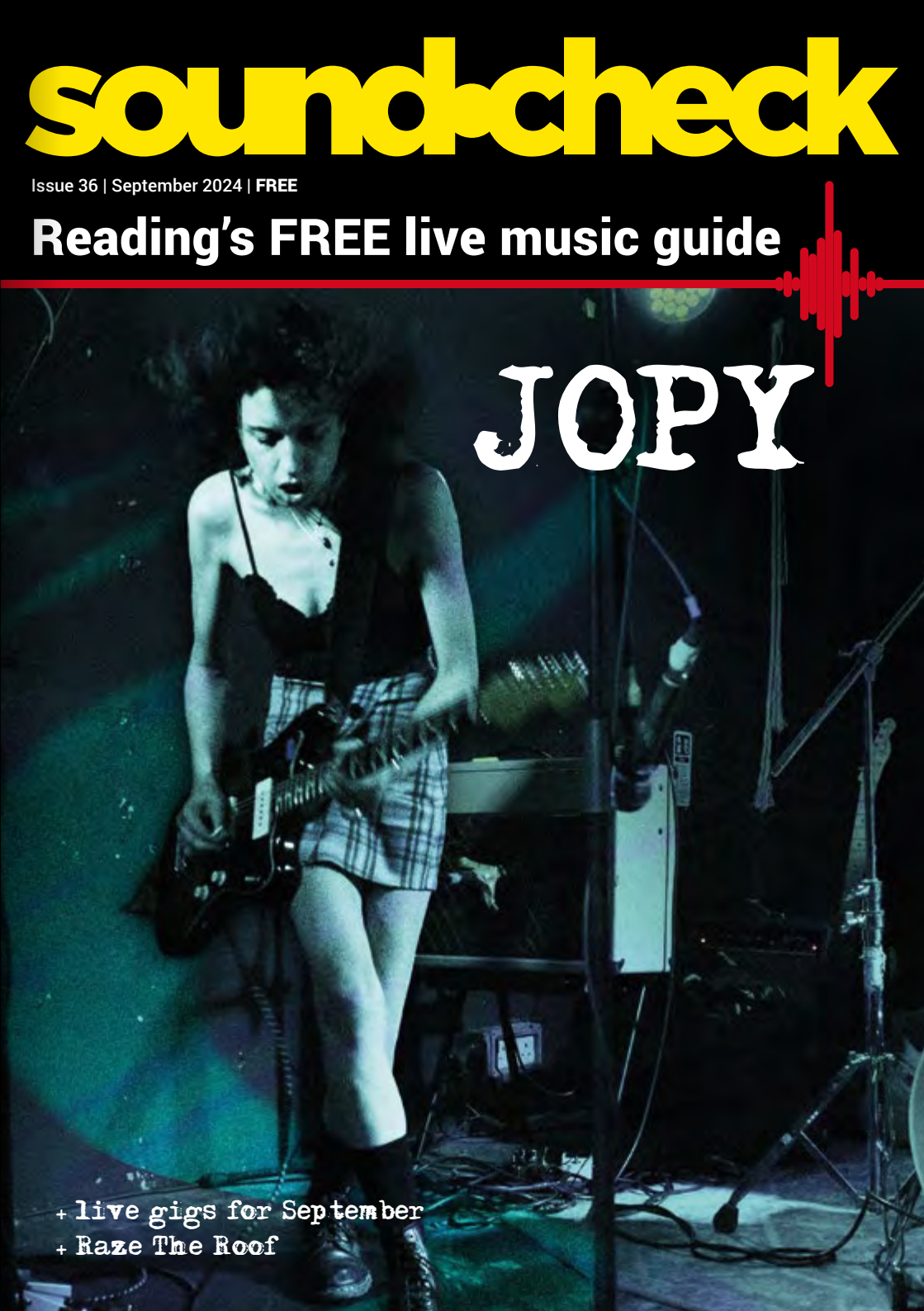


soundcheck

Issue 36 | September 2024 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide



JOPY

+ live gigs for September
+ Raze The Roof

**CLUB VELOCITY/NEW MIND PROMOTIONS SHOWS
AT THE FACEBAR READING 2024/25
WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUB VELOCITY**

GOTH LEGENDS
SEPT 7TH - INKUBUS SUKKUBUS + THE GO GO CULT

SEPT 9TH - WRECKLESS ERIC

SEPT 14TH - HÖÖF + CHROMA RAYS + SKUNK WORM + MYLO HOPPER

SEPT 26TH - THE OGRETONES

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

LEGENDARY LEAD GUITARIST OF THE SPECIALS
OCT 12TH - RODDY RADIATION & THE SKABILLY REBELS + TR55

IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT
OCT 24TH - THE DELTA BOMBERS + RED HOT RIOT

NOV 5TH - LOS FASTIDIOS + THE DECKCHAIRS

NOV 9TH - BALAAM AND THE ANGEL + DESPERATE MEASURES FLUOXETINE THE GO GO CULT

POST PUNK INDUSTRIAL GOTH LEGENDS - 40TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW
NOV 26TH - THE CASSANDRA COMPLEX + THIRD HOUSE

DEC 3RD - SCOTT LAVENE + SUPPORT

DEC 5TH - JOHN OTWAY (FULL BAND) + DAMIEN A PASSMORE & THE LOVEABLE FRAUDSTERS

DEC 11TH - HARD SKIN + PREY UNCLE PEANUT

DEC 12TH - EYE HATE GOD + GOAT WHORE

JAN 18TH - SKELETAL FAMILY + VOODOO RAOI THE GO GO CULT

APRIL 17TH - THE CHORDS UK + THE HURRICANES



Sound-check 36

September: the booze aisle of the big Tesco is recovering from the effects of the festival kiddies, the PVC smell of a new pencil case is in the air and we have a whole bunch of gigs to get to! Personally, I'm off on holiday at last. To Iceland. Aye, what could possibly go wrong with that plan? Lava permitting, I'll see you for the second half. - RICH

Zenden Greenpurp
Purple Turtle, 29.07.2024
Photo: ©Alex Marlow

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JOPY

Rock bands say they have all sorts of influences but not many can include Rocky Horror Picture Show and a gender transition amongst them. This glam-punk band, regulars on the Reading scene, are about to launch their debut EP and then end their UK tour at the Rising Sun Arts Centre.

Meet Jopy.

Words: David Conquest
Photos and front cover: Steve Axtell

I had the pleasure of chatting with the lovely and very articulate Jo Parnell, Jopy's vocalist/guitarist, and asking her about the band's formation, finding her new style and how her transition has helped her song writing.

But firstly, glam-punk? What's that then?

If I tell you that the EP is called Planet Zombie and the first track is 'Head Hunters Pub and Grub' then you'll start to get the idea. Campest 70s horror meets rebellious Gen-Z energy. Poppy punk joins with 70s Bowie Glam. And it's a lot of fun. Live, they are up there with the best, delivering a full-on set packed with bangers to keep you lot bouncing.

If you see them live, look out for the vinyl copies of the EP something Jo is particularly proud of. The tour takes them as far north as Derby and Sheffield, before heading south to Brighton, Bristol and London.



Jopy's roots go back to that other solid Reading band The Keep Cats. They came to an end, partly due to Covid (like so many bands), partly due to members heading off to Uni and partly because Jo wanted a change in creative direction. The Keep Cats started before Jo realised she was trans and so she wanted a fresh start.



She's lucky now to be making music with her two best friends. The Keep Cats' drummer, Louis, came along joined by Jo's masked friend on bass who she's known since they were six years old. She says *"It's lovely, so much fun. They're people I trust and love a lot. I like to think that comes across on stage."*

Transitioning didn't alter her voice, but the way Jo sings has developed over the last two years and now she's found she likes it as it is.

"In the Keep Cats I was very deep voiced, shouting, which was fine for that band at the time, but with me wanting to transition it felt more of a masculine presentation. Which I know is a stereotype but if you're raised with stereotypes it can become ingrained, and I felt that was where I was at."

"So, I wanted to try some softer vocal styles, which is what drew me to shoegaze. I wasn't as confident in my voice at the start of Jopy and I was trying to figure it out. I thought, stick a load of reverb on there, add a load of guitars in the mix and that problem solves itself!"

But then, a year in and gaining in confidence, she started experimenting with more theatrical styles, using her voice in ways she hadn't thought of before to make it sound not gendered so much as more interesting. Becoming free of the stereotypes.

"It's lead me to learn so much about all the different ways you can use your voice that I had no idea about before. I thought it was either sing soft or loud."

She's been appearing on stage for so many years now that it's become a safe enough environment for her to try experimenting. She knows it won't hurt to try out different ways to use her voice, going with the flow, adding little bits here and there to see what happens in the moment. Sometimes it pays off and she comes up with something new and cool.

That might mean experimenting with the dynamic range, how quickly she changes it and which parts of her voice she uses. Marc Bolan's soft vocal style has been a big influence and gives her the chance to have a lot of fun. David Bowie's 70s theatrical style of presenting his lyrics has also been a huge inspiration.

She says *"Your voice is such a wide-ranging tool that you can use it to tell all kinds of stories. I was definitely under-utilizing it. Now, I'm not even thinking about how the gender of my voice sounds. I'm thinking of how I can best use it to tell the stories I want to tell, to use it to convey the emotions of certain characters in certain songs."*

Jo describes herself as the creative dictator of the group, writing the songs, arranging the music and then doing the mixing as well.

Her writing comes from the moment; that snapshot of time when inspiration strikes and creativity surges insist on being released – even if that moment is at 3.05pm on a Saturday afternoon in Guildford High Street. Back home, she will hyper-focus on the song until it's formed and out of her head.



In her lyrics, she's written about her experience as a trans person for a long time with songs that connect emotionally to people about a shared feeling of ostracism. But since 'Head Hunters Pub and Grub' she's had a change of approach.

The EP has a definite vision. She's started celebrating being part of the trans community, having fun with it instead of being sad. *"I wanted to start writing songs that would make people who've been feeling sad in the way that I've been feeling sad, happy. I want them to feel seen by a shared experience, but reach that feeling of being seen in a positive way."*

"The main themes on the EP are metaphors for the queer and trans experience. But they're fun, silly little B-movie, horror-movie quite campy stories. I was very inspired by the 'Rocky Horror Picture Show', if you can't tell by the hair and everything about me. It's wacky, it's insane, it's very silly. And yet so many people, especially people like myself, love it and feel seen by it."

"It proves, I think, that you don't have to sing about the shared trauma of you and a certain community, to reach that community. You can also have a sense of humour with it, you can make people laugh and you're still reaching them."

When asked if she feels she's a campaigner for trans rights, she modestly claims that she's just a trans artist trying to write music that can reach everyone, but especially people who've not had the best lives because of certain reasons that they share.

"I want them to smile a lot."



Jopy's debut EP Planet Zombie comes out on 20th September, and they end their tour headlining Club Velocity at the amazing Rising Sun Arts Centre on Silver Street, on the 27th September. ■

@jopymusic

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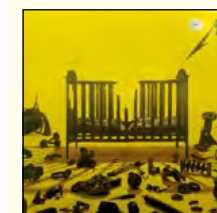
upthejunctionbar@hotmail.co.uk

231 London Road
Reading RG1 3NY



Boxed In

Boxed In
Boxed In's self-titled 2015 debut album garnered a swathe of glowing reviews upon its release, being compared to LCD Soundsystem and Hot Chip. They even played Readings Are You Listening Festival a few years ago!



Metallica

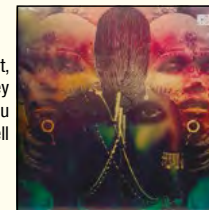
72 Seasons

Seeing as we have just had Reading Rock, here are the kings of stadium rock, Metallica with 2023's *72 Seasons*. In 2013 Metallica set a Guinness World Record for becoming the first musical act to perform on every continent. The band headed to Antarctica to perform at Carlini Base.

Ron Trent

Magic Carnival

One for the real house heads, Ron Trent, with *Magic Carnival*, a one sided odyssey of just class deep Chicago house (as you would expect!), with Joaquin Joe Claussell getting a nod too as executive producer.



A Young Person's Guide to King Crimson

A Young Person's Guide to King Crimson is a 2-LP compilation album by the band, you guessed it, King Crimson. The beautiful gatefold sleeve features artwork by Scottish artist Fergus Hall, who is famous for his work on James Bond, Live and Let Die, which has nothing at all to do with K.C.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-6pm.

Donations of all records, CDs, instruments, Hi-Fi and other musical items, as well as films and comics/graphic novels, always gratefully received.

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gigguide

SUN 1 SEP

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer

£8otd (cash only) | 8pm

MON 2 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE

Groove Cult Shindigs

Sonic Whip + The Verdaguers + Adomania

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

TUE 3 SEP

UP THE JUNCTION

Live @ the Junction

Free | 8pm | 18+

SAT 7 SEP

FACE BAR

Club Velocity/New Mind

Inkubus Sukkubus + The Go Go Cult

£14.30 | 8pm

14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

THE CASTLE TAP

Old Goat Presents...

First Among Equals + Adders + Non Drama

Free | 6:30pm

THE BUTLER

Audiotonic

Free | 8pm | 18+

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

SUN 8 SEP

FACE BAR

Crazy Cowboy presents:

Blue Nation + Mikey Ball & the Company

£16.50 | 5pm

All ages (U14 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE

The Sunday Sessions

Beyond The Sons + The Avenue + Squint

Free | 6pm | 16+

MON 9 SEP

FACE BAR

Club Velocity/New Mind

Wreckless Eric

£16.50 | 8pm

14+(U16 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE

Groove Cult Shindigs

Everyone Lies + tbc

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

TUE 10 SEP

SOUTH STREET

Mike Lindsay: Supershapes the Band

feat. Anna B Savage

£22.50, £20.50(members)

7:30pm | 14+ (U14 w/adult)

Mike Lindsay (Tunng, LUMP) on touring his new album project 'Supershapes: volume 1'.

whatsonreading.com

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 hard.) Websites refer to where to get tickets.

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

SAT 14 SEP

FACE BAR

Club Velocity/New Mind

HööF + Chroma Rays + Skunkworm + Mylo Hooper

£7.20 | 8pm

14+ (U16s w/adult)

wegotickets.com

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB

Bone-Idle + tbc

Free | 8pm | 18+

SOUTH STREET

Jon Boden

£22.50 | 8pm | All ages

Solo show from the frontman of Bellowhead.

whatsonreading.com

ALAN CORNISH THEATRE

The Mike Goff Quartet

£15.50, £7.75(U18) | 7:45pm

Back at the Oakwood Centre for another evening of jazz. This time, joined by special guest Andrew Townsend on trumpet and flugelhorn in a tribute to the greats of jazz trumpet.

ticketsource.co.uk

SUN 15 SEP

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

Dave Ellis & Boo Howard

£8otd (cash only) | 8pm



rising sun arts centre.org

Tribute Night: Dolly Parton
Saturday 21 September
8:00pm
Free admission
Donations during interval
Suggested donation £5

The Trib Train keeps on a-rumblin'...
At this event, expect to hear a variety of folks playing a variety of Dolly Parton songs in a variety of ways, some faithfully, some surprisingly, some ill-advisedly...



Bookface: Chapter 15

Saturday 14 September 11:00am to 4:00pm

Free entry for visitors

Bookface will, once again, feature artists' books in many forms, created by local artists and small publishers. Sketch books, micro books, giant books, illustrations, printmaking, zines, magazines, altered books, poetry, bookmaking activities and more. This is always a highly original event, with lots of intriguing papery, arty, booky things to enjoy!

30 Silver Street, Reading RG1 2ST

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thousand
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+ DREAM SELLERS

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CLUB RECKLESS

FREE ENTRY 10.30PM TO 3AM PUNK, EMO, ROCK, METAL, ALT.



Turtle UNDERGROUND presents **SONIC WHIP**

Monday 2nd September

with **THE VERDAGUERS** and **ADOMANIA**

FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

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8TH SEP 2024 3PM TO 6PM - FREE ENTRY 16+ / ID REQUIRED

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Welly

The National Service Tour Autumn 2024 (Part 1: The BOLD)

18/09 **Reading** Purple Turtle

April - Friday 10h

2ND SEP SONIC WHIP THE VERDAGUERS ADOMANIA	9TH SEP EVERYONE LIES PLUS MORE TBC	16TH SEP HOOF DEATH IS A GIRL NEON-BLOOM
23RD SEP THOMAS ASHBY ONE-EYED-MAN PLUS TBC	30TH SEP TBC TBC TBC	

Blackstar AMPLIFICATION



FLIP TOP HEAD
EMPIRES, EMPIRES
RATS - TAILS
DOOPS

+ Sweet Sounds DJs

Thursday 19th September 2024

FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

Turtle UNDERGROUND presents

21ST OCTOBER

alien chicks

with **HONEYBADGER** plus SUPPORT TBC

8PM FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

borough council

WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2024

PURPLE TURTLE, READING

8 PM / FREE ENTRY / 18+

HCK9

24TH OCTOBER

WITH **GNARLAH**

PLUS SUPPORT TBC

8PM FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

MOTHER VULTURE autumn tour 2024

Wednesday 30th October

8pm FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

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GERMANY

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10TH NOVEMBER

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the **MK II**

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Friday 29th Nov

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MON 16 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE
Groove Cult Shindigs
HööF + Death is a Girl + Neon Bloom
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

WED 18 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE
Heavy Pop
Welly
Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 19 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE
Skeeta Sounds
Flip Top Head + Empires, Empires + Rats-Tails + Doops
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

FRI 20 SEP

THE BUTLER
Friday Night Blues
Thomas Heppell Band
£13.20 | 8pm
All ages (U18 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

SAT 21 SEP

SOUTH STREET
Heavy Pop
Melt-Banana + Masquerader
£20.50 | 7:30pm | 14+
whatsonreading.com

READING MINSTER
World Music Festival
Limpopo Groove + Ma Bessie + Peter Doyle

£20, £10(conc) | 7pm
Showcasing local bands in aid of Refugee Support Group.
whatsonreading.com

FACE BAR
The DekkerTones + The New Highs
£16.75 | 7:30pm | 18+
skiddle.com

THE RETREAT
P.I.G.
Free | 8:30pm

MON 23 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE
Groove Cult Shindigs
Thomas Ashby + One Eyed Man + tbc
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

WED 25 SEP

THE RETREAT
Jazz Singers' Night
Free | 8pm
Come and sing with a live Jazz band.

THU 26 SEP

MILK BAR
Fusion 6
£7 | 8pm | 18+
Fusing funk, jazz, blues and Latin elements. Andy Kennedy;sax, Tony Imbierski; keys, Paul Wallace; bass, Tony Mckenna; drums, Alison Rolls; vocals. Free cocktail with each ticket!
milkreading.co.uk

FACE BAR
Club Velocity/New Mind
The OGREtones
£13.20 | 8pm
14+ (U16 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

FRI 27 SEP

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Club Velocity
Jopy + Barbican Estate + Apples And Apples
£7.20 | 8pm | All ages
wegottickets.com

PROGRESS THEATRE
Jazz in Reading
Steve Waterman Latin Jazz Quartet
£19, £17(conc), £10(U16) +bf
jazzinreading.com

PURPLE TURTLE
The Mythicals
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

SUN 29 SEP

SUB89
JALP Events
Tom Meighan + tbc
£28.60 | 7:30pm
14+ (U16 w/adult)
gigantic.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
Natasha Norodien & Terry Lees
£8otd (cash only) | 8pm

THE RETREAT
Stuart Henderson, Simon Price & friends

Free | 3:30pm
Sunday afternoon jazz with Stuart Henderson, Simon Price, Simon Spillet, Stuart Barker and Pete Billington.

MON 30 SEP

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

FRI 4 OCT

FACE BAR
HollowKin + These Foundations + Recreance + Cober Mouth + The Kanz
£8 | 7pm | 18+
vizkillrecords.com

PURPLE TURTLE
Brick Top
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

SAT 5 OCT

SOUTH STREET
Heavy Pop
Romeo Stodart (The Magic Numbers) & Ren Harvieu + support
£20.50adv | 7:30pm
whatsonreading.com

FACE BAR
Club Velocity/New Mind
Dr Diablo & the Rodent Show + Pink Diamond Revue + OTUK - the Green Man
£12.10 | 8pm
14+ (U16s w/adult)
wegottickets.com

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

SUN 6 OCT

HEXAGON
Senbla
Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells: Live
£58, £45, £35, £23 | 7:30pm

50th Anniversary Celebrations featuring the iconic Tubular Bells performed in full by an expansive live group, conducted and arranged by Oldfield's long-term collaborator Robin Smith.
whatsonreading.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
Steve Turner
£8otd (cash only) | 8pm

MON 7 OCT

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

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+ WORKIN' MAN NOISE UNIT (DJs)
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ROMEO STODART
(The Magic Numbers)
& REN HARVIEU
Sat 5th Oct South St. Arts Centre - Studio, Reading

DIVORCE
Wed 9th Oct Face Bar, Reading

LOOK MUM NO COMPUTER
Fri 11th Oct The Jericho Tavern, Oxford

BERNARD BUTLER
Tue 29th Oct SJE Arts (church), Oxford

BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH
Thurs 14th Nov South St. Arts Centre, Reading

ERLAND COOPER
Wed 27th November, SJE Arts (church), Oxford

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

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RAZE THE ROOF

What exactly is this 'Raze The Roof' lark we've heard about, eh? We saw some stuff online, picked up a flyer so we know it's a charity thing... and then started getting emails about a gig in October. There's only one way to find out, right: find who's in charge and ask them. So, we asked Mike...



Thousand Yard Stare, Elucidate and Dream Sellers, have one major thing in common? Yes, they are all playing the Purple Turtle on 25th October. Yes, they are all based in the Thames Valley and OK, they are all great bands but more major than that, they are all intimately connected to one Reading family.

Thousand Yard Stare started as school mates in Slough in the early 90s, quickly progressing from Dominic Bostock's Dad's basement to the Old Trout in Windsor (not named after her royal graciousness). What followed was a major record deal with Polydor, several world tours, international appearances, including main stage at Reading and Glastonbury Festivals, TV etc.

After a break of a few years, they got back together in 2015 and are continuing a highly creative vein of writing, recording and live appearances including two albums, *Panglossian Momentum* in 2020 and *Earthanasia* in 2022.

Dominic's daughter, Theo Bostock, obviously inherited Dominic's talent as she became a founding member and lead singer of Reading's own *Elucidate* [June's cover stars, you know. - Ed.]. Theo, met band mates Caleb and Connor at Reading College and quickly began writing, recording and then gigging. She manages to combine a rock sound with both the lyrics and the delivery of a vulnerable angst appreciated and understood by the young, but maybe not by her Dad. Fresh from their success at Readipop, they are gearing up for their joint performance with Dad and Thousand Yard Stare at the Purple Turtle. Theo says "Can't wait!".

Which just leaves the owner of the Slough

basement where Thousand Yard Stare started out, Mike Bostock; Dom's Dad and Theo's Granddad. Well, far from just watching proudly from afar, grumbling about days gone by and 'I could have been a rock god' stuff, Mike is a busy Reading gigger himself. He is the founder and lead singer of Reading's folk rock band *Dream Sellers* playing regularly in the venues and festivals in and around Reading and he also writes and performs solo all around the UK.

Which brings us up to the here and now. Earlier this year, Mike became a cancer survivor after successful treatment at the Royal Berks Hospital, here in Reading, and began curating and running the music for charity program, 'Raze the Roof'.

Mike says, "This 'triple-Bostock' charity bill at the Purple Turtle is my best way of showing my thanks for the amazing things Royal Berks

Hospital did for me and continues to do for all cancer sufferers in the Reading area. The event is free entry and we hope that people will show their appreciation of the RBH by donating through the QR code. All net proceeds go to Royal Berks Charity."

All the info you might need is at razetherooof.com but the crux of the matter is; get yourself down there: **Purple Turtle, 25th October** and donate while you're at it. ■

razetherooof.com
thousandyardstare.co.uk
revolverrecords.com/catalogue/elucidate
dreamsellersmusic.com



Scan here to donate



Here's a completely random sideline for you. Over the summer, Sophie, of *Colours and Fires* fame, sent me a message. A clearout of the parental home had uncovered something calling itself 'Soundcheck! magazine' and did I want to have a look? Yeah, ok. A rustle through the adverts reveals this is from 1984 – 40 years ago and like a different world.

Productivity here went down considerably while I got totally sidetracked just reading this thing.

It seems 1984 was a crazy mixed up world where the 'News' page

covers Curved Air, a K Tel instruction video called *Breakdance* ("the first video to explain the finer points of the moonwalk...and body popping routines for the beginner"), The Beatles, Ozzy Osbourne and The Pointer Sisters all in one column.

For sale all through it are packets of years' worth of press cuttings because there's no internet storing masses of readily available archive and, by cutting a coupon out of one page and putting it in a letterbox with a cheque, you could go to *Monsters of Rock* in West Germany featuring AC/DC, Van Halen, Dio, Ozzy, Gary Moore, Accept and Mötley Crüe for £68 – including ticket, two nights hotel, ferry crossing and "Friday night out in Frankfurt". A bargain, I'm sure.

There's an ad in here that just says "Female wanted, 20ish to make up a foursome for a fortnights self-catering holiday in Yarmouth". I'd suggest more info is required before answering that one.

Possibly of a bit more interest, though, this was also the year the Council cancelled Reading Festival – apparently because the people of Caversham didn't like the

Reading Festival – New Site

The nine month search is over – and the Reading Festival has been saved. Newly named the National Rock Festival, the event will now be staged on a picturesque 240 acre site at Lilford Park, Northamptonshire, over the customary August Bank Holiday week-end 24, 25 and 26. Ticket prices have not yet been set, but a full programme of major bands is planned and details will be announced shortly.

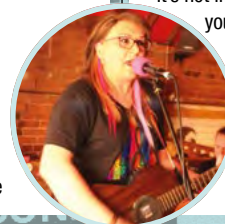
Maiden – More Dates

Although the UK leg of IRON MAIDEN's 'World Slaves

noise – and the whole thing moved elsewhere for a couple of years. I looked it up: it was all set to go, with Marillion headlining, and the Council just said no at the last minute!

Big, big news at the time apparently, to the extent that Labour regained control of the council in 1986, with one of its actual manifesto commitments being to bring the festival back!

It's not important, but now you know. ■



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In case anyone's still bothered about the copyright of this thing, I should probably mention it was published by Addisnet Ltd, London.

sound-check

Designers: Rich Lucas, Mike Parker, Dan Li

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If you've got a local gig photo you'd like to see here, you can just email it to rich@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 spec. Thanks! (If this thing ever makes any money then, yes, of course you can have some – but that's never happened yet!?)

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