

soundcheck

Issue 50 | February 2026 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide

NEW PURITANS



In Malcolm We Trust

- + gigs for February
- + Cody Noon
- + Sound-check TV

WOKINGHAM Festival 2026

SAT 29TH - MON 31ST AUGUST
CANTLEY PARK, WOKINGHAM, RG40 5TU

SATURDAY

TO BE
ANNOUNCED

THE BJ BEVY
KATIE ELLWOOD
PINK FISH
HOOPY FROOD
RELIANT
TASIA

SUNDAY

THE
OGRETONES

BAD WEATHER FRIENDS
GHOST CAT
HOG WILD
THE BLUEPERS

MARQUEE STAGE

BELIZAIRE - CHEAP SUITS - EBONY BUCKLE - MORDECAI SMYTH
MR PINEAPPLE - NINETEENTH HOUR - SILVERPALM - THE OUTLIERS
TRIM - SPLINK - WHO ATE ALL THE CRAYONS

MONDAY



THE PARADOX TWIN
KEPLER TEN
PERFECT BEASTS
THE DEAD CAN WAIT

STREET FOOD MARKET - CRAFT BEER AND COCKTAILS
SILENT DISCO - KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

WWW.WOKINGHAMFESTIVAL.CO.UK



SYDENHAMS
Wholesale & Retailer's Merchandise



WHITE STAR
ESTABLISHED 1888

GENERATION
STUDIO

St Vincents
Veterinary Surgery



Halloran
Castle Tap, 10.01.2026
Photo: Alex Marlow

"Yeah, ok. I'll do a live gig guide for Reading. I'll try it for one year and see how it goes. No promises." That's what I said in 2019. Then, six months later, everything everywhere closed down and nobody was allowed out to play... and when we were, eventually, allowed out everything was bugged, an entire world of live music that already relied on self-employed and underpaid people felt in danger of giving up and just leaving it all to Tribute Band plc... trying to encourage people out to remember the joys of before just seemed really important so I started it up again... Well, we're still doing it and guess what. We've only gone and reached issue 50, haven't we! A half-century. Flippin' eck!

To be a little bit serious for just a moment, the best thing about that description of the first 50 issues of Sound-check is that it starts with 'I' and ends with 'we'. People have got involved helping me design it, write it, take photos for it and even haul a thousand copies of it round the town centre every month. There's not the space to list everybody – and I'd only mess that up and forget someone, anyway – but it really is kind of weird and brilliant, so thank you.

Anyway, to the here and now, and the next 50...

You'll know by now that, after three years and 190-odd shows, Kian (@groovecultshindigs) isn't promoting Monday nights at the Turtle any more. Every single week, and on a Monday,

is a big ask and that's a big job well done. Especially those early ones in the basement. They had magic in them. There's a big finale on Kian's last one, Monday 2nd February. Should be a belter!

There will, I'm told, still be life at the Turtle on a Monday night. Same place, same time, but maybe not so many 'saucy little monsters'. Stay tuned.

And, seeing as Sound-check has gone quite well, I've had a possibly brilliant idea... Yeah, we're gonna try and make a TV show. For local bands to go on. A live one, like a proper old-school, late night, music TV show. Because there isn't one. And because I think we can. And we'll put it on YouTube, which is mostly full of people who seemingly don't leave the house much. Kian's up for hosting it! Tape It Shut have said they'll do a theme tune!?! Our local culture-before-cash icon, the Rising Sun Arts Centre, say we can film it in there. It could be amazing! But we need a live audience *and that's you*. If you like. Tape It Shut and Grace Pounds, Rising Sun Arts Centre, Friday 13th February (we're not superstitious, right?). We've got a plan. Details somewhere in here, probably page 17, and in the online places.

See you out there. – RiCH

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

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



NEW PURITANS

There's a load of stuff popping up on the telly n that right now about how, this year, it's 50 years since the thing called 'punk'. It makes for some slightly unexpected stuff – environmental activist and all round friend to the animals, Chris Packham, was talking about the carnage of being at a Crass gig today. On Radio 4 of all places. The question that comes up in this stuff is this: 'All those kids that were inspired to "Get off your aarse"; what are they doing now?'

Well, I can answer that a bit; some of them are still at it! Let me introduce you to New Puritans, formed in 1979.

Strictly speaking, they were never a punk band, it's New Wave and they *will* correct you on that one, but if you ever hear Malcolm wax lyrical about the impact of seeing The Sex Pistols, or his band before this, The Laxatives, or the first New Puritans songs like, 'Tanks Head For Tehran' you now exactly what page we're on, and when.

I gatecrashed one of their rehearsals for a bit and you can tell these guys have been together a while. Spending time with brothers Malcolm and Graham [vocals and guitar] along with Robert [bass] and Dave [drums] is like being dropped in the middle of a Marx Brothers movie or a weird grown up episode of The Monkees. Every line is a punchline and there is absolutely nothing at all happening at this rehearsal that looks or feels the slightest bit like work. This is all for the fun of it.

I'm a bit curious about what was going on round here in '79. I haven't read my copy of 'When Reading Really Rocked, Vol. 2' yet so I asked this lot.

Graham: People will always talk about the Target, but there were less places than now. You had bands like The K9s and General Accident, who were big local punk bands... there was quite a small, really lively scene. But, compared to what you've got nowadays, it was almost nothing, really. I think what's going on in Reading now is great.

Apparently, there were a handful of decent record shops here back then (Malcolm can take you to the exact bit of Friar St where he bought The Stranglers 'Black and White') but "you'd listen to stuff on John Peel that you just couldn't get anywhere here so we'd be always going up to London."

Malcolm: Remember, we went up to London to watch The Plasmatics at Hammersmith Odeon. We got there and there was a big sign on the door saying 'Cancelled by The GLC'.

- DIAMOND REVUE (Secret Best Punk)
- WE ARE THE YOUNG MEN & UNCLE PEANUT (Secret, Happy, Modest)
- NEW PURITANS (Let Out On Day Release)
- FREE CAKE AND SWEET
- WONK UNIT (Living local legends)
- THE DECKCHAIRS (Great street punk)
- T & THE MUGS (Night Saus Fried on The Piss)
- NEW PURITANS (Night Saus Fried on The Piss)
- The Go Go (Worldclass Bally Punk)
- On Trial UK (They are back. Ace UK punk legends)
- New Puritans (Let Out On Day Release)
- LURKERS (With Arthur Bonwick)
- LAUNCH CONTROL (Punk Anthem from UK Bands)
- T AND THE MUGS (Local street punk legends)
- NEW PURITANS (Night Saus Fried on The Piss)

Photo: Alex Marlow
Words: RiCH



Someone had been forewarned that they were likely to blow up a car on stage and just cancelled it. With no social media or internet, we had no way of knowing.

Anyway, enough of this nostalgia-fest... New Puritans stopped playing for a while but, after a bit of hiatus, reformed in 2013 with sister Jane Unwin on bass ("That's our sister, who always wanted to be in our band but we wouldn't let her in the front room for rehearsals, back in the day.") and Daryl from Chainsaw Enema on drums for one gig before the current line-up found each other.



In Malcolm We Trust

But, why do we care right now and why are they front of Sound-check this month?

Once upon a time Malcolm, here, ran into Sid [then Club Velocity, now Future Transmissions] whilst they were both regularly turning up to see The Shitty Limits... in the Kings Tavern, or The Rising Sun, or both... whatever... as a result of this encounter, **In Malcolm We Trust** was born. A gig, once a year, on Malcolm's birthday, curated by the birthday boy and featuring whoever he's seen round here over the year that has impressed him enough to invite them to play, hosted by New Puritans.

Malcolm's birthday is in February. That's now, and this year it happens to coincide with the **50th issue** of Sound-check so this is a mutual celebration – Happy Birthday, mate.

Also, this month sees **In Malcolm We Trust No. 15!!!** Yes, fifteen years this has been going on.

The first one was 2011 and featured *Off The Radar*, *Sly & the Family Drone* and *The Quiet, Quiet Band*. For those of you who weren't around then, that basically set the bar extremely high(!) and this year, that



continues as Malcolm's wanderings around Reading's live scene over the past year is bringing together **The Dazed Minded** and **Baby Maker**, alongside the hosts.

Plus... you know how a magician at a children's birthday party always looks like the opening scene of some 80s horror flick? Well, this birthday party has **Rat Boy's Magic Show**, fresh(-ish) from his daily performances at Rebellion Festival, just to make sure you never sleep soundly again.

Get your party frock out – I've heard a rumour Malcolm's shaved his beard off specially for this! – and I'll see you there. ■
Rising Sun Arts Centre, Friday 27th February

extracellular
the space between cells where signals are exchanged & life is communicated

Secluded Bronte
Sophie Sleigh-Johnson
Dolly Dolly
Revbjelde
The Infinite Attic

an evening of spoken abstraction, fragmented jazz, improvised noise & pulsating electronics

Sat 28th Feb 7.30 - 11pm
Rising Sun Arts Centre
Silver Street Reading RG1 2ST

extracellular album launch
code:damp book signing
vinyl + merch stall
tickets: £6 advance / £8 on the door
available from: buriedtreasure.bandcamp.com

25mm & 57mm Pin Badges available

Premium quality badges made in Oxford

25mm
10 badges £15
50 badges £25
100 badges £38

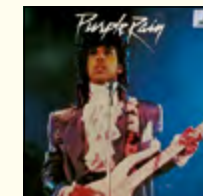
57mm
10 badges £19
50 badges £38
100 badges £65

Email: garagerockmerch@gmail.com for info
Head over to our Facebook page for more prices

[@garagerockmerch](https://www.facebook.com/garagerockmerch)

DVD Horror collection

We have a great selection of movies on DVD and Blu-ray, even VHS! If you are a fan of film on physical media, Oxfam Music is worth a visit. Of course we rely on generous donations to provide our great selection. This month we received a nice Horror collection. Lots of gory sub-genres: monster movies, Blumhouse popcorn horror, slashers, werewolves, Italo-horror etc.



Prince

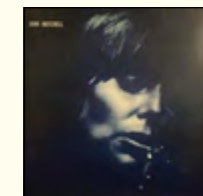
Purple Rain

One of Reading's top DJs once confided in me that if no one's played any Prince by midnight then they're not doing their job properly. Purple Rain may not be one of his funkier but it is perhaps his signature song. This is a top notch copy of the original 12" single

The Jesus & Mary Chain

Damage And Joy

Bursting on the mid 1980s scene with a provocative cacophony, The Jesus And Mary Chain were ultimately another literate iteration of rock n roll classicism. Black leather feedback, Spector-esque teenage Gothic, profane gospel dirge etc. This is a signed copy of their 2017 album.



Joni Mitchell

Blue

The peak of her work as a folk singer-songwriter. After this she got jazzy. Despite the title, which maybe gives the record a reputation as melancholic and although the words are confessional and the mood reflective, these are mostly songs of love and the itinerant life of a traveler. One of the great records for romantic bohemians.

Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm • Sunday: 12-4pm

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: oxfamshop3944@oxfam.org.uk

Oxfam works with others to fight global poverty.

OXFAM MUSIC

**9 DUKE ST, READING RG1 4SA
0118 9561598**

gigguide

SUN 1 FEB

PURPLE TURTLE
**Big Trousers + Ghost
Cat + Gumdrop**

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

MON 2 FEB

PURPLE TURTLE
**Turtle Underground
The Amazing Tiger
Band & The Amazing
Amazing Tiger Band
Band + Tape It Shut
+ Pluto The Rich**

Free | 7:30pm | 18+
After kicking it off three years
ago and about 190 shows
since then, this is the last

*Turtle Underground to be
promoted by Groove Cult so
all you 'saucy little monsters'
should probably be there.*

WED 4 FEB

SOUTH ST, THEATRE
Heavy Pop

Scott Matthews
£26.40 | 7:30pm |
14+ (U18 w/adult)
heavypop.co.uk

SOUTH STREET, STUDIO
**John Wesley Harding
aka Wesley Stace
+ David Lewis**
£19 | 8pm
whatsonreading.com

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Icey Music presents...

**Skisrevival + Velvet
+ Gothboyy + Wavier
+ Jin.X**

£3 | 7:30pm |
16+ (U18 w/adult)

*The home of urban music
in RG! Featuring fresh acts
every Wednesday!*
wegottickets.com

THU 5 FEB

PURPLE TURTLE
Radio Wigwam Presents

**Reckless & Blue +
The Bluepers + Ross
Harding**

Free | 8pm | 18+

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

FRI 6 FEB

FACE BAR
**Friday Night Blues
Brave Rival /
Backbone Blues
Band**

£19.80 | 7:30pm | 18+
Co-headline show
wegottickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE
Code Red
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

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

Skinhawk
Castle Tap, 10.01.2026
Photo: Andrew Merritt



RADIOACTIVE LEMON 2

day of experimental prog, metal, psychedelia and art rock

MAIN STAGE

THE SCARAMANGA SIX
ZENDEN GREENPURP
SEAS OF MIRTH
SUGAR DARLING
MAMMOTH TOE
MASCOT MOTH
CHOP CHOP

ACOUSTIC STAGE

Oli Hagen, MrPineapple, Daniel Ball,
Queen of Between, Eltel, Acid Claw



The Butler, Reading, RG1 7DS
3:30 PM - 11:30 PM, Sat 21 Feb, 2026

radioactivelemon.com/tickets

Turtle UNDERGROUND
 3 BANDS EVERY MONDAY
 7.30PM FREE ENTRY

STRAIGHT INTO
CLUB RECKLESS

PUNK, EMO, ROCK, METAL
 10PM TO 3AM, FREE ENTRY

Blackstar
 AMPLIFICATION



Turtle UNDERGROUND
 EVERY MONDAY 7.30PM TO 10.00PM
 16TH FEBRUARY

Typical Girls
 DEARBOY AND THE NOISE
 DALMIST

STRAIGHT INTO
CLUB RECKLESS
 Punk, Emo, Rock, Metal 10PM to 3AM
 FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

Blackstar

Sleep Room
 Polly B Rose
 EX Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Aerosmith, Iron Maiden
 Support TBC

Thurs 19th Feb
 8pm FREE ENTRY 18+ ID Required

LINKIN PARK
 THE LINKIN PARK EXPERIENCE

SATURDAY 21ST FEB
 AFTERNOON SHOW 3PM FREE ENTRY
 NU-METAL DIS SPINNING ALL THE CLASSICS

Turtle UNDERGROUND
 GROOVE CULT SOUNDS LAST SHOW

THE AMAZING TIGER BAND
 & THE AMAZING TIGER BAND BAND
 TAPE IT SHUT
 PLUTO THE RICH

22.25
 7.30-9PM

CLUB RECKLESS Blackstar

BIG TROUSERS
SUNDAY 1ST FEB
 3pm FREE ENTRY

with **GHOST AT THE CURTAIN DROP**

18+ // 18s must be accompanied by an adult

Turtle UNDERGROUND
 EVERY MONDAY 7.30PM TO 10.00PM
 9TH FEBRUARY

The Weekend Sessions
BEEF
 BRIOCHE

STRAIGHT INTO
CLUB RECKLESS
 Punk, Emo, Rock, Metal 10PM to 3AM
 FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

Blackstar

Nothing Rhymes with Orange
 with **RADIATOR**
 + **CHEAP**

Thursday 5th March
 8pm FREE ENTRY 18+ ID Required

Turtle UNDERGROUND
 EVERY MONDAY 7.30PM TO 10.00PM
 9TH MARCH

SKUNK WORKS
 HONEYGLOW

+ SUPPORT TBC

STRAIGHT INTO
CLUB RECKLESS
 Punk, Emo, Rock, Metal 10PM to 3AM
 FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

Blackstar

LO RAYS
 16 MARCH 2026
 PURPLE TURTLE READING

Radio Wigwam Presents...
RECKLESS & BLUE
THE BLUEPERS
ROSS HARDING

THURSDAY 05 FEBRUARY
 8PM : FREE ENTRY / 18+
 www.radiowigwam.co.uk

CARNAVAL BRAZUKAS
 Brazilian Rhythms
 Samba, Funk & Tropical Funk

BRAZUKAS

SUNDAY 8th February
 3pm FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

Radio Wigwam Presents...
THE ARISTON
PURPLE GRACE
LOWER FORCES

THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY
 8PM : FREE ENTRY / 18+
 www.radiowigwam.co.uk

THE BERKSHIRE EMO
SUNDAY 22ND MARCH
 FREE ENTRY // 5PM TO 10PM
 @THEBERKSHIREEMOMPROJECT

E M O M
 ELECTRONIC MUSIC OPEN MIC

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




AS8502
999
THURSDAY 14TH MAY
 FREE ENTRY 18+ ID REQUIRED WITH **RAGE DC**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM MIDDAY - PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM

BAR // VENUE // NIGHTCLUB - PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM



In Air
Face Bar, 16.01.2026
Photo: Andrew Merritt

SAT 7 FEB

THE BUTLER
50 Years of
Blitzkrieg Bop!
**The Remones +
The Ramoanz +
The Country Moans**
£11 | 7pm | 18+
*Celebrating 50 years
of The Ramones*
wegottickets.com

**ST MARY'S, PURLEY ON
THAMES**
Village Concerts
James Kirby
£16.50 | 7pm | 14+
wegottickets.com

**FLOWING SPRING,
ACOUSTIC LOUNGE**
The Highwasters
Free | 6pm |
*It's free but you need to book
a place at:*
theflowingspringpub.co.uk

**THE TURKS
Paddington**
Free | 8:30pm

SUN 8 FEB

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
Bob Wood
£10, £5(U25) | 8pm
Cash only, on the door.

PURPLE TURTLE
Carnival Brazukas
Brazukas
Free | 3pm | 18+
*Brazukas are bringing the
Brazilian Carnival to theTurtle.
Starts at 3pm with DJs, band
starts at 5pm*

MON 9 FEB

PURPLE TURTLE
Turtle Underground
The Freudian Session
+ Beef + Brioche
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

TUE 10 FEB

FACE BAR
Future Transmissions
Kavus Torabi
+ OT-UK
£14.30 | 8pm |
14+ (U16 w/adult)
*Since 2016 Kavus Torabi has
fronted legendary psychedelic
band Gong. He is a member of
the semi-modular experimental
psychedelic trio The Utopia
Strong and a former guitarist
of Cardiacs and avant rock
instrumentalists Guapo.*
wegottickets.com

WED 11 FEB

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Icey Music presents...
£3 | 7:30pm |
16+ (U18 w/adult)
*The home of urban music
in RG! Featuring fresh acts
every Wednesday!*
wegottickets.com

THU 12 FEB

FACE BAR
*Good Wrecking Tonight/Future
Transmissions*
Starcat
£22 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
*Superstar Rockabilly icon,
Slim Jim Phantom plus Neal
X, plus Phil Bloomberg from
The Polecats. Probably going
to be good, this.*
wegottickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE
Radio Wigwam Presents
**The Ariston + Purple
Grace + Lower Forces**
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

FRI 13 FEB

PURPLE TURTLE
Makeshifts
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

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



We buy and sell vinyl records
and music memorabilia.

Pop into our shop
NOW OPEN DAILY



POP CLASSICS RECORDS
35 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8BA
TEL. 07821 463 743
popclassics@hotmail.co.uk

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
@theburlyphotographer

HEAVY POP

LIVE MUSIC

READING AND OXFORD SHOWS

Scott Matthews

Wed 4th Feb South St Arts Centre, Reading

Chasing Abbey

Wed 18th Feb Face Bar, Reading



The Wave Pictures

Sun 1st Mar The Jericho Tavern, Oxford

Bruise Control

Mon 9th Mar Face Bar, Reading



Billy & Camille

(from The Subways)

Tues 10th Mar Face Bar, Reading

Beat Connection

★ New Music Discovery ★

Sat 28th Mar South St Arts Centre, 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.

For full gig listings and tickets: heavypop.co.uk

Contact: info@heavypop.co.uk

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [g](#) [h](#) [e](#) [a](#) [v](#) [y](#) [p](#) [o](#) [p](#) [p](#) [r](#) [o](#) [m](#) [m](#)

FRI 13 FEB

FACE BAR

Club Reckless presents
**Fountain Island +
Lake Acacia**
£9.38 | 9pm | 18+
eventbrite.co.uk

THE GOOD COMPANIONS
Broadmoor Sirens
Free | 9pm

SAT 14 FEB

FACE BAR

Tripington Ball
**Pink Diamond Revue,
Adam & Elvis and more**
£21.99 | 9pm – 5am | 18+
Yeah, ok. It's mostly DJs
but it's also a psychedelic
all-night sonic adventure
across two rooms including a
smattering of live acts and UV
décor by The Collaboration All
of which is to be applauded.
imaginary-cat.com

CASTLE TAP

Shadow Promotions
**Tape It Shut +
Missing The Scene +
Larry_73 + tbc**
Free | 5:30pm

THE TURKS
Krimson Key
Free | 8:30pm

SUN 15 FEB

THE BUTLER
Shadow Promotions

**Murderhill + Bind
+ Slept On + Head
Meets Concrete +
Paresthesia**
£8.80 | 2pm | 16+
Sunday hardcore matinee!
wegottickets.com

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

MON 16 FEB

MILK

**Funz + Timothy
Werewolf**
Free | 7pm | 18+

PURPLE TURTLE
**Turtle Underground
Typical Girls +
Dearboy & the Noise
+ Palmist**
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

WED 18 FEB

FACE BAR

Heavy Pop
Chasing Abbey
£16.50 | 7:30pm |
14+ (U18 w/adult)
Songwriters, producers, and
multi-instrumentalists from
Tullamore, Ireland, known
for their explosive fusion of
electronic production and
Celtic influences
heavypop.co.uk

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Icey Music presents...
£3 | 7:30pm |
16+(U18 w/adult)
The home of urban music
in RG! Featuring fresh acts
every Wednesday!
wegottickets.com

FRI 20 FEB

PROGRESS THEATRE
Jazz in Reading

**Ben Crosland's All
Star Band**
play the Ray Davies
song book
£20.69, £18.62(conc),
£10.35(U16) | 7:30pm
Ben Crosland's All Star Band:
Theo Travis, saxophones;
Steve Lodder, keyboards;
John Etheridge, guitar; Ben
Crosland, bass; Buster Birch,
drums.
ticketsource.co.uk

SUB89

The Wurzels
£25.30 | 7pm |
14+(U18 w/adult)
fatsoma.com

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions
**Ghost Dance + The
Claytown Troupe +
The Go Go Cult**
£22 | 8pm |
All ages (U18s w/adult)
Goth/Post Punk Legends
wegottickets.com

THE BUTLER

**Friday Night Blues
The Milk Men**
£19.80 | 8pm |
All ages (U18 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

SAT 21 FEB

THE BUTLER

**Radioactive Lemon 2
The Scaramanga
Six + Daniel Ball +
Zenden Greenpurp +
Eltel + Seas Of Mirth
+ Oli Hagen + Sugar
Darling + Mammoth
Toe + Mascot Moth +
MrPineapple + Chop
Chop + Acid Claw +
Queen Of Between**
£17 | 3:30pm |
All day gig showcasing un-
derground experimental prog,
metal psychedelia and art rock
eventbrite.com

THE TURKS
Five Chambers Full
Free | 8:30pm

SUN 22 FEB

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readingfolk

**Will Allen and
Terence O'Flaherty**
£10, £5(U25) | 8pm
Cash only, on the door.
wegottickets.com

MON 23 FEB

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

TUE 24 FEB

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions
The Primitives
£22 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)
wegottickets.com/

WED 25 FEB

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

Icey Music presents...
£3 | 7:30pm |
16+(U18 w/adult)
The home of urban music
in RG! Featuring fresh acts
every Wednesday!
wegottickets.com

THU 26 FEB

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions
Wreckless Eric
£18.20 | 8pm |
14+ (U16 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

FRI 27 FEB

THE BUTLER

**PLEASE BAN MUSIC
The Bucky Rage +
Aztec Death Whistle
+ NONO**
£ | 8pm | 18+

FACE BAR

Runnin' Blue presents
**Holiday Disaster
Records' Rock & Roll
Revue!
Tommy Hale & The
Magnificent Bastards
+ The Snakes +
Richard Davies And
The Dissidents +
20th Century Kids**
£11 | 7pm | 14+ (u18 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

Reading's independent
Cocktail bar
Great drinks, great music, great times
Est 2012



8 Merchants Place Reading RG1 1DT
www.milkreading.co.uk

Whitehouse studios

Production,
Recording &
Rehearsal Studios

info@whitehouse-studios.co.uk
0118 9502 102
www.whitehouse-studios.co.uk

UP THE JUNCTION BAR

Saturday 7th February

A TRIBUTE TO BOB MARLEY & DENNIS BROWN
with DJs: President Sound, Emperor Tone Sound,
Stereo Roots Sound, Rockers Hi-Fi, Sir Masai Downbeat
Reliving the Days-Of-Old! @Central Club, Chain Street
7pm-3am £10

Friday 13th February

1BLOCK
with DJs: Fits Me Funny, Pat2Cool, Samasama
10:00pm - 3:00am £8.50

Saturday 14th February

VALENTINES
with DJ: Mr Marvellous
10:00pm - 2:30am Free

Mon closed
Tue - Thu 5pm - 2am
Fri - Sat 5pm - 3am
Sunday 5pm - 2am
(Last entry 1:30am)

231 London Rd
Reading RG1 3NY

18+

BAR · CLUB · VENUE
Book your event date now

FRI 27 FEB

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Future Transmissions
**In Malcolm We Trust #15
The Dazed Minded +
Baby Maker + New
Puritans + Rat Boy's
Magic Show**
£7.20 | 8pm | All ages
wegottickets.com

SAT 28 FEB

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Buried Treasure presents
**Extracellular Album
Launch**
**Secluded Bronte
+ Sophie Sleigh-
Johnson + Dolly
Dolly + Revbjelde**
£6adv, £8otd | 7:30pm
*An evening of avant-garde
abstraction and hip-swinging
electronica, celebrating
the release of Extracellular,
a new, vinyl compilation
of pulsing electro, jazz
fragments, industrial dub and
spoken words. Presented by
Berkshire's renowned Buried
Treasure label.*
buriedtreasure.bandcamp.
com

FACE BAR
King Awesome
£16.50 | 7:30pm |
14+ (U18s w/adult)

SUN 1 MAR

CRUMBS, WOODLEY
**Mordecai Smyth
+ Robert Sowden**
£10.84 | 7:30pm
ticketsource.co.uk

MON 2 MAR

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

WED 4 MAR

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Icey Music presents...
£3 | 7:30pm |
16+ (U18 w/adult)
*The home of urban music
in RG! Featuring fresh acts
every Wednesday!*
wegottickets.com

THU 5 MAR

SOUTH ST, THEATRE
**The Small Strings
vs The Audience**
£14.50 | 8pm
whatsonreading.com

PURPLE TURTLE
**Nothing Rhymes With
Orange + Radiator +
Cheap Suits**
Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 6 MAR

THE FLOWING SPRING
**Moonshine
+ Steve Morano**
£10 (cash), £12 (card/online)
theflowingspringpub.co.uk

SAT 7 MAR

FACE BAR
**March Of The Mods
2026**
**The Highwasters
+ Paddington
+ The Skavengers
+ The Croupiers
+ Circa79
+ The New Highs**
Early Bird £12 | 4pm |
18+ after 9pm
*March of the Mods returns
for another day raising funds
for Teenage Cancer Trust.*
e-tix.co/MOTMreading

THE TURKS
Beware the Moleman
Free | 8pm

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

THE BUTLER
Shadow Promotions
**Lipsknot + Mercury's
Well + Barbed Wire
+ Halloran**
£13.20 | 6:30pm |
16+ (U18 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

SUN 8 MAR

THE BUTLER
Shadow Promotions
**Drunktank + Tape
It Shut + Reason
To Leave + Launch
Control**
£8.30 | 2pm | 16+
wegottickets.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readingfolk
North Sea Gas
£10, £5 (U25) | 8pm
Cash only, on the door.

MON 9 MAR

FACE BAR
Heavy Pop
Bruise Control
£13.20 | 7:30pm |
14+ (U18 w/adult)
heavypop.co.uk

PURPLE TURTLE
**Turtle Underground
Skunkworm +
Honeyglow + tbc**
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

TUE 10 MAR

FACE BAR
Heavy Pop
**Billy & Camille
from The Subways**
£16.50 | 7:30pm |
14+ (U18s w/adult)
Loud and Unplugged
heavypop.co.uk



Chris Mercier - printmaker
Fine art scanning & printing
Giclee prints and editions.
Digital print solutions for artists and makers.
www.printmaker.com
07973 219 523
chris.printmaker@gmail.com

sound-check TV



Photo: Andrew Merritt

I was watching telly, a thing about the UK post-punk scene, late 70s/early 80s. All of the band footage was from a handful of TV shows from back then (*Revolver, Something Else, Check it Out, So It Goes*, all that lot) and I had two thoughts. Firstly, *'That would be cool, now.'* followed by *'Let's make one!'* – a regular, live performance-based TV show, with a live audience, for Reading bands to go on, play live, and plug whatever gigs they've got coming up, or whatever they want.

We can bang it up on YouTube. Great idea, right?!

I ran it past a few people and, apparently, yes, great idea!

Next thing you know, we've got **Tape It Shut** doing a theme tune, **Kian's** up for hosting it, **Iridiphore** are bringing their projected light and magic... people up for helping make it happen. **Alex** from **Sundaughter** and myself have even chipped in some animation to mix in and the **Rising Sun Arts Centre** has said we can film it in there.

Looks like we're doing it, then! So... me and **Alex Marlow**, we got together and made a plan.

On Friday 13th February at 8pm, in the Rising Sun on Silver St., we'll be filming our first one and we'd like you to come and be in it.

We've got **Tape It Shut** and **Grace Pounds** coming to play live and we've got cameras and mics and all that planned so that we think we can do this as a live thing in one evening, in front of an audience and then let it run like a normal gig for a bit afterwards – and *'live audience? That's crucial and it kinda means you.'*

Come on... it could be great! And, if it is, we'll do it again. Now that we've said it out loud, though, we have to try so come and help us make it work, just by being there. – **Rich**



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



DRUMMER57
CHARLIE ALESSANDRO
For info on drum lessons,
sheet music and session
work, scan here!
charliealessandrodrummer57.co.uk

When I started Sound-check in 2019, the front cover featured Cody Noon who I described at the time as, "Instrumental, atmospheric, slow, swaying gently from beautiful to uncomfortable and, basically, a bit odd...". Five years and 50 issues down the line seems like a fine time to see what they've been up to since, so I gave Charlie a shout and here's what he has to tell us:

It's fair to say a lot has happened in the Cody Noon camp, and the world, since we had the honour of being featured on the cover of the first Sound-check back in September 2019. Thanks for having us Rich :)

We released our second and, in the end, final album *Ace Of Wands* via the excellent German label Oscarson in November 2019 and played a highly enjoyable launch gig for it at Beat Connection at South St. in Reading that month alongside a bunch of cool bands. We both remain really proud of *Ace Of Wands*, it turned out great and we had a lovely time recording it at JT Soar in Nottingham.

After that, we played a handful of gigs in early 2020 prior to Covid putting a stop to that kind of behaviour for a while. We ended up doing a few more recordings (a 90-second number, *Generation Hex* recorded by the mighty Kev Wells, a home demo of "Labrodorite" which appeared on a Slow Down records compilation and a terrifying Slade sampling racket called C.H.R.I.S.T.M.A.S.S.A.C.R.E for the 2020 doubledotdash! musical Christmas card) then called it a day as Haydn fancied a break from music, a thoroughly sensible decision.

The lockdown era inspired some kind of intensive-solo-home-recording-weird-music related midlife crisis in me, which has resulted in me releasing a ludicrous amount of music since 2020. In all seriousness though, I'm really happy and proud to have released music on some of my favourite labels (Oscarson, doubledotdash, Cruel Nature, Feral Child, Weird Beard, Rat Run, Eggy Tapes, Brachliegen Tapes to name a few) under various solo and collaborative guises. I'm particularly proud of the Last Place and Chaos Emeralds music recorded with the mighty Sean Hewson of This., Head Drop and Monster Movie fame. I'm also very proud to have been a member of the awesome Head Drop with Sean, Kev and Nick 'Iron' Mann and 2026 will see the long gestating Head Drop album appear in some form or other. Honest.

Me and Haydn made the bitter sweet decision to move from Reading up to Lanark in Scotland in May 2022. Living in Scotland was something we always wanted to do and while we really love it up here, it was a real shame to leave Reading. We both felt at home here and always appreciated being part of the wonderful, welcoming and supporting community in Reading which took great care of us. We try and make it down for a visit when we can and I still love playing here when the opportunity arises... like on Friday 20th February alongside Livestock and D.Ghoul at South St. for lovely promotion titans High Vibes :.)

Congratulations on 50 issues, here's to the next 50!



Faded Art

merch
logos
posters

QR code

fadedart.com/mg-contact

haircuts

Pay as you can - minimum £5

specialist layers, fringe, face-framing - alternative styles but down to cut anything thorough consultation encouraged

Call: 07417568925

sound-check

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

f /soundcheckreading
i /soundcheckrdg
sound-check.co.uk

50 issues in. Dear god! Still, any questions, try me: rich@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.

This is Steve Axtell demonstrating the art of the gig photographer. You could be more Steve. Go on... send us a photo.



Printed by Route1 Print.
 Route1 Print

FUTURE

WEGOTTICKETS.COM/FUTURE TRANSMISSIONS
FUTURE TRANSMISSIONS.COM

TRANSMISSIONS

SHOWS AT THE FACEBAR READING 2026

FEB 10TH - KAVUS TORABI * OT-UK
(The Green Man Project)

FEB 12TH - In Association With Good Wrecking Tonight
STARCAT

FEB 20TH - GHOST DANCE * CLAYTOWN TROUPE
The Go Go CULT

FEB 24TH - THE PRIMITIVES * BlueBoy

FEB 26TH - WRECKLESS ERIC

MAR 29TH - DAY RAVE II BILLY NASTY
+ Nutt's n' Bours DJs

APR 8TH - THE DREAMING SPIRES * JESS TUTHILL

APR 12TH - SOUND OF THE SIRENS

APR 19TH - THE VAPORS * EDDIE ROXY & THE
ADJACENT KINGS

APR 30TH - HOUSE OF ALL

MAY 1ST - CLASS OF '79 * The Deckchairs

MAY 16TH - INKUBUS SUKKUBUS * 1919
The Go Go CULT

JULY 10TH - THE CHORDS UK * The Hurricanes

AUG 1ST - THE DOLLHEADS * 18 FEVERS
Xtine & The Reckless Hearts

OCT 9TH - BON GIOVI

NOV 20TH - KING KURT

DEC 10TH - JOHN OTWAY