

# soundcheck

Issue 16 | September 2022 | FREE

## Reading's FREE live music guide

*This month's headliner:*



THE PINK  
DIAMOND  
REVUE

# JOHN OTWAY & WILD WILLY BARRETT



BARRETT'S AWESOME MUSICAL PROWESS. OTWAY'S CHARISMATIC STAGE ANTICS. ENDEARING, HUGELY ENTERTAINING

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How do you describe a band who's visuals are as big as the noise, where nobody ever says a word and the front end is a model from another dimension?

Tricky. I've had a go, though. There's a venue profile of the Rising Sun up the back of this issue. A mainstay of the live music scene (and more) since forever and a place that continues to exist purely because enough people want it to and voluntarily put the effort in.

On that note, they're a little bit short of people to occasionally run the sound desk at the minute. If you fancy it, get in touch. Contact details are at [www.risingsunartscentre.org](http://www.risingsunartscentre.org).

See you in there, soon.  
- RiCH

- /soundcheckreading
- /soundcheckrdg
- /soundcheckrdg

When and where was The Pink Diamond Revue born?

We met in La Freek Boutique where time does not exist.



...

Where do the spectacular visuals come from?

aCid DoL comes up with all ideas for music and visuals.

Rob bangs down a beat and I fill in the gaps.

CLUB SAMOA HENRY FINK

# THE PINK DIAMOND REVUE

Total immersion in multi-media, future retro disco-psyche, anybody?

Good. 'Cos what we have here, is a three-piece band fronted by Acid Dol, a model from a different dimension, and they would be right up your street...

For someone who's never seen you - explain The Pink Diamond Revue with one film, one book and one TV show?

Forbidden Planet  
The Naked Lunch  
Department S



Rock'n'Roll band or club dance act? - nobody's really sure so you get everywhere!?!  
What's the weirdest place you've played?

We are a Psychedelic Rock'n'Roll Disco Band. We played in Jim and Jo's front room last year on Christmas day at 3.00pm with our own Kween, aCid DoL.



# gigguide

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

## FRI 2 SEPT

THE CASTLE TAP  
**TwoManTing**  
FREE | 8pm | 18+

THE FACEBAR  
**Gramma Vedetta  
+ Desert Clouds**  
£5(otd) | 8pm | 18+

ALL OVER WALLINGFORD  
**BunkFest**

FREE | Fri 2 Sept – Sun 4 Sept  
*Ok... it's not in Reading, but it's only a bus ride away and in this, its 20th year, there's a decent spattering of Reading acts including Steve Morano & Band, Amazing Tiger Band, Cities in Dust, Split the Dealer, Third Lung, Colm Daly & Cathy Mars, Edd Keene and Greg Mayston. Plus, if you go on Friday, you get Tom Webber and Geno Washington. All for free!*

## SAT 3 SEPT

KINGS MEADOW  
**Reading Pride:  
Love Unites 2022**  
FREE | 12pm

*Reading Pride's annual Love Unites Parade and Festival returns with three stages of live music and cabaret, including the Pride aLive Stage which is where you'll find all your local heroes.*

If your gig's not here, it's probably because you didn't tell me about it: [copy@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:copy@sound-check.co.uk)

THE RETREAT  
**Cool Hand Luke  
& the Coolness**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SAT 3 SEPT

THE BUTLER  
**Hard Times**  
FREE | 8pm | 18+

## SUN 4 SEPT

THE FACEBAR  
**Arcaeon + This Dying  
Hour + Fallen At Dawn +  
One Last Day + Neversaid**  
£7(adv), £10(otd) | 6:30pm | 18+  
[seetickets.com](http://seetickets.com)

## THU 8 SEPT

21 SOUTH ST  
**Rowan Rheingans:  
Dispatches on the  
Red Dress**  
£14.00 | 8pm | 12+  
*Heartfelt and personal one woman show, weaving storytelling with live fiddle, banjo and original songs taken from Rowan's brand new genre-melding debut solo album The Lines We Draw Together (The Guardian's Folk Album of the Month).*  
[whatsonreading.com](http://whatsonreading.com)

## FRI 9 SEPT

SUB89  
**UK Foo Fighters**  
£19.60 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)  
[premier.ticketek.co.uk](http://premier.ticketek.co.uk)

## SAT 10 SEPT

21 SOUTH ST  
**Air Circus + Phantom  
Booth + Worm  
Immortality Team**  
£6.50 | 7:30pm | 14+  
[whatsonreading.com](http://whatsonreading.com)

PURPLE TURTLE  
**Way Out Fest:  
Lost Girl + Pablomari  
+ OSP + Kat + Teakyz  
+ DJ Shunz**  
£11 | 2pm | 18+  
[fatsoma.com](http://fatsoma.com)

THE TURKS  
**Hard Times**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SUN 11 SEPT

THE FACEBAR  
**The Straights  
+ The Motion**  
£7.06 | 7:30pm  
[eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Reading*  
**Theme Night: 'Shoots  
and Leaves'**  
£3(otd) | 8pm | 14+  
[whatsonreading.com](http://whatsonreading.com)

## THU 15 SEPT

THE BUTLER  
**Rev John H  
& The Revelations**  
FREE | 8pm | 18+

# CLUB VELOCITY/NEW MIND PROMOTIONS PRESENTS 2022/23 SHOWS AT THE FACEBAR - READING

SEPT 27TH **THE SUBHUMANS** + **UNCLE PEANUT**

OCT 16TH **THE VIRGIN MARYS** + **ANCHOR LANE  
PINK DIAMOND  
REVUE**

NOV 19TH **SPIZZ ENERGI** + **VOODOO RADIO  
VIOLET ORIGIN**

NOV 22ND **LOS FASTIDIOS** + **THE DECK CHAIRS**

DEC 3RD *IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT*  
**THE LONG TALL TEXANS** + **THE DERELLAS  
THE GO GO CULT**

DEC 15TH **JOHN OTWAY** + **NEW PURITANS**

MARCH 24TH **BEANS ON TOAST** + **SUPPORT**

## MORE TO BE CONFIRMED

## FACEBAR READING

## TICKETS : [WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUBVELOCITY](http://WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUBVELOCITY)

## FRI 16 SEPT

THE CASTLE TAP  
**BoxSet**  
FREE | 8pm | 18+

## SAT 17 SEPT

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE  
**Mississippi MacDonald**  
£9.90 | 8pm  
wegottickets.com

THE RETREAT  
**Jackie Doe & The  
Uncertainty of Passion**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SUN 18 SEPT

THE TURKS  
**Corvid**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

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

## MON 19 SEPT

SUB89  
**Adore Delano: Party Your  
World Tour**  
£27.45 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

## WED 21 SEPT

HEXAGON  
**Frank Turner and the  
Sleeping Souls + Pet  
Needs + Truckstop  
Honeymoon**  
£32 | 6pm | All ages (U14 w/adult)  
whatsonreading.com

21 SOUTH ST  
*Heavy Pop*

**Robyn Hitchcock +  
Jessica Lee Morgan**  
£18.70 (adv) | 7:30pm | 14+  
gigantic.com

## FRI 23 SEPT

SUB89  
**Strictly UB40**  
£16.80 | 7pm | All ages (U14 w/  
adult)  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

## SAT 24 SEPT

THE BUTLER  
**Limpopo Groove**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

THE TURKS  
**Band Substance**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SUN 25 SEPT

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readifolk*  
**Singers Night**  
£3(otd) | 8pm  
*All standards are welcome or you can  
sit back and be entertained.*

THE RETREAT  
**Stuart Henderson,  
Simon Price and guests**  
Free | 3:30pm

## TUE 27 SEPT

THE FACEBAR  
*Club Velocity/New Mind*  
**Subhumans  
+ Uncle Peanut**  
£13.20 | 8pm | 18+  
wegottickets.com

## WED 28 SEPT

21 SOUTH ST  
*Heavy Pop*  
**Scott Matthews  
+ support**  
£19.80 | 7:30pm | 14+  
gigantic.com

## THU 29 SEPT

SUB89  
**Beardyman**  
£19.80 | 7pm | 14+  
*Please note this is a rescheduled show!  
All tickets remain valid for the new date!*  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

## FRI 30 SEPT

THE FACEBAR  
*Runnin' Blue*  
**Gaz Brookfield +  
Heartwork + Boss Caine**  
£11 | 7pm | 18+  
wegottickets.com

RISNG SUN ARTS CENTRE  
**The Pink Diamond Revue  
+ Rodney Cromwell  
+ Uncle Peanut**  
£7.70 | 8pm | All ages  
wegottickets.com

THE TURKS  
**Black Shot Rose**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SAT 1 OCT

21 SOUTH ST  
*doubledotdash!?* & South Street  
**DOUBLE DOT BASH! 2022**  
£19.50(adv), £25(otd) | 3pm | 14+  
*Reading's annual festival of live music  
from beyond the mainstream is back!  
Get your ticket now!*  
whatsonreading.com

DOUBLEDOTDASH!?! AND SOUTH STREET PRESENTS **SAT 1 OCT-DOORS 3PM**  
**DOUBLEDOTBASH!** SOUTH STREET ARTS CENTRE • READING  
TICKETS £19.50 ADV £17.50 MEMBERS £25 OTD  
DOUBLEDOTBASH.NET • WHATSONREADING.COM BOX OFFICE 0118 9606060



**TEETH OF THE SEA-TARA CLERKIN TRIO-COOL JERKS-JOHN Q MICROWAVE  
LOW MODER-AS LOUD AS A MOUSE-MASQUERADER-SWILL-AND MORE...**

## HEAVY POP

**ROBYN HITCHCOCK**  
Wed 21st September, South Street Arts Centre

**SCOTT MATTHEWS**  
(Unreserved Seated Show)  
Wed 28th September, South Street Arts Centre

The Roseate Sessions  
**BETHIA  
+ PHANTOM BOOTH**  
Thu 29th Sept, Upstage Mini Cinema @ The Roseate Hotel

**COURTING  
+ DEEP TAN**  
Thu 13th October, The Facebar

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 Down at the Abbey Festival.

## LIVE MUSIC READING SHOWS

**LONELADY  
+ SUPPORT**  
Fri 28th October, South St Arts Centre

**THE BUG CLUB  
+ HOLIDAY GHOSTS**  
Thu 3rd November, The Facebar

**TV PRIEST  
+ FRÄULEIN**  
Fri 11th November, The Facebar

The Roseate Sessions  
**HATTY TAYLOR  
+ DARCEY HOPE**  
Thu 27th Oct, Upstage Mini Cinema @ The Roseate Hotel

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

Facebook Twitter Instagram heavypoppromo

THE RETREAT  
**The Fusion 6**

Free | 8:30 | 18+  
*Fusing funk, jazz, blues and Latin. Andy Kennedy - sax, Tony Imbierski - keys, Paul Wallace - bass, Tony Mckenna - drums and percussion, Nick Hollings - guitar, Alison Rolls - vocals.*

THE TURKS  
**The Highwasters**

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

**SUN 2 OCT**

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Reading*

**Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner**

£8(otd) | 8pm  
wegottickets.com

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

**THU 6 OCT**

SUB89  
**Black Sabbitch**  
£17.95 | 7pm | 14+  
premier.ticketek.co.uk

**FRI 7 OCT**

THE FACEBAR  
*Runnin' Blue*  
**Sham 69 + Deathtraps + Who Killed Nancy Johnson?**  
£13.20 | 7pm | 18+  
wegottickets.com

**SAT 8 OCT**

CASTLE TAP  
**Rocket Kings**  
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

THE RETREAT  
**The Sidemen**

Free | 8:30

THE TURKS  
**Syn City Rockers**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

**SUN 9 OCT**

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Reading*  
**Theme Night 'A Sting in the Tail'**  
£3(otd) | 8pm

**THU 13 OCT**

FACEBAR  
*HeavyPop*  
**Courting + Deep Tan**  
£11(adv) | 7:30pm | 14+(U18 w/adult)

VenueProfile:  
Rising Sun Arts Centre  
30 Silver Street  
Reading  
RG1 2ST



Run and staffed by volunteers, the Rising Sun Arts Centre has been at the core of Reading's live scene since the building was squatted back in 1990. The place is absolutely amazing. Honestly, I could bore you about it for hours. Just when I was wondering how to objectively profile somewhere I've been involved with on-and-off for something like 25 years, two really handy things happened... First, someone who's not in it up to their neck got in touch and said they'd like to write something for Sound-Check and second the Rising Sun announced the return of the 'Here Comes The Sun!' one-day festival. So new writer, *Ennaya*, went along armed with a dictaphone to soak up the atmosphere and, more specifically, speak to Sid Siddle: the man behind Club Velocity.

Jamie Larbalestier is one of the hipsters, with his topknot, round glasses and earth-toned dungarees. Audibly, he's the lovechild of Hozier and maybe early Taylor Swift. I particularly enjoyed 'Lord, I' – the title of which, I think he said, was inspired by a Laura Marling song. He ended with 'Rosie', one of his "most emotional songs", joking that while he started on a lighter note, they got sadder and sadder till he was almost in tears.

"Here Comes the Sun!" From the well-tended sunflowers and decorations handmade by volunteers to the mingling acoustic and muffled bass beats, the event is a celebration of the creative community centred around the Rising Sun. Hipster-esque students, people clad in band T-shirts and ethnic skirts, as well as a gaggle of screaming children, fill the outside area – a decent number of them local band members themselves.

In the spirit of inclusivity, there's something for everyone; folk acoustic artists **Jamie Larbalestier**, **Ellis Ballard** and more outside on the picturesque Tree Stage, arty children's activities including face-painting and the makeover of a model drag queen's head (to be later attached to a 7-foot body basking in the day's relentless sunlight) and an open mural about knee-high where kids paint flowers and self-portraits.

During the day there's quickfire poetry from the *Dreading Poetry Slam* poets and a *Rising Sun Drag Showcase*, as well as a comedy sketch from *Zap! Comedy Team*. Inside the building is the bar and the slightly metallier Sun Stage: size-wise not quite matched to the forces on show, but I'm told later in the night it gets so busy the bodies actually "soak up the sound". Throughout the evening it's host to alt-garage-rock band **Elucidate**, the post-rock funk of **DR SATSO** and **The Mark II's** vintage soul sound, to name a few.

The centre has been home to **Club Velocity's** monthly gigs since March 2003, that's the fourth Friday of every month for the past 27 years! It has been, and is, an important place on the journey to 'making it big' for many Reading-born bands and artists such as Valeras, then named Area 52 (though they haven't played here as Valeras for "political reasons"), Sundara Karma, The Amazons – then named Peers – and Matt Maltese. "Though he pretends to be from south London", says founder Sid, of the artist who played here in his mid-teens for longer than he cares to admit. "I don't know why but some people seem to be ashamed of Reading. I'm not from here but I've been here about 30 years and think it's a good place... We are sort of too close to London, and Oxford. I think we're better than Oxford musically but then again, they've had years where they're really good. Bristol's more of a vibe but it's another hundred miles down the road."

"We need a venue with a bigger capacity, like the Joiners in Southampton. Right now I could put on a gig here and get 200 people... and in somewhere else you'd get about 400. You can't really change that... but sometimes I'll have people who come to my gigs, and they'll be really thankful..."

I comment on how overwhelming and expensive London is compared to Reading, for all its popularity.

MONDO FUZZ PRESENTS  
**The Cromagnon Band**  
(New LP DISMANTLE on We Stay True Records)  
Revbjelde  
(Live A/V performance)  
Mondo Fuzz DJs  
Psych Beat Fuzz  
30<sup>th</sup> Fri Sept  
South Street Arts Centre, Reading, RG1 4QU

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*"Yeah, yeah, I couldn't agree more. I used to go to London a lot as a kid but now, you go for the day, you can spend a hundred quid easily."*

It's a bit odd that Reading's overlooked musically seeing as our rebranded "biscuit town" is probably best known for its music festival than anything else – when people ask where I'm from, they look a bit puzzled until a lightbulb goes off: "ohh, like the festival?". In my opinion Reading's doing pretty well music-wise in comparison to, say, Oxford. It might be a reach, but I'd say Reading's a bit of a hidden gem – it's got a history of music, but still not overcrowded or made uninhabitable because it's caught up in an image of itself.

*"What annoys me," says Sid, "is, when bands get to a certain level they tend to forget where they came from. I can appreciate why you'd want to move away, but there's always good stuff in Reading – you just have to look for it. The local media could be better. I think the council could be better... but places like The Rising Sun, and like, Sound-Check, there's enough people out there know what's going on to make it exciting."*

I was introduced to Sound-Check by nosing around the record store in town, like a lot of readers probably are. Like Sid says, you do have to look for it, but that's not difficult to do.

*"We used to get a lot of kids down here," Sid recalls, "but not so many, recently."* There are no age restrictions here, so maybe more of us ought to

look a bit harder – and pop down to Club Velocity on the fourth Friday of next month.

I ask Sid how he chooses who he puts on.

*"When I like a band, I tend to stick with them," Sid says of his selection process. "If they're a good band and they're not really going anywhere I'll stick with them. Matt Maltese, I had for two or three years; he played here loads."*

He tells me he puts on bands who he becomes mates with – *"For me, the most important thing is that it's fun. Down here, if you take a punt, you can't really lose money. I like to say we've got good stuff"*. He tells me he used to be here for local bands more pre-Covid and he's looking to do a lot more next year.

He corrects me calling putting gigs on a job: *"It's a labour of love"*, he explains. *"I'm not in it for the money. I grew up on what we call the DIY scene, put my first gig on 27 years ago, and I liked it, so I carried on. I threw away my TV a couple years ago, I don't watch TV. I don't go on holiday, nothing like that, so it's sort of fun for me. It's good fun. And you meet good people, it's a community, sort of."* He's putting on the **Subhumans** soon, who are probably one of the biggest DIY punk bands ever, and he's *"started doing stuff at the biscuit factory, which has a lot of potential."*

*"I'm pretty excited about every gig I put on. I don't just put gigs on for the sake of it. Next year... one sort of good thing about Covid is, after it, agents*

Some of you might not know, but there's a recording studio in there, too! Not the normal behaviour when you squat a building, is it? Told you this place was special. Chris has got some news, though...

**Silver Street Studios** (Originally Wired Recording Studios) was set up by one of the original squatters/founders at the Rising Sun. Countless musicians have been recording here since it opened in 1991, and it's been amazing. Sadly, that's all about to stop!

For a few years now (actually a decade), we've been working with companies on spoken word projects – in particular podcasts. Indeed, we work on some pretty big ones. We've decided to stop working on music and focus on podcasts entirely. We'll continue working on our current podcasts but want to add some more affordable offers to local businesses and organisations. We also hope to be able to champion some local work in some form.

For more details, see [glisten.media](http://glisten.media).

*sort of take you a bit seriously cos everyone's looking for work! I'm hoping next year's gonna be alright but maybe I'm mad as a badger, cos there's a recession coming. I think people will still wanna come out. Hopefully."*


I ask Sid if there's anything else he wants to say.


*"Just go to gigs!" he advises, "Gigs are good for you. There's a lot of reports saying that going to gigs is – well... put it this way; I can't trust anyone over 30 hasn't been to a gig."*


There you have it! Show up at Club Velocity's next gig, it'll be good for you. ■

To advertise in Sound-check, please email me at [rich@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:rich@sound-check.co.uk). There are details at [sound-check.co.uk](http://sound-check.co.uk). We're keeping it as cheap as possible to just cover the cost of keeping this thing alive so, the more people buy ads, the cheaper it gets!

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 PRESENT**

# **SUB HUMAN**

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SEPTEMBER  
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