

soundcheck

Issue 38 | November 2024 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide



GLASS HALF
BROKEN NEXOR
GLASS HALF
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GLASS HALF
BROKEN



+ Live gigs for November
+ the curious incident of
the gig in the record shop

CLUB VELOCITY/NEW MIND PROMOTIONS PRESENT

FUNKE AND THE TWO TONE BABY



INDEPENDENT
VENUE WEEK

THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY 2025
FACEBAR - READING
WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUB VELOCITY

Sound-check 38



Just as we get into the best bit of the year – all of the gigs, everywhere... loads of 'em, all over the place – I've celebrated by getting Covid. I know! Retro, or what? So, this issue is coming to you in short bursts tip-toeing through a completely random and, frankly, unnerving sleep pattern!?!

Anyway, there's something in the pile marked 'Good News' this month. On October 24th, The Reading Chronicle website ran the headline 'Plans for flat behind historic Reading pub REJECTED'. Yep; The Butler.




It was judged that the flats "would provide 'unacceptable' living conditions, with the developer failing to demonstrate how the flats would be compatible with The Butler pub."

The site is still earmarked for development right enough but, whoever wants to have a go is going to have work round the fact that there's a very old pub and live venue *already there* – Ilke the rules should have already stated, at least a decade ago.

Congratulations and well done, all concerned. Good news, indeed. Umm... does that mean it's worth putting a PA in there now then? Maybe?

See you down there, anyway. I'll bring mine again.

– Rich

 /soundcheckreading
 /soundcheckrdg
 /soundcheckrdg

GLASS HALF BROKEN



Glass Half Broken, a funky, soulful, sing-and-dance-along band with an ever-fluctuating lineup are one of those bands that truly put on a show. Having them as regulars on the Reading circuit is a treat, and I highly recommend everyone check them out. With recording on the horizon and fresh songs being debuted regularly, their residency at The Outlook on the first Friday of every month is a great place to start!

Sitting down with Jack, Kito, and Shannon, Glass Half Broken's trumpeter and two lead singers, in The Back of Beyond on a quiet Sunday evening was a great way to end my week. We ran through a brief history of the band before launching into the fun they've had this year and what we can expect from them going forward.

Words and pictures: Kayleigh Fryer

Originally a duo turned trio with Kito and Shannon going to open mics and Jack joining after seeing them perform and letting on that he played trumpet. Jack tells us that it was only 10-minutes before their first gig as a trio that the band name solidified. They were going to call themselves 'Glass Half Empty' because of the melancholy of early songs, but after a chat with Kian (bass) who was their sound engineer that day, Glass Half Broken was born.

Now a 9-piece megaband who slowly built up their members organically, meeting them at open mics and local gigs, making friends with other bands in the area like Empires, Empires, Midnight Light, and The Bourbon Massive and then in their own words - "adopting" - them from the local scene. And they have no signs of slowing down, *"Honestly, I don't see us stopping either. If we keep meeting amazing musicians, we're gonna keep adding amazing musicians."*

Having such a vast and fluctuating line up does have its cons. With different commitments and schedules it can be hard for everyone to make all practices or gigs. Their WaterFest set this June was their first gig without any horn section and *"it was really difficult, there's certain cues we get from the horn section, or from the keys, that links us all together in the melody ... But it can always work. We always find a way to make it work."* And this flexibility and genuine talent and enjoyment of the band is what keeps them going.

Their commitment to fun and being incredible musicians is what has secured them some great opportunities this year. Playing Readipop in the summer to their biggest crowd yet, and Jack, Jonny (saxophone), and Emily (saxophone) having a boogie on stage, if you want to see that set their is a video of it on Youtube with an official live recording coming out soon too.

Playing at Iota Events Queer Cabaret in August was also a stand out for them, performing alongside some cool local drag acts and have a moment of reflection on how *"it's really nice when all the communities intersect, because our band is queer in a lot of ways, so it's nice to have support from that community."* As a band with a lot of diversity, *"like we have queerness, we have Blackness, we have queerness"*, there has been a lot of positive interactions after sets of people feeling represented and comfortable and sharing their love for the atmosphere and vibes.

Another new venture for this year has been their monthly residency at The Outlook, the first Friday of every month to be specific. *"Shoutout to Danny and Harry, the managers of The Outlook, it's really nice to have management of a pub that like, love our music and tell us how great it is."* The residency came about from Harry seeing them at The Oakford Social Club and then Danny seeing them at Purple Turtle and inviting them to have a regular slot upstairs at The Outlook.


"You need that working together of venues and the people who make music, you know, because without venues, where are we going to play music?"

Speaking about making music, with such a fluid band the songwriting process is just as organic, very jam based with everyone bringing what they can. Shan says she is "quite a shy songwriter" so had nerves about bringing her writing forwards but with how everyone can jump into a groove it made it a lot easier. Jack and Kito also took a moment to praise Kia, *"I don't think the band would be where it is as much without Kia"* and her knowledge of the scene, songwriting, and multi-instrumental talent.

Glass Half Broken now have their sights fully set on the future with festival applications and recording on their mind. Looking locally and further afield and aiming high, *"Boomtown would be a big one for us [Kito and Shannon]. To go back there not as a punter but as a performer with everybody [...] playing there at a place we love so much, like it would be incredible."* but also more local and DIY festivals such as Down at the Abbey in Reading's Abbey ruins and Small World in Headcorn, Kent get special mentions.

Recording is a near future goal for Glass Half Broken, and they're breaking down the process to get it done. So look forward to hearing more from them over the next few months and seeing them across Reading and the UK over the next year.

"First and foremost, we do it for us. We do it because we love playing music. And like, even if no one ever wanted to listen to a single thing that we put out, we do it because we love it. But then, to have people also actually enjoy it, it's kind of mind-blowing, you know? I love it."

 /glasshalfbroken_



25mm & 57mm Pin Badges available

25mm
10 badges £10
50 badges £18
100 badges £25

57mm
10 badges £18
50 badges £38
100 badges £65

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TEL. 07821 463 743
popclassics@hotmail.co.uk

OXFAM MUSIC SHOP



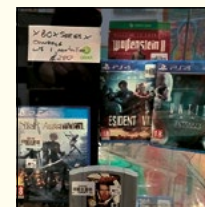
We sell instruments!
Right now we have this wonderful hand built Welsh knee Harp. Angelic sounds!



Marvin Gaye
What's Going On
One of the great voices of 1960s soul and clearly a continuation of the most sophisticated and intimate practitioners of the form (Sam Cooke, Nat King Cole...). Despite that I wonder if little prepared audiences for the ambition of *What's Going On*. Often tops polls of critical opinion on what is the best album ever and if you were pressed to answer such an impossible question, this is still not a bad shout.



Donald Byrd
Byrd In Hand
We still have a marvellous selection of jazz on CD and vinyl. Blue Note records of the 50s and 60s remain a high water mark for vinyl records. A roster of young musicians (Byrd, Lee Morgan and Herbie Hancock were all teenagers on their early recordings for the label), which set a gold standard for record production, design and musical ambition and a trajectory for the genre that endures til today.



We now have a range of console games and consoles. We would love donations of these to continue offering a great selection to our customers. Please get in touch if you have queries about donating or need a collection.

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.
We can pick up collections.
Phone: 0118 956 1598
email: oxfamshopf3944@oxfam.org.uk
Oxfam works with others to fight global poverty.

OXFAM MUSIC
9 DUKE ST, READING RG1 4SA
0118 9561598

gigguide

FRI 1 NOV

GROSVENOR CASINO
**The Skangsters
 + The Highwasters**
 £11 | 7:30pm | 18+
 fatsoma.com

SAT 2 NOV

FACE BAR
 19 Something Festival 2024
**The Mezz + O. + Bennet +
 Gemma Rogers + Casino
 + Reignmaker + MYNK
 + Leopard Boy + Ez
 Dickens+ Mat Carter**
 £16.50 | 4pm | All ages (U16s w/adult)
 All proceeds go to Age UK Reading
 & KidsOut.
 wegotickets.com

BREWDOG
 Shadow Promotions
**Redeemon + Fair Do's
 + Masquerader + Launch
 Control**
 £6.60 | 7pm | 18+
 wegotickets.com

THE GATEWAY
Within The Blood
 Free | 8:30pm

CASTLE TAP
 Old Goat Presents
**Awesome Welles
 & Friends**
 Free | 7pm

THE BUTLER
Rigsby
 Free | 8:30

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. Websites refer to where to get tickets.
 bf = booking fee otd = on the door
 adv = advance tbc = to be confirmed

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB
**Andrew Cassara
 + Lucy Dreams
 + Life Underground**
 Free | 7:30pm | 18+

THE GATEWAY
Within The Blood
 Free | 8:30pm

SUN 3 NOV

WATLINGTON HOUSE
 Readifolk
Hunter Muskett
 £8otd (cash only) | 8pm

PURPLE TURTLE
**Bethia Miller + Joel
 Wilson + Julio Ataide**
 Free | 3pm | 16+ (U18 w/adult)

UP THE JUNCTION

Tue 05 Dan Curtis
 Laila + tbc

Sat 09 The Eric Tildiss Function Band
 The Colour Tree

Tue 12 Artist Link Up Special

Tue 19 Keira Fisher
 Taylor W
 Henry Tuohy

Sat 23 Americana Showcase
 Greg Mayston
 Mike Parker

Tue 26 Dimitri + tbc

Sat 30 Bareword
 Salvador + tbc

TUESDAY
 & SATURDAYS

- 231 London Rd, Reading RG1 3NY -
 Venue Hire: Book Your Event Date Now
upthejunctionbar@hotmail.co.uk

INDEPENDENT FREEHOUSE

THE FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE



Home-cooked food,
 good beer, dogs welcome

Pickin' Lunchtime Sessions Jazz
 1st Sun of the month: American Old-Time most Fridays
 3rd Sun of the month: Irish/Celtic

Bohemian Night Open Mic
 Every Wednesday

To book a table for your meal,
 please call 07925 336 269
thefishermanscottagepubreading.co.uk



Neon Bloom Purple Turtle, 16.09.2024 Photo: @Alex Marlow

MON 4 NOV

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

TUE 5 NOV

FACE BAR
 Club Velocity/New Mind
**Los Fastidios
 + The Deckchairs**
 £14.30 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
 wegotickets.com

UP THE JUNCTION
Dan Curtis + Laila + tbc
 Free | 8:pm | 18+

WED 6 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE
**Hotel Du Globe + Zenden
 Greenpurp + Mammoth Toe**
 Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 7 NOV

HEXAGON
Squeeze + Badly Drawn Boy
 £40, £57.50 | 7pm
 In support of The Trussell Trust
 whatsonreading.com

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

FRI 8 NOV

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Aly Koh
 £8.30 | 7:30pm | All ages
 Aly Koh is a bilingual singer specializing
 in Mandopop, recently moved to the UK
 from Singapore. She performs original
 songs and Mandarin covers, blending
 traditional Chinese music with modern
 pop and rock.
 wegotickets.com

THE FLOWING SPRING
**Xander & the Peace
 Pirates**
 £10 (cash from the pub), £12adv
 theflowingspringpub.co.uk

Turtle

UNDERGROUND

3 BANDS EVERY MONDAY
7.30PM / FREE ENTRY
STRAIGHT INTO
CLUB RECKLESS

Blackstar
AMPLIFICATION

YOUR WEEKLY ALT MUSIC CLUB NIGHT PUNK, EMO, ROCK, METAL.

THE SUNDAY SESSIONS

3RD NOV 2024

3PM TO 6PM - FREE ENTRY - 16+ / ID REQUIRED
UNDER 18S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

HICKIES • Bethia Miller
• Joel Wilson
• Julio Ataide

MUSIC STORE
SONG COMPETITION WINNERS

PLUS PERFORMANCES FROM
redlane AND **CHEAP SUITS** (OXFORD)

HOTEL DU GLOBE

BEELIUM

WITH **ZENDEN GREENPURP** + **WEDNESDAY**
MAMMOTHDE 6TH NOVEMBER

16+ / ID REQUIRED

SWEET ELECTRIC

FEATURING FROM GERMANY

PEDAL TO THE METAL ROCK N ROLL...
JUST LIKE IT SHOULD BE!

10TH NOVEMBER

WITH **VERDAQUERS** The Cold Blooded Hearts

16+ / ID REQUIRED

Code WOLF

@CRAEWOLFF

WEDS 13TH NOV

SUPPORTS TBC 8PM 18+ / ID REQUIRED

TRIM

Thursday 14th Nov

with support **Green Embers**

8PM - FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

GOING THE DISTANCE UK/EU TOUR

THE LUKA STATE

SUPPORT FROM **lasttrain** FRANCE

FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2024

Turtle UNDERGROUND PRESENTS...

THE DEPRESSED MINDERS **CURRIS**
SUNDAUGHTER 18th November

8pm FREE ENTRY / 16+ ID REQUIRED

AQUALINE
BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH **DALMIST**

WEDS 20TH NOVEMBER

8PM FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

CEREMONY

EAST COAST

24TH NOVEMBER

TREMORS KILL 8PM FREE ENTRY / 16+ ID REQUIRED

Blues Cruise

Weds 27th November

Chicago blues. Originals, obscure covers and a few classics!

8pm FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

the MK II

Soul and Motown classics!

Friday 29th Nov

8.30pm FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

The Rock Academy Foundation

TAKEOVER

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

3PM - FREE ENTRY - UNDER 18S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

BROTHER STRUT

BROTHER STRUT RETURN TO THE PURPLE TURTLE

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

DOORS 3:30PM BROTHER STRUT ON STAGE 4:00PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM EVENTBRITE

Purple Turtle

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
SUNDAY TO THURSDAY MIDDAY TO 3AM
FRIDAY / SATURDAY MIDDAY TO 3.30AM

HAPPY HOUR EVERYDAY
MIDDAY TO 10PM

PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM

Purple Turtle

PURPLE TURTLE
Hard Times
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

SAT 9 NOV

SOUTH STREET
An Evening with
Kwame Ultimate
£7 | 7pm
whatsonreading.com

FACE BAR
Club Velocity/New Mind
Balaam And The Angel
+ Desperate Measures
+ Fluoxetine + Go Go Cult

£22 | 8pm | 14+ (U16w/adult)
wegottickets.com

THE OAKFORD
HOO + Kill Committee
+ Skoria
Free | 8pm | 18+

UP THE JUNCTION
The Eric Tildiss Function
Band + The Colour Tree
Free | 8:pm | 18+

THE RETREAT
The Sun Room Band
Free | 8:30pm

SUN 10 NOV

HEXAGON
Jools Holland and his
Rhythm & Blues Orchestra
£52, £37.50 | 7:30pm
whatsonreading.com

PURPLE TURTLE
Sweet Electric + The
Verdaguers + The Cold
Blooded Hearts
Free | 8pm | 18+

MON 11 NOV

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

TUE 12 NOV

UP THE JUNCTION
Artist Link Up Special
Free | 8:pm | 18+

WED 13 NOV

FACE BAR
Runnin' Blue presents
The Urban Voodoo
Machine
£16.50 | 7pm | 18+
wegottickets.com

HEXAGON
The Stylistics
£38.50, £35.50 | 7:30
whatsonreading.com

PURPLE TURTLE
Crae Wolf + tbc
Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 14 NOV

SOUTH STREET
Benjamin Francis
Leftwich + tbc
£18.50 | 7:30pm
whatsonreading.com

PURPLE TURTLE
Trim + Green Embers
Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 15 NOV

SUB89
Cardinal Black
£25.20 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

THE BUTLER
Friday Night Blues:
The Milk Men
£17.60 | 8pm | All ages (U18s w/adult)
wegottickets.com

HEAVY POP

LIVE MUSIC

READING & OXFORD SHOWS

BC CAMPLIGHT

Fri 13th December
South Street, Reading

C DUNCAN

Thu 30th January
South Street Studio, Reading

FIONN REGAN

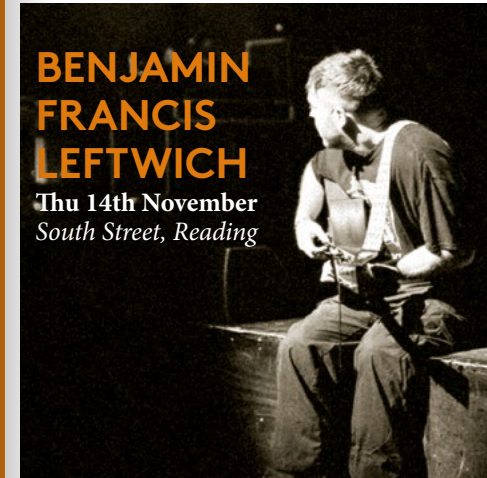
Thu 27th February
Jericho Tavern, Oxford

HENGE

Wed 23rd April
South Street, Reading

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

[f](#) [x](#) [@](#) heavypoppromo



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.

BEAT:CANER & CHURCH OF MADNESS PRESENT

grab your face

RED MEAT
PARESIS

MAC JUAN

KOHL DJ GILLYWOO

SAT 7TH DECEMBER 2024

ADVANCE TICKETS VIA BEATCANCER.INFO

ALL PROFITS TO BEAT:CANER REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1169212

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Rootweave + tbc

£8.80adv, £10otd | 8pm
All ages (U14 w/adult)

Rootweave is the solo project of musician, songwriter and wordsmith Em Swift, weaving together acoustic folk, punk and spoken word.

wegotickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE

The Luka State + Last Train

Free | 8pm | 18+

SAT 16 NOV

THE BUTLER

The John Hackett Band + John Mitchell + Hoopy Frood

£13.20 | 7pm | 18+
wegotickets.com

THE RETREAT

The Cohen Perry Band

Free | 8:30pm

HMV READING

Rocket Kings

Free | 3pm | All ages

CASTLE TAP

Loop Science: An Introduction by The Amazing Tiger Band

Free | 7:30pm

An evening of musical mayhem. Think jam session meets open mic meets gig and they run away together to have a beautiful quest, only make it louder.

OXFAM MUSIC SHOP

Puma Theory

Free | 5pm

In-store gig to launch Puma Theory's new single 'Foolish Boy'.

SUN 17 NOV

SUB89

The Skids + Spear Of Destiny

£28.50 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

WATLINGTON HOUSE

PattersonDipper

£8 otd(cash only) | 8pm

MON 18 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE

Turtle Underground

The Dazed Minded + Sundaughter + Currils

Free | 8pm | 18+

TUE 19 NOV

UP THE JUNCTION

Keira Fisher + Taylor W + Henry Tuohy

Free | 8:pm | 18+

WED 20 NOV

SUB89

Hugh Cornwell + eXTC

£33.60 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

PURPLE TURTLE

Aqualine + Bottomless Brunch + Palmist

Free | 8pm | 18+

HEXAGON

The Horne Section

£27.50 | 8pm | 12+, PG.
No unaccompanied U16s.
whatsonreading.com

THU 21 NOV

FACE BAR

Tailgunner + Toledo Steel + The Rattleback

£11.55 | 7pm | 18+
eventbrite.co.uk

THE BUTLER

Please Ban Music #7

The Plan + bighandsandallgristly + Billy Orange

£3 donation on entry | 7pm |

FRI 22 NOV

FACE BAR

Reading Rising 2024, Day 1: Marisa And The Moths + High Regard + All Ears Avow + One Last Day

Friday Ticket £16.75
Weekend Ticket £30.50
5pm | 14+
skiddle.com

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the **Mk II**

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★ ALL LIVE ★ ALL CLASSIC ★

FRI 29TH NOVEMBER

PURPLE TURTLE

8:30PM ★ FREE ENTRY
★ 18+ (ID REQUIRED) ★
9 GUN ST, READING RG1 2JR

Photo: Jon Mo

SUB89

The Anti-Nowhere League

£22.40 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/Adult)
premier.ticketek.co.uk

PURPLE TURTLE

Rosedale

Free | 8pm | 18+

SAT 23 NOV

FACE BAR

Reading Rising 2024, Day 2: Lake Malice + Confessions Of A Traitor + Shoot To Kill + san demas + Away With The Seas + ReAwaken + Lastelle + Arcaeon + InAir / Lake Acacia + NervEndings + elucidate

Saturday: £22.25, W/end: £30.50
5pm | 14+
skiddle.com

THE RETREAT

Phil Braithwaite & Friends

Free | 8pm

UP THE JUNCTION

Americana Showcase

Greg Mayston Blues and Americana + Mike Parker

Free | 8:pm | 18+

CASTLE TAP

Shadow Promotions presents

Our Lives In Cinema + Tape It Shut + Everyone Lies + California Cheeseburger + Gareth James

Free | 6pm

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Gypsy Queen & the Dreams + Sundaughter + We Don't Run

THE BUTLER

Swallow

Free | 8pm

OAKWOOD CENTRE

Stan Tracey's A Child's Christmas: Jazz Suite

£14.50 + bf 7:45pm All ages
A seasonal classic from the master of British jazz, performed in full by the region's top players.
ticketsource.co.uk/mgmusic

SUN 24 NOV

CASTLE TAP

Radical Folk Night: Ancient Hostility + Dan Kemp + You!

Free | 7pm

After the performances finish it is time for you to contribute your radical folk offerings!

PURPLE TURTLE

Ceremony East Coast + Tremours + Kill Committee

Free | 8pm | 18+

risingsunartscentre.org
30 Silver Street, Reading, RG1 2ST

LIVE PERFORMANCES
NETWORKING FOR RAPPERS, SINGERS, PRODUCERS, DJs, DANCERS, MUSICIANS

ARTIST LINK-UP

EVERY WEDNESDAY!
7PM-9:30PM

Aly Koh
Friday 8th November
7:30pm £7.50

Aly Koh is a bilingual singer specializing in Mandopop, recently moved to the UK from Singapore. She performs original songs and Mandarin covers, blending traditional Chinese music with modern pop and rock.

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



Juliet & The Ragging Romeros Rising Sun Arts Centre, 27.09.2024 Photo: @Steve Axtell

MON 25TH NOV

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

TUE 26 NOV

FACE BAR
Club Velocity/New Mind presents
The Cassandra Complex + Third House
£17.60 | 8pm | 14+ (U16s w/adult)
wegottickets.com

UP THE JUNCTION
Dimitri + tbc
Free | 8pm | 18+

WED 27 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE
Blues Cruise + BJ Bevy
Free | 8pm | 18+

THE RETREAT
Jazz Singers' Night
Free | 8pm

FRI 29 NOV

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

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Club Velocity presents
The August List + The Kokrochez + Secret Rivals
£7.20 | 8pm | All ages
wegottickets.com

THE BUTLER
Shadow Promotions Presents
Riskee and the Ridicule + Rash Decision + Tape It Shut + Blagged + SID
£13.80 *otd*, £16 *otd* | 6:30pm | 18+
wegottickets.com

SAT 30 NOV

ST MARY'S CHURCH, PURLEY ON THAMES
Village Concerts
James Kirby
£15 adult, £10 age 14-17 | 7pm
wegottickets.com

HMV READING
The Dazed Minded
Free | 3pm | All ages

THE RETREAT
The Thomas Heppell Band
Free | 8:30pm

UP THE JUNCTION
Bareword + Salvador
Free | 8pm | 18+

THE FLOWING SPRING
Jewels and the Jacuzziis
Free | 8:30pm

SUN 1 DEC

ROSEWOOD HALL
Pangbourne Jazz Club
Simon Spillett with Terry Hutchins Qrt
£14 | 7:30pm
skiddle.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readfolk
Moonrakers
£8 *otd (cash Only)* | 8pm

THE RETREAT
Stuart Henderson, Simon Price & friends
Free | 3:30pm

TUE 3 DEC

FACE BAR
Club Velocity/New Mind Promotions
Scott Lavene
£11 | 8pm | 14+ (U16s w/adult)
wegottickets.com

THU 5 DEC

FACE BAR
Club Velocity
Annual Christmas Knees Up: John Otway & His Band + Damien A. Passmore & The Loveable Fraudsters
£16.50 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

SAT 7 DEC

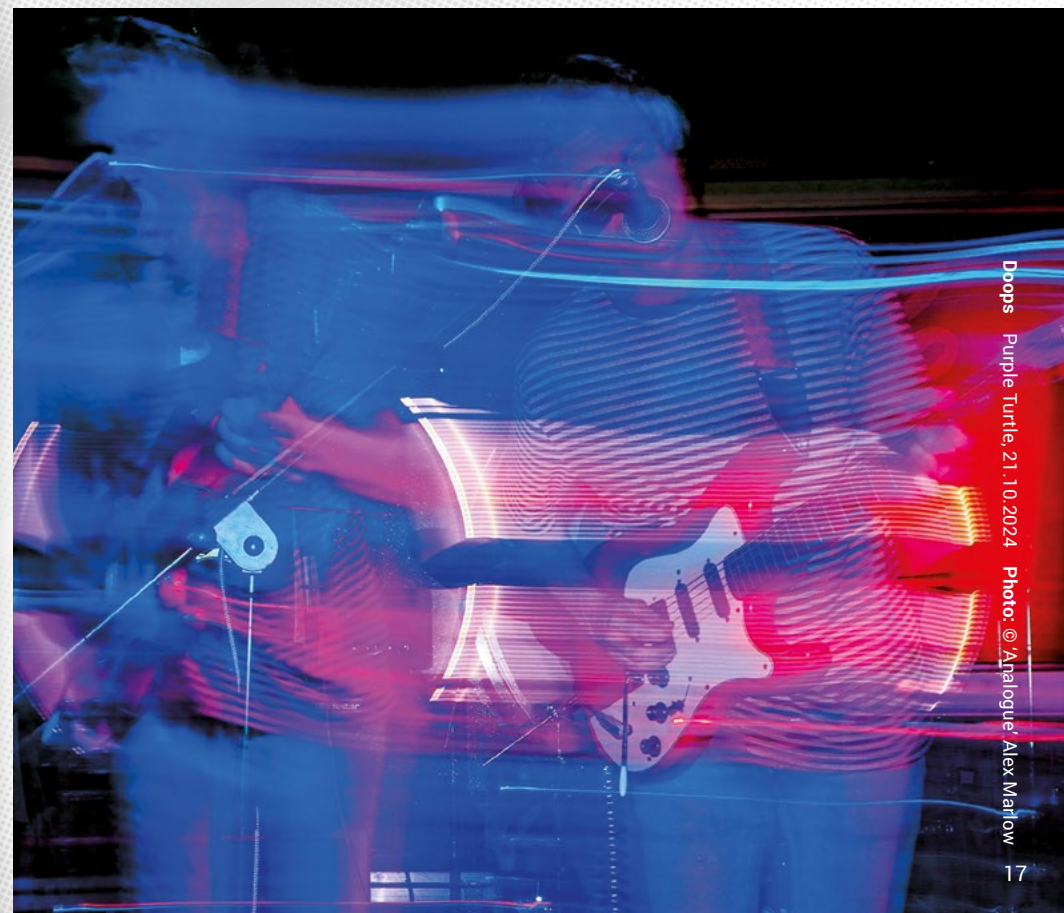
FACE BAR
Beat: Cancer and Church Of Madness
GrabYourFace + Matt Hart + Red Meat + Paresis
£15 | 7pm | 18+
All profits to Beat: Cancer.
beatcancer.info

DOUBLE-BARRELLED BREWERY
The Small Strings
Free | 7pm | 18+
It's free but book a table.
doublebarrelled.co.uk

SUN 8 DEC

PURPLE TURTLE
Brother Strut
£25 | 4pm | 18+
eventbrite.co.uk

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



Doops Purple Turtle, 21.10.2024 Photo: @Analogue, Alex Marlow

I got a message from Paul at the Oxfam Music shop a few days ago. He had some news for me: Puma Theory have a single coming out and, they're doing a launch gig for it on 16th November, in the shop – the latest in the rise and rise of the 'in-store gig'.

LET'S DO THE SHOW RIGHT HERE!!



I did not fully appreciate how popular The Amazons are. It was rammed. It was great!"

It's not just Oxfam Music at it, mind. This in-store lark appears to be taking off. Over the water in Caversham, Third Lung marked the release of their double A-side 'Tic Tac/ Pin Stripe Maroon' back in the summer by rocking up at POP Classics record shop and doing a full band set on the pavement outside the shop, where you can buy the album. For the record, POP Classics stocks local acts releases any time. Go in and ask.

Even the Pink Flamingos vintage shop, bang in the middle of the town centre, have had a go; they had The Pink Diamond Revue and Grace Pounds on in there, earlier this year.

Meanwhile, over in the Oracle, HMV have an average one a month at the moment. They've got a photo 'wall of fame' up in the shop with Adomania, Puma Theory,

The in-store gig. So simple and so... retro! A kind of direct marketing from a time before algorithms and before 'sharing', where promotion means literally sticking yourself in a potential audience's peripheral vision in real life, and on their turf.

For Puma Theory, it's also a chance to show that, musically, they've got something different to offer than what you normally see when the amps are turned up, the lights are turned down and the bar's open.

Puma Theory have done a few of these (here and elsewhere around the country) and they reckon "it's a nice way to showcase the band in a different fashion". In this case, they're playing acoustic guitars which is "kind of like being a fly on the wall at a song writing session. It's a more casual affair and we get to do new material sometimes which hasn't made into the live set yet." That's the flipside that's more than just old-school marketing – it can be a proper treat for fans. "A chance to just hang out and chat" before probably nipping round to The Alehouse afterwards. Apparently.

Oxfam Music have done a few of these on and off, over time. Puma Theory did one back in 2018, actually, and in 2022 there was a notable appearance at Oxfam Music by The Amazons.

Noteable because, according to Paul at the time, "We had the queue going up the street!"

**PUMA THEORY AT OXFAM MUSIC READING
FOOLISH BOY SINGLE RELEASE SHOW**

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2024



Selina & The Howlin Dogs, Lilac... loads. I went in and asked and, apparently, the massive corporate entity is well into it. Aulin [occasional contributor, here, you know] has taken it on as a regular thing and he's doing a sterling job. Coming up this month, there's Rocket Kings on 16th, The Dazed Minded on 30th and a Wobz DJ event somewhere in between. It all ties in with an HMV thing called the Local Content Scheme which, as you can guess, is a system whereby the great big shop in the Oracle also stocks and sells local acts' stuff like it used to. And so it should.

By the way, for those of you who need to know how to get your instore gig at any of these, I asked and the answer is – go on, have a guess – yep... *you go in the shop and ask.*

This time, the Puma Theory instore at Oxfam Music is to launch new single, 'Foolish Boy'. Recorded at Courtyard Studios and with artwork by Alex (@artandantidepressants), the song is one of the band's favourites from their live set and should be actually available from the 13th November. ■

Some last minute news, just as I'm getting this off to print...



The Pride of Reading Awards have just happened and, in case you don't know yet, some of 'our lot' have won some stuff!

Heavy Pop, who put on loads of gigs all year round, as well as the Are You Listening? festival and Down At The Abbey, got one for their *Cultural Contribution*.

Hickies Music Store got a *Business in Action Award*, which I'm sure they probably treasure nearly as much as their nomination for 'best counter-top Sound-check dispenser'.

Damian and Martina Jones at POP Classics record shop got one for *Entrepreneur of the Year*.

And, Eclectic Games got *Independent Retailer of the Year*, which I mention because they kindly agree to have a small pile of Sound-checks on their counter every month!

Whatever your take on this awards lark, at a time when music is, apparently, in all sorts of nationwide trouble, I reckon it can't hurt to see whoever's in charge of this sort of stuff recognising, and even valuing, what's going on. Well done, you lot. (And sorry if I missed anyone out.)



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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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