youngest to headline ever, aged 25.

Grime superstar Stormzy has won plaudits for an electrifying and history-making headline set at Glastonbury on Friday night, which saw him highlight Britain's knife crime crisis and racial inequality in its criminal justice system.

Stormzy became the first black British solo artist to headline the festival in its 49-year history, delivering a high-charged, political and at times emotional performance on the venue's legendary Pyramid Stage.

He started his set in a stab-proof vest bearing a Union Jack flag, which street artist Banksy later said he had designed. The design is a likely nod to the knife crime epidemic that has plagued British streets in recent years, an issue Stormzy has spoken and rapped about in the past.



The 25-year-old became the second-youngest headliner at the festival, after a 24-year-old David Bowie played the festival in Somerset, western England, in 1971. He also shone a spotlight on the proportion of Britain's incarcerated population that is black, sampling a speech by Labour politician David Lammy and flashing statistics on the screen behind him.

Stormzy also invited a black ballet dancer onstage, while highlighting that ballet shoes have only recently become available in skin tones other than white.

Jeremy Corbyn, who was supported by grime stars including Stormzy during the 2017 UK general election, wrote on Twitter: "Tonight @Stormzy made history by being the first black solo British headliner at Glastonbury. The performance was political, iconic and the ballet was beautifully powerful. It won't just go down in Glastonbury history - it'll go down in our country's cultural history."

David Attenborough praises Glastonbury for going plastic-free.

David Attenborough made a surprise appearance on the final day of Glastonbury festival, thanking the crowds for helping to reduce the use of plastic at the event.

The broadcaster and naturalist said his series Blue Planet 2, which detailed the effect of plastics on the ocean, had had an extraordinary effect.



"Now this great festival has gone plastic-free," he said. "That is more than a million bottles of water have not been drunk by you in plastic. Thank you! Thank you!"

"The ocean covers two-thirds of this planet of ours ... the land only covers one third of the globe. There are seven great continents on which we human beings live. Each of them has its own marvellous creatures – birds and mammals, animals of all kinds. Each of them has its own glory, each of them has its own problems."

A huge roar greeted the environmentalist and television presenter as he took to the stage in the afternoon to the sound of whale noises being played out on the speakers.

Glastonbury stars give away clothes to charity.

Sheryl Crow, Lewis Capaldi and Billie Eilish are among the Glastonbury stars to give clothes to Oxfam in support of a campaign against "throwaway fashion". The artists gave some of their clothing to the charity during the festival in Somerset, with the aim of encouraging fans to buy second hand fashion.



The artists' clothes will be available to win or buy on Oxfam's online shop. Oxfam said: "Every week, 11 million items of clothing end up in landfill. Throwaway fashion is putting increasing pressure on our planet and its people. "Keeping prices low means garment workers around the world tend not to be paid a living wage, making it impossible for them to work their way out of poverty."