

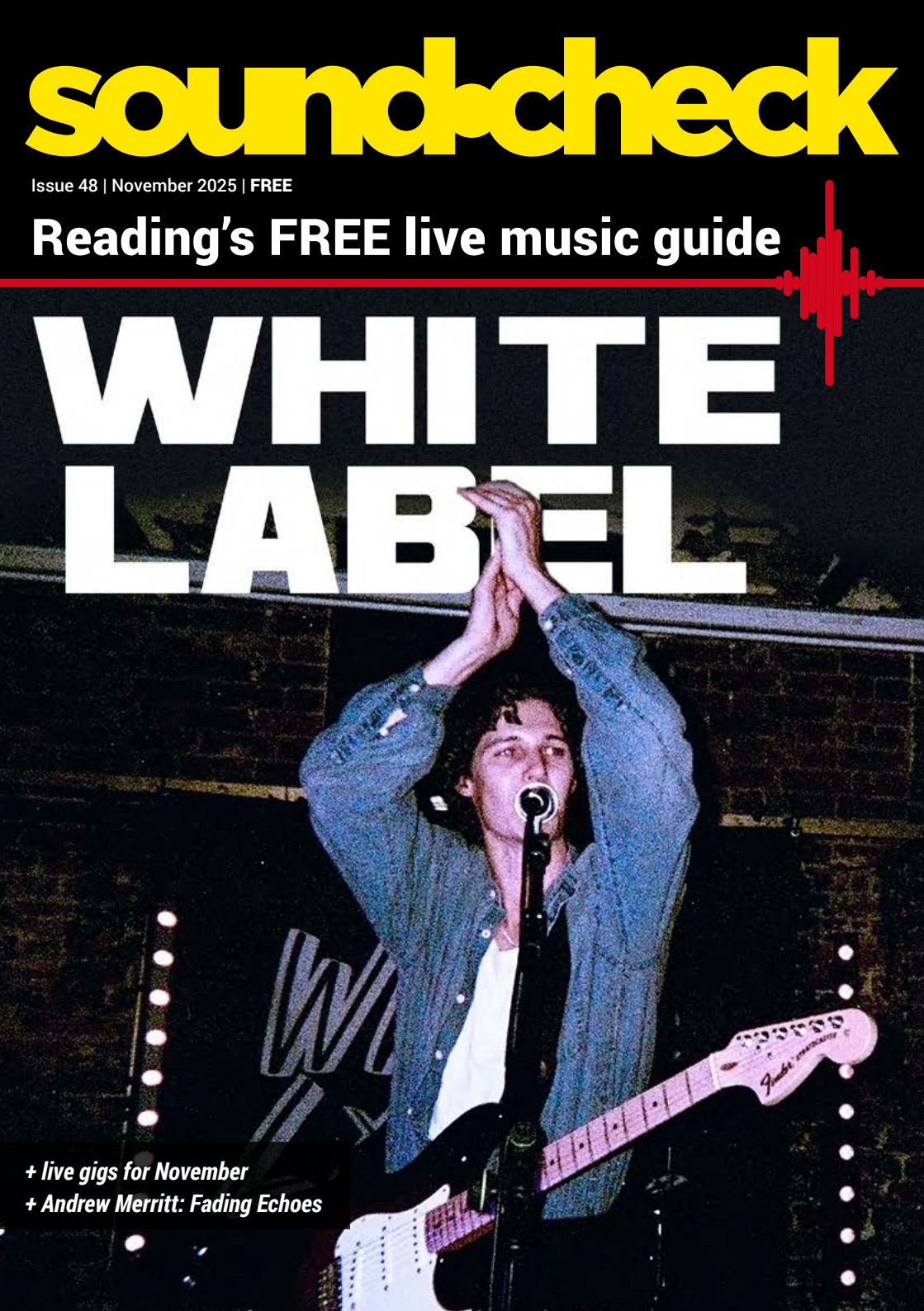
# soundcheck

Issue 48 | November 2025 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide

# WHITE LABEL

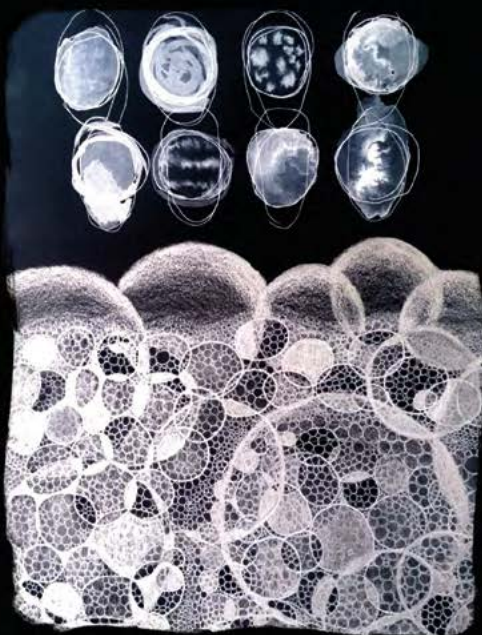
+ live gigs for November  
+ Andrew Merritt: Fading Echoes





# doops

DEBUT ALBUM LAUNCH SHOW



WITH SUPPORT FROM  
**CURSER & WONDERLUX**

A RSU-ROC-SOC DJ SET

AND THE LIVE VISUALS OF  
**IRIDIPHORE**

**SATURDAY THE 29TH OF NOVEMBER**  
**THE PURPLE TURTLE, READING**

**FREE ENTRY / 8PM ONWARDS**



Down the back this month we've reproduced Andrew Merritt's recent photomontages of long-gone Reading music venue, The Target, which he showed as part of his exhibition at the Face Bar, recently.

It wasn't strictly his intention but, looking at them in 2025, with the Music Venue Trust reporting more venues closing every year and all that, it was a bit like Scrooge's third ghostly visit – the one with The Ghost of Rock 'n' Roll Yet to Come. Or something.

It's not all doom and gloom, here. Like everywhere, nobody's generating enough cash to actually *thrive* but there are enough people with the time, headspace and guts to mean there's loads out there to turn up and get involved with. You just need to know where and when. Which is lucky, because you just picked up a list of exactly that...

See you there. – *Rich*



Tape It Shut  
Face Bar, 11.10.2025 Photo: Andrew Merritt

Sound-check #48

[/soundcheckreading](#)  
[/soundcheckrdg](#)



# WHITE LABEL

They're back from Brighton, playing in a clothes shop and headlining at The Butler



It's pretty common for local bands to move on from these parts, chasing fame and fortune off in weird places like London or Brighton. Luckily for us, Toby and Joe tried it, didn't like it and came back home under new name White Label. But they obviously used their time away well, learning the ropes and sharpening their talents as they're back and they mean business.

It's been a fresh start in every way. Toby (frontman, vocals, guitar) and Joe (guitar) formed White Label last year and have been playing consistently since then. They just released their new EP 'Good For You', are about to release the next single and have a bag bursting with new ideas to work on after that.

For the EP release show in October, they took over a vintage clothes shop in Reading, Flamingos, which turned out to be a brilliant idea. Nestled in amongst the racks of coats and cosy jumpers, Toby's vocals floated in the air while Joe's guitar cut through to keep it all focussed and moving on. They wanted to do something more interesting that stood out, which they certainly did. And thanks to the lads for discovering a great new intimate venue for Reading. I hope the owners are up for opening their doors for more gigs.

We had a chat about their music and they say they've evolved out of the spirit of 2010s British rock and infused it with disco. "Streamlined" is a word they bring up a lot to describe the feel. The EP has a very minimalist, stripped back style that gives it a marvellous sound you can sink into. Previous single 'Stay Together' in particular lived rent free in my head for far longer than I expected and now it's gone I kinda miss it. But it comes back sometimes to visit.

That EP was written last year and recorded back in February. The new single 'Something About You' moves them on a step though. More disco, more guitar and a much heavier chorus than before, but still with plenty of dreamy, floaty vocals. This gradual evolution and refinement works really well for them and I'm looking forward to seeing what comes next.

It gets released on 21 st November with a headline show at The Butler on 29 th November. But there's more – another single in the new year and another EP in March. They've been writing loads of songs over the summer and it's all coming together nicely. And who knows, maybe there'll be an album before too long as well.

Toby explained that they met as teenagers at college, ACM in Guildford. Joe had a band doing bluesy/classic rock (after his dad took him to see AC/DC at seven years-old) and was looking for band members. Toby originally joined as guitarist but they couldn't find a singer that suited the sound, so Toby said he'd sing *"for a bit, and then we'd find somebody better to do it"*. But that's when their writing partnership started and it's still going strong. Since then, they've been through a few different names and sounds until White Label. formed last year.



Creatively they work as a team. Joe says *"Usually things start with a musical idea. The music is us two; the lyrics are ninety-nine per cent Toby."* But Joe isn't shy to tell Toby what he thinks of a line if he doesn't like it.

Toby expands on that, *"I like to wait until the song's got a vibe and structure and its mood."*

*So, we'll have a chord progression and drum beat and then once it's got its mood, then I'll start thinking about what that inspires from me. Once it's got to a place that it's got a bit of an identity, then I'll think about what that inspires lyrically."*ks too much lager in the pub... The guys we used to deal with working in bars."

Toby says the new sound is *"way more modern, I'd say a bit more British as well really. But I think our musical influences have changed and maybe settled a bit as well. I think we're drawing from so many different places now. I think we're being influenced a lot more by music we grew up with. We're trying to make it modern and fresh."*

That's where it starts but there's more to the story. *"We both love a lot of hip-hop and disco. So those rhythmic influences definitely find their way in. It's there in the EP as well but definitely moving forwards there's those disco-y hip-hoppy rhythmic influences coming in. And then we're trying to build indie rock songs on top of that if you will. So, it's not rapping, I'm not a rapper!"*



Not surprisingly he lists the Arctic Monkeys as an influence, but also says he's a huge fan of D'Angelo which makes a lot of sense if you listen to the EP. And then they both say they're fans of the likes of Earth, Wind and Fire, Luther Vandross, Cool and the Gang and the Average White Band.

*"We love all of that music. So, it's deep down, embedded in there. You wouldn't notice it, you wouldn't pull it out, but it's buried in there."*

Toby says he watched this year's Nile Rogers and Chic Glastonbury performance online. *"I was in awe watching them 'cos it's just such a show. The musicianship's incredible."*

We move on to talking about the lyrics.

On the recent EP, Toby says *"I think it sounds like I was going through something. I'm not sure if I knew I was at the time or not, but I think there was something that needed to come out."*

The songs are mostly reflecting on coming of age, negotiating relationships, regret and learning hard life lessons. *"There's definitely a few decisions in there that I'm reflecting on and trying to piece together the pieces of writing."*

*"I'm not great at writing happy songs. Even if we have something that sounds really happy, I have to go okay, how do I make this miserable (which is something I'm working on). I think some people are very good at coming up with characters and writing like that, but that's just not something I've ever been able to do. So, it is very much personal experiences I draw from and just how I'm feeling."*

Much of Toby's writing is about complexity within conflict. He gets bored with the simple *"I love you so much"* or *"I'm so sad you broke my heart"*. The interesting stuff happens in the middle. "They're dealing with either *"I'm really enjoying this but I know it isn't right"* or "I love you but I've got to let you go". He's looking at that territory of feeling happy and sad at the same time and then exploring that complexity.

*"And yeah, the EP came out quite miserable. We're trying to work on that and build something a bit more positive going forwards."*

Joe jumps on that *"That's a good way of selling it! Listen to our EP, it's pretty miserable."* But the new releases coming up should be much more energetic. They're bringing in another year's worth of experience, a more groovy sound and some disco to get you on your feet and dancing. I'm sure that blues and soul sound will still be there holding it all together but I'm looking forward to hearing the next evolution of White Label.

Go and see the White Label headline show on 29th November at The Butler for the release party for new single "Something About You" which gets released on the 21st.

@whitelabeltheband



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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

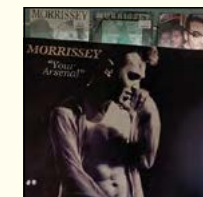
Jazz most Fridays

VG V

# OXFAM MUSIC SHOP

## SALE!!

We are having a huge autumn sale of CDs to clear the decks before the run up to Christmas. All CDs 99p. Large variety of titles. Likely through to the end of the first week of November but only while stocks last.



## November spawned a monster...

Morrissey and Smiths collection at Oxfam Music! Going out on sale this month. Not priced at time of writing, these things take time. We have everything now. Get in fast or else you might want the one you can't have. Etc.

## Tindersticks

### Tindersticks

Tindersticks 2nd album. Maybe the strongest of a superb run of 90s albums. Although contemporary, in contrast to the clattering Glam rock and spangles, bike-shed eulogies of Britpop, Tindersticks turned collars to the cold and damp with a drizzly English gothic romanticism. Droll, deadpan but also plaintive with beautifully cinematic arrangements drawing heavily on classic orchestral pop: Bacharach, Morricone, Hazelwood and Scott Walker.



## The Cooper Temple Clause

### Kick Up The Fire, And Let The Flames Break Loose

Formed in Wokingham, local 2000s indie heroes' biggest selling album, reaching number 5 in 2003. Despite this, vinyl copies are now rare. This was featured in a recent Record Collector article, highlighting 21st century releases which are becoming more in demand on the collectors market. This one is in nice condition. Also raises an interesting question, what are the best records by artists of the Reading area?

## 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

## SAT 1 NOV

THE BUTLER

Dapper Events presents

**The Magical Mystery Four**

£8.80adv, £10otd | 8pm

14+ (U18s w/adult)

wegotickets.com

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB

**Day of the Dead '25**

feat. **Missing The Scene**

FREE | 6pm | 18+

*Mexican-style Day of the Dead party promising an all-night party with Mexican regalia throughout the venue, film screenings, a secret altar and games and prizes, as well as the band! Fancy dress is encouraged. Obviously.*

360, READING SU

**Crazy Diamond + doops + Edgar & the Ravens + Veridian + The Doors of Perception**

£25 | 6pm

*A fundraiser for GRAFT, a Reading-based charity dedicated to helping people with barriers to employment build brighter futures.*

readingsu.co.uk

ST MARY'S, PURLEY ON THAMES

Village Concerts

**Duo**

£16.50, £11(14-17yrs) | 7pm | 14+

wegotickets.com

## SUN 2 NOV

FACE BAR

4 Play Prog Fest IV

**Spriggen Mist + Kindred**

**Spirit band + Mother**

**Black Cap + EBB +**

**Mountainscape + A Bit On**

**The Side**

£22 | 2pm | 14+(U18 w/adult)

seetickets.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Readifolk

**Four Gone Confusion**

£10otd (cash only) | 8pm

PANGBOURNE JAZZ CLUB

**Jim Mullen**

**with The Terry Hutchins Qrt**

£14 | 7:30pm

skiddle.com

PURPLE TURTLE

**The Sunday Sessions**

**Clay Doll + Twenty Ten**

**+ Savannah**

Free | 3pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

## MON 3 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

## WED 5 NOV

RISEING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Icey Music

**D Buck + DreDreKings + KD + Bryony + Kapria**

£5.50 | 7:30pm | 16+ (U18s w/adult)

*Fastest growing urban music show in RG! Fresh acts every Wednesday.*

wegotickets.com

## THU 6 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE

**The Dharma Chain**

FREE | 8pm | 18+

*"Succumb to the wall of sound & drown in the fluttering harmonic delays." — Psychedelic Baby Magazine*

THE FLOWING SPRING

**Big Dez & His Band**

£12adv venue, £14.50adv online,

£18otd | 8:30pm

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

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

## FRI 7 NOV

SUB89

**Goldie Lookin Chain**

£25.20 | 7pm | 14+

*Still Safe As Fu\*k Tour 2025*

seetickets.com

FACE BAR

**Pink Diamond Revue +**

**OxyToxsinz + Tape It Shut +**

**Skinhawk + Nuke Cucumber**

£5otd | 7pm

HEXAGON

**Jools Holland and**

**his R&B Orchestra**

£40, £56 | 7:30pm

THE BUTLER

**Please Ban Music 13**

**Black Bordello + Blue Spectre**

**+ Double Yellow Lines**

£5otd | 8pm

PROGRESS THEATRE

*Jazz in Reading*

**The Freddie Gavita Quartet:**

**In Homage to Freddie Hubbard**

£20.69 | 7pm

ticketsource.co.uk

PURPLE TURTLE

**The Corsairs**

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SAT 8 NOV

THE RETREAT

**Cohen Perry Band**

Free | 8:30pm

THE BUTLER

**Purple Grace**

**+ Pluto the Rich**

£5.50 | 7:30pm | 18+

wegotickets.com

## Looking for a video for your band?

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



Contact me for details:  
07739 801929  
[digitalmck@gmail.com](mailto:digitalmck@gmail.com)  
[@theburlyphotographer](https://www.instagram.com/theburlyphotographer)



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

**THE SUNDAY SESSIONS**  
 02 NOV 2025  
 3PM TO 6PM - FREE ENTRY 14+ / ID REQUIRED  
 UNDER 18S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

**Claydoll**  
 TWENTY TEN  
 SAVANNAH

SWEET TA SOUNDS PRESENTS

**NEWBUILD**  
**RED IVORY**  
 STONNY THE DONNY

WEDS NOV 5TH | 8PM FREE ENTRY

The Wigwam // Wokingham Festival  
 LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE

**motorcycle**  
 display team

TASIA MADI-C Special Guests

SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER  
 3pm to 6pm FREE ENTRY / 14+  
 18s must be accompanied by an adult

**Ross Harding**  
 + DARK BLUES BAND +

with *The Plagues*

Thursday  
 13th November

8pm // FREE ENTRY // 18+ ID Required

**AQUALINE**

19th November  
 + pieces

Sleep Room

When you hear the sound

FREE ENTRY 14+ ID REQUIRED

**THE ALCHEMY**

THURSDAY 20th NOV

with THE OUTLIERS + SUPER DEAD HEAD

8pm FREE ENTRY // 18+ ID Required

**doops**  
 DEBUT ALBUM LAUNCH SHOW

SATURDAY THE 29TH  
 OF NOVEMBER  
 THE PURPLE TURTLE.

FREE ENTRY / 8PM ONWARDS

WITH SUPPORT FROM  
**CURSER**  
**WONDERLUX**  
 A RSU-ROC-SOC DJ SET  
 AND THE LIVE VISUALS OF  
**IRIDIPHORE**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM MIDDAY - PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM**

**TheDharmaChain**  
 AUS/DE

... a serene nod to shoegaze & fever dreams, & draws sonic inspiration from the masters, such as Ride and Slowdive. Succumb to the wall of sound & drown in the fluttering harmonic delays." — Psychedelic Baby Magazine (Slovenia)

**THURSDAY 6th NOVEMBER**  
 with **FLAVOURS** + SUPPORT TBC

8PM - FREE ENTRY - 18+ ID Required

A promoter friends presentation in association with K-ray

**pentire**  
 PLUS SUPPORT FROM **WRKHOUSE**

WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2025

**READING THE PURPLE TURTLE**

8pm FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

TICKETS ON SALE AT [WWW.PENTIREBAND.COM](http://WWW.PENTIREBAND.COM)

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FLASYD (NYC USA)

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WITH **BAMBOOS**

PLUS SUPPORT TBC

3PM FREE ENTRY 14+  
 18S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

**SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER**

**LIVE STREAMED SHOWS ON YOUTUBE - PURPLE TURTLE TV**

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

**Purple Turtle**





Who Ate All The Crayons  
Purple Turtle, 18.10.2025 Photo: Andrew Merritt

## SAT 8 NOV

FACE BAR

*Runnin' Blue*

**The Warner E Hodges  
International Allstars  
+ Sarah Borges**

£19.30 | 7:30pm | 16+ (U18s w/adult)

*Time for a bit of proper rock'n'roll!*

wegotickets.com

## SUN 9 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE

*Radio Wigwag*

**Motorcycle Display Team  
+ Tasia + Madi C**

Free | 3pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

## MON 10 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

## WED 12 NOV

FACE BAR

*Heavy Pop*

**Benefits + Dan Le Sac**

£15.95 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

gigantic.com

PURPLE TURTLE

**Pentire**

Free | 8pm | 18+

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

*Icey Music*

**OnlyOneOnlySon + KIDDYRED  
+ Tracey Tweaka + Holly  
Lawson + rjfromdarg**

£5.50 | 7:30pm | 16+ (U18s w/adult)

wegotickets.com

## THU 13 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE

**Ross Harding Dark Blues  
Band + tbc**

Free | 8pm | 18+

## FRI 14 NOV

FACE BAR

*Future Transmissions*

**The Ogretones  
+ Damien A. Passmore**

£14.30 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE

**The Junction**

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

THE BUTLER

*Runnin' Blue*

**The Derellas + Rage DC  
+ Hell Toupee**

£11.00 | 7pm | 18+

wegotickets.com

## SAT 15 NOV

ROYAL BERKS HOSPITALCHAPEL

**Tim Hill+ The Pawnbroker**

Free | 7pm

*A special live performance and talk  
by drone and jazz musician Tim Hill in  
celebration of his new album 'Leviathan  
Whispers' Inside a beautiful Victorian  
chapel beneath Royal Berks Hospital.*

THE RETREAT

**The Calvert Maxwell  
Boogie Band**

Free | 8:30pm

THE BUTLER

*Radioactive Lemon*

**Reading Pride Fundraiser All-Dayer**

**Ghost Cat + Rocket Kings +  
Long Lane + Nicole Allan +  
Jimmy The Dog + Maija +  
Gillie & The Darlings + Miffy  
+ Rich Wright**

£15.8adv, £17otd | 3pm

*All-day festival in aid of Reading Pride  
and the Colours & Fires stage, in honour  
of the wonderful Sophie Sheehan.*

eventbrite.com

FACE BAR

**Reading Rising 2025:**

**Still Remains + Devil Sold His Soul  
+ Continents + This Dying Hour +  
Compounds + Kulan Gath + Two  
Year Break + Crushed By Waves +  
Royals + InAir + Sypha + Villumier**

Sat £30.50 | 3pm | 18+

Weekend £44.25

15 & 16 November:

skiddle.com

## SUN 16 NOV

WATLINGTON HOUSE

*Readifolk*

**The Laners**

£10 | 8pm

# WHITE LABEL



**LIVE AT THE BUTLER  
READING  
SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

85-91 CHATHAM ST, READING RG1 7DS





On Trial UK  
Face Bar, 22.09.2025 Photo: Steve Axtell

## SUN 16 NOV

THE RETREAT  
Low Key Sunday  
Free | 3:30pm

FACE BAR  
Reading Rising 2025:  
Millie Manders & the Shutup  
+ HAWXX + All Ears Avow +  
WREX + Fountain Island +  
Waterlines + Overthron +  
Forlorn + Scatter The Tribe  
+ Within Reach  
Sun £30.50 | 3pm | 18+  
Weekend £44.25  
15 & 16 November:  
22 Bands. 2 Rooms. 2 Days. 0 Clashes.  
skiddle.com

## MON 17 NOV

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

## WED 19 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE  
Aqualine + Sleep Room  
+ Pisces  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## THU 20 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE  
The Alchemy + The Outliers  
Free | 8pm | 18+

SOUTH STREET  
Martyn Joseph

£23.50 | 8pm | All ages (U14 w/adult)  
whatsonreading.com

## FRI 21 NOV

THE BUTLER  
Friday Night Blues  
Will Wilde  
£19.80 | 8pm | All ages (U18 w/adult)  
wegottickets.com

## SAT 22 NOV

THE CASTLE TAP  
Shadow promotions  
Our Lives In Cinema + Tape  
It Shut + The Meantime  
Collective + Racehorse  
+ Skinhawk  
Free | 6pm

## SUN 23 NOV

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
Readifolk  
Steve and Julie Wigley  
and Stonesthrow  
£10otd (cash only) | 8pm  
PANGBOURNE JAZZ CLUB  
Blakes Heaven Big Band  
£14adv, £12.50otd | 7:30pm  
skiddle.com

THE BUTLER  
Shadow Promotions DIY / Repulsed  
Dispute + Nelson St  
+ Masquerader + Barbed  
Wire + Break Them

£6.60 | 2pm | 16+  
A Hardcore Matinée  
wegottickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE  
Flasyd(USA) + Bambees(Wales)  
Free | 3pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

## MON 24 NOV

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

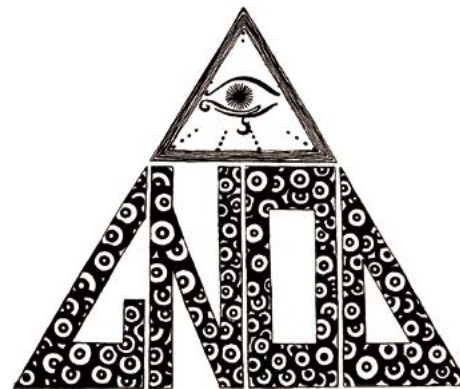
## WED 26 NOV

THE RETREAT  
Jazz Singers' Night  
Free | 8pm

## THU 27 NOV

SUB89  
When Rivers Meet  
£30.80 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)  
seetickets.com

# HEAVY POP



**Gnod**  
+ João Pais Filipe  
Tue 2nd Dec Face Bar, Reading

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.

# LIVE MUSIC

READING & OXFORD SHOWS

## Benefits

+ Dan Le Sac  
Wed 12th Nov Face Bar, Reading

## The Golden Dregs

+ Sophie Jamieson + Lichen(solo)  
Sun 16th Nov Jericho Tavern, Oxford

## Jessica Hoop

Wed 26th Nov Jericho Tavern, Oxford

## The Pill

Wed 28th Jan Face Bar, Reading

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

f x @ heavypoppromo

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100 badges £38

57mm  
10 badges £19  
50 badges £38  
100 badges £65

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Head over to our Facebook page for more prices

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logos  
posters

fadedart.com/mg\_contact



## FRI 28 NOV

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Future Transmissions

**Wilswood Buoys + Rocket Kings + Grace Pounds**

£11 | 8pm | All ages

wegotickets.com

SIP 'N' SPIN

**Jackie Doe & the Uncertainty of Passion**

Free | 8:30pm

FACE BAR

**Away With The Seas + Weller + In Disguises + Halloran**

£11.35 | 7pm |

tickettailor.com

## SAT 29 NOV

PURPLE TURTLE

**Doops + Curser + Wonderlux**

Free | 8pm | 18+

THE FLOWING SPRING

**Selina and the Howlin' Dogs**

Free | 8:30pm

Entry is free but there is limited capacity so you must book your space online at theflowingspringpub.co.uk

FACE BAR

Joshfest 2025

**TRC + Realm of Torment + Splitknuckle + Bar Fight + Going Off + Xapothecaryx + Crowquill + Paresthesia + Detriment + Blood Gutter + Peruvian Necktie**

£20adv, £25otd | 1pm

All money from ticket sales will be donated to the charity Mind in memory of Josh Clapham.

ticketsource.co.uk

## SUN 30 NOV

THE RETREAT

**Sunday Jazz**

Free | 3:30pm



Deva St John

Purple Turtle, 18.10.2025 Photo: Steve Axtell

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

**Culture Shock + Ill Gotten Gains**

£13.20 | 7pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

## MON 1 DEC

PURPLE TURTLE

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

## TUE 2 DEC

FACE BAR

Heavy Pop

**GNOD + João Pais Filipe**

£17.60 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

heavypop.co.uk

## THU 4 DEC

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

**Scott Lavene + Baby Maker**

£13.20 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

## FRI 5 DEC

PROGRESS THEATRE

Jazz in Reading

**Janette Mason: Re-Wired**

£20, £18 conc, £10 U16s | 7:30pm

jazzinreading.com

PURPLE TURTLE

**The MkII**

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SAT 6 DEC

THE BUTLER

Shadow Promotions DIY

**Tape It Shut + Blagged + Contraptions + Missing The Scene + Skinhawk + Get Fucked + Launch Control + Everyone Lies + Old Chase**

£8.80 | 2:30pm | 18+

Tape It Shut album launch

wegotickets.com

THE RETREAT

**Hybrid P.I.G.**

Free | 8:30pm

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# the Mk II

60s soul, Motown and Northern - all LIVE, all classic

**FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER**  
**PURPLE TURTLE, READING**  
**FREE ENTRY 8:00-10:30PM**

Just all of the good stuff

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## Profile: **Andrew Merritt: Fading Echoes**

@andrew\_p\_merritt

One of our regular photographers, Andrew Merritt, recently had an exhibition at The Face Bar and in there, amongst his main photos of current performers, he showed this series of images which I just liked so I thought I'd share them with you in case, for some

unearthly reason, you didn't get there yourself. They focus on The Target – a venue which was closed well before I got to Reading but one which, I know, some still speak of with something verging on reverence.

Rather than second guess the point of it all, I'll leave it to Andrew to explain what we're looking at and the words of Andy Rowe giving it some Target-related context...



The images, donated and appropriated, are low resolution snaps, and are further degraded by conversion to monochrome and Photoshop adjustments, to further convey the passage of time and the fading of memory. The intention is to explore impermanence; of places, of social scenes, of memory, of physical and digital records.

The images concentrate on The Target, a lively music pub in Reading that hosted live bands most nights of the week from the 1970s until it closed in the mid-1980s. They are created by combining comparatively recent images of the venue, captured by anonymous urban explorers and shared on the internet, and photos from personal archives and shared on social media. – **Andrew Merritt**

*"The Target was, the focus, the focal point of music in Reading, and it was the place to play. And there were a lot of regulars, yeah, a lot of regulars that were down there every night. I think we had bands every night, maybe apart from Mondays or something like that. I remember days when there was just the regulars down there, and a band would rock up from outside the area, didn't really bring anybody.*

*Of course there wasn't the social media then, there wasn't the ease of communicating that a show was on, so you really had to work hard at your mates. There were certain bands that built up a big following. Predatür is a good example. If the Preds were playing, then there'd be a full house. If Wildlife were playing, there'd be a full house.*

*You approached through the marketplace and then went down the stairs, which came down and then did a kink left with the stage to your left. So anybody that came down had to walk in front of the stage to go across the bar, so it was quite a moment. The funniest thing was if it had been raining, the stairs would be so slippery, and there would be more applause for somebody who went sliding down the stairs on their arse than for many of the bands that played there.*

*I remember it being, on a good night, a real proper sweaty rock venue. Getting into it, as a band, was always a challenge. You had to drive through security underneath the bus centre and then find your way through this maze of roads, find the right hole in the wall, which was the door into the Target, and then load in from there." – Andy Rowe*

For an idea of what a night at The Target sounded like, there's a live album still available, recorded there by Twelfth Night in 1981. Just look it up. ■

## sound-check

To advertise in Sound-check, email [rich@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:rich@sound-check.co.uk). Prices and ad specs are all at [sound-check.co.uk](http://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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**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](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.

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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**TRANSMISSIONS**

**SHOWS AT THE FACEBAR READING 2025/26**

**NOV 7TH - BON GIOVI**

**NOV 14TH - THE OGRETONES** + DAMIAN PASSMORE

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

**DEC 4TH - SCOTT LAVENE** + BABY MAKER

**DEC 7TH - BEANS ON TOAST**

**DEC 11TH - JOHN OTWAY** FULL BAND

**DEC 12TH - MIKI BERENYI TRIO** + THE GO GO CULT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT  
**DEC 18TH - DEMENTED ARE GO** + UNCLE PEANUT

**JAN 23RD - NOT A-BAND**

**FEB 10TH - KAVUS TORABI** + OT-UK (THE GREEN MAN PROJECT)

GOTH LEGENDS  
**FEB 20TH - GHOST DANCE** + CLAYTOWN TROUPE  
THE GO GO CULT

**FEB 24TH - THE PRIMITIVES**

**MAY 1ST - CLASS OF '79**

**MAY 16TH - INKUBUS SUKKUBUS** + 1919  
THE GO GO CULT

**AUG 1ST - THE DOLLHEADS** + 18 FEVERS