

Lee Woodford

Isle of Wight County Press - 12 November 2004

Musician, 27, dies after Cyprus scooter accident

ISLAND musician, Lee Woodford has died after a scooter accident in Cyprus, where he had lived and worked for seven years.

The 27-year-old, who had a home in Paphos, died on Thursday last week after sustaining fatal injuries when his scooter was involved in a collision with a car driven by an English holidaymaker.

His parents Susan and Stephen, of Cowes Road, Newport, made a frantic dash to be at his bedside but their son died before they arrived.

They were amazed at the outpouring of grief in Paphos for their son, who had made quite a name for himself in music circles in the town.

The bars and tavernas banned music on the day he died as a mark of respect and over 600 fans turned up for a memorial at a local bar and £3,000 was raised to help Lee's family cover the cost of flying his body home.

Mrs. Woodford said: "Without the people of Paphos we would not have survived these last few days."

Lee was brought up in Newport and went to West Street Infants' School, Nodehill Middle School and Carisbrooke High School. He played in a few local bands before leaving the country and was inspired by rock groups including Ben Jovi.

He left for Cyprus and soon formed a band, Woodford, which played in hotels and bars and at concerts.

Mrs. Woodford said: "When he first went out there and got a scooter we worried ourselves sick but lately we had stopped worrying so much about him.

"He was a lead guitarist, vocalist and keyboard player. Music was his life. He just lived for his music and this year he had such a good year as he got free tickets to see Eric Clapton and Elton John, and his band supported a Queen tribute band.

"We are just so pleased that last year was such a happy one, but it is so cruel that he has just been taken away from us."

He leaves his brothers, Mark, 32, and David, 30.

An inquest into his death will open in Newport today (Friday).

A funeral service will be held at St. Thomas's Church at 1pm on Thursday.

*Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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