

# soundcheck

Issue 31 | March 2024 | FREE

## Reading's FREE live music guide



# THE STRETCH

+ live gigs for March  
+ The Retreat

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

**Turtle UNDERGROUND**

7.30PM TO 10PM IN THE MAIN BAR

3 BANDS - FREE ENTRY  
SEE THE WEBSITE FOR LINEUPS

**CLUB RECKLESS**

10.30PM TO 3AM ROCK, PUNK, EMO, ALT, METAL

TURTLE UNDERGROUND?  
@GROOVECULTSHINDIGS

READ!POP FESTIVAL 24

**THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH PARTY**



**LI MORT SIBITE**  
more to be announced

**Friday 29th March**  
6.30 TO 10.00

FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

**DOLLY AND THE MUMMERS**



**Saturday 30th March**

10.30PM - 1.00AM  
FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

**THE KORSARS**

SKA & PUNK CLASSICS WITH A PSYCHEDELIC TWIST



**FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 8.00PM - 10.00PM**

**RDF**

**SUNDAY 31ST MARCH**

**RADICAL DANCE FACTION**

8PM - 10PM  
FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

**Bing Bong Daddies**



**THURSDAY 25 MAR 7PM TO 10PM**

FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

SWING & JIVE

EVERY LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

SUNDAY TO THURSDAY  
MIDDAY TO 3AM

FRIDAY/SATURDAY  
MIDDAY TO 3.30AM

**Purple Turtle**

WWW.PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM

# Sound-check #31

Noooo! February's short and we forgot! The print deadlines are all wrong... We'll never make it! Oh, hang on...it's ok... February's coming back for an encore, sticking an extra day on the end. It's all gonna be fine.




Loads of gigs to get to this month. Big *Punk For A Purpose* all-dayer at The Butler on the 2nd for a start. Annual four-day run at The Retreat at the other end of the month. Details are all in here somewhere.

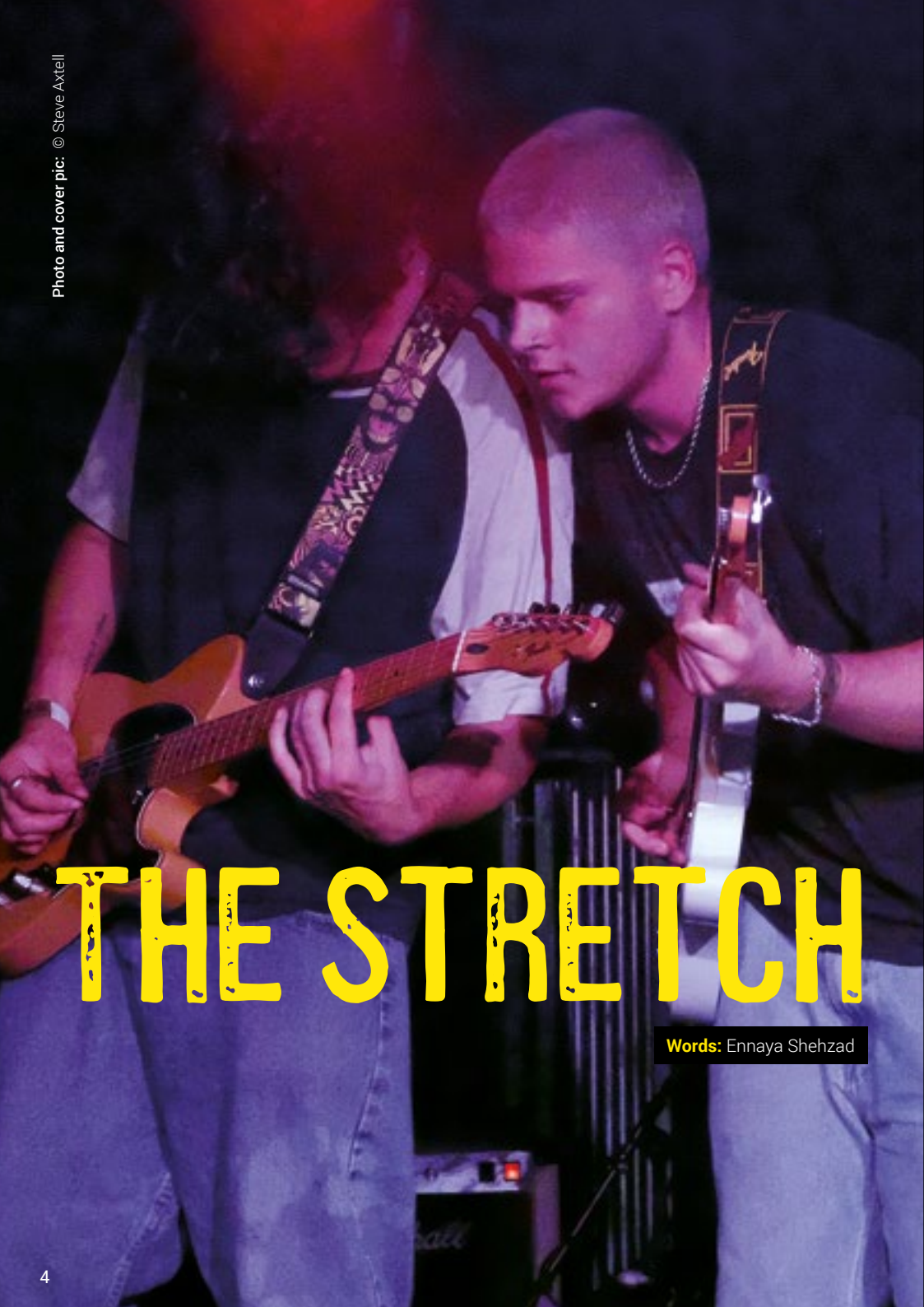
See you there.

- RICH



Elucidate @ The Purple Turtle, 05.02.2024 Photo: @ Steve Axtell

-  /soundcheckreading
-  /soundcheckrdg
-  /soundcheckrdg



# THE STRETCH

Words: Ennaya Shehzad

Last month I heard about The Stretch after they played a gig with Adomania at the Student Union. They had escaped my radar for two years, but after hearing them it was easy to see why they were a hit, so I asked whether they'd be down to have a chat in the Biscuit Factory.

Singer and guitarist, Sidy, and guitarist, Alex, began the band at the beginning of their course and later joined up with Arjun on the drums and Charlie on bass.

They all have very different influences! Charlie's comes from a more laddish Britpop in – the – charts place, noting "Oasis, Arctic Monkeys, Calvin Harris... bit of Coldplay..." Sidy's more "noughties indie... Bloc party, The Kooks, Muse, love weird types of metal too – Deftones, System Of A Down..." ("you love Taylor swift..." comments Alex snidely).

Alex says, "Queens Of The Stone Age, The Strokes, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Metallica..." which all influence the guitar playing. "80 In The Rain is a heavier tune, you can hear it in that".

Arjun says he's into more Hip Hop, which the others reassure him "lends itself to the rhythm of the band."

Everything they're into has this upbeat, uniting energy that makes them so popular. The current 2000s – revival explains their indie – pop appeal – they're incredibly 'on trend'!

Now, there are always people who look down on music that's popular, but The Stretch are deliberate about it. A lot of what they said to me was about how they're constantly analysing the crowd's reactions to their music and this responsiveness really comes across. Their music shows how they're so clearly in touch with their audience. Sidy summed up that with simply "our music's relatable."

Where The Stretch started with *80 In The Rain* being quite "Jamie T/early Arctic Monkeys/The Wombats" their music is already very different now. "We like to play around. We like to be constantly evolving. If you see us once we don't want you to come

back and hear the same exact thing."

"It's important for us to be constantly shaking things up."

Their songs are about the drunken glory days that everyone can remember, hazily relatable enough to be about you. Topics include; wasted one night stands, more sober, angsty odes to being with a girl with a boyfriend, feeling like crap with no specific details, feeling like crap with anyone but the person they're losing, going to festivals and getting caught.

"There was this old dude at Boardmasters just having a wild one... at the end of the show he was on my friend's shoulders – I took a picture, just knew it had to be somewhere." That's the cover for *'Even At A Festival'*.

The band's cover artwork is worth a mention – all done by local artists and a friend's who's doing a graphic design course."

For the cover of *O.T.L.* you can really see the Jean-Michel Basquiat influence, and for their 2022 track *Clocked Out* they took inspiration from The Strokes' *The New Abnormal*. "We wanted something like that... we didn't want it to be really digital. We've got that artwork hung up in our house now."

"To begin with, we decided on 5 colours for everything – bright orange, yellow, green, blue, red." You can see the ones that have been professionally done, the inspiration from the Strokes, the Amazons and the real artistic inspirations behind it all.

The Stretch members' different musical inspirations mean that there's a big push-and-pull element to songwriting, "but we know, if we agreed all the time, the music wouldn't be as good. We're all so passionate about it that sometimes, in the moment, we hate each other, but there's nothing else like it." says Sidy.

The others agree. "It's just a way of expressing yourself. Being able to enjoy it together is class."

"It's very rewarding to enter a room with an idea and for it to come together with a properly polished outcome. I used to make

# THE STRETCH



Photo: © Alex Marlow

music just for myself because I enjoyed it, save it on my phone and listen to it whenever. But now I've met these amazing people who have the same ideas and are unreal musicians as well. We're doing the same thing now, just releasing it."

"To have people like it, and be singing along, knowing the words of these lyrics I wrote just sat on some shitty sofa and battling with it just – it's insane. Other people enjoying it as well is just sick."

They've played "so many shows..." so it takes a minute to answer what their favourite venue has been. "Well, we've played loads of places once. We've been all over London. The O2 Academy was great – that was the biggest show we had that was just, like, our fans. That was off the back of this competition. There was this string of gigs we did for the Hot Vox competition to get onto the Isle of Wight stage, and we just had more and more people at every show."

Loads of people came from Reading, we organised a coach into the centre of London" (they made the finals). They really like the Amersham Arms, the Hoxton Underbelly and, more locally, the Purple Turtle.

"We've got such a long list of places... a place that's always good is the Student Union – absolutely packed all the time cos it's free. We've got loads of friends and fans there so it's great."

Like Adomania, and probably most people, I suggest, it's the people and not the place that make a gig good.

"You've really hit the nail on the head there. I love playing Bristol too, because I'm from there (Siddy) so it's kind of like a home show. I'd probably say the O2 academy though, over 250 people, completely sold out, just this scrappy little band completely killing it. We had a lovely time. We are all the time obviously, but that was a massive moment, just felt like we were really doing things."

Have they got any recordings coming up?

"We've got around 12 songs written and 6 released and we're not sure how to go forward because we've got a load of songs that could be singles but we've got this massive repertoire. Why not just put them together as one uniform thing? We really understand the importance of a uniform body of work."

"We've been working with the guys around the corner at Whitehouse Studios. They're good people. They know our sound really well by now cos we've worked with them quite a bit. We'll definitely have something in the next couple of months."

Maybe "a summer single"?

"Yeah, a summer single, maybe more, easily done."


They had a gig on the 23rd of February at the Sindercombe social in London, which was free, but all the proceeds from the drinks went to Warchild.

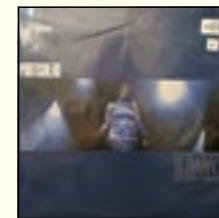
The next gig in Reading is the 13th April at the Oakford social Club, but they'd "be surprised if nothing came up" before that, as they play a lot, so keep those eyes peeled.

Charlie reminisces "our first shows were at the Diary, and we had a pretty big audience but, to go from there to where we are now..."

Alex: "Playing gigs every two weeks at the minimum, over 2.5 thousand monthly listeners not too long ago, six songs released, wo music videos... we can't complain."

"We're killing it." laughs Siddy. "Just need to get merch out!" ■

 @thestretchofficial



### Portishead

#### Dummy

Is Dummy by Portishead the best record of the 1990s? Still sounds really fresh to me and such a solid collection of tunes : 'fully rideable' (i.e. good from start to finish!)

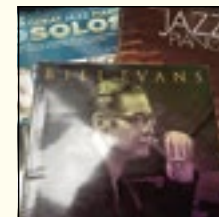


### Sidney Bechet

Lovely album of 78s by Sidney Bechet. On the wonderful Esquire Record Label which was the finest curator of domestic and American jazz in the UK in the 1940s/50s. If you ever wondered where the term 'album' comes from. The original gramophone collections were literally albums.



As well as selling records, cassettes, CDs and other formats of yesteryear we also sell the equipment to play them. Obsolete? Not in our house!



We have a fantastic selection of sheet music for every level of player. In particular we have a high quality collection of Jazz Piano tutors and scores.

### 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.

Oxfam works with others to fight global poverty.

**Looking to recruit new team members!**

## OXFAM MUSIC

**9 DUKE ST, READING RG1 4SA  
0118 9561598**

# gigguide

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

Info is correct at time of going to press. (At least, I've tried hard.)

Websites refer to where to get tickets.

bf = booking fee    otd = on the door  
adv = advance    tbc = to be confirmed

## FRI 1 MAR

### FACE BAR

Heavy Pop

**JOHN + Dr Satso + HööF**

£15.40 | 7:30pm | 14+(U18 w/adult)

[gigantic.com](http://gigantic.com)

### 3SIXTY RUSU

Reading SU Events

**The Wurzels + Dolly & the Clothespegs**

from £10 | 7:30pm

[readingsu.co.uk](http://readingsu.co.uk)

## SAT 2 MAR

### THE BUTLER

Storm In A Teacup

**Burnt Tapes + Making Friends + Resuscitators + Missing The Scene + The Bourbon Massive + The Innocent Men + Hell's Kitchen + Jake Cooper**

£9adv, £12otd | 3pm | 14+

Raising money for the Nick Jonas

Ward at Winchester Hospital.

[eventim-light.com](http://eventim-light.com)

### THE RETREAT

**Bob Bowles Trio**

Free | 8:30pm

### THE FACE BAR

**March Of The Mods: Gold Steppers + The Start + Brick Top + Wildwood + Rude Not 2**

£13.50(+bf) | 4pm | 18+ after 9pm

All in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust.

[tickets.matterpay.com](http://tickets.matterpay.com)

## SUN 3 MAR

### WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readingfolk

**Dan Kemp**

£8 otd (cash only) | 8pm

### FACE BAR

**Pistols At Dawn + Eulogy + One Last Day + Raze**

£11.50 | 7pm | 18+

[tickettailor.com](http://tickettailor.com)

**CLUB VELOCITY 21<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY**

**doops**  
WITH SECRET RIVALS AND BORED SLIPPY

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE  
22<sup>ND</sup> OF MARCH, 8PM  
£6.50 ADV.

**rising sun arts centre . org**

**Tribute Night: Iron Maiden**  
Sat 2nd March  
8pm - 11pm  
£Donations

Come to witness various local musicians playing various Iron Maiden songs in various, and often surprising, ways. Who knows how this will go!

**Tango Select**  
Sunday 3rd March  
4pm - 7pm | £10

Tango Select play songs from the golden age of tango. A perfect opportunity for Readings Tango community to dance to live music.

30 Silver Street, Reading RG1 2ST

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

# CLUB VELOCITY/NEW MIND PROMOTIONS SHOWS AT THE FACEBAR READING 2024

[WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUB VELOCITY](http://WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUB VELOCITY)

*IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT*  
**MARCH 29TH - THE METEORS + RADIO** VOODOO

**APR 10TH - THE HAWKMEN + SUPPORT**

*GOth LEGENDS*  
**APR 18TH - GHOST DANCE + KORINTHIANS**

**MAY 2ND - FUNKE & THE TWO TONE BABY + GRACE POUNDS**

**MAY 17TH - SNUFF + PREDECEASED PREY**

**JUNE 15TH - GAYE BYKERS ON ACID + THE PRISCILLAS THE GO GO CULT**

**JULY 17TH - HEATHEN APOSTLES + SUPPORT**

*GOth LEGENDS*  
**SEPT 7TH - INKUBUS SUKKUBUS + THE GO GO CULT**

*IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT*  
**SEPT 14TH - THE CARAVANS + TR55 DEAD HOMBRES**

**OCT 5TH - DR DIABLO & THE RODENT SHOW + PINK DIAMOND REVUE**

**NOV 5TH - LOS FASTIDIOS + SUPPORT**

**DEC 5TH - JOHN OTWAY (FULL BAND)**

**MORE SHOWS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!**  
[WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUB VELOCITY](http://WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUB VELOCITY)

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

**Tango Select**

£10 *otd* | 4pm

**MON 4 MAR**

PURPLE TURTLE

*Groove Cult Shindigs*

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

**TUE 5 MAR**

FACE BAR

*Club Velocity*

**Beans on Toast**

£19.80 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegottickets.com

UP THE JUNCTION

**Live @ The Junction**

Free | 8pm | 18+

PURPLE TURTLE DUNGEON

*Groove Cult Shindigs*

**The Underground Sessions**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

*Acoustic acts and singer/songwriters in the Dungeon*

**THU 7 MAR**

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB

**Glass Half Broken**

**+ Bored Slippy**

Free | 8pm | 18+

**FRI 8 MAR**

ST LAURENCE CHURCH

*Heavy Pop*

Beat Connection:

**Deadletter + Mary In The**

**Junkyard + Man/Woman/**

**Chainsaw + Gag Salon**

Adult £19.80, Teen £16.50

7pm | 14+(U18 w/adult)

gigantic.com

**SAT 9 MAR**

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB

**Rats Eat Rats + Auto**

**Pepley + Halfway Home**

Free | 8pm | 18+

**MON 11 MAR**

PURPLE TURTLE

*Groove Cult Shindigs*

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

**TUE 12 MAR**

UP THE JUNCTION

**Live @ The Junction**

Free | 8pm | 18+

PURPLE TURTLE DUNGEON

*Groove Cult Shindigs*

**The Underground Sessions**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

*Acoustic acts and singer/songwriters in the Dungeon*

**FRI 15 MAR**

THE BUTLER

**Friday Night Blues**

**Michael Messer**

**and Chaz Jankel**

£17.60 | 8pm | 16+ (U18s w/adult)

wegottickets.com

**SAT 16 MAR**

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB

**The Leaf Library**

**+ Kill Committee**

Free | 7pm | 18+

THE HEXAGON

**Justin Hayward**

*(the voice of The Moody Blues)*

**+ Mike Dawes**

£45, £41.50 | 7:30pm

whatsonreading.com/

THE BUTLER

**Swallow**

Free | 8pm

**SUN 17 MAR**

THE FACE BAR

*Club Velocity/New Mind Promotions*

**The Countess Of Fife**

**feat Faye from The Rezillos**

£18.70 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U16s w/adult)

**MON 18 MAR**

THE FACE BAR

**BDRMM + DEK**

£13.75 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18s w/adult)

gigantic.com

PURPLE TURTLE

*Groove Cult Shindigs*

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

**TUE 19 MAR**

UP THE JUNCTION

**Live @ The Junction**

Free | 8pm | 18+

PURPLE TURTLE DUNGEON

*Groove Cult Shindigs*

**The Underground Sessions**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

*Acoustic acts and singer/songwriters in the Dungeon*

**WED 20 MAR**

THE HEXAGON

**10cc + Paul Canning**

£44.50, £40.50 | 7:30pm

whatsonreading.com

**FRI 22 MAR**

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

*Club Velocity*

**Club Velocity 21st Birthday**

**Doops + Secret Rivals**

**+ Bored Slippy**

£7.20 | 8pm | All ages

wegottickets.com

PROGRESS THEATRE

*Jazz in Reading*

**International Trio led by Swiss**

**supergroup Vein drummer,**

**Florian Arbenz**

£19, £17conc, £10 U16s (+bf)

*Arguably one of Europe's greatest drummers, Florian Arbenz, brings his creative impulse to the Progress stage in the company of Jim Hart and Percy Pursglove.*

ticketsource.co.uk



**SATURDAY 11th MAY 2024**

ARE YOU LISTENING? FESTIVAL, READING

- Second lineup announcement (A-Z) -

**ANTONY SZMIEREK • THE MYSTERINES**  
**C DUNCAN • FAT DOG • HEARTWORMS • HOME COUNTIES**  
**HOTWAX • PICTURE PARLOUR • WILLIAM DOYLE**

**BARRELHAUS • DOLLY & THE CLOTHESPEGS • DR SATSO • FRÄULEIN**  
**FROZEMODE • GRACE POUNDS • HÖÖF • KAH'NYA • LIPWORMS**  
**MASQUERADER • MATTHEW ONE MAN • PHON • PLANTOID**  
**PUMA THEORY • SNAYX • THE MEZZ • WOLFNOTE**

*+ more to be announced*

Venues to be announced

Tickets and info: [areyoulistening.org.uk](http://areyoulistening.org.uk)

   @aylfest

**Festival Warm-Up Party**

**FRIDAY 10th MAY**

St. Laurence Church, Reading

**OPUS KINK**

**CHALK**

*+ more to be announced*

Tickets onsale now

Your wristband grants access to all of the venues on the day, subject to capacity and age restrictions. Line-up subject to change. Proof of age may be required.

**DORK**



**gigantic**



Reading Festival

**HEAVY OP**

## SAT 23 MAR

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB  
**BarrelHaus**  
+ **Beard of Destiny**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

## SUN 24 MAR

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readfolk*  
**Christina Alden**  
& **Alex Patterson**  
£8 otd (cash only) | 8pm

## MON 25 MAR

PURPLE TURTLE  
*Groove Cult Shindigs*  
**Turtle Underground**  
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

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

## TUE 26 MAR

UP THE JUNCTION  
**Live @ The Junction**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

PURPLE TURTLE DUNGEON  
*Groove Cult Shindigs*  
**The Underground Sessions**  
Free | 7:30pm | 18+  
*Acoustic acts and singer/songwriters  
in the Dungeon*

## WED 27 MARCH

THE LYNDHURST  
**Jazz Singers Night**  
Free, 8pm  
*Come and sing with a live jazz band!*

## THU 28 MAR

THE RETREAT  
**The Big River Blues Band**  
Free | 9pm

## FRI 29 MAR

FACE BAR  
*Club Velocity/Good Wrecking Tonight*  
**The Meteors**  
+ **Voodoo Radio**  
£24.20 | 8pm | 14+ (U16s w/adult)  
*Yes... the actual Meteors!*  
[wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

THE LYNDHURST  
**Café Zazous**  
Free | 1pm

**Steve Morano Band**  
Free | 5pm

**David Gray &  
John Dunsterville**  
Free | 9pm

THE RETREAT  
**Keith Allen Band**  
Free | 3pm

**Phil Braithwaite & Friends**  
Free | 7pm



Adomania @ The Oakford Social Club, 17.02.2024 Photo: © Steve Axtell

**Dandelion  
&  
The Drop**

with DJ support from

**Friday 3rd May 2024**

8 till late  
earlybird tickets £10  
then £14

The Butler  
85-91  
Chatham St  
Reading RG1 7DS

[WeGotTickets.com](http://WeGotTickets.com)

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present  
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free entry

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[chris.printmaker@gmail.com](mailto:chris.printmaker@gmail.com)

## SAT 30 MAR

THE BUTLER

**Rigsby**

Free | 8pm

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB

**Empires, Empires**

+ **Oral Habit**

Free | 8pm | 18+

THE RETREAT

**Thomas Heppell Band**

Free | 1pm

**Jackie Doe & the  
Uncertainty of Passion**

Free | 5pm

**Rufus Ruffcut**

Free | 9pm

THE LYNDHURST

**Heather Jayne  
& the Red Shoes**

Free | 3pm

**Hugh Turner Funk Trio**

Free | 7pm

## SUN 31 MAR

PURPLE TURTLE

**RDF: Radical Dance  
Faction**

Free | 8pm | 18+

THE RETREAT

**Mayor & James**

Free | 1pm

**Marshall Couzens Band**

Free | 6pm

## Hybrid P.I.G

Free | 9pm

THE LYNDHURST

**Fleur Stevenson  
& Hugh Turner**

Free | 3pm

## MON 1 APR

PURPLE TURTLE

*Groove Cult Shindigs*

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

THE RETREAT

**The Acoustic  
Beatles Shambles**

Free | 3pm

## TUE 2 APR

UP THE JUNCTION

**Live @ The Junction**

Free | 8pm | 18+

PURPLE TURTLE DUNGEON

*Groove Cult Shindigs*

**The Underground Sessions**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

*Acoustic acts and singer/songwriters  
in the Dungeon*

## WED 3 APR

HEXAGON

**Paloma Faith**

£62, £45 | 7pm

[whatsonreading.com](http://whatsonreading.com)

## FRI 5 APR

THE BUTLER

*Shadow Promotions DIY & 25 For Life*

**Stop The Presses**

+ **Codename Colin**

+ **Andy B and The World**

+ **Common Sense Kid**

+ **Till I'm Bones**

£9.40 | 6pm | 18+

*JB Conspiracy tour, warm-up show.*

[wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

YOUR FRIENDS EYES ARE ENTRANCED  
THEY KNOW THAT IT'S US

**BEAT CONNECTION**  
**BEAT CONNECTION**  
NEW MUSIC DISCOVERY

**HEAVY POP**  
**DORK**

**DEADLETTER**

MARY IN THE JUNKYARD  
MAN/WOMAN/CHAINSAW  
GAG SALON  
+ DJ ANDREW FURSEDON

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
ST LAURENCE CHURCH, READING RG1 3AJ

DOORS 7:00 PM

TICKETS:

[HEAVYPOP.CO.UK](http://HEAVYPOP.CO.UK)

AGES: 14+

(UNDER 18s WITH AN ADULT)



@HEAVYPOPROMO



Coppemouth @ The Purple Turtle, 12.02.2024 Photo: @ Alex Marlow

**HEAVY POP**

LIVE MUSIC READING SHOWS

**BDRMM**

Monday 18th March Face Bar

**WILLY MASON**

+ **AMY MAY ELLIS**

Tuesday 14th May Face Bar

**TOM ROBINSON BAND**

Saturday 3rd August Face Bar

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.

## Friends with Benefits

Sign up and receive amazing benefits including:

- 10% Local Indie Business Discounts
- Ticket Discounts
- Regular Free Gig + Festival Ticket Draws and more!

More info: [heavypop.co.uk/friends-with-benefits](http://heavypop.co.uk/friends-with-benefits)

**AYL? WARM-UP PARTY**

**OPUS KINK**

+ **CHALK**

+ more to be announced

Friday 10th May St. Laurence Church

**ARE YOU LISTENING? FESTIVAL**  
**THE MYSTERINES,**  
**ANTONY SZMIEREK, FAT DOG,**  
**HOTWAX**

+ more to be announced

Saturday 11th May Various venues

For full gig listings and tickets: [heavypop.co.uk](http://heavypop.co.uk)

Contact: [info@heavypop.co.uk](mailto:info@heavypop.co.uk)

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



# The Village

Easter Festival 2024  
Thursday 28th - Sunday 31st April

### Thursday 28th March

9:00-11:00	<b>The Big River Blues Band</b>	Retreat
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### Friday 29th March

1:00-3:00	<b>Café Zazous</b>	Lyndhurst
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3:00-5:00	<b>The Keith Allen Band</b>	Retreat
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5:00-7:00	<b>Steve Morano Band</b>	Lyndhurst
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7:00-9:00	<b>Phil Braithwaite &amp; Friends</b>	Retreat
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9:00-11:00	<b>David Gray &amp; John Dunsterville</b>	Lyndhurst
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### Saturday 30th March

1:00-3:00	<b>The Thomas Heppell Band</b>	Retreat
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3:00-5:00	<b>Heather Jayne &amp; the Red Shoes</b>	Lyndhurst
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5:00-7:00	<b>Jackie Doe &amp; the Uncertainty of Passion</b>	Retreat
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7:00-9:00	<b>The Hugh Turner Funk Trio</b>	Lyndhurst
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9:00-11:00	<b>Rufus Ruffcut</b>	Retreat
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### Sunday 31st March

1:00-3:00	<b>Mayor &amp; James</b>	Retreat
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3:00-5:00	<b>Fleur Stevenson &amp; Hugh Turner</b>	Lyndhurst
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6:00-8:00	<b>Marshall Couzens Band</b>	Retreat
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9:00-11:00	<b>Hybrid P.I.G</b>	Retreat
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### Monday 1st April

3:00-5:00	<b>The Acoustic Beatles Shambles</b>	Retreat
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7:30-9:30	<b>Limpopo Groove @ the After Party</b>	Piwnica
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## The Lyndhurst

88-90 Queen's Road RG1 4DG

## The Retreat

8 St John's Street RG1 4EH

## Piwnica

81 London Road RG1 4DX

More information: [tvef.co.uk](http://tvef.co.uk)



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Zenden Greenpurp @ The Purple Turtle, 29.01.2024 Photo: © Alex Marlow



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## Profile: The Retreat

8 St John's Street, Caversham, Reading RG1 4EH

[www.theretreat.pub](http://www.theretreat.pub)

This unassuming room is the back half of The Retreat, one of Reading's finest pubs (not just my opinion; they're currently finalists for Reading & Mid Berkshire CAMRA Pub Of The Year... again!).

At first glance, it might look like nothing more than a probably-very-good pub but, as well as the pickled onion competition, the cribbage tournament, the bloody mary competition and all of the other classic pub stuff that goes on here, come the weekend, they move the furniture around and that wall proclaiming 'The Retreat Pub Co.' becomes the backdrop of a stage which, amongst other things, regularly sees some of the finest jazz for miles around.

There's live music in here most weekends, Sunday afternoons for the Jazz.

Part of the team steering this ship since 2019, Di Whitaker told me at the moment *"...every last Sunday we have the Ronnie Scott's people here to play."*

Oh, aye?! Who, exactly are 'Ronnie Scott's people', then?

It turns out, Denny Llett for one, Alec Dankworth for another... there's quite a list.

*"We have some big names come to play just because they love the place."*

For those who didn't know it, this is a bit of a muso area around here. There are


an awful lot of long-serving, top drawer touring and studio players tucked away in this bit of Berkshire – of all genres and flavours – and a lot of them like to drop in to do what they do best in the intimate, laid back atmosphere of this tiny, legendary backstreet pub.

It's Easter, this month... and, like every year, Easter round here means the annual Village Easter Festival.

"The Village?" I hear you ask. Well... eight years plus a Covid-y one or two ago, The Retreat, the (then) Eldon Arms and the Lyndhurst, all just a stone's throw apart, got together, called themselves collectively 'The Village' and put on a load of live music across all three pubs over the whole of Easter weekend.

And, it was a cracking idea! They carried on, when the Eldon became the Weather Station for a while and, this month, it's all hands to the pumps for another one, albeit with just the two currently active pubs.

If you've never squeezed your way into the back of this tiny musical treasure trove, this Easter is your chance to put that right. ■

 [TheRetreatReading](https://www.facebook.com/TheRetreatReading)  
[www.theretreat.pub](http://www.theretreat.pub)





Strangers In Transit @ The Purple Turtle, 12.02.2024 Photo: © Alex Marlow


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