

soundcheck

Issue 11 | March 2022 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide

This month's headliner:



**PHANTOM
BOOTH**

ENOLA GAY
+ SPECIAL GUESTS

Wed 30th March, The Facebar

MELT BANANA
+ SPECIAL GUESTS

Fri 1st April, South Street Arts Centre

WILL & THE PEOPLE
+ THE SKANGSTERS + LONGY

Wed 27th April, The Facebar

Rescheduled Show



ARE YOU LISTENING FESTIVAL
WITH ALFIE TEMPLEMAN,
BOB VYLAN, LAURAN HIBBERD,
KATHRYN JOSEPH, PIP BLOM
+ MANY MORE!

Sat 7th May, venues across Reading

KIRSTIN HERSH
+ FRED ABONG

Fri 13th May,

South Street Arts Centre

An Unreserved Seated Show

RED SNAPPER
+ SPECIAL GUESTS

Fri 20th May, The Facebar

FEET

+ SPECIAL GUESTS

Sat 21st May, The Facebar

COACH PARTY
+ SPECIAL GUESTS

Thu 26th May, The Facebar

THE LOVELY EGGS
+ SPECIAL GUESTS

Wed 1st June, The Facebar

Save The Date

DOWN AT
THE ABBEY

AN INDEPENDENT MUSIC FESTIVAL

LIVE MUSIC, CRAFT BEER, GREAT FOOD

Weekend of 10th Sept, Reading Abbey Ruins

SCOTT MATTHEWS
+ SPECIAL GUESTS

Tue 28th Sept, South Street Arts Centre

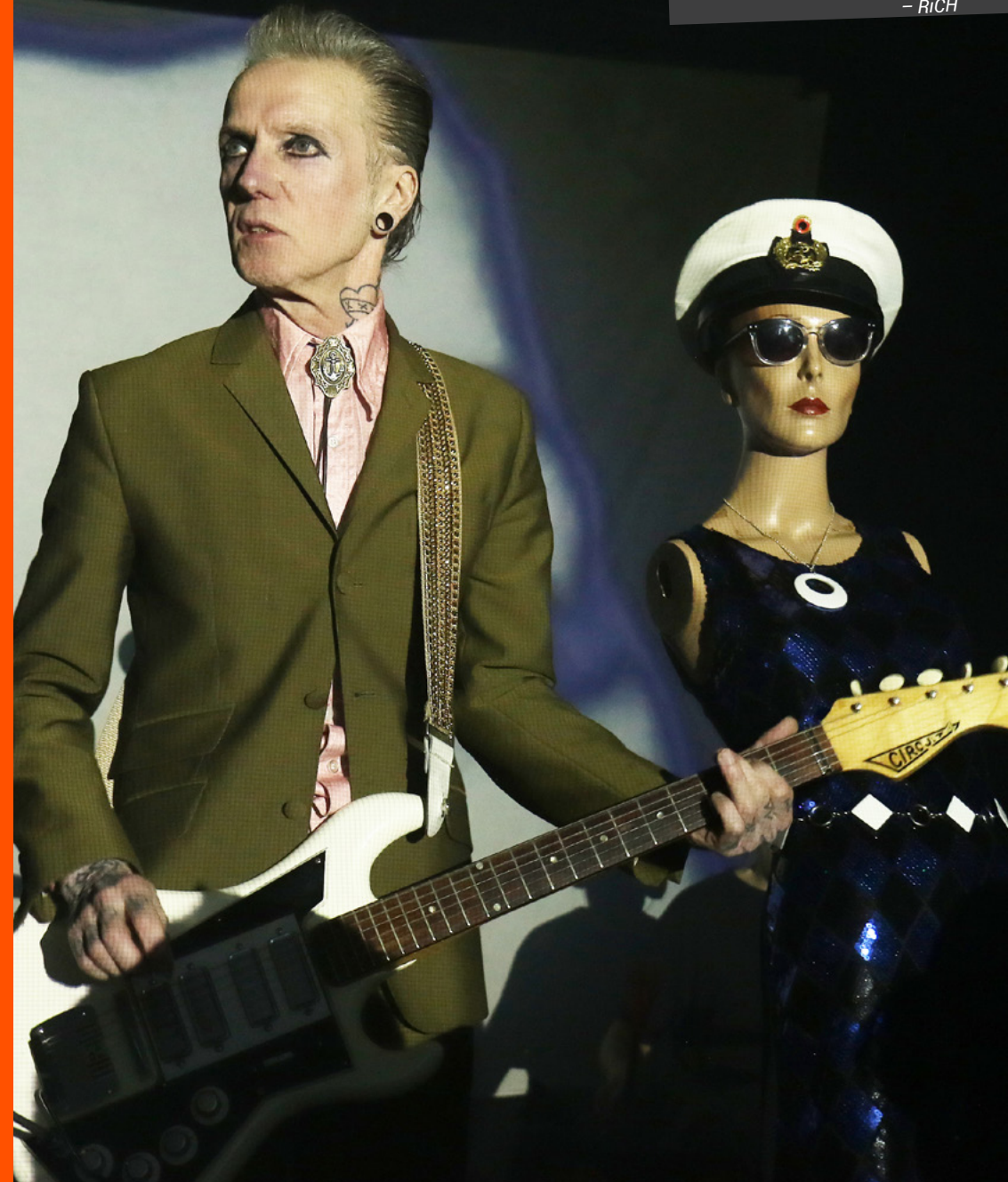
An Unreserved Seated Show

Heavy Pop are Independent Reading-based live music promoters organising gigs across the South East, as well as Reading's annual Are You Listening? Festival and the outdoor festival Down at the Abbey.

For full gig listings and tickets: heavypop.co.uk
Contact: info@heavypop.co.uk

   [heavypoppromo](https://www.instagram.com/heavypoppromo)

Welcome to Sound-check:
your FREE guide to live gigs in
Reading, weirdly named after the
bit of a gig we're not invited to.
- RICH



The Pink Diamond Revue The Great Big Vent Event @ South Street 22.01.2022 Photo: Dijana Capan

This month's headliner:

PHANTOM BOOTH



This is Phantom Booth. I saw them at The Face Bar by accident and they were great so I dragged them out on a wet Sunday afternoon for a beer.

Phantom Booth are temporarily a 3-piece because bass player Lewis is away in Spain but, usually, they're made of Louis (vocals, bass, guitar), Olly (guitar), Lewis (bass) and Henry (drums, legend*).

Some of this lot have been playing together since they were 13, having all met at school in Reading seven years ago, and although the initial germ of the band came out of the school music department, they soon got their own thing going under the name of Nearly Unsociable. They got themselves a few gigs under the belt and some recordings out, decided they didn't like their name much and then... yeah, lockdown happened.

During that first lockdown period, though, 'we had songs coming out of our arse'. With studios all closed up and meeting

up not allowed, though, the end result is that if you look up Phantom Booth online, there's a hell of a lot of acoustic stuff which doesn't really represent everything they do. It's ok, though; they're about to set that straight.

The name change happened in the midst of all that acoustic recording and one of the big changes along with it, is they all started to feed into the songwriting, rather than relying predominantly on one writer so Louis' songs have started to 'evolve' a bit differently.

Louis: "Before we were releasing music me and Olly were talking about what it should be about and the idea now is, I don't want it to be so much about singing about myself from my own point of view but more telling stories as if I wasn't there. Like a third person. So, it's like reading a book."

With this lot, all pitching in can make a big difference because they're all 'classically trained'. By that, I mean there's none of

the 'This is a chord. This is another. This is a third. Now form a band' stuff going on, here – these guys all learned to play trumpets and trombones and what-have-you, sitting in a school band before they got into this and, now, they want to write songs that melodically go somewhere beyond a neat chorus, they're happy to talk about arrangements and production and they're certainly not afraid to call on equally trained up mates to pull together a string quartet for recording. They think about it a lot.

"When Henry [full time student of the trumpet!] started giving 'musical guidance' to the rest of the band, the band transformed!"

"Yeah, I like to give these two a bollocking every now and then."

"He never used to but now!?... he's doing Lewis' harmonies and stuff as well. They were amazing at the Face Bar."

When Lewis get's back, it looks like he's

going to find he has to learn a whole new part.

Live, they're very much a tight, punchy classic-looking guitar band with a higher-than-average number of tunes – but the songs and the playing give you a clue that there's maybe more here than meets the eye.

Just to give everyone some shorthand idea of what they sound like, I asked them what the ingredients are that make Phantom Booth sound like it does.

"We differ quite a lot, which is probably a good thing. If we all liked the same thing it would come out sounding like that. The conflict is probably a good thing." They all love Royal Blood, though. Quite a lot.

Olly was never into rock music as a kid: *"I was the kid sat at home playing classical guitar but when I discovered The Strokes... there's something about the arrangement, the way all their parts fit precisely together... I thought, 'Why haven't I been doing this all*

*His own words but who am I to argue.

along?' They're a pretty big influence on me and the band."

Henry's still a student of the trumpet at Uni, "but when I do listen to bands they're usually heavier. I love Breaking Benjamin. And Slipknot."

And Louis: "The Last Shadow Puppets. I don't want to say Arctic Monkeys but I do want say Alex Turner because I think he's maybe the best songwriter of the last ten years. Also The Last Shadow Puppets have an orchestra in their music so... And I went through two or three years listening to nothing but The Beatles!?"

Which, at a little bit of a tangent, brings us round to the single. It's due out in April, it's



called 'The World Outside My Door' and it was recorded at Abbey Road, no less.

That sounds like a bit of a coup. 'How come?' I ask.

It turns out Louis has just graduated from a course in music production and engineering at the Abbey Road Institute.

"It's nice because I've been able to take these guys in when it's not busy and we've done 10 or 12 tracks."

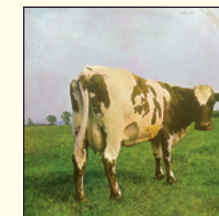
"There are four or five totally commercial studios at Abbey Road plus one that has been set aside as a students' studio. It's called a 'students' studio but it's still top quality. Feels proper. Chic have recorded in there."

Nice!

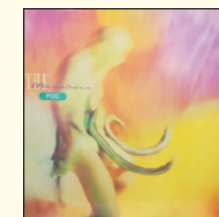
That's definitely a bit of a lucky break and Phantom Booth seem like the right bunch to take full advantage of it, and come out of it with something a bit special.

For the foreseeable future, they have a plan which involves singles going out every couple of months starting from right now, a batch of gigs coming up round here, and up that London, and you can keep up with them at:

- [facebook.com/thephantombooth/](https://www.facebook.com/thephantombooth/)
- [@thephantombooth](https://www.instagram.com/thephantombooth)
- phantombooth.bandcamp.com (where, as well as the music, you can actually buy posters designed by Spanish artist Lucia Olano.)



Pink Floyd
Atom Heart Mother
Brazilian pressing



The Breeders
Pod
UK original vinyl



The Congos
Heart Of The Congos
Reggae vinyl



George Harrison
Wonderwall OST
Original mono LP

After a successful relaunch, Reading's specialist charity retailer Oxfam Music is now open Mon-Sat 10am-6pm.

We need donations. All genres of music gratefully received on vinyl, CD, cassette, 78 etc plus sheet music, books on music, hi-fi, instruments, DVD, comics and graphic novels.

Oxfam works with others to fight global poverty.

OXFAM MUSIC
9 DUKE ST, READING RG1 4SA

To list your gig here, for free, just email all the info to copy@sound-check.co.uk.

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

THU 3 MAR

SUB89

An Evening with GONG

£20.20 | 7:30pm | 14+

From its beginnings in a French commune in 1967, through the Virgin Records years, mismanagement, court cases, break-ups and rejoinings, deaths and rebirths... this is the ever metamorphosing entity that is GONG; shades of psychedelia, space rock, jazz, avant-garde, krautrock and surreal soundscapes.
premier.ticketek.co.uk

FACE BAR

Club Velocity/New Mind

The Hawkmen

£12.10 | 8pm | 16+

Big Craig Charles favourites drawing on a mix of rhythm'n'blues, soul, and rock'n'roll brought together in a classic, rootsy, hybrid blend.
wegottickets.com

FRI 4 MAR

PURPLE TURTLE

Jamma

Third Lung + Nicky Booty

£9 | 7:30pm | 18+
fatsoma.com

CASTLE TAP

Larkham & Hall

Free

SUB89

Ultimate Coldplay

£12.35 | 7pm | 14+
premier.ticketek.co.uk

Email listings info to copy@sound-check.co.uk

SOUTH STREET

Leveret

£18 | 8pm

Leveret is a unique collaboration between three of England's finest folk musicians. Andy Cutting (button accordion), Sam Sweeney (fiddle) and Rob Harbron (concertina) are each regarded as exceptional performers and masters of their instruments.
whatsonreading.com

SAT 5 MAR

PURPLE TURTLE

The Remones

Free | 8:30 | 18+ (ID req.)

Like the Ramones, just a little bit shorter. Bringing a bit of the old Gabba Gabba to Gun Street.

THE RETREAT

The Shufflepack

Free | 8:30

SUN 6 MAR

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Readifolk Theme Night: "Weather or Not"

Free | 8pm

One of our favourite topics of conversation. Let's hear your songs on the subject.

TUE 8 MAR

SUB89

Ricky Warwick & the Fighting Hearts + Virgin Marys

£20.20 | 7:30pm | 14+
premier.ticketek.co.uk



Whitehouse studios

Production, Recording & Rehearsal Studios

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

WED 9 MAR

CASTLE TAP

Reading Shanty Singers

Free | 8pm

Monthly Shanty Session. Booking a table is recommended.

FRI 11 MAR

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Big Untidy presents

The Torchlight Book Club: Lee Switzer-Woolf / Kate Herridge Aden Pearce / Jamie Larbalestier

£5 | 8pm

Big Untidy is back at the Rising Sun with a very special night. Musical polymath and all round diamond geezer Lee Switzer-Woolf curates an evening of beautifully crafted music.
wegottickets.com

25mm Pin Button Badges now available

Premium quality badges made in Oxford

10 Badges £10

50 Badges £18

100 Badges £25



Email : garagerockmerch@gmail.com for info

Head over to our Facebook page for more prices



SAT 12 MAR

HEXAGON

Bowie Live

£27 | 7:30pm

A two hour trip through the finest work of David Bowie.
whatsonreading.com

PURPLE TURTLE

Mirror Pictures + Kill Committee + Las Nova

£5.50 | 7pm | 18+
seetickets.com

THE RETREAT

The Fusion 6

Free | 8pm | 18+

Fusing funk, jazz, blues and Latin elements.
*Andy Kennedy - sax, Tony Imbierski - keys,
Paul Wallace - bass, Tony Mckenna - drums & percussion,
Alison Rolls - vocals.*

SAT 12 MAR (CONT.)

SOUTH SREET

Faustus

£18 | 8pm

'One of Britain's outstanding folk bands.' - The Guardian
whatsonreading.com

SUN 13 MAR

FACE BAR

Nothing Will Change Events

Masquerader + Byker Grove Fan Club + Muscle Vest + Basic Dicks

£5.98 | 7pm

eventbrite.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Anthony John Clarke

£6 otd | 8pm

A brilliant singer/songwriter with a unique performance.
'Anthony John is quite simply a national treasure' -
Fairport Convention

SAT 19 MAR

FACEBAR

Crazy Cowboy

CC7 - XIII Shades Of Black: Gypsy Pistoleros, South of Salem, Stevie R. Pearce and the Hooligans, Pearler, The Suicide Notes, The Liberty Slaves... and more!

£27.50 | 11:00am | All ages (U14 with adult)

Back to back performances over two stages in two
rooms. No breaks, no waiting around, yes we absolutely
can fit 13 bands and more into just one day!
wegottickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE

Readipop

Readipop Festival 2022 Launch Party: Brother Zulu + OSP + Hatty Taylor

Free | 7:30 | 18+

THE RETREAT

The Hugh Turner Trio

Free | 8:30

Hugh Turner - guitar
Jerry Soffe - bass guitar
Paul Glover - drums

SUN 20 MAR

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Scarecrow

£6 otd | 8pm

THU 24 MAR

FACE BAR

Tailgunner + support

£5.98 | 7pm |

eventbrite.co.uk

SOUTH STREET

Peter Knight & John Spiers

£20 | 8pm

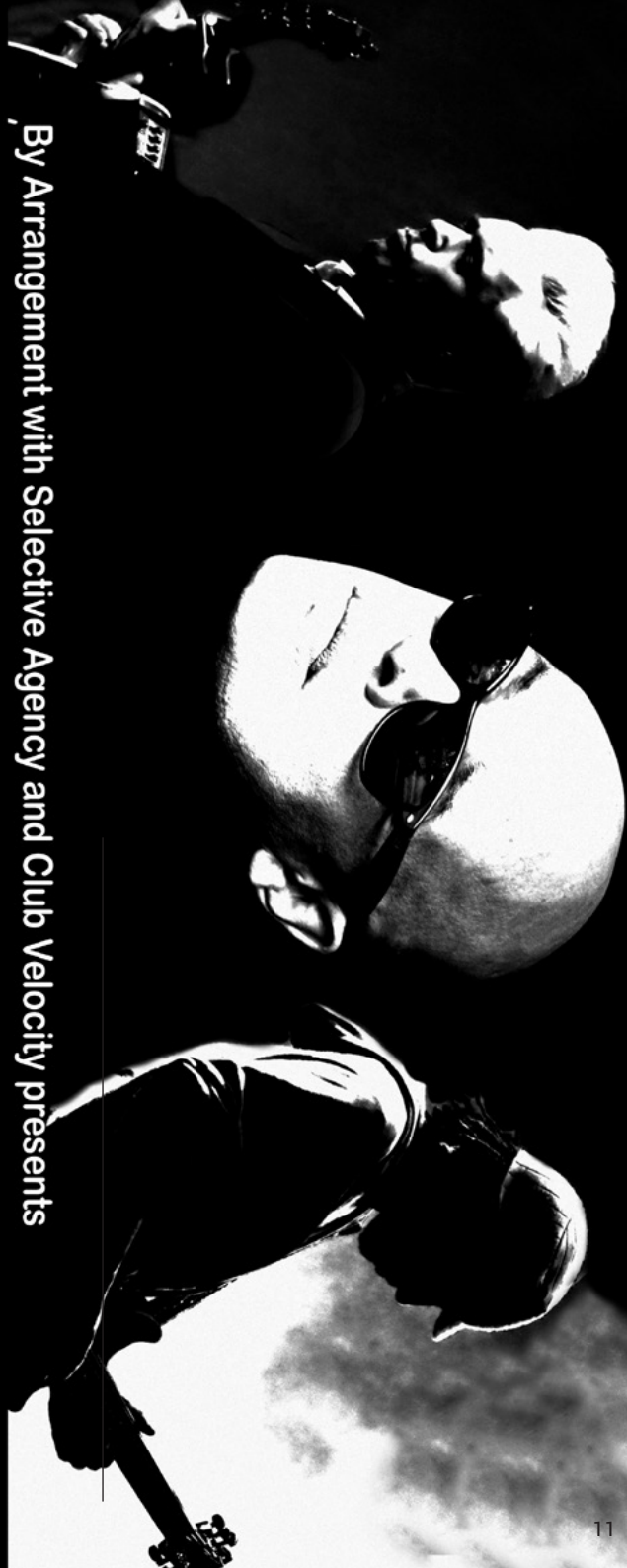
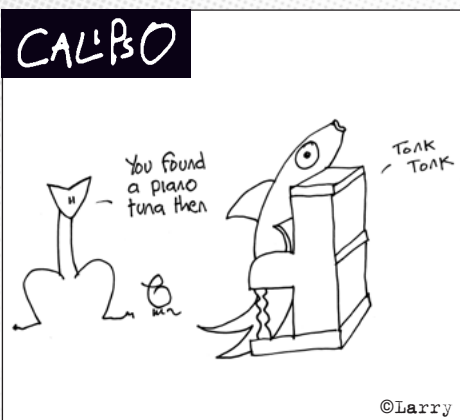
whatsonreading.com

SUB89

Altered Images feat Clare Grogan

£24.75 | 7pm | 14+

gigantic.com



By Arrangement with Selective Agency and Club Velocity presents

THE CHRISTIANS

Friday April 15th 2022 ~ Doors 7.00pm

Advance tickets £25.00 ~ www.wegottickets.com / www.seetickets.com / www.eventbrite.com

Sub89 110-117 Friar Street Reading RG1 1EP 01189595395

Email listings info to copy@sound-check.co.uk

FRI 25 MAR

HEXAGON

The Bootleg Beatles

£34.50 | 7:30pm
whatsonreading.com

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Club Velocity-19th Birthday:

Go Go Cult + Abrasive Trees + This.

£8.80 | 8pm |
wegottickets.com

SUB89

Evil Scarecrow

£14.60 | 7pm | 14+ (U16s with adult)

More than just a metal gig, an Evil Scarecrow show is a performance, a piece of bizarre rock theatre unlike any you've seen before.

premier.ticketek.co.uk

SAT 26 MAR

THE CASTLE TAP

Nasty Fishmonger

Free | 8pm

Bristol-livin', cyder-swiggin', shanty-singin', left-leanin', easy-skankin', foot-stompin' folk-punk...

SUN 27 MAR

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Singers' Night

£2 otd | 8pm

WED 30 MAR

FACE BAR

Heavy Pop

Enola Gay + special guests

£8.80 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

"Wow that is terrific - I think my head might explode!" - Steve Lamacq, BBC 6Music gigantic.com

THU 31 MAR

SUB89

Therapy?

£25.80 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

SOUTH STREET

Heidi Talbot

£18 (£16 mems) | 8pm

Please note: previously billed as Arcade. If you have tickets for the original Arcade show, you do not need to do anything, all tickets remain valid for the new date. Further information at whatsonreading.com.
whatsonreading.com

FRI 01 APR

SOUTH STREET

Heavy Pop

Melt-Banana + tbc

£17.00 | 7:30pm | 14+

Tokyo-based noise rock duo.
whatsonreading.com

SUB89

Mötley Crüde + Poizon

£12.35 | 7:30 pm | 14+

premier.ticketek.co.uk

TUE 5 APR

HEXAGON

James Morrison

£24.50, £31.50, £41.50 | 7pm | U14 w/adult

whatsonreading.com

THU 7 APR

SOUTH STREET

Bas Jan + Mumps

£10 (£8 Mem) | 7:30 |

London-based ensemble Bas Jan return with a new expanded line-up, plus Mumps; Matthew Greener and Pete Hefferan "hanging out playing music together, hoping it sounds good". You know it's probably going to, right?
whatsonreading.com



Opening hours

Sunday to Thursday 5pm to 2.00am

Friday and Saturday 5pm to 3.00am

Happy Birthday Club Velocity: 19 this month!

...still keeping an eye out for who's new
...still massively supporting the best of them
...still bringing some classic bands to Reading.

To mark the occasion, Club Velocity is back at its spiritual home, The Rising Sun Arts Centre on 25th March with a cracking line-up:

The Go Go Cult World Class Billy Punks

Abrasive Trees Debut Reading gig. Great dark wave greatness feat Jay Newton (Heartwear Process/Quiet Quiet Band)

This. — Your fave new band. Sublime indie pop greatness.

Free Cake.

In a weird 'circle of life'-type manoeuvre, yours truly will be back behind the Rising Sun mixing desk that night for the first time in...oooh... nearly 19 years.

Advance tickets are at wegottickets.com. See you there. — Rich



Email listings info to copy@sound-check.co.uk

In a basement, under a café in East Reading, they've just put this sign above the door...
...and it's gonna light up, on 6th March.



During one of the sort of semi-lockdown periods last year, somebody with a mixture of ambition and madness, opened a café in the middle of Newtown.

I went in, obviously – that kind of blind optimism deserves at least a look, right? Inside, I found Marv who, whilst doing me a bucket of coffee, told me about the local artist's work on the walls, the desire to make a community hub and... the room downstairs in the cellar where they "want to have live music when enough people are allowed in the building."

Aye, aye! You what? Watch that space, then.

It's called **The Hub** and it's at 21 Cholmeley Road in Newtown, East Reading.

Fast forward to February and I hear a rumour that The Hub are starting a radio station from their basement. So I wandered round to ask them about it and found Marv again, in the cellar this time, just adding acoustic paneling to the walls and it's all true!

The short version is, Marv has a cousin who started i-Live Radio in Canada and the Carribean about 12 years ago, Marv has been playing on it, and on other stations back in London, and now they're all set up for a new station in the cellar of the new café.

During the day, they want people from all different communities running their own individual shows rather than any kind of playlist "being pumped at you seven times a day. It's more about spreading love of music in all its different forms."

On Thursdays they're partnering with Reading College for some work experience, and through the night there will be other stations fed in from around the world, but there's space in the schedule if you want to go and pitch a show.



"Once a month, there's going to be a live show where we can get musicians to come down and perform."

There's a live room next door to the control room, big enough for a band and they'll steam that live, complete with video.



It's all launching on **March 6th** and the first show will be Nancy's 'Aurora Show'. A bit of a chat show, that one – the whole Hub thing is an Aurora Family project; aurorafamily.co.uk for more info on all that. Marv will be doing a DJ set that afternoon before decamping to Up The Junction for a bit of a launch celebration.

Between now and then, find them at:

 facebook.com/aurorafamilycic
 instagram.com/aurorafamily_cic

On **March 6th**, there'll be a link to take to the umbrella site where you can click on 'The Hub' and stream the station live.■

sound-check

If you're up for getting involved, here, and helping me get this out every month, whether it's writing, interviewing, production, photos... whatever you've got, just give me a shout at rich@sound-check.co.uk.

You would be most welcome.




Also, contrary to popular belief, Sound-check is not distributed around town by a tiny army of pixies. No. It's mostly Muz. On a bike. If you can help, get in touch. There's maybe a pint in it.

Thanks!

Rich

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

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.

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CLUB VELOCITY/NEW MIND PROMOTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH SPIDER TOURING PRESENTS

PRIMITIVES

with **the**

Plus SUPPORT



TUESDAY 28TH JUNE 2022
FACEBAR - READING

TICKETS: £17.00 IN ADVANCE

WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM