

soundcheck

Issue 17 | October 2022 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide

This month's headliner:

MOLASSES
MOLASSES





October

Events Schedule at Blue Collar Corner

THU 06

Indie Thursdays
w/ Special Guest:
Jamie Reynolds
(Klaxons) DJ set

FRI 07

Rum & Donuts DJs
+ New Menu
Taster Plates

SAT 08

Drag Brunch
w/ Big Jay & Guests
+ Twin Sun DJs
+ DJ Acronym

SUN 09

Free Art & Craft
Workshop
by Jelly

THU 15

Indie Thursdays
w/ DJ Rachael Chrisp
& Guests

FRI 14

DJ Ryan MacGregor

SUN 16

Blue Collar
Record Fair & Social

WED 19

Last Night A
DJ Saved My Life
Bill Brewster
& Frank Broughton
Q&A + DJ sets

THU 20

Indie Thursdays
w/ DJ Rachael Chrisp
& Guests

FRI 21

Special Guest DJ:
Justin Robertson
(Deadstock 33s)

SAT 15

DJ Ben Narbutas
+ DJ Chris Gale

SAT 22

Rum & Donuts DJs
+ DJ Rachael Chrisp

WED 26

Double Barrelled
Tasting Evening:
World Cup of Beers

THU 27

Indie Thursdays w/
Tigers on Vaseline DJs

FRI 22

DJ Acronym

SAT 29

Blue Collar Festival
of the Dead
+ DJ Gilbert
+ Troops & Hoops
(Reading Fringe Festival)

NEWS

Blue Collar Corner will be closed from 26th September for seasonal refurbishment. Grand re-opening party and start of new opening hours: Thursday 6th October

COMING SOON

The Amazons (DJ Set)
World Cup Screenings
Reading's Indie Market & much more

NEW HOURS

Thursdays: 17:00 – 00:30
Fridays: 17:00 – 00:30
Saturdays: 11:00 – 00:30
Sundays: 11:00 – 20:00



DESIGN: Hi! I'm Ralph — HI-IM-RALPH.CO.UK

Sound-check #17

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Jopy @ Love Unites 2022 Photo: @ruben_parnell_photography



MORASS OF MOLLASSES

One of Reading's most hard-working bands has produced a new album that will take you down to the depths and then lift you up with hope.

Words: David Conquest

It's early September and I'm sat in the Purple Turtle (on those lovely, heated benches out the back) with a local band that has already released an EP, two albums and just finished their sixteenth UK tour. Morass of Molasses are an incredibly friendly and down to earth bunch comprised of Bones (baritone guitar and lead vocals), Raj (drums and backing vocals) and Phil (guitar). Together they make what Bones calls "stoner, bluesy doom stuff" but to me it sounds much more melodic and complex than the description or their name lets on. And the new album will be taking that to another level, going by what they tell me. And they're all really happy with the result.

Success hit them fast. After coming runner-up in a competition in their first year they found themselves in demand and touring with only three or four songs, having to make them last for a full twenty-five-minute set. They quickly won recognition in their niche and gained momentum. But despite the stoner label they were ambitious enough to know they didn't just want to be what Bones calls "local heroes" and so started regularly touring the UK in 2014 and only stopped when Covid put up a roadblock.

To keep going, the guys had to change their working style. The first two albums ('The Ties That Bind' and 'These Paths We Tread')



had grown organically. Songs would get written on tour in rehearsal and be tested on the next audience, tweaked and then later go into the studio. Eventually, they would have enough songs for an album and that was that.

In 2020 however, the band had to step up a gear and face writing an album as a project in its own right. Bones is chief songwriter and found himself at home during lockdown, writing digitally for the first time. It was a completely different experience. Bones says, "All of a sudden, we're not only not gigging but can't even be rehearsing. When Covid lifted, we had an album that had never been played even in rehearsal, let alone live."

Raj explains, "When you're in a room together coming up with ideas, you're only going to play things you can physically play in the moment. Whereas when you're on your own and you've this idea you can run with it and program it."

Taking that to extremes, Bones the guitarist wrote a piece for drums. When Raj saw it, he says he thought, "WTF! How am I supposed to play that?" But he persevered, worked wonders with it and now it's on the album in new song Naysayer. He says, "I never would have thought of it; it's a guitarist writing a drum fill, and it's a really good fill."

Much of the early writing was heavily influenced by Bones's anger at Brexit. He says, "The first half of the album is in quite a dark and angry place."

There came a point though when he realised he couldn't carry on like that. He explains, "I had to write some positive stuff because I was drowning. Everything was getting so dark that I needed an escape. I was starting to lose my sense of identity. I needed to write some songs that could pull me out of that. Songs that at least had a bit of hope. I wrote a song about aging, that although we age, there's a fundamental core of us that never changes, which I saw as a positive song."

He continues, "I came up with ideas that I'm not sure I would have in the normal way that we write stuff. Like challenging myself to write a heavy song in a major key. That's really difficult!". The band added their own ideas, even including a latin influence on one song as well as leaning heavily on the blues again like they always have. Raj chips in, describing it as "a happy heavy one. Headbangable, but with a smile".

We talk about how their style is very much anchored in blues but ranges from heavy headbanging to some very delicate guitar work in previous albums, and Phil adds, "Wait till you here the new one!".

Raj says, "I think there's something very different on all of the songs, but they still

sound like us". To demonstrate they have kept true to their core, Bones adds, "there are eight songs on the album but there were nine. The ninth song was really out there – a jazz, sci-fi odyssey which sounds absolutely amazing but next to the other songs it stuck out like a sore thumb." It didn't make the final cut.

They realised it was clearly becoming an album of two halves, with two very different feels. Because their scene tends to focus on vinyl it made for a simple decision for the track listings on side A and side B. Bones adds, "That's how we've done it, and we've even named each side. The album is called 'End All We Know' but each side has its own name. The first side is called 'The Fall' and the second is 'The Rise'."



They've already performed some tracks live and had an awesome reaction. New song 'Hell Fair' (perhaps a new single) is about Brexit and is the most punk track (by which they mean fastest) they've ever produced. The first time they played it, it caused an instant mosh pit. Then when they played 'Naysayer' at The Face Bar they had created so much energy in the room that the crowd instinctively knew when to crouch down and jump back up when the song kicked back in.

Playing live gave them unexpected insights into the new tracks too. Some intros that sounded great on the album just didn't work live. Now, people who



have already heard some of the new songs played live will hear different versions when the album comes out.

Showing a small insight into the intelligence and planning that goes into their work, Bones explains his view of the artistic process: "I'm going to be pretentious here, I don't care. I feel like albums are art and gigs are performances. A gig is about entertaining people. I tend to think of albums in a traditional sense; in fact, our last album, 'The Ties That Bind', is an old-school concept album. All the songs join together and all sorts of crazy stuff like that. An album isn't just a collection of songs, it's a piece of art and the songs are reflected in the artwork. Nothing happens by accident."

He continues, "Whereas live, it's a manic, hot, sweaty mess. There are aspects of what we do that are quite tight and aspects that are quite loose. You could come and see us night after night and see a different show, even if we were playing the same set."

They also like to play tricks on listeners and "punish the track skippers". Bones explains, "we'll put an intro for a song at the end of the last song, so if you don't listen to the album all the way through, you won't hear the intro".

Leading up to the album launch, there will be two singles with videos. The band's perfect way to end 2022 is to have one last monster of a show at The Face Bar. This will feature some of their closest mates in the scene, including local heavy blues kings Stone Soup and scuzzy prog stoners Trevor's Head. Also, continuing the tradition of bringing new bands to Reading, they welcome Statue Kings from Bournemouth. ■

'End All We Know' will be out in late March 2023 on Ripple Music. Catch Morass of Molasses playing at The Face Bar on 9th December and, before that, in Camden and Oxford.

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100 Badges £25



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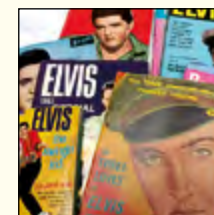
OXFAM MUSIC SHOP



The Beatles

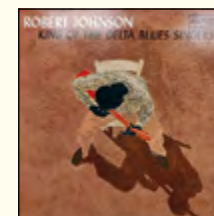
*Strawberry Fields Forever/
Penny Lane*

The pinnacle of their ambition? Kept off the UK number one spot by the now largely forgotten 'Release Me' by Englebert Humperdinck.



Elvis Presley

Lovely collection of Elvis memorabilia. Hail to the King!



Robert Johnson

*King Of The Delta
Blues Singers*

Influential 1966 collection of 1930s recordings. Classic cover art by Burt Goldblatt.



Stiff Little Fingers

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Some of the best driving, hard edged playing of the first wave of Punk.

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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.

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OXFAM MUSIC

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

gigguide

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

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!*

*Two stages, featuring: A'Bear, As
Loud As A Mouse, Bex Burch, Cool
Jerks, John Q Microwave, Low Moder,
Masquerader and more.*
whatsonreading.com

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+

CASTLE TAP Larkham & Hall

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

SUN 2 OCT

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk

Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner

£8(otd) | 8pm

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

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Big Untidy
**All That Jazz:
The Fleur Stevenson/
Hugh Turner Jazz duo**
£10(otd) | 7:30pm

SUB89
**Resurrection + Noel
Gallagher's High Flying
Carpets**
£16.80 | 7pm | 14+

THE TURKS
**A night with Avian
and The Rev!**
FREE | 8:30pm | 18+

SAT 8 OCT

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

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

THE RETREAT
The Sidemen

Free | 8:30

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

SUN 9 OCT

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
**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)

FRI 14 OCT

THE FACEBAR
Wicked Boy Promotions
**Crooked Shapes
+ Reawaken + Atlas Rise
+ Bacc Hanal**
£5.80 | 8pm | 14+
eventbrite.co.uk

HEXAGON
The Puppini Sisters
£28 | 7:30pm
whatsonreading.com

SAT 15 OCT

CASTLE TAP
Davey Dodds
FREE | 8pm

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 : WE GOT TICKETS.COM/CLUBVELOCITY

SAT 15 OCT *(continued)*

SOUTH STREET

Radiophonics

£12 | 8pm |
whatsonreading.com

THE BUTLER

Swallow

Free | 8pm | 18+

THE RETREAT

Hugh Turner Trio

Free | 8:30

THE TURKS

The Lord John Band

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

SUN 16 OCT

FACEBAR

Club Velocity/New Minds present...

The Virginmarys + The Pink Diamond Revue

£16.50 | 8pm | 18+

Raw power, huge riffs and seamless musicianship, The Virginmarys are among the most widely respected rock bands of their time. After releasing three critically acclaimed albums playing as a trio, Ally and Danny have decided the next phase is as a power duo and this tour is our first chance to see it.

wegotickets.com

THU 20 OCT

SUB89

Blancmange + Oblong

£28 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

CONCERT HALL

Grace Petrie + support

£17 | 7:30 |
whatsonreading.com

FRI 21 OCT

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Nothing Will Change Events

Nothing Will Change IV: Masquerader + SODDS + The Bourbon Massive

£5(otd), £3(adv) | 8pm |
eventbrite.com

THE FLOWING SPRING

Wild Willy Barrett

£10 | 8pm
theflowingspringpub.co.uk

THE BUTLER

Wardour Street

FREE | 8:30pm | 18+

SUB89

James Taylor Quartet

£22.40 | 7pm | 14+

One of the pioneers of the Acid Jazz scene, JTQ have taken their distinctive trademark howling Hammond sound to the masses for over 30 years; still famed for their upbeat, energetic live shows with no sign of slowing down.

premier.ticketek.co.uk

SUN 23 OCT

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Singers Night

£3(otd) | 8pm

Come and perform a song, a tune, a poem... or just come along and be entertained.

TUE 25 OCT

THE FACE BAR

Heavy Pop

The Wave Pictures + support

£18.15 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18s w/adult)
gigantic.com

WED 26 OCT

HEXAGON

10cc

£39.50 | 7:30pm |
One of the most inventive and influential bands in the history of popular music
whatsonreading.com

SUB89

Cats In Space

£22.40 | 7:30pm | 14+
premier.ticketek.co.uk

THU 27 OCT

THE BUTLER

Jazz Singers' Night

FREE | 8pm

*Come and sing with a live jazz band!
Open to all.*

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

FRI 28 OCT

21 SOUTH ST

Heavy Pop

LoneLady + Dakorra

£13.20 | 7:30pm | 14+

LoneLady returns to Reading with her own show after appearing at last year's Down at the Abbey Festival.

gigantic.com

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Club Velocity

doops + Jopy + The Dianas

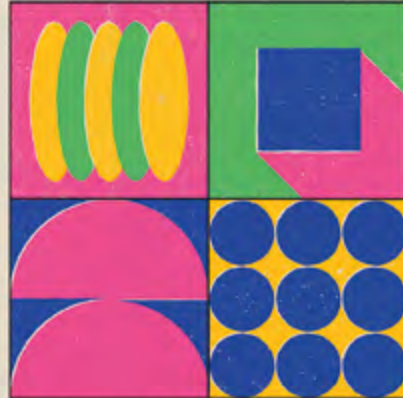
£7.15 | 8pm | All ages
wegottickets.com

THE TURKS

The NeverNevers

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

NEW MUSIC
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HEAVY POP

LIVE MUSIC READING SHOWS

COURTING + DEEP TAN

Thu 13th October, The Facebar

THE WAVE PICTURES + SUPPORT

Tue 25th October, The Facebar

The Roseate Sessions HATTY TAYLOR + DARCEY HOPE

Thu 27th Oct, Upstage Mini Cinema @ The Roseate Hotel

LONELADY + DAKORRA

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 DOLLY & THE CLOTHESPEGS + KITO RILEY

Thu 24th Nov, Upstage Mini Cinema @ The Roseate Hotel

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.

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

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [v](#) [e](#) [h](#) [e](#) [a](#) [v](#) [e](#) [p](#) [o](#) [p](#) [p](#) [r](#) [o](#) [m](#) [o](#)

SAT 29 OCT

THE MODERATION

The MkII

FREE | 8:30pm

THE FACE BAR

**Punkoween: Totally
Blondie + The Pistols
+ The Remones**

£15(adv), £18(otd) | 7:30pm | 14+

(14-18 can pay £5 otd)

gigantic.com

THE BUTLER

The Highwasters

FREE | 8:30pm | 18+

If your gig's not here,
it's most probably because
you didn't tell us about it:
copy@sound-check.co.uk

SUN 30 OCT

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Terry St Clair

£8(otd) | 8pm

gigantic.com

THU 3 NOV

THE FACE BAR

Heavy Pop

**The Bug Club
+ Holiday Ghosts**

£12.10 | 7:30pm | 14+

gigantic.com

HEXAGON

**Jools Holland & His
Rhythm & Blues
Orchestra**

£47, £33 | 7:30pm | (U14 w/ adult)

FRI 4 NOV

THE BUTLER

**Day Of The Dead Day Of
The Dead with La Mort
Subite and friends**

£9 | 8pm | 18+

*Celebrate Day of The Dead at The
Butler with La Mort Subite, Los Dos
Gringos, Dani Corbeau, The Amazing
Tiger Band and DJ Jonny Dante
fatsoma.com*

SAT 5 NOV

THE FACE BAR

**Cities in Dust + Hoopy
Frood + Tom Langley
+ DJ Matt Le Blend**

£8.14 | 7:30pm | 18+

eventbrite.co.uk

THE BUTLER

Rigsby

FREE | 9pm | 18+

SUN 6 NOV

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Theme Night 'All At Sea'

£3(otd) | 8pm

TUE 8 NOV

SUB89

Readifolk

**Warmduscher
+ Opus Kink**

£19.60 | 7pm | 14+

premier.ticketek.co.uk

THU 10 NOV

SUB89

Generation Studio and Jamma

**Third Lung + doops +
Elucidate + Jessie Smith**

£10(adv), £13(otd) | 7pm

14+ (U16s w/adult)

The Gameplay Album Launch Show
premier.ticketek.co.uk

FRI 11 NOV

THE FACE BAR

Heavy Pop

TV Priest + Fräulein

£9.90 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

premier.ticketek.co.uk



Doops @ Oakford Social Club, 23.09.2022 Photo: RiCH



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If you want to submit anything to go into Sound-Check, please email rich@sound-check.co.uk. We don't do regular gig reviews. The internet does that quicker and there's really only one review, anyway - it goes "You should have been there. Next time, turn up." However, if you've got something cleverer/more interesting in mind, please go ahead and give me a shout. - RICH

Profile:
Oxfam Music
 9 Duke St
 RG1 4SA
 Mon-Sat
 10am-6pm

Words and pictures: RICH



Despite the fact that it has been on Duke St for 18 years, now, apparently some people could do with an introduction to Oxfam Music so, here you go... there's our Paul behind the counter – a record collector who really knows his game, managing a second-hand record shop and simultaneously raising money for Oxfam worldwide. Everyone's a winner.

I've just been in there this afternoon and, to illustrate what it's like, I walked in to the sound of Television's second album 'Adventure' and, by the time I left, it was Dire Straits' 'Sultans of Swing'. Yep, there's something for everyone in here.

As well as all the vinyl, CDs and cassettes you'd expect, there are also instruments, turntables, books, comics and just... weird stuff.

Anything special come in today, Paul?

"Well, we've got a signed Nana Maskouri record!?" "?!?!"

The shop has hosted a few instore shows over the years, most recently The Amazons just a couple of months ago. Apparently, Matt the singer used to

volunteer here back when he was at school so Paul contacted them and got him back for one more shift at the shop!

"Oh, man... we had the queue going up the street! I did not fully appreciate how popular The Amazons are. It was rammed. It was great!"

Instore gigs are something Paul wants to do more of so, if you and yours fancy playing one, come in and let him know.

Remember, though, this isn't just a record shop:

"The current campaign is the Pakistan Flood Appeal, which is where Oxfam are doing crucial work, making sure people have clean water. The grim reality is there's 'Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink'. That's a big thing that Oxfam does. It has become a specialist in providing drinking water in disaster zones."

"A lot of the time you get used to just 'working in a record shop in Reading'; but you're also part of a global aid organisation... which is what it's all about, ultimately."

Whenever you're in town, it's always worth dropping in to say hello, pick up *Sound-Check*, keep an eye on the poster-friendly window and have a dig through the potential treasure. You never know!

I only came in to ask a couple of questions for this piece and I'm leaving with the soundtrack to *Easy Rider* and a pulp paperback 'Elvis Presley Story' which has somehow survived since 1961. Because I need it, obviously.

On the other side, of course, you can always donate anything, anytime; either bring it into the shop or get in touch if you need them to come and collect.

On a final note, the shop is staffed by volunteers and they're currently looking for one, maybe two, more so the shop can open on Sundays. You don't necessarily need a Paul-style encyclopaedic knowledge of everything ever recorded by anyone, anywhere but, hang around in here long enough and you'll probably end up with one. ■

sound-check

To advertise in Sound-check, please email me at rich@sound-check.co.uk. There are details at 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!


GO ON... GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT!


Gig photos... they look way better in print and we all know it. To get your best shot in Sound-Check, there are no hoops to jump through – just choose the good one and email it to copy@sound-check.co.uk with band name, date, venue and credit. If there's space, (and it's decent!) it'll go in.



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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email: rich@sound-check.co.uk



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CLUB VELOCITY/NEW MIND PROMOTIONS PRESENT

AN EVENING WITH

DAVE ROBINSON

**Co Founder of STIFF RECORDS
& Tour Manager for JIMI HENDRIX**

**Bringing His Stunning One Man
Talk Show To Reading**

In Association With

**READING
BISCUIT
FACTORY**

“IF IT AIN'T STIFF..... IT AIN'T WORTH A F@#!”

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2022

**THE BISCUIT FACTORY
READING**

£15.00 IN ADVANCE - MORE ON THE DOOR

Tickets: [WeGotTickets.Com/ClubVelocity](https://www.wegotickets.com/clubvelocity)