

soundcheck

Issue 26 | September 2023 | FREE

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THIRD LUNG



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Sun 4th Feb Sub89

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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.

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Sound-check #26

We had a meeting! Yeah, I know... I can hear everyone going 'Eeuurgh! A meeting?!' but, over summer, the number of people who want to be involved with Sound-check has grown enough to require a meeting! That's progress, right?! Just me and David yelling ideas over the sound of a support band at The Face Bar was sort of working up to a point but, you know... it was limited.

Anyway, at this first ever meeting, one of the things I asked everyone was: Does it really need the 'editorial' bit on page 3 where I just write down whatever I'm thinking on print deadline day?

To my surprise, the answer was a definite 'Yes' so, ummm... here's another one!

Welcome to Autumn 2023. Back to school and all that. From what I hear, it's about to get busy. See you out there.

— RiCH



THIRD LUNG

Words: David Conquest

It's been a mega year for Reading's Third Lung. They had a packed-out album launch at Sub89, a string of festival shows over the summer, got themselves signed to a major label and now, back home again, they're about to headline their own show at the Brewdog on 16th September.

There is more new music on the way too, with singles in the works and another album.

They describe the music as powerful and anthemic rock, but many fans have called it pretty emotional too. Charlie Ashcroft at Amazing Radio says, "With all this quality you really feel that Third Lung are building towards something truly BIG."

Things are really taking off for the band so I sat down with them for a catch-up and to talk about their plans for the year ahead. The conversation also veered off-road for a short stretch via UFOs. So let's dive in.

Since releasing their debut album 'Gameplay' in November they have been pouring their hearts into playing live gigs up and down the country, putting in the work on an exhausting record store tour of indie venues and over twenty HMV branches.

But of course, it's the festivals they're most excited about. Over the summer they've appeared on main stages all over, at places like The Great Escape, Lakefest, Weyfest, FiFest, The Willow Festival, Frogfest and Bunkfest.

Tom (lead vocals and rhythm guitar) loves the festivals. We were talking just before their appearance at Lakefest near Hereford and he was feeling it: "Buzzing for that one. There's close to 20,000 people there. It'll be the biggest one we've ever done for sure. We've been angling for that one for a while if I'm honest."

He says, "We played it two years on the trot, but we've always done the Gold [VIP] Stage. It went down really well so they've invited us back this year for the main stage."

One of their highlights has been FiFest. Camilla (lead guitar and backing vocals) says "FiFest was great because a really good friend of ours, Dean, shoutout to Generation Studios, was running the second stage while we were on the main stage. He put on a load of other bands we know so we just had a wicked day with them all. Once we had played all our sets we were just mucking about on the bumper cars and stuff. It was just one of those times when you're with other bands that you know and it's a wicked social set. It's a really nice festival."

It's all gigs, new music and UFOs for Reading's Third Lung

And they're getting included in line-ups to be proud of. On the main stage at Lakefest they played alongside the likes of Johnny Marr, Gaz Coombes, Embrace, The Zutons and McFly.

All this hard work and the well-received album have got them some excellent industry recognition. They've had radio play and support from the likes of BBC 6 Music (Steve Lamacq), Record Collector, HiFi+, The Arts Desk, BBC Introducing, Amazing Radio (Charlie Ashcroft), Planet Rock and Gigslutz.

Playing all these gigs hasn't stopped them from working on new material though. They're currently planning another album which is looking pretty promising. Recording will be at the end of the year maybe.

Camilla says, "It's not a creative problem, we're writing all the time, it's more the logistics that go around getting a band into the studio and funding it and all the rest. All that kind of stuff." To help with that side of the business they're now considering getting a manager as Tom admits (to agreement all around) that he's terrible at negotiating.

They want to bring some adventure into this album and leave some space for chance and spontaneity. Rob (bass) adds, "We were talking about the way records used to be recorded. A band just would just be in the studio and there's a freedom to it. And I want to catch that freedom."

Camilla adds that they also like to play new songs live at first, before even getting into pre-production,



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"You get a really good feel for them live, if people like them. It gives you a really good idea of how to approach it in the studio, so we do quite often throw them out in a set when we probably shouldn't."

Expect three or four new ones at the Brewdog gig coming up, plus some oldies. Camilla says, "We quite often throw some of the old songs in when we do Reading, because we've got some really good old mates who come down and see us play."

There are new singles in the works too.

About one of them, 'Pinstripe Maroon', Tom says "I haven't got a f...g clue what it's about. There's a wider context, but it's about a guy who's been invited to a wedding or a do and he's put his best effort into turning up in a pinstripe maroon suit. But he gets everything wrong. The trousers are really short and nothing fits him quite right. But he says he's 'going to have the best night of my life'".

Tom says the chorus goes further, exploring the feeling that he can't say what he means or make mistakes anymore because there's no opportunity for redemption. It's a bit of a reaction against cancel culture and the feeling that he's having to walk on eggshells.

The other single is called 'Tic Tac'. That's the description that was given of a UFO by a US military pilot. Tom is clearly excited by the idea and has been following the recent hearings in the US Congress on the issue. The song, however, is more about the stigma that comes with talking about things that are not in the mainstream and is perhaps actually a continuation of the discussion on cancel culture.

One of the band's biggest achievements this year has been getting signed to Marquee Records, the same brand of the iconic London club that held the first live performance by the Rolling Stones back in 1962. The club is no longer going but the name lives on as a label, focussed on new talent.

They consider themselves lucky this year says Tom, "We've really stepped it up with the festivals but we've got a decent label behind us now. It's early days but it's going really well so far."

He continues, "It's really cool to be involved with a label that's actually doing something. Because it's early days for the label, they're really excited and keen to build something special, so it's good to be around that kind of energy. They've been really supportive."

A key part of that energy is the Marquee Records Roadshow, pulling together bands from the group to show off their combined talents. Tom considers that Marquee has a fairly broad selection of artists but that they complement each other quite nicely. They're in discussions now about appearing at various Marquee stages at festivals around the country.

Their first Marquee release, and as a "doff of the cap" to the label, they released a reimagined cover of AC/DCs 'It's a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock 'n' Roll)'.

That came about after opening the Radio Wigwam 2022 Awards show (as the 2021 Best Band winners). The guys from Marquee were there too and they all got chatting. The suggestion was made that, as part of the roadshow, wouldn't it be a good idea if the bands could play one of the songs from the acts that were famous for playing the club back in the day. And so the idea for the cover was born.

Since then, Third Lung has played a Marquee show at the Lexington in London in August, supporting new label-mates Louis and the Shakes, who are returning the favour at the Brewdog in September.

Tom says, "We're doing our own hometown headline show and they're going to come over and support us." It was Dean from Generation Studios again who suggested Brewdog as a venue. Tom says they wanted to do something a bit different, "a bit more intimate. I couldn't believe it, it's so cool up there and nobody is using it."

Camilla adds, "It's a nice size. Fingers crossed it all goes smoothly. If it does, we're hoping that maybe we might try and get some sort of a regular night on down there, so we're really excited. We're really looking forward to it."

Also supporting them will be new Newbury band Who Ate All the Crayons, fresh from their debut EP tour (which included the Oakford Social Club in August). There has been some interesting band activity coming from Newbury lately so it's worth keeping an eye out to the west. ■

Get down to the Brewdog on 16th September to see some fantastic live music and show Third Lung your support.

@thirdlungband

19 SOMETHING FESTIVAL 2023

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 4PM TIL LATE
THE FACE BAR AMBROSE PLACE READING RG1 7JE

LINEUP:

TRAMPOLENE
GEMMA ROGERS
she's in parties
MADDIE ASHMAN

JACK VALERO
THE MEZZ
TIGER MENDOZA
DOOPS
ASH THE AUTHOR
THE PINK DIAMOND REVUE
JOPY
HOOPY FROOD
COLOURS & FIRES
MORE ACTS TBC

DJS:

BAILO & EAMES
(PUTGD & THESOCIAL)

MATT LE BLEND



LINEUP SUBJECT TO CHANGE. UNDER 18'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
PROOF OF AGE MAY BE REQUIRED)
AGE UK READING REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1103557

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FRI 1 SEP

CASTLE TAP
Funksteins
Free | 8pm

CULTUREMIX ARTS
Special guests backed by
**Reading Reggae
Collective**

£5adv | 7pm
Star performances, good
vibes, a pop up bar and
sweet reggae music.
eventbrite.co.uk

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SAT 2 SEP

KINGS MEADOW
Pride Alive

@ Love Unites 2023

Free | Noon
Reading's annual free
LGBTQ+ Pride event, Love
Unites, has all the usual
pride stuff plus a stage
dedicated to local artists
and real live music, called
Pride Alive. This year, sees
Dream Sellers, Cities in Dust,
Country Chicks, Ellis Ballard,
Country Moans, The Chah,
Glass Half Broken, Oliver
Hagen, Boho Supergroup,
Colours and Fires, Wolf
Note and Lack of Faith.

MON 4 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground
**Goodbye Blue
Monday +
Tape It Shut +
Launch Control +
Missing The Scene**
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

TUE 5 SEP

UP THE JUNCTION
The MkII
Free | 9pm | 18+
A solid hour of classic soul and
Motown on a Tuesday night.

THU 7 SEP

THE BUTLER
FSJB present
Fusion 6
£8otd | 8pm | 18+
A fusion of funk, jazz, blues
and Latin elements - Live!

FRI 8 SEP

READING ABBEY RUINS
Heavy Pop
Down At The Abbey
**The Comet Is
Coming + W.H. Lung
+ AK/DK + Hatty
Taylor ...and more.**
Fri: £37.50 | 1pm | 18+
Fri/Sat combined: £59.00
Two stages of live music,
award winning Siren Craft
beer and cider, and delicious
gourmet street food, all in
the spectacular, 900 year
old Reading Abbey Ruins.
downattheabbey.co.uk

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

THE BUTLER
The Bone Idol Band
Free | 9pm | 18+

SAT 9 SEP

READING ABBEY RUINS
Heavy Pop
Down At The Abbey
**BC Camplight +
Los Bitchos + Band
of Hope + Ben
Marwood ...and more.**
Fri: £42.75 | 1pm | 18+
Fri/Sat combined: £59.00
Two stages of live music,
award winning Siren Craft
beer and cider, and delicious
gourmet street food, all in
the spectacular, 900 year
old Reading Abbey Ruins.
downattheabbey.co.uk

CASTLE TAP
Jimmy the Dog
Free | 8:30pm

SUN 10 SEP

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readingfolk
Jez Lowe
£8otd | 8pm

MON 11 SEP

SUB89
TEG Live
UK Subs
£25.20 | 7:30pm
14+(U16 w/adult)
The final tour!
premier.ticketek.co.uk

CLUB VELOCITY/NEW MIND PROMOTIONS SHOWS
AT THE FACEBAR READING 2023
WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUB VELOCITY

SEPT 9TH - SCREAMING DEAD

SEPT 14TH - MARK MORRIS
(THE BLUETONES)

SEPT 21ST - MORUS

SEPT 23RD - GRAVEYARD JOHNNYS + HENRY & THE BLEEDERS
PLANET STRANGE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT

OCT 26TH - MARCH VIOLETS + THE GO GO CULT

OCT 28TH - BENNETT **SOLD OUT!**

NOV 1ST - DSM IV / ELLIS-D

NOV 3RD - THE DERELLAS + EAT DADDY EAT
KILLER KOWALSKI

NOV 9TH - VISION VIDEO

NOV 11TH - EDDIE & THE HOTRODS

NOV 17TH - DISCHARGE

NOV 26TH - MOZART ESTATE
LAWRENCE FROM FELT/DENIM

NOV 30TH - PET NEEDS + GLITCHERS

DEC 8TH - JOHN OTWAY (FULL BAND)



PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground
Adomania
+ Echo chambers
+ Defenestration
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

TUE 12 SEP

21 SOUTH STREET
**Kathryn Tickell &
The Darkening**
£19.50 | 8pm
whatsonreading.com

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

THU 14 SEP

THE FACE BAR
Club Velocity/New Mind
MARK MORRISS
£15 | 8pm | 14+
The Bluetones' front man
solo headline show.
wegottickets.com

THE BUTLER
**The Hugh
Turner Quartet**
£7otd | 8pm | 18+
Local virtuoso funk
jazz guitarist leads his
quartet through original
compositions and covers.

FRI 15 SEP

PROGRESS THEATRE
Jazz in Reading
Pigfoot
play Ellington
£19, U16 £10 | 7:30pm
Reworking of the remarkable
repertoire of Jazz's foremost
composer Duke Ellington;
from his earliest days of
New York's Cotton Club,
through the powerhouse
swing of the 30s and 40s
to the exotica inspired by
his extensive international
travels of later years.
ticketsource.co.uk

SAT 16 SEP

BREWDOG
Runnin' Blue and Marquee Records
**Third Lung + Louis
And The Shakes
+ Who Ate All The
Crayons?**
£11 | 7pm | 18+
One-off show, not to be
missed so, in future, you
can say you were there.
wegottickets.com

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Mark Jennings
£11adv, £12otd | 7:30pm
All ages
An evening of virtuoso
guitar classics.
wegottickets.com

FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE
Rocket Kings
album launch gig
Free | 8pm
Purveyors of the finest
ukepop, Rocket Kings
return to the Fisherman's
Cottage to launch their new
album, 'Paving the Way'.

SUN 17 SEP

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
Theme Night:
'In Other Words'
£3otd | 8pm

MON 18 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground
**Doops + The
Shaken Angels
+ Strangers in
Transit**
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

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

THU 21 SEP

FACE BAR
Club Velocity/New Mind
**Morus + Vicious
Love + Landlord
Lynch**
£8.80 | 8pm
14+(U18 w/adult)
Morus started 2012 in
Warsaw... played around
Poland, mostly at squats
and independent clubs...
Ultra Chaos Punk Piknik in
Żelebsko... Outside Fest in
Wojcieszów and now you can
catch them here in Reading.
wegottickets.com

FRI 22 SEP

SUB89
**Anti-Nowhere
League
+ Guitar Gangsters**
£22.40 | 7pm
14+(U16 w/adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

PURPLE TURTLE
**The Howlers
+ The Mezz**
Free | 8pm | 18+
Yeah, The Howlers... for free!

SAT 23 SEP

FACE BAR
Club Velocity/Good Wrecking
Tonight
**Graveyard Johnnys
+ Henry & the
Bleeders + Planet
Strange**
£13.20 | 8pm
14+(U18 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

THE BUTLER
**Solar
+ Colours & Fires**
£5otd | 8pm



Darcey Hope @ Rising Sun Arts Centre 28.07.2023 Photo: © Alex Marlow

GRASSROOTS



Frankie Bird

The Debut EP



Out Now

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

**Tribute Night:
Elton John**

£5 (suggested donation)
8pm | All ages
Regular gathering of performers and audience to dig into, and 're-interpret' the back catalogue of different artists: This time... it's Rocket Reg.

MON 25 SEP

**PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground
Lake Acacia
+ Rats Eat Rats
+ Pinewall**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

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

WED 27 SEP

21 SOUTH STREET
Heavy Pop
Henge + Dogshow
£18 | 7:30pm | 14+
whatsonreading.com

THE LYNDHURST
Fleur Stevenson:
Jazz Singers' Night
Free | 8pm
Come and sing with a live jazz band!

THU 28 SEP

SUB89
Split The Dealer
£9 | 7:30pm
14+(U16 w/adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

PURPLE TURTLE
Ding Dong Daddios
Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 29 SEP

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Club Velocity
Mr Fogg
+ The Dianas
+ Uncle Peanut
£8.30 | 8pm | All ages
wegottickets.com

THE BUTLER
Storm In A Teacup presents
Missing The Scene
+ First Among
Equals + Everybody
Lies
£What you can | 7pm

SUN 1 OCT

SUB89
Municipal Waste
£25.80 | 7:30pm
14+(U16 w/adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk
Singers Night
£3otd | 8pm

MON 2 OCT

THE FACE BAR
Heavy Pop
Jealous Nostril
+ Eat Daddy Eat
£11 | 7:30pm
14+ (U18s w/adult)
Garage rock band formed by Razorlight frontman, Johnny Borrell, last summer.
gigantic.com

THU 5 OCT

21 SOUTH STREET
Heavy Pop
An evening with
Kristin Hersh
£27 | 7:30pm
Influential songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Kristin

Hersh, leader of the indie rock band Throwing Muses and the noise rock power trio 50 Foot Wave returns to South St.
whatsonreading.com

THE FACE BAR
Runnin' Blue
Supersuckers
+ The Warner
E. Hodges Band
+ Boss Caine
£22 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

THE BUTLER
FSJB present
Phil Braithwaite and Friends
£7otd | 8pm
Soul, RnB and funk: Phil Braithwaite, guitar; Niquet Goldson, vocals; Liam Tillyer, bass; Ed Williams, drums.

FRI 6 OCT

PROGRESS THEATRE
Partners in Time:
Stuart Henderson
& Karen Sharp
£19, £17(conc), £10(U16)
Celebrating the historic trumpet/saxophone partnerships of jazz.
jazzinreading.com

CASTLE TAP
Beggar's Buttons
+ Rootweave
+ Atom Radio
Free | 7:15pm

SAT 7 OCT

CASTLE TAP
Steve Morano
Free | 8pm

THE BUTLER
Bottle Kids
Free | 9pm

Whitehouse studios
Production, Recording & Rehearsal Studios
info@whitehouse-studios.co.uk
0118 9502 102
www.whitehouse-studios.co.uk

risingsunartscentre.org

Stand Up Cinema
Fri 8 Sept | 7:00pm | FREE
Locally made, original, short films. This is the place to see local work and network with both established and aspiring artists and film makers.

Tribute Night: Elton John

Mark Jennings Guitar Recital
Sat 16 Sept
7:30pm
£12 on the door
"Exquisite - bravo."
Colin Cooper
(Guitar Magazine)

Sat 23 Sep
8pm
Free (donations)

30 Silver Street, Reading RG1 2ST
The Rising Sun Arts Centre is an award winning, independent arts centre, staffed and run by volunteers.

INDEPENDENT FREEHOUSE

THE FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE

Live Jazz, Blues and more...
Open Mic every Wednesday night
Music from 7:30 | Free entry

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If you like the sound of music and arts venue that exists entirely for people not profit, is run and staffed by people who are only there because they want to be and is entirely independent of any shareholders, brewery or council or, well... anybody, then the Rising Sun is yours.

On a day in August, when it just about managed to not rain, Ennaya took herself to the annual Here Comes The Sun festival for a chat with manager, Larry, to see what kind of shape the place is in, in a post-Covid, world of closing venues and a general cost of living nightmare.

This year's Here Comes The Sun – the Rising Sun Art Centre's annual summer festival – was a celebration of art, music and community. From the numbers of people at the festival, the centre seems to be doing a bit better than last year coming out of covid, but centre manager Larry Watson (who's been with the centre over 20 years!) tells me they're still struggling to replenish pre-covid numbers.

He introduced the Rising Sun for you lot who might not know it well:

"Well, we're a small, independent arts centre that does a variety of arts and things".

It's not just a live music venue – there's a lot of project-based work with theatre, poetry, visual arts, a bit of cinema... very community focused...

"For example, we've got a project where people can submit 3-minute-long films, which just gives them the opportunity to show their work."

So how does the Rising Sun operate?

"It's run by volunteers to a very great extent; I'm the only paid worker. The programme is as full as any arts centre and volunteers are doing all that stuff."

We have to think carefully how to organise ourselves, to enable us to survive without the levels of funding that other arts centres receive and it's kind of unprecedented for an arts centre to be doing the level of work we're doing without the funding but we're keen on being independent.

It's quite stressful 'cos it's a lot of work and it can become quite consuming so we have to look at how we work to make it possible. We have to do stuff that the volunteers want us to do; if we just make them deliver our programme they're not as passionate about it.

Covid hit us quite hard. We did quite well considering how many people we lost, and we're getting new people involved to replace them. We tell people, 'This is your thing; you can do what you want with it.' but it takes time for people to believe that.

We're handing stuff over to our new volunteers, but we're very focused on delivering. That can make it hard to put much work into training and fundraising 'cos everyone's on the shop floor helping out.

We were struggling a lot financially and we're just about breaking even now but it's very, very hard work. We're sort of working towards making it easy but, yeah, we need more volunteers. We're happy for anyone to join us... anyone at all. Volunteers can do absolutely everything."

That's a bit broad, though.

"Yeah, that's what takes people a minute to get their head round!"

The places you generally start are staffing the bar or the door. People come with specific ideas for projects, wanting to develop skills... Helping round the bar means you can meet other people and get a feel for how the place works. Then you can come and choose to do specific things. ■

For a closer look at roles and to volunteer, check out:
www.risingsunartscentre.org/volunteers



HERE COMES THE SUN



Joy @ Rising Sun Arts Centre 12.08.2023 Photo: © Alex Marlow

Some stuff we got told that doesn't fit on any other page...

Rocket Kings have been performing their own brand of ukepop for the past seven years and September sees the release of the band's second album, 'Paving the Way'.



As with their first album, the twelve songs are laden with tunes and harmonies, but it's a little more rock this time – and even includes trumpet on a couple of tracks. Amongst other things, there are songs about space (a regular theme for the band), yellow birds, missing museums, faithful dogs, tall tales and the Berlin Wall. 'Paving the Way' is released on 15th Sept and there will be a launch gig at The Fisherman's Cottage on Sat 16th Sept, 8pm. This is the sound of ukepop!

In January, Beth and Lewis of **LILAC**, travelled up to iconic Motor Museum studio in Liverpool to work with Ben Harper (*The Mysterines*, *The Luka State*, *The Sherlocks*) on 'Touch', the track which is now ready to become their third single.



It's out on 8th Sept in time for their biggest headline gig to date at West End Centre, over in Aldershot, on 16th Sept 2023.

The Up The Junction bar at Cemetery Junction have put a stage in with the aim of putting on live bands. Yep, it's a tiny little place but it might just work! To test the theory, **The MkII** are playing in there on Tue 5th Sept. There are seven of them, including the brass, so if they fit in there, so will you. Go in and say hello if you fancy it.

sound-check

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