
Chubby George Michael is unrecognisable as he steps out from rehab to celebrate birthday

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Looking considerably chubbier and a shadow of his former self, the singer emerged from the Kusunacht Practice in Switzerland to enjoy a low-key night celebrating his 52nd birthday with friends.

After reports he is undergoing treatment for an addiction to cannabis, the star stepped out to mingle with friends in Zurich.

The former Wham hitmaker was barely recognisable as he sported a dark blazer over a thin black jumper and bootcut jeans, which displayed his plumper figure.

The Careless Whisper crooner's face looked bloated after he reportedly gained three stone, and his mood seemed somber despite the happy occasion two weeks ago.



The former Wham hitmaker's appearance has sparked concern from his fans

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George seemed glum during his night out with friends for his birthday. He was wearing his signature glasses while he kept his tresses trimmed in a short buzz cut paired with a greying goatee.

On his birthday, George also took the opportunity to break his social media silence since reports surfaced of his treatment at the Swiss rehabilitation facility, to thank well-wishers for their tweets.

He wrote: "To my lovelies and fans around the world, thank you for all the birthday wishes, I am truly overwhelmed. I am looking forward to spending it with friends and family. Thanks again, love The Singing Greek."

This was the first time the star put out any statements publicly since posting a message to singer Adele wishing her a happy birthday on May 6.



George mingled with friends but his face looked considerably more bloated
George has rarely been spotted in public since last spring, but on his infrequent outings the elusive pop legend's appearance has sparked concern from his fans.

Last month, an onlooker told The Sun that it was "pretty shocking to see how he looked" when he attended a friend's art exhibition at the Swiss city's Baur au Lac Hotel.

Not long after, he was sighted again drinking wine and smoking cigarettes during a dinner with friends at the Aura restaurant.

The superstar is said to have battled with his marijuana habit for some 30 years, and he has committed a number of drug-related offences.



The star is reportedly undergoing treatment for his cannabis addiction the Kusunoki Practice

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Five years ago he spent four weeks in prison after pleading guilty to possession of the Class B drug and driving under the influence having crashed his car into a London shop.

However a spokesman for the star previously told Express.co.uk: "Contrary to some of the reports in the press, George has not just entered rehab but is spending time in Europe.

"He is well and enjoying an extended break."



The superstar appeared plumper in his most recent outing