

soundcheck

Issue 25 | July/August 2023 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide

SUMMER DOUBLE-HEADER

MISSING
THE
SCENE

DAUGHTER
OF THE WATER

- + Reading Pride: Love Unites
- + live gigs for July/August





SCAN ME FOR TICKETS

READIPOP FESTIVAL

23

IN AID OF READIPOP CHARITY
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CAVERSHAM · READING · 14 - 16TH JULY

FRIDAY
5-11PM

SATURDAY
1-11PM

SUNDAY
12-9PM

Sleeper
RONI
SIZE

JUNGLE BROTHERS

SNAPPED ANKLES
SMATTED ANKLES

PROFESSOR GREEN

MF TOMLINSON

MARISA AND THE MOTHS
OSP
NATALIE GRAY
READING COMMUNITY
GOSPEL CHOIR

PIP BLOM
ROZI PLAIN

HATTY TAYLOR

ROMEO & MICHELE STODART
(THE MAGIC NUMBERS)
ALOGTE OHO AND
HIS SOUNDS OF JOY
RAY WILLS
JESS FITZ

BBC INTRODUCING IN BERKSHIRE & READIPOP AAA LOCAL TALENT TAKEOVERS

OTHER MUSIC ACTS ACROSS THE WEEKEND A-Z

ADOMANIA • BARRELHAUS • BEATROOTS • CORELLA HENDERSON • DJ COLERIDGE • DJ DUBIOUS (THE HUB) • DJ JIM B. DONOVAN • D'VOXX • EMILY MAGPIE • FUNKIN SOULED OUT • GLITTERWOUND • HIDINGTHEHURT • JULIETTE • K.KAYNE • KING PUNCH • LAKE ACACIA • LEAH TOLKSDORF • LEE SWITZER-WOOLF • LIL TWEE • LUCAS SOMNER • MEGAN COLLINS • MISSING THE SCENE • MUNBOI • NATURAL RIGHT • ONE EYED MAN • OPHELIA RAY • SCOTT LASSIS • SURYA • TANKATA PERCUSSION • TIGER MENDOZA • WIZZEAU

COMEDY IN THE LITTLE TOP | FRI-SAT 8-11PM

ADA CAMPE • ANTHONY AYTON • CHARLIE PARTRIDGE • JOE JACOBS • JOSHUA ROBERTSON • KATE LUCAS • MICHAEL HACKETT • TOM LITTLE • HOSTED BY READING'S OWN DRAG MONARCH BIG JAY

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

MUSIC CHANGING LIVES • MUSIC CHANGING LIVES • MUSIC CHANGING LIVES • MUSIC CHANGING LIVES • MUSIC CHANGING LIVES

Sound-check #25

The season of festivals and factor 50 is here and, on that festival note, here's a quick head's up about Wokingham Festival.

It's not bang on our 'Reading' remit but the lineup includes Cities in Dust, Rocket Kings, OSP, Phantom Booth, Marisa & the Moths and Lilac; a whole bunch of Sound-check 'cover stars' of the past year and it's only a No.4 bus ride away so it would be churlish to not mention it.

One thing you can rely on every summer is a two-month issue. That's partly so that this extremely small operation, can have a break before going quietly insane. With that in mind, if you're up for helping out when we get back on it, anything from production to hauling it round town, get in touch, eh.

See you out there...

-RICH

[f /soundcheckreading](#) [t /soundcheckrdg](#) [i /soundcheckrdg](#)



Masquerader @ Turtle Underground 12.06.2023 Photo: @ Steve Axtell

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MISSING



SCENE

Missing The Scene are Rachael (vocals), Jim (bass), Phil (guitar) and Robert (drums). I know they played an absolute blinder at Forever Storm Fest the other week (where these shots were taken) but now, ahead of their appearance at Readipop this month, they're here to tell us more...

As often seems to happen, I only heard of Missing The Scene fairly recently but when I saw them I kind of, sort of, recognised them from somewhere. Maybe I was mistaken, or the memory's playing tricks on me or something. So, tidy this up for me for a kick off – how long have you been at it?

The four of us are all from Reading and have been playing music together for a long time. Rachael and Jim started their relationship together through writing music and forming their first band Fish Hook, who were playing to crowds from around 2012 until 2019. Robert and Phil joined Fish Hook in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

In 2018 the lead guitarist, Ross, had a push bike accident that put him out of action for some time. As a time filler the four of us changed things up a bit and started Missing The Scene.

Ross later moved away and we just carried on with what we were doing.

That explains that, then. So, when was the first Missing The Scene gig?

The Face Bar, 20th December 2020. Just before the world closed down and we were forced into taking part in online festivals in drag...

Oh, well timed! The name must have seemed pretty prophetic by half way through that.

I know 'writing about music is like dancing about architecture' n all that but, to give people a clue what you sound like... how would you describe it?

We tend to describe ourselves as Melodic Punk but we've been told we are pop punk, emo... all sorts.

What are the particular ingredients that go into Missing The Scene? Inspirational bands, I guess, but also films, books, politicians, whatever lights your candle...

In terms of the music, Jim and Phil spent their formative music years listening to a lot of the 90s/00s punk, ska-punk, pop punk such as Bad Religion, NoFX and Less Than Jake. Phil probably has more of a foot into the more emo-y side of the punk world (due to being the baby of the band).

Robert just plays drums, cuts his own hair and would happily never see another model train sold ever again[?]. But he does bring a great deal of music theory knowledge that he tries to impart on everyone, usually to blank faces and Rachael and Jim just saying it's not fast or powerful enough and that double time drums will fix any problems.

He also insists that the 2006 film *The Lives Of Others* made a huge impact on him and it helps guide his musical ebbs and flows.

Rachael, who everyone is listening to, writes from experiences. Drawing on musical influences such as Spanish Love Songs and Florence And The Machine, she just writes what she knows and tries to tell stories that people can relate to or draw strength from.

How did Forever StormFest go? I know Jim is in it up to his neck so, as a band and as a whole event.

Forever Storm fest was a great success! The day raised £700 for charity which will be split between Mind and No5 Young People. Our set, despite Jim having one half of his brain on stage and the other half wondering if he managed to sound check us properly, went really well. The crowd were really



THE

Words: RICH Photos: Kayleigh Fryer

up for having some fun so that gives you licence to throw a little caution to the wind and just be in the moment. We somehow managed to gather the largest crowd of the day (I think the timing gods may have been on our side with that one) so it felt great looking out over a packed room.

We do like to raise a bit of money for people. Our first EP raised money for Berkshire women's aid. The EP was about domestic abuse and the scars it leaves with you, so it seemed fitting to try and raise some money to help those who are trying to, or have, escaped domestic abuse.

We also fundraised with our song "I Think You Know" donating money to New Beginnings Reading who aim to prevent and offer relief to those in poverty and financial hardship, no matter who they are or where they've come from. They help to provide clothing, food, essential items and temporary accommodation to those who need it.

You're playing Readipop this month. Do you know the festival? Have you ever been to it before?

We are! We're playing **The Purple Turtle stage at 3:45pm**, so everyone should come and say hello!

Being locals, Rachael and Jim have been to the festival a number of times, admittedly in the days it



HEAVY POP

LIVE MUSIC READING SHOWS



Jealous Nostril

(Johnny Borrell, Razorlight/Jack Flanagan, Mystery Jets + Ellis.D)

+ Eat Daddy Eat

Tues 11th July, Face Bar

Down At The Abbey The Comet is Coming

Fri 8th Sept, Reading Abbey Ruins

BC Camplight + Los Bitchos

Sat 9th Sept, Reading Abbey Ruins

The Howlers + The Mezz

Fri 22nd Sept, Purple Turtle FREE ENTRY

Henge + Dogshow

Wed 27th Sept, South Street Arts Centre




An evening with Kristin Hersh

Thurs 5th Oct, South Street Arts Centre

A Certain Ratio Celebrating 45 years with two sets

Thurs 16th Nov, Face Bar

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

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



was free and you could rock up with your own beer!
 I guess, like most of us, a 'normal' Missing The Scene gig happens indoors in a dark-ish room with a bar in it. Have you done playing outside in the sunshine before?
 We are not unaccustomed to playing outdoors. With Missing The Scene, and Fish Hook, we have played numerous festivals from school fairs to Rebellion in Blackpool. This will be our second outdoor festival with MTS, the first being Outcider Festival down west!

What else have you got coming up?
 So, we've got a number of gigs coming up over the next few months. In August we're heading back to Outcider Festival and play the legendary Railway Inn in Winchester, supporting The Ramonas (who are fantastic if you don't already know).

In September we are at The Phoenix in High Wycombe and the White Hart in Basingstoke, and we'll probably be planning some kind of big Christmas party too, so keep your ears open for that!

Where do we go to find out what you're up to?
 The best places are Facebook and Instagram. Our facebook tends to have more information and our instagram is a little like the neglected younger sibling... What can we say? We're old! ■

/missingthescene /missingthescene

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- music shop and instrument service
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- homemade smoothies, sandwiches
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I am available to shoot your band at gigs, or in the studio gillgsphotoes@outlook.com

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- SIREN CRAFT BREW
- DOLPHIN BREWERY
- PHANTOM BREWING
- RIVINGTON BREWERY
- HOLY GOAT BREWING
- TWO FLINTS BREWERY
- CROSSOVER BLENDERY
- STATE OF KIND BREW CO.
- GOOD CHEMISTRY BREWING
- DOUBLE-BARRELLED BREWERY

CRAFT BEER + MUSIC FESTIVAL
 DJs | STANLAKE PARK WINE | CIDER | STREET FOOD

28-29 JULY
 SOUTH STREET ARTS | READING

Daughter of the Water

This is Sarah. Once, half of the driving force behind Desdemona and then The Jettes, and the longest serving member of Dolly & the Clothespegs amongst god-knows-how-many other things. Mostly, in the here and now, though, Sarah is Daughter of the Water – purveyor of a kind of gothically ethereal, neo-medieval 'folk noir'.

This month sees the fourth Daughter Of The Water release, *'Ghost Bird'*, and for this one, Sarah has teamed up with Bones Huse, singer and guitarist of local sludgy, doomy swamp-rockers Morass of Molasses.

"He and I are boat neighbours. He lives on the other side of the river and both of our songwriting is inspired by that environment. So he comes over to my boat once a week to write songs."

Title track *'Ghost Bird'*, for instance, actually references a particular tree...

"There's this big tree I call the Mistletoe Tree – it's actually a black poplar, I think, quite an unusual tree and very distinctive in the field – and I use it to find my way home when it's dark and misty. The moonlight falls through this tree on a regular basis and makes a beautiful moonlight shadow on the meadow."

"I often feel like I'm in another world... our world *is* beautiful but I think Daughter of the Water's music is often about escapism into a place that is steeped in nature and doesn't have all the stuff that's going down on our planet that's caused by us; war, climate change... it's about celebrating the beauty of nature."

Up in Islay, where archaeologist Sarah is currently digging, there's a particular 'nature sound' she's been trying to get.

"One of the sites we're digging up here has

got amazing acoustics and there's this cuckoo. I haven't had my recorder and said cuckoo in the same place at the same time so it might not make it into the final mix. I'm hoping it does but we're leaving the island in a couple of days."

Spending time on Islay digging an early mesolithic hunter-gatherer camp ("the earliest in-situ evidence of humans in Scotland", no less!) definitely feeds the 'otherworldly' aspect of Daughter of the Water almost as much as the water meadows and magic trees of the Thames riverside. 'The past is a foreign country...' and all that, after all.

As well as the Tolkien-esque Tyrannosaurus Rex and the nod to Joni Mitchell, you'll also hear evidence of a love of medieval madrigals and singing in a chamber choir, something Sarah's been doing for ever.

Apparently, there's always something new to throw in the mix, though...

"A thing I've been really inspired by lately is Spell Songs. I was in a distillery shop up here last year and I picked up the book *'The Lost Words'* by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris. It's a beautiful book and I later found out about Spell Songs, the result of a collective of musicians inspired by this Book of Lost Words."

'Ghost Bird' was recorded on Sarah's boat, Purley Queen, "using a very fancy microphone called a Blue Bottle."

Bones is a qualified up and experienced sound tech so he's been doing the production and now it's ready to go.

The artwork has been done by Nick Hayes, writer, illustrator, print maker and author of *'The Book of Trespass'* – who also lives on the Kennet and Avon canal.

The launch gig for all this is happening at The Butler, in The Left Wing, on July 7th and it will feature a bit of a local all-star cast.


"John Mitchell's going to play a few songs with me. I've recorded with him recently, at his studio, and something will be coming out from that in the future. That has been really exciting."

Yes, collaboration is very much part of the game here but, as they almost, say 'if it's Sarah and your granny on bongos, then it's Daughter Of The Water.'

Stuart Clarke is coming out of hiding for the first time in some years to support and you can also expect Paul Hancock – Reading's resident player of old-school, tube-shaped whistle-y things of all sizes. Paul will also be joining Daughter of the Water on stage to add some Uilleann pipes to proceedings.

Overall, you get the idea; it's not yer average and it should be quite a show. ■

daughterofthewater.uk

 [/followdaughterofthewater](https://www.instagram.com/daughterofthewater)

gigguide

MON 3 JUL

PURPLE TURTLE DUNGEON

Groove Cult Shindigs

Turtle Underground:

Crush + Rev John & the Revelations + Viaska

Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 6 JUL

THE GRUMPY GOAT

Kill Committee + Steve Norris

Free | 7pm

THE BUTLER

FSJB presents

5thFrame

£7otd | 7:30pm

PURPLE TURTLE

The Pink Diamond Revue + Mark McCarthy

Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 7 JUL

THE BUTLER

Daughter of the Water

£5adv, £7otd | 8pm

Launch gig for new EP 'Ghost Bird'.

eventbrite.co.uk

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Greg Mayston's Folk, Blues and Americana

£5otd | 7:30pm

Feisty folk, blasting blues

and amazing Americana from the Mississippi Delta to the Thames Valley, performed with zest and love for the traditions the songs represent.

THE FLOWING SPRING Big Boss Man

£12adv, £10otd | 8:30pm
theflowingspringpub.co.uk

SAT 8 JUL

CASTLE TAP

Horse Rock

Free | 7:30pm

Our favourite Surf rockers are invading The Tap!

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Clayson sings Chanson

£10otd | 8pm

This is one of a kind night! Alan Clayson, chanteur and raconteur, returns to the Rising Sun with a soirée centred on the songs of Jacques Brel.

The show was conceived following Alan's biography of Brel, *La Vie Bohème* – and 1999's acclaimed *Ne Me Quitte Pas: A Celebration Of Jacques Brel*, an all-star album on which Alan's contributions were highlights.

THE RETREAT

Hugh Turner & Fleur Stevenson

Free | 8:30pm

Highly respected guitarist plus "an alluringly graceful and charismatic jazz singer" make for a great evening of Jazz.

SUN 9 JUL

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Tango Select

£10otd | 4:30pm

Back at the Rising Sun for an afternoon of live tango.

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Theme Night:

Lost & Found

£3otd | 8pm

MON 10 JUL

PURPLE TURTLE DUNGEON

Groove Cult Shindigs

Lilac + Liquid Dogs + Adomania

Free | 8pm | 18+

TUE 11 JUL

THE FACE BAR

HeavyPop

Jealous Nostril + Eat Daddy Eat

£11 | 7:30pm

14+(U18 w/adult)

Garage rock band formed by Razorlight frontman Johnny Borrell, Jack Flanagan (Mystery Jets) and Ellis D last Summer.
heavypop.co.uk

THU 13 JUL

THE BUTLER

Storm In A Teacup Presents

Toodles & the Hectic Pity + Acid Claw + The Rift + Joe Dalloway

Free | 7pm

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 refer to where to get tickets.

bf = booking fee

otd = on the door

adv = advance

tbc = to be confirmed

SOUTH STREET

Lost Map 10:

Pictish Trail + L.T

Leif + Amy May Ellis

£16 | 7:30 |

2023 marks ten years of Lost Map, the independent record label based on the Isle of Eigg in the Scottish Hebrides run by alt-pop musician, Pictish Trail and dedicated to releasing truly unique records by some of the most innovative musical minds.

FRI 14 JUL

CHRISTCHURCH MEADOWS

Fri 14 – Sun 16th:

Readipop Festival

Weekend

Adult: £69.23

Teen: £55.38

Child: £2.00

Day tickets also available.

All ages.

readipop.co.uk

By the banks of the River Thames with Pip Blom, Rozi Plain, MF Tomlinson, Sleeper, Roni Size, Jungle Brothers, Snapped Ankles and loads more...

SAT 15 JUL

THE FLOWING SPRING

Steve Morano & Band

£12 | 8pm

theflowingspringpub.co.uk

CLUB VELOCITY/NEW MIND PROMOTIONS in association with ROCKY ROAD TOURING Present

THE MARCH VIOLETS



+ THE GO GO CULT

THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2023



Tickets : £20.00 Adv - More On The Door

WeGotTickets.Com/Club_Velocity

READING

CASTLE TAP
Rosedale
Free | 8pm

SUN 16 JUL

WATLINGTON STREET
Readifolk
Singers Night
£3otd | 8pm

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

MON 17 JUL

PURPLE TURTLE
DUNGEON
Groove Cult Shindigs
**Elucidate + The
BJ Bevy + Special
Guests**
Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 21 JUL

FACEBAR
Club Velocity/New Mind
**Heathen Apostles
+ Page Of Swords**
£11 | 8pm | 16+
wegottickets.com
LA-based dark roots and
gothic country supergroup
Heathen Apostles, which
includes ex-members of
Radio Noir, The Cramps,
Kings of Nuthin' and
Christian Death among
its ranks.

SAT 22 JUL

THE FACEBAR
**Mercury's Well
+ Hundred Year
Old Man + Tribe
Of Ghosts +
Black Emerald +**

**Pteroglyph + Buds
+ One Last Day +
Treehouse + Tape It
Shut + Masquerader
+ Perp Walk**
£10adv | 1pm | 18+
skiddle.com

THE BUTLER
Swallow
Free | 9pm | 18+

ENGLEFIELD ESTATE
Heritage Live
**Richard Ashcroft +
Ocean Colour Scene
+ The Sherlocks**
£66.38 | 3pm
axs.com

SUN 23 JUL

BLUE COLLAR CORNER
**Will Rees (ex-Mystery
Jets) + Ever Hazel
+ Puma Theory**
(acoustic)
Free | 12pm | All ages

ENGLEFIELD ESTATE
Heritage Live
**Hozier + Far From
Saints + Victoria
Canal**
£66.38 | 3pm
axs.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
**Theme Night:
'Cautionary Tales'**
£3otd | 8pm

MON 24 JUL

PURPLE TURTLE
DUNGEON
Groove Cult Shindigs
**No Feathers + Tim
Shez + tbc**
Free | 8pm | 18+

WED 26 JUL

THE LYNDHURST
Jazz Singers' Night
Free entry, 8-00pm
Come and sing with a live
jazz band.

THU 27 JUL

PURPLE TURTLE
Ding Dong Daddios
Free | 6:30pm | 18+

FRI 28 JUL

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Club Velocity
**Ben Marwood
+ Oxygen Thief
+ Darcey Hope**
£11 | 8pm | All ages
Proper local living legend!
wegottickets.com

THE FACEBAR
Runnin' Blue
**Ricky Warwick
& the Fighting
Hearts + The
Suicide Notes
+ Boss Caine**
£20.40 | 7pm
14+(U18 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

SAT 29 JUL

THE FLOWING SPRING
Flint Moore
£15 from the pub/£18
online
8:30pm | All ages
theflowingspringpub.co.uk

SUN 30 JUL

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

risingsunartscentre.org

The biggest
house party
of the summer
is back for 2023!

Sat 12 Aug
2:00 - 11:00pm
£10adv / £15 otd
U14s go free!

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for all the Family

ARTIST
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WEDNESDAY 8th AUGUST
7PM - 9PM
EVER WEDNESDAY!

Clayson sings
Chanson
Sat 8 July
8pm £10
Alan Clayson, chanteur
and raconteur, returns for
an evening of the songs
of Jacques Brel.

30 Silver Street, Reading RG1 2ST

The Rising Sun Arts Centre is an award winning,
independent arts centre, staffed and run by volunteers.

Turtle UNDERGROUND

Live music every Monday in the purple
turtle dungeon

JULY 3RD Crush Rev John & The Revelations Vaska	JULY 10th Lisc Liquid dogs Polonina
JULY 17th Ducklake The BJ Bevy + Special Guests	JULY 24th No Feathers Tim Shez + Special Guests
JULY 31st TBR	AUGUST 7th FOLLOWER Tape It Shut Special guests

**Ricky
WARWICK
& THE FIGHTING HEARTS**
FACE BAR
28 JULY 2023
READING
FACE BAR
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EVER HAZEL

+

PUMA THEORY

(ACOUSTIC)

SUNDAY 23RD JULY

BLUE COLLAR CORNER,
READING
12-5PM
FREE ENTRY



WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk

Singers Night

£3otd | 8pm

MON 31 JUL

PURPLE TURTLE
DUNGEON

Groove Cult Shindigs

Turtle Underground

Free | 8pm | 18+

SAT 5 AUG

THE RETREAT

Five Alive

Free | 8:30pm

SUN 6 AUG

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Theme Night:

'Wish You Were Here'

£3otd | 8pm

MON 7 AUG

PURPLE TURTLE
DUNGEON

Groove Cult Shindigs

Follower + Tape It Shut + tbc

Free | 8pm | 18+

TUE 8 AUG

FACEBAR

Club Velocity/New Mind

Los Fastidios

+ Launch Control

+ Filhos de Inacio

£14.30 | 8pm | 16+

Powerful melodic streetpunk.
Sung in Italian with some
English, French, Spanish and
German; fighting the battle
against racism, fascism,
discrimination and the
capitalist system.

wegotickets.com

SAT 12 AUG

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Here Comes The Sun Festival 2023

£10adv, £5otd, U14 Free
(but book so they know
numbers) | 2pm

The biggest fundraising
event of the year for
Reading's completely
independent, volunteer-run
Arts Centre. Live music,
inside and outside, across
three stages plus plenty
of the food, drink and kids
activities and random stuff
you've come to expect
from Here Comes The Sun.
All the money from this
one-day event will be going
back into the Centre so
they can continue to offer
a creative haven for artists,
audiences and groups of all
shapes and sizes so turn

up, give 'em some money
and have a good time.
wegottickets.com

THE RETREAT

Marshall Couzens Band

Free | 8:30pm

Original and classic songs in
the style of Southern Rock,
Blues, Soul and Americana.

SUN 13 AUG

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Singers Night

£3otd | 8pm

MON 14 AUG

PURPLE TURTLE
DUNGEON

Groove Cult Shindigs

Turtle Underground

Free | 8pm | 18+



29th July 2023
12:30 - 22:30
Near Fleet, Hampshire

**A ONE DAY FAMILY-FRIENDLY
MUSIC FESTIVAL!**

**A stellar line-up including not-to-be-missed
headliners, the UK's top Queen tribute act
QE2!**



FleetingDays.com/tickets



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CO HEADLINE TOUR

SUPERSUCKERS
★★★★THE★★★★
WARNER E HODGES
★★★★BAND★★★★

Plus support



5 October 2023
Doors 19:00

Facebar | Ambrose Place
Reading | RG17JE

Tickets £20 Wegottickets.com

supersuckers.com / warnerhodges.com / jcplmusic.com / otistours.com

SUN 20 AUG

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Reading

Theme Night:
'Fish & Ships'
£3otd | 8pm

MON 21 AUG

PURPLE TURTLE
DUNGEON

Turtle Underground
Free | 8pm | 18+

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

WED 23 AUG

THE LYNDHURST

Jazz Singers' Night
Free entry, 8-00pm
Come and sing with a live
jazz band.

FRI 25 AUG

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Club Velocity

**Tomorrow Bird
+ Colours And Fires
+ Grace Pounds**
£7.70 | 8pm | All ages
wegottickets.com

THU 31 AUG

THE FACEBAR

United By Music Tour

WITCH FEVER

£13.20 | 7pm
16+(U18 w/adult)
There's a National Lottery
Special Offer Ticket available
for this show. In short,
that means you can get a
free guest ticket if you're a
National Lottery player. Read
the terms and conditions on
the website carefully when

you buy your ticket (and
remember, you have to be 18
to play the National Lottery!)
ticketweb.uk

SAT 2 SEP

KINGS MEADOW
Reading Pride

Love Unites

Free | 12-7pm | All ages
"That's not a local live music
gig" you say? But, what you
might not know is that while
Claire Richards et al are doing
their thing on the main stage,
there's also a tiny shining
gem of a stage you might not
know about - and you should
do. Find out more, elsewhere
in this very mag.

FRI 8 SEP

READING ABBEY RUINS
HeavyPop

**Down At The Abbey:
The Comet Is
Coming ...and more**
£32.45* | 6pm | 18+
Weekend: £50.57*

Annual two-day festival in
the Abbey Ruins

SAT 9 SEP

READING ABBEY RUINS
HeavyPop

**Down At The Abbey:
BC Camplight
+ Los Bitchos
...and more**
Adult £33.19*
Teen £16.88*
Weekend: £50.57*

(*There's a Tier system so it
might all be different by the
time you read this!)

heavypop.co.uk

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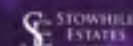
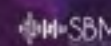
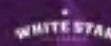
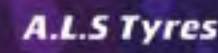
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ENTRY FROM 11AM, MUSIC FROM MIDDAY
WWW.WOKINGHAMFESTIVAL.CO.UK



Reading Pride 2023

Reading's annual free LGBTQ+ Pride event, also known as Love Unites, has all the usual pride stuff – the drag queens and kings, a marketplace, a sea of rainbow flags and a funfair, and even an inclusive sports area – but Reading's party is leading the way when it comes to live music. For the fifth time this year, there will be a stage dedicated to artists who play real instruments, called Pride Alive.

June has become known as 'pride month' but that's really an American (and very commercial) thing – pride events happen all year round, all around the world. This year, Reading's big colourful shindig is on 2nd September in Kings Meadow. Everyone is welcome, whether you're LGBTQ+ or an ally, with a family or friends or alone, first time or been to a hundred. It's become one of the largest free Pride events in the country.

The Pride Alive stage is whipped into shape by our local version of Emily Eavis, Sophie Sheehan (she/her/and occasionally, Your Majesty). On the other stages you'll find the amazing drag acts and lipsyncers that Pride is famous for, but Sophie wants to provide a space dedicated to local artists and musicians who play real live instruments. And a varied lineup she's created too, of all backgrounds and musical genres.

Each area of the site has a different vibe, and Sophie says of her area, "It's just having a corner of the field where people will stop and listen and chill. With the Pride Alive stage, I'm trying to create that mini festival feeling. We've got an incredible looking tent this year, bigger than we had last year. We've got a bigger stage. We're gonna have a bigger sound system. Gonna have more flags and what have you around just to create that different kind of feel."

Sophie stresses the importance of the sponsors to make this free event a success, "For the Pride Alive stage, we're very thrilled this year that SSE is our stage sponsor. So, lots of huge thanks to them."

Together, they have just announced the impressive twelve act lineup for the day. They're taking us on a roller coaster of different genres and fusions for a great blend of music representation. And it includes Sophie herself playing as Colours and Fires. Some of these acts may be familiar to you and the others are definitely worth checking out. (I'm really keen to see Ellis Ballard and Wolf Note).

The Pride Alive acts are:

Dream Sellers
with a mixture of really interesting originals and some great retro covers

Cities in Dust
the psychedelic indie-rockers who many will know from the local live scene

Country Chicks
for really good country music

Ellis Ballard
a wonderful, chilled solo guitarist

Country Moans
think The Ramones in a Country and Western, hillbilly stylee, if you can

The Chah
for very soulful music with a whole big band including trumpet and violin

Glass Half Broken
a feel-good fusion band with bouncing beats

Oliver Hagen
a fantastic ukulele player and regular of The Butler open-mike nights

...Pride in live music as well as the LGBTQ+ community

Boho Supergroup
comprised of players from Bohemian night at the Fisherman's Cottage

Colours and Fires
acoustic indie folk-rock with songs to make you think

Wolf Note
an alt-rock band playing fuzzed-out, finely honed, precision-drilled grunge

Lack of Faith, playing a set of fantastic upbeat rock covers to finish off the night
About the lineup, Sophie says "It's just really good to get all that support from the local music community and to be able to showcase that out to everybody within the LGBTQ+ community. And it means there's something for everybody at Reading Pride, right? At most Prides, not knocking them at all, most Prides, you have the mainstage and then that's it. And there are people who, their only interest is going to the main stage and that's it."

"Fine, but then there are other people who like the kind of music and the acts and the performances that we put on and we become their day. So, there's lots of different shared experiences. People like to float around, you

know, it's not like there's one set audience that are going to see a particular band. People are just enjoying the experience of the day."

The stage has become so successful that it's attracting attention from organisers of other Pride events, who are now coming to Reading and wanting to copy the idea of a stage dedicated to live music.

If you think you want to play next year, whether you're LGBTQ+ or an ally, then look at the website around February when applications open. Or, to volunteer to help out at this year's event, then that's on the website too right now.

Go along and check out some of these great artists, and of course immerse yourself in all the other areas at Pride too. Above all, it's a great day out!

Reading Pride will be at Kings Meadow on 2nd September from midday. The parade leaves from the railway station in the morning and the Pride Alive stage opens with the first act at 12:15 and runs through until 7pm.

@readingprideuk



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