

# soundcheck

Issue 08 | October/November 2021 | FREE

Free independent live music guide for Reading

This month's headliner:



# HORSE ROCK



# JAZZ SINGERS' NIGHT IN READING

8PM EVERY FOURTH THURSDAY @ THE BUTLER

Free admission  
The Butler, Chatham Street, Reading RG1 7DS

Sing with a live jazz band

[WWW.FLEURSTEVENSJAZZ.CO.UK/JAZZ-SINGERS-NIGHT](http://WWW.FLEURSTEVENSJAZZ.CO.UK/JAZZ-SINGERS-NIGHT)

July 2019. A bunch of us are sat outside The Turks having a pint before I go to play a couple of songs in the Rising Sun for some tribute night or other.

Melani, who is not interested in whoever's songs are being played in The Rising Sun, has a vague notion that Horse Rock *might* be playing in The Global later and, being a big fan of the ol' equine surf rock, would rather go there instead. So we set about trying to see if it's true.

With a less-than-perfect internet signal, six people, three phones, two facebook pages and a website later, we still have absolutely no idea whether or not they're actually playing and, for the millionth time, we're saying it would be much easier if there was some kind of live gig guide scattered around town so we could just pick one up off the bar and find out.

So... here we are!

And, here are Horse Rock. Definitely.

It turns out one of them can actually surf, a bit!

Remember, listing your gig in here is completely free. Just email the info to [copy@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:copy@sound-check.co.uk)

See you out there. ■

– RICH



**Where else would you want to interview a surf rock band but on the beach? We left the Ding to meet Horse Rock in Worthing, where they were invited again to play the third Worthing surf rock festival, after having played there before in 2019.**

Horse Rock started out in 2011 and have been playing gigs together regularly since 2013; so far, they've also put out three EPs. Originally a three-piece band, they were recently joined by Mr Loco who accompanies the band's instrumental tracks with an on-stage visual performance. On their website, there is an apt description of their music as: "The Shadows as if played by kids brought up on Motörhead". In guitarist El Delmonico's words, "galloping rhythms, traditional surf, bit of punk, bit of hard rock and rockabilly". A surf rock band is likely to have instrumental covers in their repertoire, so add "a little bit of Billy Idol, little bit of Boney M" – relating to their twangy versions of White Wedding and Rasputin. Apparently, it is all El Delmonico's fault...

**King Justice (drums):** We thought we were going to be like a swing beat band or something when El Delmonico advertised and when we turned up, he's all like this... Shadows...whatever it is. We're just mere puppets!

**El Delmonico (guitar):** Yeah, it was my idea. Me and King Justice were in another band before, which I hoped would be a surf band, but it turned into an indie band. Then we started a three-piece with another bass player originally.

**King Justice:** We used to sing – which is a terrible confession! – and I was the singer. I had laryngitis, so I couldn't sing, so our former bass player sang, and funnily enough he did a good enough job to leave our band and join the band that we were supporting as their singer! And because we were so heartbroken, we've never sung since.

**So it was easy to convince everyone to stick to surf music after the singing disaster?**

**El Delmonico:** It was! Admittedly, I was thinking 'aah, I don't think it's going to work, I don't think people would like just instrumentals...'

**King Justice:** ...and you were right!

**El Delmonico:** I was right and wrong at the same time. We stuck with it, people seem to like it, and here we are! And then once the former bass player departed, we put an ad out and The Black Flood was the only person who responded.

**King Justice:** And also the best, by far!

**El Delmonico:** And he got the job! He had a bass as well, which helped.

**The Black Flood (bass):** I've been doing a one-man band for many, many years prior to moving into the Reading area, called Cats Against the Bomb. The website is still active... Massive Hospitalisation is another thing I was involved in and that's kind of blast grindcore medical themed drama on Vomit Recordings...

**King Justice:** As you can imagine, we were bowled over!

**I was just wondering how you found each other in a not very large place like Reading doing something that is relatively niche.**

**El Delmonico:** Yes, very niche...I found King Justice when was doing a Chas & Dave covers band and I thought there's the drummer right there...he wasn't even drumming at the time. I was a bit surprised to learn that he was a drummer and also a fan of Shadowy Men on a Shadowy Planet, so that was the catch.

**King Justice:** Shadowy Men on a Shadowy Planet were a Canadian surf band from the late 80s and I think we were practicing at Jurassic Dave's and he said to us, whoa, we were recording this album with this band he was in at the time with some big record producer, and Alex said, oh, today I had an email from the guitarist out of Shadowy Men on a Shadowy Planet. These were



# HORSE ROCK

Words: Melani Photos: Rich

our massive heights which, even with the addition of Mr Flood and what we're doing here, it's heights that we have yet to reach again, unfortunately.

**El Delmonico:** That brings us onto our fourth member. Actually, it was a drunken conversation where you suggested, or one of us suggested, you should be a dancer and then you took it seriously.

**King Justice:** Also, Mr Loco is the only chap we know who would ever promote us...

**Mr Loco (performance enhancement):** I put some fund-raising events on at the Rising Sun, so I put these guys on and they were really good. I've got different masks and movements that I use which goes with the music, which is all in my head. I don't know what these guys think about it, really.

**El Delmonico:** Well, we never know what Mr. Loco is going to do which is as much a surprise and a performance for us as for everyone else!

**I'm really looking forward to seeing the new set up. Is this the first gig where you're doing this?**

**Mr Loco:** No, I've done it for a couple of gigs already, for example at the Jolly Angler.

**King Justice:** There were two fellows at the bar there who were just steadfast at watching the telly! But yeah, this is our first gig outside the safe confines of Reading as a four-piece.

**The Black Flood:** You know, we did headline above the Rolling Stones in Cardiff...

**King Justice:** ...if by headlining you mean we played a gig in Cardiff later than the Rolling Stones!

**The Black Flood:** It was in a place called The Moon. It was round the corner from the Stones gig. There were people coming in who had been to see the Stones, so for them, we were headlining!

**King Justice:** Someone came up to me that night and said, "I've seen two bands tonight and yours is the one I will remember!"

**Is there any particular equipment to create that special retro surf feel?**

**El Delmonico:** There is, actually; a Fender '63 Reissue Tank Tube which I'll hopefully have on stage with me today; otherwise, I'm going to use my Oceans 11 pedal.

**The Black Flood:** From a bass and distortion perspective, we have a couple of unique bits and pieces. There's one which I think is technically called a Bazz fuzz and I've got that on a circuit combined with a Big Muff Pi and a Marshall Shredmaster, and that's on a blender circuit which has been dubbed the Zoo Smell Generator.

**Zoo Smell Generator???** Okay, we'll just leave this out here to everyone's imagination...

**King Justice:** I will get technical here as well because I feel left out, so I would like to say that my drums are black – and they cost me ten pounds!

**So, after all the lockdown period, what's up next for you?**

**El Delmonico:** Some new material may or may not ever see the light of day... just getting back into playing live gigs... remembering our songs...

**King Justice:** Right now, we're sitting on a beach in Worthing, in the sun, about to play a gig...

**And, that's definitely better than telly!**

You can find more info and some tracks to listen to via [www.horserock.co.uk](http://www.horserock.co.uk), and follow them on Facebook for gig announcements.



## THE SHERLOCKS

*Wed 6th Oct,*  
The Face Bar, Reading,  
£17.50 adv

## RODDY WOOMBLE

*Fri 8th Oct,* South Street  
Arts Centre, Reading,  
£17 adv

## SHE DREW THE GUN

*Tue 12th Oct,* Sub89,  
Reading, £12.50 adv

## COACH PARTY

*Wed 13th Oct,* The Face  
Bar, Reading, £9.50 adv

## JOHN

*Sat 16th Oct,* The Face  
Bar, Reading, £10 adv

## MUSH

*Sat 23rd Oct,*  
The Jericho Tavern,  
Oxford, £8 adv

## BEAT CONNECTION ALL-DAYER

*Jane Weaver + more!*

*Sat 30th Oct,* South  
Street Arts Centre,  
Reading, £20 adv  
(Second tier)

## WILLY MASON

*Wed 3rd Nov,* South  
Street Arts Centre,  
Reading, £15 adv

## CHUBBY & THE GANG

*Thurs 4th Nov,* The Face  
Bar, Reading, £12 adv

## ANNA MEREDITH

*Fri 5th Nov,* O2  
Academy 2, Oxford,  
£16.50 adv

## THIS IS THE KIT

*Sat 6th Nov,* St Laurence  
Church, Reading, £20 adv

## SELF ESTEEM

*Mon 15th Nov,* Sub89,  
Reading, £15 adv

## JON HOPKINS

*Sun 21st Nov,*  
The Concert Hall,  
Reading, £30 adv

## RACHEL SERMANNI

*Wed 24th Nov,*  
The Jericho Tavern,  
Oxford, £14 adv

## POZI

*Thu 2nd Dec,* The Face  
Bar, Reading, £8.50 adv

## DITZ

*Fri 10th Dec,*  
The Jericho Tavern,  
Oxford, £9 adv

## BEANS ON TOAST

*Tue 14th Dec,*  
The Face Bar,  
Reading, £15 adv

## HEAVY POP

### Friends with Benefits

Sign up and receive amazing benefits including:

- 10% Local Indie Business Discounts
- Ticket Discounts
- Regular Free Gig + Festival Ticket Draws and more!

More info:

[heavypop.co.uk/friends-with-benefits](http://heavypop.co.uk/friends-with-benefits)

Heavy Pop are Reading-based independent promoters running gigs in Reading and Oxford. We also run Reading's Are You Listening? and Down at the Abbey Festivals.

For full gig listings and tickets: [heavypop.co.uk](http://heavypop.co.uk)  
Contact: [info@heavypop.co.uk](mailto:info@heavypop.co.uk)

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [heavypoppromo](#)

# gigguide

## FRI 1 OCT

THE FACE BAR  
*Rocktail Riot*

### Tigress + Autumn Fires + Gen and the Degenerates

£10 | 6:00pm | 14+

Fresh off opening for *Bring me the Horizon* and *Enter Shikari* last year, Tigress are back with *Rousing* new singles *Choke* and *Disconnect*, ahead of the release of debut album *Pura Vida*.  
seetickets.com

## SAT 2 OCT

THE TURKS  
**The Funk Soul Rebels**

Free | 9pm

## SUN 3 OCT

HEXAGON  
**Grace Petrie**

£15 | 7.30pm

Grace Petrie's unique takes on life, love and politics, and the warmth and wit with which they are delivered, have won over an army of loyal fans across the alternative, folk, political and comedy scenes. She's toured with Frank Turner and Billy Bragg, collaborated with Leon Rosselson and Peggy Seeger and now she's coming to the Hexagon.  
whatsonreading.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readifolk*

### Readifolk Singers Night

£2 | 8pm

The usual format – a song, a tune, a poem, a joke. Or just come along and be entertained.  
readifolk.org.uk

To list your gig here, for free, just email all the info to [copy@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:copy@sound-check.co.uk) before the 16th of each month.

Info is correct at time of going to press. (At least, I've tried very hard.)

Websites on these pages refer to where to get tickets.

bf = booking fee otd = on the door adv = advance

## WED 6 OCT

THE FACE BAR  
*Heavy Pop*

### The Sherlocks + St Peter's Dream

£17.50(+bf) | 7:30pm | 14+

Sheffield quartet *The Sherlocks* have established themselves as key contenders in a new wave of British bands keeping alt-rock and indie vital for a new generation of fans. This is an intimate show for the band so don't sleep on getting yourself a ticket!  
Heavy Pop.co.uk

## FRI 8 OCT

SOUTH STREET ARTS CENTRE  
**Roddy Woomble + support**

£17 adv(+bf) | 7:30 | 14+

Roddy hits the road to perform an acoustic tour showcasing his folk driven solo songs and *Idlewild* classics in intimate venues.  
Heavy Pop.co.uk

SUB 89

### Bruce Juice

£14.60(incl.bf) | 7pm | 14+

premier.ticketek.co.uk

## SAT 9 OCT

ACROSS READING, ALL DAY  
*Heavy Pop*

### Are You Listening? BC Camplight, Billie Marten, Billy Nomates, Freestylers DJ and more

Various tickets | 12noon | 14+  
*Are You Listening? Festival* needs no introduction round here, surely: an award-winning multi-venue festival featuring the best from near and far, all across central Reading, all afternoon. All good.  
www.areyoulistening.org.uk

THE CASTLE TAP  
**The Rocket Kings**

Free | 8:00pm

5-piece uke pop band - top tunes aplenty. Ukuleles. Melodies. Harmonies. Earworms. This is the sound of 'ukepop'!  
thecastletap.co.uk

THE HEXAGON  
**Level 42**

£38.50, £33.50, £32 | 7pm  
whatsonreading.com

THE TURKS  
**The Highwasters**

Free | 9pm

## SUN 10 OCT

SUB89  
**Bobby V + Santos Silva**

£25.20 (incl. bf) | 6:30 | 14+  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readifolk*

### Broomdasher

£6 | 8pm

Five voice acapella harmony group singing traditional English folk songs.  
readifolk.org.uk



### THE AUGUST LIST - WAX CAT

"EPIC AND ETHEREAL, PSYCHEDELIC AND PSYCHOTIC. WAX CAT MAY TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF THE BEST RELEASES OF THE YEAR."  
-SHIRE FOLK

"SIMPLY BRILLIANT, BEGINNING TO END."  
-NIGHTSHIFT

"A NEAR PERFECT RECORD."  
-FOLK RADIO



OUT NOW  
bandcamp



## TUES 12 OCT

SUB89  
*Heavy Pop*

### She Drew The Gun + support

£12.50adv(+bf) | 7:30pm | 14+

Led by frontwoman and songwriter Louisa Roach, *She Drew The Gun* will be returning to Sub9 to play songs off their new album 'Behave myself'.  
Heavy Pop.co.uk

## WED 13 OCT

THE FACE BAR  
*Heavy Pop*

### Coach Party + support

£9.50adv(+bf) | 7:30pm  
14+ (U18s with an adult)

This emerging *Isle of Wight* 4-piece make their Reading debut, having

received rapturous support from the likes of Steve Lamacq and John Kennedy. This a gig you won't want to miss as the band won't be playing small venues like this again!  
Heavy Pop.co.uk

## SAT 16 OCT

THE FACE BAR  
*Heavy Pop*

### John + Genn

£10 (+bf) | 7:30pm  
14+ (U18s with adult)

The rock duo now return to Reading to play their new album following previous appearances at *Are You Listening? Festival* and *Beat Connection*.  
Heavy Pop.co.uk

THE HEXAGON  
**Laura Marling**

£27 | 7pm  
whatsonreading.com



## Cities in Dust

VANISHING ANARCHIST

RELEASED 1ST OCTOBER  
ON ALL STREAMING  
PLATFORMS

THE TURKS  
**Syn City Rockers**  
Free | 9pm

## SUN 17 OCT

SUB89  
*Heavy Pop*

### The Showhawk Duo

£15.15 (incl. bf) | 7:30pm | 14+  
The incredible Showhawk Duo have just added Reading to their UK & Ireland tour later this year! Catch the acoustic rave viral sensations here.  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readifolk*

### Readifolk Theme Night: 'Autumn Songs'

£2 | 8pm  
readifolk.org.uk

## MON 18 OCT

THE HEXAGON

**Jason Donovan**

£47 / £38 | 8:00pm  
whatsonreading.com

## THU 21 OCT

THE HEXAGON

**Amy Macdonald  
+ support**

£41.50, £31.50, £24.50 | 7pm  
14+ (U18s with adult)

GROSVENOR CASINO

Ma Bessie Productions

**Eddie Martin**

£15 | 7pm | 18+  
This evening is Eddie as one-man-band launching his new CD 'The Birdcage Sessions'. Written as his response to Covid and Lockdown this is Eddie on top form.  
tickettailor.com

PURPLE TURTLE

**Mellor + support**

£7(inc bf) | 7:30pm | 18+  
fatsoma.com

SUB89

**Britpop Acoustic:  
Mark Morriss (The Bluetones)  
Nigel Clark (Dodgy)  
Chris Helme (The Seahorses)**

£19.60 (inc. bf) | 7pm | 14+  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

## FRI 22 OCT

THE FACE BAR

Wreck n Rumble Presents

**Hola Ghost + Dukes of  
Bordello + Stage Frite**

£15 adv, £20 otd | 8:30pm  
Denmark's biggest and best Psycho band in their Only UK show of 2021.  
book.events/holaghost

SUB89

TEGIMJR

**Pete & Bas**

£14 (inc. bf) | 7pm | 14+  
eventbrite.co.uk

THE PROGRESS THEATRE

**Andrew McCormack's  
Graviton**

£18 (£16 conc) | 7:30pm  
Internationally acclaimed pianist/composer Andrew McCormack and the unique sounds of his most ambitious project to date, Graviton. Described by Jamie Cullum as "The highest level of musicianship you could possibly hear in one band", Graviton embraces a groove-based setting including vocals and a wider sound world in the company of Noemi Nuti vocals, Josh Arcoleas saxophone, Tom Herbert electric bass and Josh Blackmore drums.  
ticketsource.co.uk

SOUTH STREET

**Haiku Salut Lamp Show**

£12 | 7:30pm  
Instrumental dream pop and electronica trio from the Derbyshire Dales. Between them, Haiku Salut play accordion, piano, glockenspiel, trumpet, guitar, ukulele, drums, and melodica with added electronic elements, which they refer to as "looper and laptopery". They come to Reading with their acclaimed Lamp Show, in which they are accompanied by a stageful of vintage lamps, of varying shapes, sizes and personalities, which are wired into a disco box and dance, flicker and surge in time to the performance.  
whatsonreading.com

## SAT 23 OCT

THE TURKS

**The Corsairs**

Free | 9pm

Email listings to  
[copy@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:copy@sound-check.co.uk)

## SUN 24 OCT

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

**Discovery**

£6 | 8pm  
Husband and wife duo Jeff & Elaine Gillett entertain with beautiful singing and remarkable guitar.  
readifolk.org.uk

## THU 28 OCT

THE BUTLER

**Fleur Stevenson:  
Jazz Singers' Night**

Free | 8pm

## SAT 30 OCT

THE FACE BAR

**Rockwell Music Festival:  
Red Rum, Last Great  
Dreamers, Flesh Tetris,  
Janus Stark, Healthy  
Junkies, Marc Burrows,  
La Cucaracha, The Suicide  
Notes, Trauma UK, Häxan**

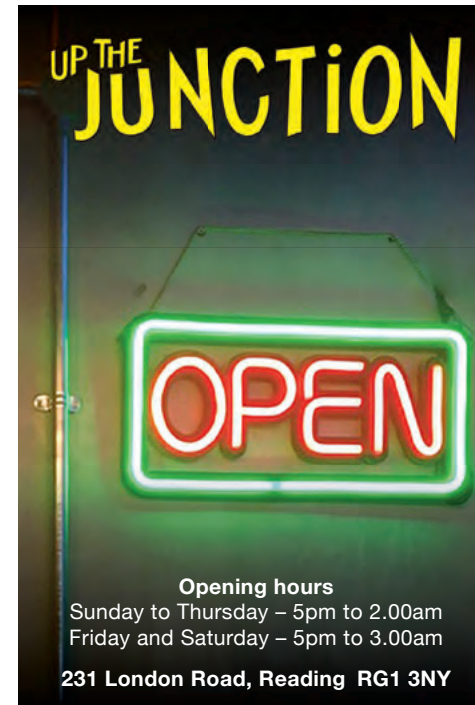
£16.50(inc. bf) | 1:30pm | 14+  
wegottickets.com

SOUTH STREET ARTS CENTRE

Heavy Pop

**Beat Connection:  
Jane Weaver / Animal  
House / Home Counties /  
Laundromat / The Lounge  
Society / Youth Sector /  
Cities In Dust / Colours  
& Fires / Nicole Allan /  
Tamara / The Amazing  
Tiger Band / The Pink  
Diamond Revue**

£10.00(+bf) | 3-11pm | 14+  
Heavy Pop & Dork team up again for their all day party of music, dancing and togetherness.  
Heavy Pop.co.uk



UP THE  
**JUNCTION**

**OPEN**

Opening hours  
Sunday to Thursday – 5pm to 2.00am  
Friday and Saturday – 5pm to 3.00am  
231 London Road, Reading RG1 3NY



Whitehouse  
studios

Production,  
Recording &  
Rehearsal Studios

info@whitehouse-studios.co.uk  
0118 9502 102  
www.whitehouse-studios.co.uk

## FRI 31 OCT

SUB89

**Scouting For Girls**

£28 (inc. bf) | 7:30pm | 14+  
Two million albums, two million singles, four Brit Award nominations, an Ivor Novello nomination, four top ten singles, sold-out Wembley Arena, The Royal Albert Hall and now they're coming to Reading.  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

**Readifolk Singers Night**

£2 | 8pm  
readifolk.org.uk

## MON 1 NOV

THE HEXAGON

**The Australian Pink Floyd**

£31.50 / £41.50/VIP £91.00 | 7pm  
whatsonreading.com

## WED 3 NOV

SOUTH STREET

**Willy Mason  
+ Support**

£17 | 7:30pm  
Revered American lo-fi blues/folk singer Willy Mason brings gravelly tones and rootsy guitar playing.  
whatsonreading.com

## THU 4 NOV

THE HEXAGON

**Jools Holland And  
His Rhythm and Blues  
Orchestra**

£44, £37 | 7:30  
(Under 14s acc by adult)  
whatsonreading.com

Email listings to  
[copy@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:copy@sound-check.co.uk)

## SAT 6 NOV

THE FACE BAR

Club Velocity & New Mind Promotions

**Streaming Dead  
+ The Go Go Cult  
+ Psychopomp**

£8.80(inc. bf) | 8pm | 18+  
wegottickets.com

SAINT LAURENCE CHURCH

Heavy Pop

**This is the Kit**

£22.00 (inc. bf) | 7pm | 14+  
This Is The Kit, led by Ivor Novello Award-nominated songwriter, Kate Stables, returns to Reading following their sold-out show at South Street back in the Summer of 2018. This show will be the meeting of a special band performing in a beautiful venue and we can't wait.  
gigantic.com

THE HEXAGAON  
**Maximum Rhythm & Blues:  
The Manfreds & Georgie  
Fame**

£33.50, £31.50 | 8pm  
whatsonreading.com

**SUN 7 NOV**

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readifolk*

**Geoff Lakeman & Rob Murch**

£6 | 8pm  
*Geoff Lakeman teases English and Irish folk, Americana and jazz songs out of his vintage duet concertina. Rob Murch brings the wow factor to the banjo.*  
readifolk.org.uk

**WED 10 NOV**

THE HEXAGON  
**Billy Bragg**

£34.50, £27 | 7pm  
*(Under 14s accompanied by adult)*  
*If social conscience is the glue that binds punk and folk, then Billy Bragg is that adhesive brought to life. Equal parts Woody Guthrie and Joe Strummer, Bragg's ragged folk anthems have always been squarely on the side of the underdog, punching up with an eternally potent mix of righteous fury, laser-guided wit and romanticism.*  
whatsonreading.com

**THU 11 NOV**

SUB89  
*TEG/MJR*  
**Stereo MCs**  
£22.40 (inc. bf) | 7:30pm | 14+  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

**FRI 12 NOV**

SUB89  
*TEG/MJR*  
**The Specials Ltd.**  
£14.60 (inc. bf) | 7pm | 14+  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

**SUN 14 NOV**

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readifolk*  
**Readifolk Theme Night:  
'Killing Time'**

£2 | 8pm  
readifolk.org.uk

**MON 15 NOV**

SUB89  
*Heavy Pop*  
**Self Esteem**  
£16.50 (inc. bf) | 7:30pm | 14+  
*As Self Esteem, Rebecca Taylor has shaken off the shackles of her indie band past to become the unapologetic pop star she always wanted to be. "sly, covetous pop" – The Guardian gigantic.com*

**TUE 16 NOV**

SUB89  
**Dappy**  
£19.60 (inc. bf) | 7:30pm | 14+  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

**WED 17 NOV**

SUB89  
*Club Velocity/New Mind presents*  
**Skinny Lister  
+ The Longest Johns**  
£16.50 (inc. bf) | 7:30pm | 18+  
wegottickets.com

**THU 18 NOV**

GROSVENOR CASINO  
*Ma Bessie Productions*  
**Tyzack & Tortora**  
£15.00 | 7pm | 18+  
*Take two leading musicians – Ben Tyzack (Spikedrivers) and Guy Tortora (Guy Tortora Band) – add an array of guitars, some harmonies, a few musical surprises and some "mighty fine pickin'" and you're guaranteed a soulful, rootsy performance that will light up the stage.*  
tickettailor.com

**SUN 21 NOV**

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readifolk*  
**Mick Ryan & Paul Downes**  
£6 | 8pm  
*Wonderful songs, wonderful singing with dazzling guitar accompaniment.*  
readifolk.org.uk

**TUE 23 NOV**

SUB89  
**Lucy Spraggan**  
£21.30 (inc. bf) | 7:30pm | 14+  
*Since wandering onto the X Factor stage in 2012, Lucy has ridden roughshod over the pigeon holes that many have tried to put her into. She is a complex singer/songwriter and emotive wordsmith, whose songs and stories hit with great force, straight to the listener's heart and emotions.*  
premier.ticketek.co.uk



Tomorrow Bird @ Down At The Abbey festival, 11.09.2021 Photo: ©Jon Mo

**THU 25 NOV**

THE BUTLER  
**Fleur Stevenson:  
Jazz Singers' Night**  
Free | 8pm

SUB89  
**Beardyman**  
£19.80 (inc. bf) | 7pm | 14+  
*Award-winning musician, digital superstar, one of the world's best beatboxers, multi-instrumentalist, a groundbreaking live looping pioneer and a musical comedic talent championed by the likes of Tim Minchin and Jack Black.*  
gigantic.com

**FRI 26 NOV**

THE FACEBAR  
*Runnin' Blue*  
**Third Lung + Deva St. John  
+ Split The Dealer  
+ Red Tape Resistance**  
£6.60 (inc. bf) | 7pm | 18+  
*Runnin' Blue Presents Third Lung's EP Launch 'Dialogues Of The Fatal Few'*  
wegottickets.com

THE HEXAGON  
**The Darkness**

£34.50 | 7pm | 14+  
*"The time has come, the walrus said... to put your fookin pants on your head and rock like Satan is eating your private parts with a pointy fork! Yes, we, The Darkness, are the f\*ck back on tour, praise Satan's better half... come and party with us like it's the last orders at the last chance saloon. Which it may well be, but I wouldn't like to comment any further on that."*  
– Justin Hawkins  
whatsonreading.com

SUB89  
*TEG MJR*  
**The Wedding Present**  
£22.40 (inc. bf) | 7pm | 14+  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

Email listings info to  
[copy@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:copy@sound-check.co.uk)  
before the 16th of each month.  
It's free, you know.

**SAT 27 NOV**

THE FACE BAR  
*Good Wrecking Tonight/New Mind/Club Velocity*  
**King Kurt  
+ The Go Go Cult  
+ The Corsairs**  
£19.80 (inc bf) | 8pm | 18+  
*Psychobilly favourites, best known for their hit single, 'Destination Zululand', King Kurt are back in Reading for the first time in over 30 years.*  
wegottickets.com

**SUN 28 NOV**

SUB89  
**Hayseed Dixie**  
£20.35 (inc. bf) | 7:30 | 14+  
gigantic.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readifolk*  
**Jim McLean**  
£6 | 8pm  
*Acclaimed Scottish singer performs traditional and self-penned songs – great vocals and distinctive and original guitar style..*  
readifolk.org.uk

# READIFOLK

**If** you were to plot some kind of graph showing the ups and downs, peaks and troughs, comings and goings of whatever scenes/promoters/venues you care to mention around here, running along the bottom would be a constant unbroken line representing one small seemingly indestructible bunch; quietly, constantly, relentlessly ploughing their own furrow, whatever the rest of us are doing. That line would represent **Readifolk**.

It feels like they were probably a good night out for the brickies that built the abbey and they'll still be here when the Rising Sun is the only music venue above sea level. So I thought we should do a quick Q&A with those responsible. Ladies and gentlemen, Colin and Una...

## **First of all... where and when does Readifolk happen at the moment?**

Readifolk meets in the Community Hall in the walled garden of the historic Watlington House in Central Reading. We meet on Sunday evenings from 8:00 to 10:30pm.

## **When was Readifolk founded?**

The club began in 1982 and the first venue was The Allied Arms in St Mary's Butts; a pub which still survives and encourages live music.

The club evolved from a pub session run by Mike Tierney in the Allied Arms. Mike will be known to many in the local music scene. The sessions proved so popular that larger premises were found at the Caversham Bridge Hotel. It's there that Readifolk Song Club, as we know it, started.

## **Over the years what have been particular highlights or triumphs for the club?**

During the lifetime of the club we have had 15 changes of venue so our biggest triumph is to still be going after almost 40 years.

We have had many household names perform at the club including Martin Carthy, Bert Jansch, Jake Thackray, Spiers & Boden etc. We pride ourselves on spotting upcoming talent and encourage young performers whenever we can.

## **How healthy is the folk music scene around here?**

There is a lively folk music scene in and around Reading. We are the only 'traditional' folk club in Reading i.e. one where the audience is encouraged to participate in the performance.

In pre-pandemic times there were frequent folk concert performances in South Street Arts Centre and in the Town Hall. In addition there were several pub 'sessions', which I am sure will start up again before long.

## **We all struggled with the last year-and-a-half. As a live music club, how did lockdown treat you?**

Lockdown did present a real challenge to us and we were forced to cancel many artists' bookings. Fortunately technology came to the rescue and we were soon able to start weekly singaround sessions on Zoom. These proved to be very popular and we soon built up a good following with visitors from all parts of the UK as well as occasional visitors from overseas including USA, Canada, Japan etc.

Eventually with the help of small grants from Reading Borough Council and The Earley Charity we were able to start monthly Guest Nights on Zoom and re-booked many of the artists that we had previously cancelled.

With the grant money we could pay a small sum to cover the artist's expenses and this was topped up with Paypal donations from the audience. This formula worked very well for audience and performers.

## **Now that we're in some kind of recovery mode, what have you got coming up in the next few months?**

We have a full programme of events planned for the rest of the year with some excellent Guest Nights, including Geoff Lakeman and

Bob Murch (Geoff is the father of Seth, Sean & Sam Lakeman), Mick Ryan & Paul Downes, and a special Christmas show with the renowned Oxford group Magpie Lane. In addition there are Singers Nights, where everyone has a chance to perform if they wish, and Theme Nights which are similar to Singers Nights but we encourage songs linked to the given theme. For example, on 14 November the theme is 'Killing Time' so songs of leisure or perhaps a more sinister interpretation?

## **Where should people go to find out what you're doing?**

You can find out all about us on our website [www.readifolk.org.uk](http://www.readifolk.org.uk) and we have our own internet radio show – **The Readifolk Radio Show** which is streamed on Blues & Roots Radio ([bluesandrootsradio.com](http://bluesandrootsradio.com)) every Tuesday 10–12 pm, Friday 8–10pm and Saturday 6–8am. Podcasts of earlier shows are on [mixcloud.com/ianfreedman18](http://mixcloud.com/ianfreedman18) ■

[whatsonreading.com](http://whatsonreading.com)  
[facebook.com/readifolk](https://facebook.com/readifolk)  
[twitter.com/readifolk](https://twitter.com/readifolk)



Geoff Lakeman & Rob Murch

## **Pick up Sound-check at...**

The Alehouse... The Allied Arms... The Biscuit Factory... Beyond The Download... Brew Dog... The Castle Tap... Dawsons... Doc Martens... The Fisherman's Cottage... The Face Bar... The Fox & Hounds... The Gateway... The Greyfriar... The Grumpy Goat... Great Expectations... Hickies... HMV... The Hope & Bear... J.I.M... Lyndhurst... Milk... Nag's Head... O'Neils... Oakford Social Club... Oxfam Music... Picnic... Pirate Studios... The Purple Turtle... The Retreat... The Rising Sun... Shed Café... Sound Machine... South Street... The Thirsty Bear... The Turks... The Weather Station... Up The Junction... Whitehouse Studio... Zero Degrees... and more places that I've forgotten.

Reasonable efforts are made to ensure that all info in Sound-check is correct at time of going to press. If you're worried, though, please check with the relevant venue.

## **sound-check**

To advertise in Sound-check, there's a spec sheet at [sound-check.co.uk](http://sound-check.co.uk) and it's as cheap as I can possibly make it. Please email me at [rich@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:rich@sound-check.co.uk).

If you want to get involved, or you'd like to contribute something, please just send it: [rich@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:rich@sound-check.co.uk)

ONLINE PRINTED BY

**SAXOPRINT**



**Climate neutral**

Print product

[ClimatePartner.com/11151-2109-3025](https://ClimatePartner.com/11151-2109-3025)

Printed using bio-degradable, alcohol-free ink on FSC® natural paper.

**RESCHEDULED DATE!!!!!!**

# **KING KURT**

**SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**LIVE IN  
READING**

**VENUE:**

**THE FACE BAR**

**AMBROSE PLACE, READING**

**8 TIL LATE**

**£18.00 IN ADV**

**FROM [WEGOTTICKETS.COM](http://WEGOTTICKETS.COM)**

**PLUS SUPPORT  
FROM**

**THE GO GO CULT  
& THE CORSAIRS**



**WILD**

**FACE BAR**

**SHOW**

**A  
CLUB VELOCITY  
GOOD WRECKIN TONIGHT  
PROMOTION**