



A quick jaunt to the Biscuit Factory to meet Ghost Cat? No problem. We had a notion that it might be quiet in here early on a Thursday evening but no... there's a DJ down the end, the big tables have got people throwing weird-shaped dice and cards around, some people are armed with a beer and a laptop, apparently still at work... Oh, and the record shop is still open! Quite the hive of activity, so five of us are precariously perched on stools around the world's tiniest table to find out exactly is Ghost Cat.

The earliest sighting of Ghost Cat was May last year, apparently. Instigated by James:

"I knew Charlie from around. Saw him drumming a cover of P.C.P. by the Manics and thought 'Yeah, that's the boy for me'. Jonno was looking for something at that point as well, wanting to play bass."

"I had just been gifted a bass guitar by my sister and was looking for an excuse to play it"

"We practiced as a three for a bit and then Harry joined us as lead guitarist"

James describes this as a bit of a "wish list" band and, having seen each of these four playing with various other people over the last year or so, I'd have to admit; there's whole lot of multi-instrumental skills on show between them.

Trying to pin down a word that describes exactly what they do together, though, is maybe a bit trickier because it's not 'rawk', it's not screaming at anybody, you don't need a qualification in maths to understand what's going (most of the time!), it's not difficult 'art'... This the point where, personally, I like to reclaim the phrase 'pop music' but some people don't get it and think that's somehow lightweight. James seems to get what I mean, though.

"I think the main thing about this band is, we're obsessed with songs. There aren't any rules, per se, but everything always needs to have a have purpose, needs to be doing something or going somewhere, as a song."

We write a little bit together, perhaps a bit more individually, but when we work stuff up together, it's always "OK... what's it doing? Where's it going?" So it's purpose and direction that we try to have in our songs. A bit of craft. Melody's a huge thing.

We're not, like, 'musos'... If someone said to me 'Ok, you're going to play in a band that has an instrumental piece with a weird time signature.' I'd be like 'The f*@k, I am!'

They all write (Charlie, on the kit, can actually tell who's is who's!) and each

bring a varied cart load of influences. Early Manics, Beach Boys, Cake, Talking Heads and even some bluegrass all get a mention this evening which, along with a team love of vocal harmonies and skilled arranging, all pulls together to make something uniquely Ghost Cat.

There's some recorded stuff finished, right now. Two tracks, 'Julia' and 'Stroller' are due out into the wild any day now. Exactly when is a matter of immediate internal debate but I'm allowed to say "soon".

And 'Spoils of War' is currently undergoing studio treatment which, if you've seen them live, you might recognise because it's normally "our intro track".

An intro track called 'Spoils of War' which, I'm told, has whole tone scale in it...?! Just when I'm scared that it might be heading off into Stone Henge territory, don't be afraid... it's just skilled people who know the right vocabulary for what they're playing, and...

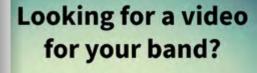
Jonno: "It's actually about losing a water bottle. You work with someone, your water bottle goes missing and when you return to work a week later, you see them using your water bottle. But you don't saying anything. The Spoils of War."

Live-wise, you'll have seen them around Reading in that last 18 months, namely The Butler, Face Bar and The Turtle and all but they've also been doing that journey into London one way and up to Oxford the other. The second Dublin Castle gig got filmed and actually sounds pretty good so expect a proper live video coming your way.

And they're planning quite a big one. For November 15th, Ghost Cat are pulling together an all-dayer mini-festival type affair at The Butler in Reading. Keep your eyes peeled for details of the lineup – they're keeping that close to their chest for the minute – but the whole shebang will be raising money for Reading Pride and we'll probably see you there.







I am a Reading based musician and video maker. I make cost-effective videos for local bands.



OXFAM MUSIC SHOP

Heart Of The Congos

The Congos

I think the first return visit of a title to this ad. A proper goodie. Steve Barker of Blood & Fire records put it best when reviewing a reissue: "Heart Of The Congos is definitely in the top two reggae albums ever, just in case there's a better one I haven't heard yet".



A potent psychedelic production from Lee Perry comparable with records like Astral Weeks or Gris Gris by conjuring an eternal rustic Arcadia in pop sound. Wonderful soulful vocals and great catchy songs throughout. Effusively excellent.



Drums!

That's a hold load of drums in the window. No full kits but lots of disembodied toms of various sizes. Going cheap so beat a path to Oxfam music!

Bloody Terror: the Shocking Cinema of Norman J. Warren 1976-1987

Blu-ray box set of the complete films of 1970s/80s bargain basement auteur, Norman J. Warren. Terror and Prey in particular have a lot of atmosphere and interesting period character as well as excellent primitive



doomy primitive synth music as soundtracks. A beautifully presented and scholarly set from the Indicator label. We love selling these boutique editions of interesting niche cinema when they are generously donated.



Chico Hamilton

Chic Chic Chico

Chico Hamilton is an underrated figure in the history of jazz. The drummer played with many of the great figures of west coast bebop before leading forward thinking bands in the 1960s including Avant Garde players like Charles Lloyd and Gabor Szabo. His records for Impulse

from that time are distinctly groovy featuring exotica and mod elements which anticipate psychedelia.

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
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Oxfam works with others to fight global poverty.

OXFAM MUSIC

9 DUKE ST, READING RG1 4SA 0118 9561598

gig-guide

MON 1 SEP

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

WED 3 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE

Cassini + Ahsoka
+ Nineteenth Hour

Free | 80m | 18+

THU 4 SEP

SUB89

Fun Lovin' Criminals

 $\textbf{£28.50} (+\textit{bf}) \mid 7pm \mid \textbf{14} + (\textit{U18 w/adult})$ seetickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE

Verdagears + Queen of Between + Thrown Like Owls

Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 5 SEP

THE BUTLER
PLEASE BAN MUSIC #11

La Mort Subite + Skint + Tongue

£5otd | 7:45pm

PURPLE TURTLE **DV8**

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

THE LYNDHURST

The Highwasters

Free | 8:30pm

THE GOOD COMPANIONS
The New Highs

Free | 9pm

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

SAT 6 SEP

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Rhodri Davies
& Mark Sanders

£11adv, £12otd | 7:30pm | 18+

Two of the UK's most innovative improvisers unite for an extraordinary performance of world-class music featuring a rare meeting of harp and percussion.

wegottickets.com

THE LYNDHURST

Axe Brasil+ Mau Jorge

Free | 8pm

CASTLE TAP

Gearoid o'Meachair

Free | 3pm

UP THE JUNCTION

Mike Lemin Band

Free | 8pm | 18+

MON 8 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground

Ablaze + The Monday Smile

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

FRI 12 SEP

THE LYNDHURST **Hugh Turner Quartet**

Free | 8:30pm

PURPLE TURTLE
Code Red

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

SAT 13 SEP

CASTLE TAPShadow Promotions DIY

All Hope Remains + Tape It Shut + Making Friends + Stop Thief + Olic + Missing The Scene + Gareth James

Free | 4pm

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

FACE BAR

The Skavengers + AKA The Syndicate

£13.80 | 7:30pm | 18+ wegottickets.com

READING UNIVERSITY SU Readipop Fiesta 2025

The Amazons + Roni Size

+ Stealing Sheep

+ Mr C and more

£38.15 | 12noon | All ages

14 hours of live music, DJs and more with a whole slew of local acts, including: Baby Said, Ben Marwood, doops, Jess Tuthill, Jopy, Kha'Nya, Miétte, Puma Theory, pej, The Borough, Uncle Peanut, Vanity Fairy... you get the idea. There's loads of it.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS Wardour Street

Free | 9pm

SUN 14 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE FROM THE BLINDSPOT: Day Psych Fest

The Crystal Teardrop +
Oral Habit + Flavours +
Adam & Elvis + Dez Dare +
Sundaughter + Leo Walrus

Free | 2:30pm | 18+

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Jess and Richard Arrowsmith

£8 otd (cash only) | 8pm

MON 15 SEP

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

Three bands, every Monday.























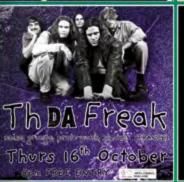






















ARTS COUNCIL **ENGLAND**

The Purple Turtle is Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM MIDDAY - PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM

TUE 16 SEP

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

Merryl Streek + Soapbox

£14.30 | 8pm | 14+(U16 w/adult)

WED 17 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE

Celebrity Death Slot Machine + Dead Rat Society

+ Shoplifting 1080p

Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 18 SEP

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB Closer to Home presents:

MUNBOI + Sophie's House

+ Alex Blyth

Free | 8pm | 18+

SOUTH STREET
Heavy Pop

Nerina Pallot + tbc

£22.50 | 7:30pm | 14+

whatsonreading.com

PURPLE TURTLE

Radio Wigwam

Grassroots Connect

The Stretch + Cold July

Free | 7pm | 18+

Radio Wigwam invites you to meet the team, share your voice, network with the community.

FRI 19 SEP

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

A Musical Equinox Concert

Daughter of the Water + WolfNote + Rose Music

£11.55, £7.50 unwaged | 7:30pm eventbrite.co.uk

THE BUTLER

Shadow Promotions Presents

Broken Jaw + Haest

- + Barriers + Broken Lungs
- + halloran

 $\pounds 9 \textit{adv}, \pounds 12 \textit{otd} \mid 7{:}30 pm \mid 18 + \\ \textbf{wegottickets.com}$



THE LYNDHURST Café Zazous

Free | 8:30pm

SAT 20 SEP

THE BUTLER
Prog@TheButler

The Steve Morano Band

- + The Mike Lemin Band
- + Carlton Taylor

£8.80 | 7:30pm | 18+ weaottickets.com

THE BUTLER **Envv**

Free | 9pm

SUN 21 SEP

PURPLE TURTLE

The Berkshire EMOM (Electronic Music Open Mic) Free | 5pm | 18+

To book a slot, email : theberkshireemomproject@gmail.com

MON 22 SEP

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

The Drowns + DxSxA + OTUK: the Green Man

£16.50 | 8pm | 14+ (U6 w/adult)

PURPLE TURTLE

Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30 | 18+

Three bands, every Monday.

WED 24 SEP

THE RETREAT

Jazz Singers Night Free | 8pm

THU 25 SEP

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

Subhumans + BarrelHaus

£14.30 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult) wegottickets.com

mail listings into to copy@sound-check.co.uk







CINEMA | EVENTS BAR | CAFÉ





FT. CERTAIN SOUND RECORD SHOP



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WWW.READINGBISCUITFACTORY.CO.UK



THU 25 SEP continued

FACE BAR **Andrew Merritt**

Photography Exhibition Free | 8pm

Yeah, alright. I know. Not a gig. But, Andrew Merritt has been photographing live music round here for more than a decade, some of it popping up here in Sound-check - not least in our 2025 photo book (which you can still buy from sound-check. co.uk). This is for one night only and includes photos of Puma Theory, Gemma Rogers, Jess Tuthill, Ruby Dawn, Tom Webber, Spriggan Mist, Dikajee, Baby Maker and loads more. Nip in and have a look on your way to Subhumans. But don't miss BarrelHaus.

FRI 26 SEP

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE Future Transmissions

Tom Webber + Grace Pounds

£11 | 8pm | All ages wegottickets.com

THE BUTLER Shadow Promotions DIY

Prize Dink Camp + Tape It Shut + Skinhawk + Kem **Trales**

£6.60 | 7pm | 18+ wegottickets.com

THE GOOD COMPANIONS **That Brit Sound**

Free | 9pm

SAT 27 SEP

THE BUTLER Swallow

Free | 9pm

READING MINSTER World Groove CIC

World Groove Festival 2025

Ganda Bovs + Imperio bamba + Cheng Yu

£22.38 | 6pm | All ages

A night of non-stop world music and dance - also featuring Persian Daf Drummers, Diyaar, The Ukrainian Kryla Choir and Balamuty & Zorva Dancers eventbrite.co.uk

SUN 28 SEP

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Natasha Norodien and Terry Lees

£8 otd (cash only) | 8pm

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

John Bramwell (I Am Kloot)

£24.80 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U6 w/adult) wegottickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE

Forty Feet Tall + Masguerader + Stupid Chief

Free | 3pm | 18+

THE RETREAT

Stuart Henderson, Simon Price & guests

Free I 3:30pm

Jazz in the afternoon with Stuart Henderson; trumpet, Simon Price; drums, Leon Greening; piano, Raph Mizraki: bass. Preston Cummins: baritone sax.

MON 29 SEP

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

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







There are still some of these left if you'd like one; 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





15

14



WED 1 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE Skeeta Sounds

Ovama + Otala + Kiosk

Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 2 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE

FIEP + The Dazed Minded + Marta Vega

Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 3 OCT

SUB89

Misty In Roots

+ Pama International

£44 | 7pm | 16+ (U18 w/adult) ** Rescheduled from 23 May. All tickets remain valid. ** wegottickets.com

SAT 4 OCT

THREE TUNS Within The Blood

Free | 8pm

MON 6 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE Turtle Underground

Cedar

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

WED 8 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE Heavy Pop

Lipworms

Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 9 OCT

PURPLE TURTLE Bison + Slung + tbc

Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 10 OCT

PROGRESS THEATRE Jazz in Readina

Chris Biscoe's **Profiles Quartet**

£20, £18 conc, £10 U16 (+bf) | 7:30pm

Chris Biscoe; saxes and alto clarinet, Alcyona Mick; piano, Larry Bartley; bass. Winston Clifford: drums iazzinreading.com

SAT 11 OCT

SOUTH ST ARTS CENTRE

The Wave Pictures

£22 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult) heavypop.co.uk

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



SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

GANDA BOYS

Soulful, Contemporary, Emotional, Afro-fusion. Originally from Uganda - Joyous African Songs and Chants.



Traditional Chinese Pipa (Lute) and Gugin (Zither) virtuoso

plus

DIYAAR Persian Daf Drummers Ukranian Kryla Choir, Balamuty & Zorya Dancers live at

FROM | READING MINSTER | BAR available

Tickets available online now: £22.38 (incl. booking fee)

www.worldgroove.co.uk













@highvibes.rdg

There's a glorious cacophony coming out of South St Arts Centre, occasionally, courtesy of a series of nights going under the name of High Vibes and, if your musical senses ever take you sideways away from things that go verse, chorus, verse, chorus, instrumental bit, verse, chorus, repeat to fade... then this is where you need to be.

I met up with Dom, who's part of the team running the show and asked him to give us the rundown.

Myself and Ben Sandiford had something cooking, musically, and we were swapping voice notes back and forth saying, 'who puts on music in Reading that's just, like... weird?' And the answer we came back with was 'No one'. We thought John at South St might be up for giving us a home if we put the leg work in and he was... so we did, and we're still going.

As some of you will know, South St has a very healthy reputation for this kind of thing having been a big support to the similarly leftfield Doubledotdash!? events in the past.

Yeah. Up front, some thanks: Mark [Harisson - the genius behind Doubledotdash!?] because he proved

that people will come to see weird stuff in Reading, and John, Barnaby, and the rest of the team at South St because I couldn't imagine doing it anywhere else. They've been so supportive and that small room at South St is one of the best sounding rooms in the country, for my money.

Ok. You say 'weird stuff'. For those who don't know – which is probably most of the people reading this – what are we looking at?

If you're making sounds in Reading and you don't think anyone will put you on or you go to gigs and think, 'I wouldn't fit, here', get in touch. We'll take your noise... we'll take your ambient... we'll take your, like... 'Art' that you think no one will listen to! If you're making it, there's an audience for it and that's the stuff we want to give a home to.

On a couple of occasions, the opening 'act' has even been film, right?

Oh, yeah! Phil Newcombe has done two, maybe, three pieces for us that we put on before the music. We have a projector and we encourage people to bring visuals too if they like. We're just trying to create an all-encompassing space for this stuff.

The first High Vibes event was December 2023 featuring Dom's *Screwdriver Music*, Ben's band *Lingua della Strega* (which also features Jamie from Workin' Man Noise Unit) and *Afterschool Teatime*. Since then, how's it gone, so far?

Beyond our wildest dreams!

Some of their best attended events are, apparently, Sunday afternoon matinée shows so look out for those, too. "Start at 4 – over by tea time!"

Ok, that leaves the two big, imortant things you need to know:

Firstly: the next event is High Vibes #12 on 11th October with *Structure Een* (electronic beats), *Christopher J Marshall* (ambient stuff), *Dritëro Demjaha* (Kosovo-born, Reading-based improvising guitarist) and first show for *Los:Urizen* (something droney and noisy). It's just £8 in advance, £10 on the door. "Low cost, Low stress, High Vibes" is the the planning message that accidentally gave the event its name!

Secondly: if you want to perform, the all important email address is highvibesrdg@gmail.com

Get on it and we'll see you there. ■



To advertise in Sound-check, email rich@sound-check.co.uk. Prices and ad specs are all at sound-check.co.uk. We keep it as cheap as we can to just cover the cost of keeping this thing alive. Reasonable efforts are made to ensure that all info in Sound-check is correct at time of going to press. If you're worried, though, please check with the relevant venue.

Designers:

Rich Lucas, Mike Parker

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sound-check.co.uk

GO ON... GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT!



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 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.

We've got a Sound-check Spotify playlist here with everyone who's ever been on the cover in it. We add to it every month

and it's great but,
– if you know which
is the best place to do
this that isn't Spotify,
let me know, eh.



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THE AMAZONS RONS

Stealing Sheep



(THE SHAMEN / SUPERFREQ DJ/LIVE HYBRID SET FT. DAVID H PERCUSSION)

(A-Z)

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SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER • MIDDAY – 2AM • ALL AGES UNTIL 11PM READING STUDENTS' UNION, PEPPER LANE, READING RG6 6EH









