

soundcheck

Issue 19 | Dec 2022/Jan 2023 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide

This month's headliner:

The Bourbon Massive

+ live gigs into
the New Year
+ Sound Machine



December

Events Schedule at Blue Collar Corner
COVERED, HEATED & CHRISTMAS READY

FOR CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS
BLUECOLLARCORNER.CO.UK



FRI 02
Jaguar Skills



SAT 31
Discorama NYE Party



SUN 11
Are You Listening?
Festive Matinée

THU 01 Party Thursdays w/ Tigers On Vasoline DJs	FRI 02 Monkey Shoulder Party w/ Jaguar Skills + Fajita Funk	SAT 03 DJs Elle Gee & Kingpinn + DJ Rich Sloman	SUN 04 Lantern Making Workshops + DJ Pete Wheeler	THU 08 Party Thursdays w/ DJ Mark Fitzpatrick
FRI 09 DJ Jim B. Donovan	SAT 10 Rum n' Donuts DJs + DJ Rachael Chrisp	SUN 11 Are You Listening? Festive Matinée w/ live acts & DJs	THU 15 Party Thursdays w/ Twin Sun	FRI 16 DJ Alfresco
SAT 17 DJ Acronym + DJ Gilbert	SUN 18 Reading's Indie Christmas Market + World Cup Final	MON 19 Bonus Christmas Session 17:00-00:30	TUE 20 Bonus Christmas Session 17:00-00:30	WED 21 Bonus Christmas Session 17:00-00:30
THU 22 Party Thursdays w/ DJ Rich Sloman	FRI 23 DJ Ryan MacGregor	SAT 24 Christmas Eve Session 11:00-20:00	TUE 27 Bonus Christmas Session 15:00-00:30	WED 28 Bonus Christmas Session 17:00-00:30
THU 29 Party Thursdays w/ DJ Rachael Chrisp	FRI 30 DJ Ben Narbatus	SAT 31 Discorama NYE Party w/ DJs + more		



Sound-check #19

A All year long, the late night trek home from a gig in Reading, usually involves a weird moment when you walk past an enormous plate glass window displaying a row of sweating people dressed like second-rate superheroes, running on the spot in the middle of the night. It's a strange phenomenon, but I've got used to seeing it.

This time of year, there's the additional seasonal joy of sharing the streets with the last standing remnants of any number of work Christmas 'do's. More girls carrying their shoes home, more guys trying to figure out what exactly 'smart casual' means, all with nothing in common other than the knowledge that the company should have paid for more of it and a shared joy that the boss left early. It's a strange ritual but, in a way, I kinda like it. I've dodged it so far, in this life but, you know, whatever lights your Christmas candle...

There are many ways of approaching this bit of the year – a fact perfectly illustrated by two Reading acts. Our Sarah, aka Daughter of the Water, will be taking her ethereal Mitchell+Bolan-infused folk

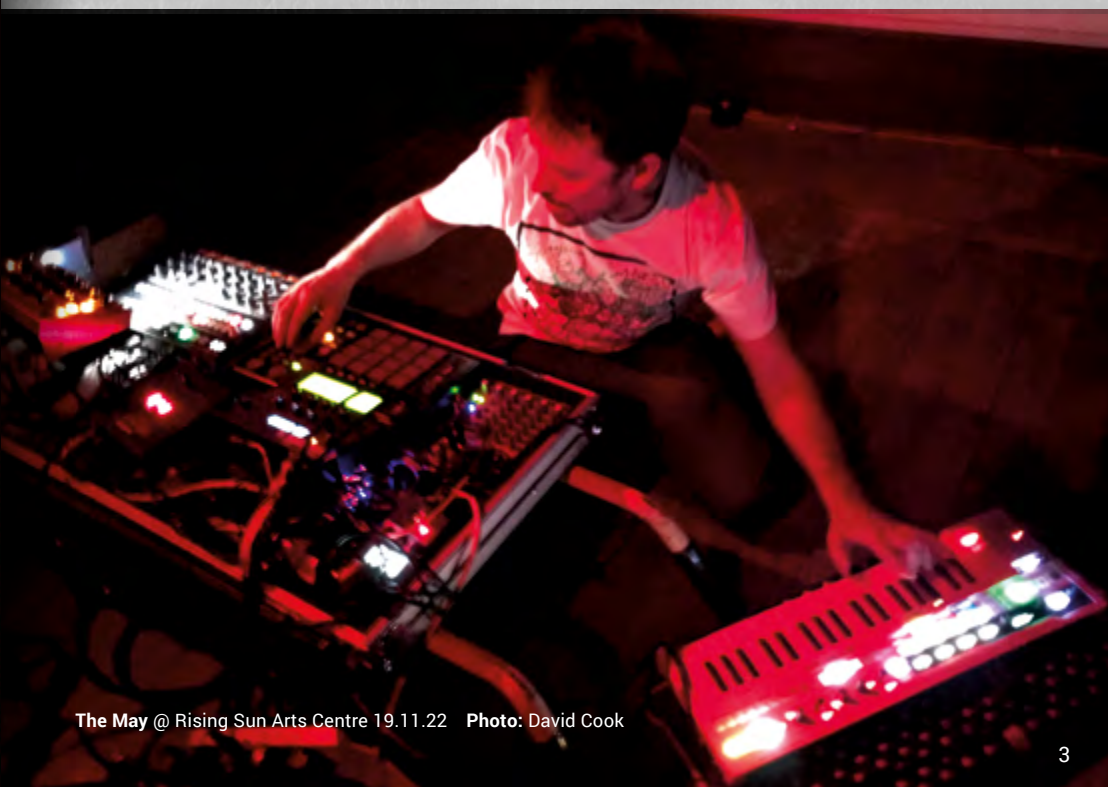
to Avebury on 21st December to mark the Winter Solstice at Europe's largest stone circle as our ancestors have done for thousands of years. If that's your thing, it could be pretty special.

And right over on the other side of the festive coin, Rocket Kings have made this! Yep... a proper, old-school Christmas record as our ancestors have done since... oooh... 1957?

It's on Spotify so, if you're required to make a playlist for your Christmas work do, you can chuck it in there and watch confusion reign as people try to figure out the notion of a Christmas song they haven't already heard a billion times.

-RICH

- /soundcheckreading
- /soundcheckrkd
- /soundcheckrkd



The May @ Rising Sun Arts Centre 19.11.22 Photo: David Cook



Full time Reading students and part time punks, The Bourbon Massive have entered into the Reading music scene with ferocity... and a whole lot of silliness.

Words: Maddy Chelmis
Pictures: @king_louis.17th



Formed of vocalist Dan, bassist Joe, guitarist Alex and drummer Aidan, The Bourbon Massive write quick, witty tunes guaranteed to start a pit. I spoke to them over a pint or two at The Dairy, where they'd recently shown the monthly jam night that punk is not dead...

Having played synth in a previous band Crush, Dan tells me about how he was coaxed into piano lessons by his mum as a kid. Little did he know history would repeat itself and he'd end up being indoctrinated into a band that sings about Sausage Rolls. As Joe and Aidan were jamming one day, Dan started ad-libbing and to directly quote "I was being awesome one day, then it just kinda happened."

Evident in his live performances, Dan possesses an energy that would get any crowd riled up!

Driven both by boredom and an innate desire to write his own music, Joe picked up his dad's guitar at 15. After having enough of the same old six strings he jumped to bass, being heavily inspired by the simple yet original style of band The Garden. Using the knowledge gained from lots of listening and practicing, Joe channels his passion into heavily animated bass playing, paired with gritty vocal accompaniments.

Having scored a free drum kit at 14, Aidan picked up the sticks. Stopping briefly but inevitably circling back, Aidan drops his calm demeanour on stage, playing fast paced rhythms to get everyone jumping.

As a band, Bourbon Massive draw a lot of their inspiration from Aussie band The Chats, this is particularly evident in their comical lyrics... of which there are many. As Joe says "We like bands who are about being silly and who have fun with it. We keep things as simple as possible. Main thing is if we find it funny." On a more

serious note, bands such as Sleaford Mods and Slaves have been important influences, with some of their first ever performances featuring tracks by the former.

When asked what they think of the Reading music scene, and what they'd like to see happen in the future, Joe answered: "It's a nice community, everyone seems welcoming. It's quite eclectic, bands are doing different things but everyone's part of the scene."



Aptly he adds "There's quite a lot going on, but you have to find out about it...we're just enjoying it while we're doing it."

In bigger news, Dan says he wants to "Headline Coachella."

There's often some confusion and frustration about the name... Having been stuck on what to call themselves, Aidan and friend Rhys starting spitballing ideas. Out of the blue Aidan proclaims "The Bourbon Massive". Unaware of the implications, Joe informed him "Massive means gang." But this meaning didn't quite catch on, and now they're stuck with everyone thinking they're a band about massive Bourbon biscuits, oftentimes wrongly called "The Massive Bourbons."




Exciting news biscuit fans, there's an EP in the works! Dan tells me: "It's called Honker...I was writing a set list on a whiteboard and I wrote Hunter by Slaves. But my handwriting is so bad, Joe read it as honker." Joe continues: "It's four songs, self-recorded on my laptop with my quite bad mic, so it doesn't sound quite good. It represents us quite well. It would be silly to get it done professionally."

So, keep your eyes peeled for the next instalment of The Bourbon Massive if you want to mosh about to loud, silly punk music that'll put a smile on your face.

"Any final words?" I ask.

Dan: "Spitfire, Birmingham, Staffordshire Oakcakes." ■

 /thebourbonmassive

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OXFAM MUSIC SHOP



The Beatles

The first (1963), of a series of Fab flexidiscs recorded by The Beatles every Christmas and given to members of their fanclub. Features larking around.



Sugar

Copper Blue

Another grunge rock classic enjoying its thirtieth anniversary.



Elvis Presley

Rock 'n' Roll No. 2

2022 has been the year of the Elvis revival. A new generation has discovered the king of rock n' roll. Lovely UK issue of his 1957 2nd LP.



The Chantays

Pipeline

A demo copy of one of the greatest 'surf' instrumentals of all time. Although some might remember it as a football anthem – it was the theme for 'goal of the month' on Match Of The Day for many years.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-6pm.

We are always very grateful to receive any musical items. Vinyl, CDs, tapes, 78s hi-fi, instruments, sheet music and comics or graphic novels. We can arrange home collection if required.

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OXFAM MUSIC
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THE TURKS HEAD

Tequila Chase

Free | 8:30 | 18+

SAT 10 DEC

THE TURKS HEAD

The Junction

Free | 8:30 | 18+

SUN 11 DEC

BLUE COLLAR CORNER

Heavy Pop

Are You Listening?

Festival Matinée

Lilac + Matt Greener

**+ Kito Riley + Buildings
on Fire**

Free | 12noon | 18+

*Entry is free but donations to Reading
Mencap would be extremely welcome.*

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

The Ryewolf

Christmas Show

£8(otd) | 8pm

WED 14 DEC

SUB89

Bad Manners

+ Max Splodge

£27.50 | 7pm | 16+ (U18s w/adult)

wegotickets.com

THU 15 DEC

THE BUTLER

Cool Hand Luke

Free | 8pm | 18+

THE FACE BAR

Club Velocity/New Mind presents

Christmas Knees Up with

John Otway

+ New Puritans

£16.50 | 8pm | 18+

wegotickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE

BBC Introducing

Air Circus + Tabi Gazele

+ Darcey Hope

FREE | 7:30pm | 18+

FRI 16 DEC

PROGRESS THEATRE

**Alan Barnes' 'Copperfield'
a Dickensian Jazz Suite**

£18/£16/£9 | 7:30pm

*Alan Barnes leads an all star line-up
in a jazz evocation of the characters
and scenes of Dicken's classic novel,
'David Copperfield'.*

jazzinreading.com

THE FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE

Rocket Kings +

The Hedge Inspectors

FREE | 8pm

PURPLE TURTLE

The Black Flamingos

Free | 7pm | 18+

THE TURKS HEAD

Wardour Street

Free | 8:30 | 18+

THE JAZZ CAFÉ

The SoulTones

£12 | 7pm | 18+

thejazzcafe.co.uk

SAT 17 DEC

THE TURKS HEAD

The Turn

Free | 8:30 | 18+

THE RETREAT

Rufus Ruffcut

Free | 8:30

THE JAZZ CAFÉ

Madison Heights

£12 | 7pm | 18+

thejazzcafe.co.uk

FRI 23 DEC

THE TURKS HEAD

The Highwasters

Free | 8:30 | 18+

SAT 24 DEC

THE TURKS HEAD

Holy Cowbell

Free | 8:30 | 18+

THU 29 DEC

THE ROSEATE HOTEL

Heavy Pop

The Roseate Sessions

Damien A Passmore

+ Jopy

£13.50(adv) | 7:45pm | 18+

gigantic.com

SAT 31 DEC

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Club Velocity

Club Velocity New Years Eve

The Mark II + Damien A

Passmore & The Loveable

Fraudsters + Alan Caruso

£11 | 8pm | All ages

wegotickets.com

SUN 8 JAN

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Singers Night

£3(otd) | 8pm | 18+

If your gig's not here,
it's most probably because
you didn't tell us about it:
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FRI 13 JAN

RUSU

Reading University Students' Union

BBC Introducing Live:
MUNBOI + Ray Wills + swurli

Donation | 7pm | 18+

Pay-what-you-want donation on the door but secure your place at:
eventbrite.co.uk

SUB89

The Smyths:
20th Anniversary Tour

£16.80 | 7:30pm | 14+
premier.ticketek.co.uk

SUN 15 JAN

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Lynne Whiteland, Mike Baker & Friends

£8 (otd) | 8pm

THU 19 JAN

THE BUTLER

Cool Hand Luke

Free | 8pm | 18+

SAT 21 JAN

THE BUTLER

Solar + Colours & Fires

£5(otd) | 8pm | 18+

Solar come to The Butler for a very special gig, to perform their 2020 album Interfearon – a progressive and ambient art rock album of songs of love, unrequited love and alien abduction.

THE JAZZ CAFÉ

Madison Heights

£12 | 7pm | 18+
thejazzcafe.co.uk

SUN 22 JAN

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Theme Night:
'All Together Now

£3 (otd) | 8pm

THU 26 JAN

PURPLE TURTLE

Reading University Students' Union

BBC Introducing Live:
Munboi + Mackenzie + DoeBoyTheWriter

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

FRI 27 JAN

HEXAGON

Lost In Music: One Night At The Disco

£30.50 | 7:30pm

Some of the greatest disco from artists such as Donna Summer, Gloria Gaynor, Earth, Wind & Fire, Sister Sledge and Chic... live!

SAT 28 JAN

PURPLE TURTLE

Help For Zoe Fund Ska Special

**The Skangsters
+ The Skavengers
+ The Ardliners
+ Erin Bardwell
+ DJ Tonic Ska Radio**

£6.50 | 7pm | 18+

fatsoma.com

SUN 29 JAN

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Craig Joiner

£8 (otd) | 8pm

THE RETREAT

Jazz with Stuart Henderson, Simon Price and guests

Free | 8:30

WED 1 FEB

THE FACEBAR

Club Velocity



Pet Needs + Juliet & the Raging Romeos

£11 | 8pm | 16+
wegottickets.com

FRI 3 FEB

RUSU

Reading University Students' Union

BBC Introducing Live:
**Maddie Ashman
+ Emily Craig + Henjila**

Donation | 7pm | 18+

Pay-what-you-want donation on the door but secure your place at:
eventbrite.co.uk

FACEBAR

Heavy Pop



Pip Blom + support

£15.40 | 7:30pm | 14+(U18 w/adult)
gigantic.com

RIISING SUN

ARTS CENTRE

Club Velocity



**Cities In Dust + This.
+ As Loud As A Mouse**

£8.30 | 8pm | All ages
wegottickets.com

SAT 4 FEB

RIISING SUN

ARTS CENTRE

Club Velocity



Tom Webber + Darcey Hope + Uncle Peanut

£8.30 | 8pm | All ages
wegottickets.com



Elucidate @ Sub89, 10.11.2022 Photo: © Steve Axtell

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Profile:
The Sound Machine
24 Harris Arcade
Reading RG1 1DN

Words: Ennaya
Pictures: RiCH

Hidden in the winding corridor of Harris arcade, about a minute's walk from the station, are a cluster of shops you might not have seen – Adrienne Henry Millinery, Dr Kang's Chinese medicine, Just Imagine Memorabilia (J.I.M), and the reason I venture there most – The Sound Machine.

Being the town's longest-established indie record shop (getting on for 40 years of trading!), it's an important part of any music-savvy Reading inhabitant's life.

They stock vinyl, CDs, DVDs and memorabilia across a wide variety of genres but specialise in selling second-hand to all those who prefer to appreciate music on vinyl in a nice big sleeve instead of the streaming services.

Due to the ever-changing nature of the stock, there's always something new, so pop in for a browse! They've always got something 'Now Playing' and aren't the sort to mind you just having a look around. Price-wise they're sure to leave a smile on your face, too... on a recent voyage I picked up six CDs for a tenner so they're really not the sort of music shop to bleed you dry either.

The Sound Machine is open 9:30am to 5:45pm Monday to Saturday, closed on the Sunday, and is absolutely packed with racks from Siouxsie & the Banshees to Springsteen's entire discography about five times over so there's something for everyone.

We've spotted a few local releases in there over the years so, just to make sure, we asked manager, Steve Edwards, about local acts getting their stuff into The Sound Machine and, sure enough, if you've got a physical release, he's happy to stock it. He did say that, so far, most of them had limited success but maybe that's because you didn't know... and now you do! ■

thesoundmachine.uk.com

 **THE
SOUND
MACHINE**



sound-check 

A massive thank you to everybody who has got behind Sound-check over the last year; the writers, the photographers, the people who pay the print bill by advertising in it, the shops, bars and venues who stock it, Muz and Hannah who help me spread it around town every month and the people who stop me at gigs to tell me it's worth the effort!

It's a labour of love, and it's a lot of work, but it seems to be appreciated by promoters, bands and audience so it's a good thing and it wouldn't happen without you. Thanks! – RiCH


**GO ON... GIVE ME
YOUR BEST SHOT!**


If you've got a local gig photo you'd like to see here, you can just email it to copy@sound-check.co.uk with band name, date, venue and photographer credit. It needs to be high resolution because this is real world print but, if you're not sure, send it anyway – we'll check it for you and use it if it's technically up to scratch. Thanks!




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!

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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