

# soundcheck

Issue 45 | July-August 2025 | FREE

## Reading's FREE live music guide



# BABY MAKER

+ Shadow Promotions DIY  
+ live gigs for July/August



TradeMark  
WINDOWS | DOORS | CONSERVATORIES

# WOKINGHAM Festival

23RD - 25TH AUGUST 2025  
CANTLEY PARK, WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE, RG40 5TU

A TRIBUTE TO  
**FLEETWOOD MAC**  
'OUR OWN WAY'

VINTAGE SOUND COLLECTIVE  
MAKESHIFTS  
SELINA AND THE HOWLIN DOGS  
ONE EYED MAN  
SUGAR AND SAX  
LUKE BATES

A HEAD FULL OF  
**COLDPLAY**

BOTTLE KIDS  
THIRD LUNG  
JOSH ROBERTS  
RED HOAX CHILI PEPPERS  
MIKE LEMIN BAND

**TRB**  
TOM ROBINSON BAND

SOLSTICE  
JOHN HACKETT BAND  
RUBY DAWN  
NEON FIELDS

**China  
Bears**

PUMA THEORY  
ROCKET KINGS  
BONE-IDLE  
MADI C  
THE JULIA SET  
HATS TM  
GLITCH

*Bonnie  
and The Jets*

THE STRETCH  
PAYTRON SAINT  
KAYSHA LOUVAIN  
COLD JULY  
TASIA  
VERONICA DROZDOWSKI  
VERDAGEARS

**THE DEAD  
CANKAZALT**

THE BLUEPERS  
LEONIE JAKOBI  
ALPHALINE  
DIKAJEE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM  
[WWW.WOKINGHAMFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.WOKINGHAMFESTIVAL.CO.UK)

St Vincents  
Veterinary Surgery



SYDENHAMS  
Timber & Builders Merchants

Generation  
STUDIO

WHITE STAR  
WICKERS

JAMMA



## Sound-check #45



Tomorrow Bird The Face Bar, 20.05.2025  
Photo: Steve Axtell

It's that time of year again. This is a two-month issue so we can have some kind of a summer holiday. 'You can keep the Costa Brava, and all that palaver...' etc, I'm going down to Margate for a bit and then I'll be hiding from the sun and maybe finishing that album... or something.

Probably going to go to more of all these gigs for a couple of weeks without having to say, "Sorry, I can't come - I've got to finish the new issue by the morning!". Yeah, it's a lot of work, this. A little retreat and regroup is kind of necessary.

In the meantime, there's loads of gigs listed here and, if you need a soundtrack for the summer, there's the Sound-check Spotify playlist featuring all of the cover stars of every issue, ever. Search for it, or just see if this works.

See you out there, once I've got the sand out. - RiCH



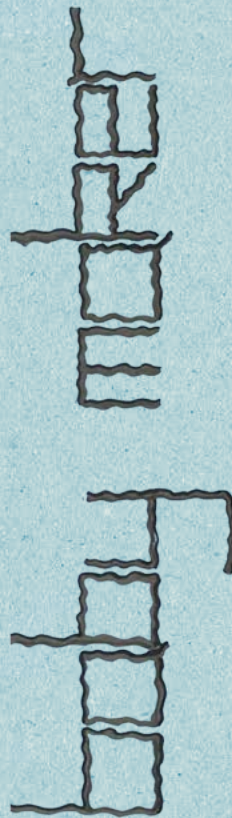
[/soundcheckreading](https://www.facebook.com/soundcheckreading)  
[/soundcheckrdg](https://www.instagram.com/soundcheckrdg)

## The sound-check Photo Year Book 2025

Our real life, 48-page collection of live gig photos from in and around Reading over the past year, simply because, here at Sound-check, we love what the photographers do but we can't fit them all in!

On sale now at Oxfam Music, POP Classics  
and at [sound-check.co.uk](http://sound-check.co.uk)





Words: RiCH  
Photos: Kayleigh Fryer

**W**e're potentially opening a can of worms here because Baby Maker is made out of one guy, by the name of Ruairi Kester who these days lives in... Oxford. However, he's a proper regular round here and he was born in the RBH which makes him way more Reading than I am so let's not be picky about that.

Tonight, he's back at the Turtle, with a new track to promote, and he has a gig at the Rising Sun coming up so I've come along to grab him for quick word after his set.

It's an unusual proposition, at first. I've said it's made of just one person but, if you've never seen Baby Maker, don't go picturing any acoustic guitar singer/songwriter-y thing cos it's not that. What you have here, is some pretty sparse backing tracks accompanying some very tasty bass playing mixing a bit of a funk thing with a big spoonful of old school post-punk/new wave style. All of which sits behind a very cool, laid back, half sung, half spoken vocal that comes across almost as poetry.

Think Baxter or Ian Dury (depending on your age bracket!), plus a drop of Iggy Pop and you won't be a million miles off, including Ruairi's solid statement of fact: "Norman Watt-Roy: sick bassist."

So, this one-man show, part live, part pre-recorded... is that someone who's played in bands but turned control freak, or a studio project that has escaped into the wild, or what?

It turns out to be a bit both. There might have been a band once upon a time, but the desire to get out and do it kicked in quicker than the finding other people to get involved.

*"My brother was doing a lot of drums initially but he didn't really want to do it live and I was, like, 'I really need to start playing'."*

*"So it was more of a necessity than first choice to start with. I'd only played in bands before. I'd never... I was lead singer for one band – a one-gig wonder – but, yeah, I was kinda bricking it to be honest and the first few were pretty rusty but I've got used to doing it that way."*

For my money, it has worked out nice. When you watch Baby Maker, nothing looks or sounds like it's missing and a handful of other people hanging about on stage would kind of detract from the knowing vocal, sometimes a bit playful, sometimes a bit sinister, that sits in amongst the heavy groove thing.

At midnight tonight, after this gig, a new Baby Maker track gets released into the wild. It's called 'I'd Rather Be In Berlin' which, of course, begs the question: Why?

*"It's just escapism, isn't it, really. I was in a job that I really didn't enjoy by the end. I quit and then, after my last day, that song just kind of fell out, really. It could have been anywhere, I think... it's just about being fed up of monotony or whatever and just wanting to do something else."*

It's a belter. 'I'd rather be queuing up for Berghain knowing that I won't get in.' is the best lyric to describe absolute boredom that I've heard in a long time but the lyrical highlight of this ode to ennui is the last line. I won't spoil it for you – you'll have to turn up and listen.

"Turn up" you say? Where, then? Practically on your doorstep... twice! Baby Maker will be in the Rising Sun Arts Centre at either end of August: the 9th as part of the Here Comes The Sun festival and the 29th for Club Velocity along with Pink Diamond Revue and Tashi Delay.

In the meantime, you can hear 'I'd Rather Be In Berlin' everywhere you'd expect to. Go to Bandcamp and you'll also find last year's album 'From The Desk Of'.

Instagram: [baby\\_maker\\_music](#)  
Bandcamp: [baby-maker-music](#)  
Soundcloud: [baby\\_maker\\_music](#)



# gigguide

## THU 3 JUL

### FACE BAR

Club Velocity/Good Wrecking Tonight

### Guana Batz + Red Hot Riot

£22 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

## FRI 4 JUL

### FACE BAR

### Vision Video

### + The Go Go Cult

£16.75 | 7:30pm | 14+

skiddle.com

### THE BUTLER

Friday Night Blues

### Thomas Heppell Band

£17.60 | 8pm | All ages (U18 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

### PURPLE TURTLE

### Makeshifts

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

### GOOD COMPANIONS

### Code Red

Free | 8:30pm

## SAT 5 JUL

### THE LYNDHURST

### Jimmy the Dog

Free | 8:30pm

### FACE BAR

### The Croupiers

£17.34 | 7:30pm |

### THE BUTLER

### Mississippi Queen

£5 otd | 8pm |

## SUN 6 JUL

### FACE BAR

Club Velocity/Good Wreckin Tonight

### Hillbilly Moon Explosion

£22 + 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

### SOUTH STREET

### High Vibes #11

### Slit Throats + Fleshlicker

### + Pale World + Sword of

### Damocles + Playworker

£12 | 7pm | 14+

whatsonreading.com

### PANGBOURNE JAZZ CLUB

Jazz@PJC presents

### Denny Ilett with

### the Terry Hutchins Qrt

£14 | 7:30pm

skiddle.com

### WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

### Louise and Chris Rogan

£8 otd (cash only) | 8pm

## MON 7 JUL

### MILK

### Rum & Jazz with

### The Will McCrea Trio

£5, NUS £3.50 | 7pm | 18+

fatsoma.com

### PURPLE TURTLE

### Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30 | 18+

Three bands, every Monday.

## TUE 6 JUL

### UP THE JUNCTION

### Rod from Brazil and Otto

### + Ryan O'Donoghue

Free | 8pm | 18+

## THU 10 JUL

### PURPLE TURTLE

Radio Wigwam Presents...

### Tin Gun + Pixelstorm

### + Psykelektrik

Free | 8pm | 18+

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. Websites refer to where to get tickets.

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

### SOUTH STREET

### Suzie Brown & Scot Sax

£15 | 8pm | All ages

whatsonreading.com

## FRI 11 JUL

### THE BUTLER

### Summer Soulstice '25

### Backbeat Band

£18adv, £20otd | 8pm | 18+

11-piece band playing their favourite Soul, R&B and Jump Jive tunes.

wegotickets.com

### THE LYNDHURST

### Alec Candido

Free | 8:30pm

### PURPLE TURTLE

### Envy

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SAT 12 JUL

### THE REATREAT

### WolfNote

Free | 8pm

### THE BUTLER

### Radioactive Lemon

### A Formal Horse + Zenden

### Greenpurp + Z Machine

### + PsychoYogi + Acid Claw

### + MrPineapple + Epileptic

### Lizards

£16.96 | 3:30pm | All ages

eventbrite.com

### UP THE JUNCTION

### Made of the Mist + tbc

Free | 8pm | 18+

### THE LYNDHURST

### Café Zazous

Free | 8:45pm

PRESENTED BY RUNNIN' BLUE BY ARRANGEMENT WITH  
CONQUEST RECORDS, JCPL AND ON POINT TOURING

## Hillbilly VEGAS



FEELS GOOD UK TOUR 2025

24 JULY 2025

DOORS 19:30



### FACE BAR

AMBROSE PLACE  
CHATHAM STREET  
READING | RG1 7JE

TICKETS £16  
(+BOOKING FEE)

WeGotTickets

## TWISTED HALO

Garden Party

By Angel Bar

LINE UP (6pm - Midnight)

£33

Ma Bezzie

GOLD DUST DJ

Selina and the  
howlin dogs

JEWELS & THE JACUZZIS

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

CAVERSHAM COURT GARDENS

CAVERSHAM . READING . RG47AD

Doors open at 5pm



[www.angelbar.co.uk/events](http://www.angelbar.co.uk/events)



# OXFAM MUSIC SHOP

We received a gruesome collection of horror on DVD. Including the classic Giallo, Tenebrae by il maestro del paura, Dario Argento. Top recommendation. New York Ripper isn't a recommendation but is the most infamous film by another Italian director, Lucio Fulci and well thought of by connoisseurs of Italian hard exploitation cinema, if not by me. Brain Damage is by Frank Henenlotter, the doge of 80s lo-fi punky creature features. If you've seen his grimly humorous Basketcase, you'll like it. I haven't seen *Shark Exorcist*.



We have been lucky to have a succession of very nice Soul CDs donated recently. Including some titles on the superb Kent Records label. In terms of selection, mastering, scholarship etc, they are tip top. Originally a real deal US R&B label based in LA, since the 80s it became UK based Ace records primo soul imprint. It's tempting to believe there are literally an infinite number of banging soul records from the 1960s but I understand that's impossible.

We sell comics! Generally organised into bundles of consecutive titles for practical reading purposes. At the moment, mostly lots of interesting superhero titles from the 1990s and subsequently. I spot a bundle of GWAR comics. GWAR were a crazy gang of heavy metal space orks who released records with titles like This Toilet Earth and We Kill Everything and I am personally curious that their adventures have been chronicled in comic book form.



### Ashton 5-string banjo.

With detachable resonator (for extra pep), and shaped hardcase. The banjo is a wonderful instrument essential for any musical dalliance with Americana, whether that be authentic bluegrass music or the kind of brainy exotica conjured by the likes of Van Dyke Parks or the High Llamas.

### 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](mailto:oxfamshopf3944@oxfam.org.uk)

Oxfam works with others to fight global poverty.

## OXFAM MUSIC

9 DUKE ST, READING RG1 4SA  
0118 9561598



Van Quan Purple Turtle, 07.05.2025  
Photo: intergalacticphotographics

## MON 14 JUL

### PURPLE TURTLE Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30 | 18+  
Three bands, every Monday.

## WED 16 JUL

### FACE BAR Club Velocity/New Mind presents

#### Heathen Apostles + Uncle Peanut

£14.30 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)  
LA-based The Heathen Apostles return including ex-members of Radio Noir, The Cramps, Kings of Nuthin' and Christian Death  
wegottickets.com

## THU 17 JUL

### PURPLE TURTLE Radio Wigwam Presents...

#### The Lost And Found + Blacklight Vice + Darius Zoltash

FREE | 8pm | 18+

## FRI 18 JUL

### PURPLE TURTLE The Skangsters

FREE | 8:30pm | 18+

### CASTLE TAP Shadow Promotions DIY

#### On The Cinder + Arizona Law + Level Threat + Tape it Shut

Free | 6pm

### THE BUTLER Friday Night Blues:

#### The Backbone Blues Band

£15.40 | 8pm | All ages (U18s w/adult)  
wegottickets.com

## SAT 19 JUL

### FACE BAR Heavy Pop

#### The Drop + Kill Committee + This.

£14.85adv, £20otd | 7pm  
14+(U18 w/adult)

Plus The Push DJs playing beats throughout the evening and Ensision disco after the live bands. All profits go to Laura's Lasting Legacy charity fund.  
gigantic.com

### BREWDOG Millennium Cover Band

£8adv, £10otd | 8pm | 18+  
skiddle.com

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

### THE BUTLER Shadow Promotions Presents

#### Dakka Skanks + Redeemon + Baldhead + Ill Gotten Gains + Bandits + Offbeat Offensive

£11 | 5:30pm | 18+  
wegottickets.com

## SUN 20 JUL

### THE RETREAT Low Key Sunday

Free | 3:30pm

### CASTLE TAP Shadow Promotions DIY

#### Skinhawk + Almost Aliens + For Lack Of A Term + Ritual Error

Free | 4:30pm |

## MON 21 JUL

### PURPLE TURTLE Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30 | 18+  
Three bands, every Monday.

## WED 23 JUL

### THE REATREAT Jazz Singers Night

Free | 8pm

# CLUB VELOCITY/NEW MIND PROMOTIONS SHOWS AT THE FACEBAR READING 2025 WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/CLUB VELOCITY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT

## JULY 3RD - THE GUANA BATZ + RED HOT RIOT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT

## JULY 6TH - HILLBILLY MOON EXPLOSION + THE ZIPHEADS

## JULY 16TH - HEATHEN APOSTLES + UNCLE PEANUT

## SEPT 16TH - MERYL STREEK + SOAPBOX

## SEPT 22ND - THE DROWNS + <sup>DxSxA</sup> OT UK The GreenMan Project

## SEPT 25TH - THE SUBHUMANS + BARRELHAUS

## SEPT 28TH - JOHN BRAMWELL

## OCT 21ST - LOS FASTIDIOS

## OCT 26TH - DAY RAVE - LAB-4 TIMSAMSARA CYBERNAUT TASHAKP

## NOV 7TH - BON GIOVI

## NOV 14TH - THE OGRETONES + DAMIAN PASSMORE

## NOV 30TH - CULTURE SHOCK + ILL GOTTEN GAINS

## DEC 11TH - JOHN OTWAY FULL BAND

## DEC 12TH - MIKI BERENYI TRIO + The Go Go CULT

## DEC 18TH - DEMENTED ARE GO

# Turtle

## UNDERGROUND

3 BANDS EVERY MONDAY  
7.30PM FREE ENTRY

**Blackstar**  
AMPLIFICATION

STRAIGHT INTO  
**CLUB RECKLESS**  
PUNK, EMO, ROCK, METAL,  
10PM TO 3AM FREE ENTRY

RADIO WIGWAM PRESENTS

### ELECTRO NIGHT

FEATURING

**TRU GUN**

PSYKELETRIC pixelstorm

**Thursday 10th July 2025**  
8pm Free Entry

WWW.RADIOWIGWAM.CO.UK

RADIO WIGWAM PRESENTS

### A FISTFUL OF ROCK

FEATURING

**THE LOST AND FOUND**

LIV LUCE

**Thursday 17th July 2025**  
7.45pm Free Entry

WWW.RADIOWIGWAM.CO.UK

### WILDERNESS STATES

(Oxford)

AUTO-REPLY  
AUTO-REPLY  
AUTO-REPLY  
AUTO-REPLY

**CRITTER CABAL**

**Wednesday 23rd July**  
(FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required)

(Bristol)

### AMBERLIGHTS

**Thursday 24th July**

REVOLVER

8pm FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

### BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH

**Wednesday 30th July**

Shade of the Mist

8pm FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

**SONIC WHIP**

**SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST**

with **Bone-Idle**

plus support: THE 8pm FREE ENTRY 18

# Purple Turtle

## PUNK LEGENDS RETURN TO READING

AS8502

# 999

**THURSDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER**  
FREE ENTRY  
18+ ID REQUIRED

**CARLO PODOGHE SUPEREGO**  
Brescia, Italy

One man. Every instrument. ALL the sound.

with support from **HARRY J**

**Wednesday 13th August**

Playing classics by Hendrix, The Beatles, The Stones, The Who, Bowie and more...

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

LA TORTUGA PURPURA PRESENTA.  
DIRECTO DESDE ARGENTINA!  
#ALTERNOLATINOPUNK

# NEGRA SANTA

GUINIA - CUARTETO - PUNK - SKA - RAGGAMUFFIN

**THURSDAY AUGUST 14TH**  
**REVOLUCIÓN BAILABLE 2025**  
8PM FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

WITH **HORSE ROCK** SUPPORT TBC

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

**FORTY FEET TALL**  
SUNDAY 26th September  
Portland USA

Matinee Show 3pm FREE ENTRY

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

with **The Devel Minded** and **MARTAVEGA**

# FIEP

@veerlefiep  
NETHERLANDS

**THURSDAY 2nd OCTOBER**  
8pm FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

(FRANCE)

# Th DA Freak

NOISE, GRUDGE, POST-PUNK, SLACKER

**Thurs 16th October**  
8pm FREE ENTRY

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

# pentire

**WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2025**

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

## Now... Hear This!

Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**  
LOTTERY FUNDED

**DOWNLOAD THE LIVE MUSIC APP**  
DIRECT LINKS TO GIGS  
REGULAR UPDATES

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM MIDDAY PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM

## WED 23 JUL

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Wilderness States + Auto-Reply + Critter Cabal**

Free | 8pm | 18+

## THU 24 JUL

**FACE BAR**  
**Hillbilly Vegas + Revenant**  
£17.60 | 7:30pm | 18+  
wegottickets.com

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Amber Lights + Thrown Like Owls + Revolver**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

## FRI 25 JUL

**RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE**  
*Club Velocity Presents*  
**Bored Slippy + Nick Saxton + Grace Pounds**  
£7.20 | 8pm | All ages  
wegottickets.com

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Mythicals**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+  
**SAT 26 JUL**

**FACE BAR**  
**Hidden Mothers + Buds + Mercury's Well + Gutlocker + Masquerader + Tape It Shut + Remnant + Black Skull Ritual + Turning Point + Skin Reaper + Killswitch Enchambers**  
£15adv, £18otd | 1pm | 18+  
skiddle.com

**THE BUTLER**  
**Ruby Dawn + Evi Vine**  
£10adv, £12otd | 7pm | 18+

**RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE**  
**Mike Cooper and Alan Clayson**  
£16.50 NUS/unwaged, £11.00 7:45pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)  
wegottickets.com

**CASTLE TAP**  
*Shadow promotions*  
**The Freudian Session + Mourner + Launch Control + Brioche + Halloran**  
Free | 6pm

## SUN 27 JUL

**THE RETREAT**  
**Jazz with Stuart Henderson & Simon Price**  
Free | 3:30pm

## MON 28 JUL

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Turtle Underground**  
Free | 7:30 | 18+  
*Three bands, every Monday.*

## TUE 29 JUL

**UP THE JUNCTION**  
**Quadtz**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

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



**Ziggy and the Spiders from Berks**  
Purple Turtle, 13.06.2025  
Photo: Kayleigh Fryer

**UP THE JUNCTION BAR**

**July**  
**Tue 08 8pm** Rod from Brazil and Otto + Ryan O'Donoghue  
**Tue 29 8pm** Quadtz  
**Sat 12 8pm** Made of the Mist + Support

**August**  
**Sat 02 5pm Junction Fest:**  
Ghost Cat, Witchmother, Maija, He Fired First, Mr Pineapple, Harry J

**Tue-Wed:** 5pm - 2am **Thu-Sat:** 5pm - 3am **Sun-Mon:** closed  
Licensed to 3am, 7 days a week for private hire.  
DJs, live music, launch nights, comedy, parties... get in touch:  
upthejunctionbar@hotmail.co.uk

**231 London Rd, Reading RG1 3NY**  
BAR • CLUB • VENUE  
Book your event date now

**BARE GROOVE** AND **Mk II**

**Last time was so good, we really should do it again!**

Bare Groove DJs are back for a night of Northern Soul from 8pm to midnight, embellished right in the middle, by the finest purveyors of LIVE 60s Soul classics, **The MkII**.

**THE BUTLER • FRIDAY 1st AUGUST**

It's all about the dancefloor!

8:00PM £8.80adv. £10 ON THE DOOR  
CHATHAM ST. READING RG1 7DS  
WEGOTTICKETS.COM

**READING  
BISCUIT  
FACTORY**

**CINEMA | EVENTS  
BAR | CAFÉ**



**FT. CERTAIN SOUND  
RECORD SHOP**



**READING BISCUIT FACTORY**  
1 QUEENS WALK, READING, RG1 7QE  
WWW.READINGBISCUITFACTORY.CO.UK

## WED 30 JUL

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Bottomless Brunch + Made of The Mist + Jot Sloppy**

Free | 8pm | 18+

## FRI 1 AUG

**THE BUTLER**  
**The MkII**

£9.90adv, £10otd | 8pm | 18+

*The Bare Groove DJs' Northern Soul club night from 8-12pm with The MkII live, bang in the middle. It's all about the dance floor.*

wegottickets.com

## SAT 2 AUG

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Sonic Whip**  
**+ Bone Idol + tbc**

FREE | 8pm | 18+

**UP THE JUNCTION**  
**Junction Fest**

**Ghost Cat + Witchmother**  
**+ Maija + He Fired First**  
**+ Mr Pineapple + Harry J**

Free | 5pm | 18+

**THE TURKS**  
**Number Of The Beef**

Free | 9pm

## MON 4 AUG

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7:30 | 18+

*Three bands, every Monday.*

## FRI 8 AUG

**THE BUTLER**  
**Blues Cruise + The BJ Bevy**

£13.20, Early Bird £8.80 | 8pm

All ages (U18 w/adult)

wegottickets.com

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



Deva St. John - Oxford Social Club, 19.06.2025 - Photo: Steve Axtell

## SAT 9 AUG

**RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE**  
**Here Comes The Sun 2025**

**The Dazed Minded + Baby Maker + Tape It Shut**  
**+ Amazing Tiger Band**  
**+ New Puritans + Damien A Passmore + MIETTE. + Artists Link-Up** and loads more!

£16.50, U14 Free, Low income £11.00  
Supporter £27.50  
2pm | All ages

*A whole day of art, music and more as the Rising Sun Arts Centre opens its doors for the annual Here Comes The Sun festival*  
wegottickets.com

**CASTLE TAP**  
**Matt Pless**

Free | 8pm

**THE TURKS**  
**Swallow**

Free | 9pm

## SUN 10 AUG

**PANGBOURNE JAZZ CLUB**

*Jazz@PJC presents*

**Derek Nash with the Terry Hutchins Qrt**

£14 | 7:30pm

skiddle.com

## MON 11 AUG

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7:30 | 18+

*Three bands, every Monday.*

## WED 13 AUG

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Carlo Poddighe**

Free | 8pm | 18+

*One man. Every instrument. ALL the sound. The Italian viral sensation and multi-instrumental wizard brings his explosive solo show to Reading*

**Here Comes The Sun**  
**Music & Arts Festival 2025**  
**9TH AUGUST**  
3 STAGES OF LIVE MUSIC | FULL BAR | BBQ | CAKES | ART | CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES  
THE RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE | 30 SILVER ST | RG4 2ET

Back for another day of art, music and more as the Rising Sun Arts Centre opens its doors for the annual Here Comes The Sun festival.

**Acts confirmed so far:**  
The Dazed Minded • Baby Maker • Tape It Shut  
Amazing Tiger Band • New Puritans  
Damien A Passmore • MIETTE. • Artists Link-Up  
Rob Devereux • The Lurxx  
Huw Tarry's Open Mic • Zap! Comedy & Friends  
Grae J. Wall & Los Chicos Muertos  
Dreading Slam Poetry

OPEN 2pm-11pm  
GENERAL ADMISSION £16.50  
UNDER-14S TICKET £0.00  
SUPPORTER £27.50  
LOW INCOME £11.00  
wegottickets.com

**POP classics**  
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## THU 14 AUG

PURPLE TURTLE

**Negra Santa**  
+ **Horse Rock** + tbc

Free | 8pm | 18+

## FRI 15 AUG

PURPLE TURTLE

**Audiotonic**

Free | 8.30pm | 18+

## SAT 16 AUG

THE BUTLER

Shadow Promotions

**Overpower + Detriment**

+ **Hour Of Reprisal**

+ **King Street** *plus loads more!*

£13.20 | 1pm | 16+

wegottickets.com

FACE BAR

**Young Knives**

£19.25 | 7pm | 18+

## SUN 17 AUG

CASTLE TAP

**Bouzouki Bellows!**

Free | 6pm

## MON 18 AUG

PURPLE TURTLE

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7.30 | 18+

*Three bands, every Monday.*

## MON 25 AUG

PURPLE TURTLE

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7.30 | 18+

*Three bands, every Monday.*

## FRI 29 AUG

THE GOOD COMPANIONS

**Broadmoor Sirens**

Free | 8.30pm

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

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**Pink Diamond Revue +**  
**Tashi Delay + Babymaker**

£7.20 | 8pm | All ages

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## SAT 30 AUG

FACE BAR

**The DekkerTones**

£15.65 Early bird £12.35

7.30pm | 18+

skiddle.com

THE TURKS

**Hard Times**

Free | 9pm

## MON 1 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7.30 | 18+

*Three bands, every Monday.*

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



The Borough Rising Sun Arts Centre, 13.06.2025  
Photo: Jeff the photographer

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## Profile: Shadow Promotions DIY

@shadowpromotionsdiy

**Y**ou know The Butler, don't you... sitting over there on Chatham Street like the Face Bar's gobby little brother. Well, in case you hadn't noticed there's been a string of punk gigs going on there for a while now put on Shadow Promotions DIY and they're sort of not 'normal'; they're often on a Sunday afternoon, for a start, and there could be anything up eight bands on at a time. And, if they're not in The Butler, they're putting punk gigs on in The Castle Tap – a pub so small you not going to believe it until you see it.

This particular Sunday, there are only five bands so, once everything is set up, there's time to speak to them and find out what you need to know.

I've got James Foster, Guy Mitchell and Dan Tape here and there's a Zara around somewhere too, completing the team. So, first off, when and why did they start all this?

**Guy:** We had the idea about two summers ago. March/April 2023 we conceived it. I guess the reason we did it was, Jim moved to Reading, I'm in Fleet so not far very away and there wasn't that much going on here.

*With no previous form at all?*

Well... I used to be in a band, Dan's in a band, Jim's not in a band but we've been listening to punk rock and stuff since we were like 17 or something.

**Jim:** I think for us it started in Brighton about 25 years ago. I was at Uni, Guy was the partner of somebody I was looking to move in it with. It was one of those moments where like, you were wearing a Capdown T-shirt and we just kind of hit it off. And in Brighton in the early 2000s you had such a good scene.

**G:** They did a thing called Sunday Service where every other Sunday it was just all day punk rock and ska. Ten bands and it was just ten quid to get in.

Then, when we moved this way, we thought 'rather than going to bands, let's bring them to us'.

**J:** The ethos was... we enjoyed that when we were younger, can we create that for the next generation people.



*Who was on the first one?*

**Dan:** Filthy Militia, Tape It Shut, Baldhead & the Dreads, Prey and Launch Control

**J:** Having Dan who's in the scene and in a band has helped us a lot, actually.

**D:** We [Tape It Shut] sort of settled in to being your house band, and helping put it on...

**G:** Basically, we booked Tape It Shut because they had a drum kit!

**D:** ...and now you're stuck with it!

*Over that time, then... any particularly standout gigs?*

**G:** I'd say Random Hand was our best one because we sold it out.

**D:** All the support acts were local punk rock bands with the idea of getting more people to local shows because people would travel in for Random Hand and got to see a big sample of what Reading's like with Ill Gotten Gains, Rage DC, Launch Control and ourselves.

*Word has definitely got round. People now come to Reading from all over for these gigs*

We've had people from Ireland come over... Fred from Scotland, he came down for a show... there were people from France at that Random Hand show... somebody from Germany came to another one. We get a lot of people from Bristol, London and Oxford.

**G:** We are now, apparently, 'on the circuit'. We've got bands from America coming over, Australia, the Netherlands... we've got loads coming up, from everywhere.

8 Kalacas [from California] was a bit of a highlight...

**J:** The heat in there was so hot, people couldn't take photos on their phones... people's phones stopped working because of the heat!



So that's where Shadow Promotions DIY are now; with bands from literally all over the world, wanting to come and play here in Reading and be a part of the scene they've helped build. Not bad going, at all. ■

What's coming up next? I'm glad you asked. Get your diary out...

Fri 18 Jul @ The Castle Tap

On The Cinder (USA) / Arizona Law / Level Threat / Tape It Shut

Sat 19 Jul @ The Butler

Dakka Skanks / Redeemon / Baldhead / Ill Gotten Gains / Bandits / Offbeat Offensive

Sun 20 Jul @ The Castle Tap

Skinhawk / Almost Aliens / For Lack Of A Term (USA) / Ritual Error

Sat 26 Jul @ Castle Tap

The Freudian Session / Mourner / Launch Control / Brioche / Halloran

Sat 16th Aug @ The Butler

Overpower / Detriment / Hour Of Reprisal / King Street plus loads more

Sat 13 Sept @ Castle Tap

All Hope Remains (Australia) / Tape It Shut / Making Friends / Stop Thief / Olic / Missing The Scene / Gareth James

*If you're reading this and you reckon you should be on the bill, you can get in touch with Shadow Promotions on Instagram @shadowpromotionsdiy*



## sound-check

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You'll have noticed we bloody love a gig photo, round here. Instagram just doesn't do a good photo justice. If you've got local act photos and you'd like to see them here, you can just email them to [rich@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:rich@sound-check.co.uk) with band name, date, venue and photographer credit. If it's high enough resolution for real life print, and if there's space, we'll bang it in.

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