

soundcheck

Issue 53 | May 2026 | FREE

Reading's FREE live music guide

Jackie Doe & the Uncertainty of Passion



+ live gigs for May
+ Jessica Lee Morgan

STOGFEST PROMOTIONS PRESENT

noasis



Sound-check #53



Crooked Shapes
Purple Turtle, 30.03.2026
Photo: Andrew Merritt

Evening! It's May again, then, and you know what that means; the weird and wonderful time of year when, for two days only, there are bands on at Sub89 that aren't pretending to be somebody else and it's completely normal to say "I'm going to the church to get a beer and watch *Adult DVD*". Yes, folks! It's **Are You Listening?** Festival time!

We had festival organiser, Dave Maul, on Sound-checkTV to give us the rundown on this year's event, inbetween live

sets from The Dazed Minded and Ben Marwood, so go and have a look if want to know more ([YouTube @soundcheckrdg](#)).

It's not all about the one weekend this month, though. It's healthy out there, from the brand new Greyfriar Sessions (*Baby Maker / Rhaineforrest*) at the start of the month to the long-standing Future Transmissions Rising Sun show (*Bored Slippy / Barrelhaus / Belzaire*) at the other end.

See you out there. – RiCH

Cover photo: Rich Lucas

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FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026



£21.50 IN ADVANCE £25 ON THE DOOR
[HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/STOGFESTPROMOTIONS](https://buytickets.at/stogfestpromotions)

Jackie Doe



and the Uncertainty of Passion



If you've never seen Jackie Doe & the Uncertainty of Passion, they're a bit of a tricky thing to describe. On stage, you'll find Jackie Doe sat at a piano, wearing an accordion, casually switching between the two like it's the most normal thing in the world, occasionally rotating through ninety degrees to incorporate a great, big hammered dulcimer and, just for good measure, there's a flute at her feet, in case you start to get complacent about what's going on.

Up front is singer, Anne De Lima, all other-wordly and completely impossible to ignore, and alongside these two (and their always-fabulous shoes!) are Les Calvert And Martin Vincent on bass and guitar respectively who, as musicians, evidently know exactly what they're doing – even if some of us are at first slightly bewildered by this whole ensemble.

When you ask them to describe what they do, they don't really know what to call it either but it's "a bit folkly", a bit "World Music", possibly "French café music", a bit "chanson"... with a spoonful of "European cabaret". Something like that.

Anne De Lima and Jackie Doe first met as Bulmershe College students in a band called Double Exposure, longer ago than either of them care to remember. After which, Annie was involved in several bands including The Geisha Girls, who's 7" single, 'I'm A Teapot', got them some attention after appearing on The Tube [look it up on YouTube – it's great! I've been humming it for days now].

While Annie was off being an 80s post-punk pop star for a bit, Jackie was writing the songs and instrumentals that signalled the dawn of The Uncertainty of Passion, originally formed with the addition of Les Calvert, a man who played on Edwin Starr's first tour in England, was in the Alexis Korner Blues Band for a while, did a spell in a band with Jona Lewie for a bit and then 20 years in Mungo Jerry before The King Earl Boogie Band.

Between them, his lot have some big stamps on their musical passports, right? Stick around – it's not over yet.

After various changes of personnel, and a Spinal Tap-style relationship with the notion of a drummer, the current lineup benefits from the addition of Martin Vincent who has "been associated with the people of the folk-rock world around Reading for the last forty years... fifty, probably." and now also plays with Feast of Fiddles. Got to be honest, I had to look up Feast of Fiddles – it turns out it's what some people do when they're not busy being in Fairport Convention, Steeleye Span...

You get the idea. Between them, this lot have been round the block and back and come together to play Jackie's multi-instrumental, immaculately crafted cabaret of chaos.

Sitting in Jackie's dining room with the band all gathered, I ask about the addition of the dulcimer into the mix because you really don't see too many of those around.

"We had a fiddle player, who nearly died and a percussionist who moved away and after a while, I thought 'I'm not leaving the band so, if I play lots of instruments, we'll get variety that way'. They were doing Henry I, or Henry II, in the church by the prison. We went along and there were people who would just walk around, playing a dulcimer the pulpit. I just said to Chris, "We need that sound in the band!" So, we went to Frome, got one made and then I had to learn how it works, what was where and... make some tunes up on it!"

With that casual approach to learning a new instrument, variety of sound really isn't a problem is it so, at one point, I asked Jackie what she's actually writing about and got a very simple answer. "Life – and the uncertainty of passion." Ask a silly question...

"It has moved with the times." she says. 'Time Flies' and 'I'm Only 21 (in my heart)' are self-evidently about seeing things change, or not, over time "and then 'Red, Green And Blue' was about losing friends."

If you want to find out for yourself there are, first of all, a load of albums to choose from, the latest of which was just finished last year – takes a while apparently; Jackie is something of a perfectionist in the studio – or you can catch them in real life, kicking off proceedings at the 37th annual Reading Water Fest next month.

If you didn't know yet, Water Fest is Saturday 27th June, all along the Kennet canal down the side of Reading Gaol (or whatever it's called), along Chestnut Walk, the Abbey Ruins and into Forbury Gardens. Jackie Doe & The Uncertainty of Passion are on the Acoustic Stage (which, inevitably, is not entirely acoustic) at 12:30pm. I'll probably be there. Probably with an ice cream. ■



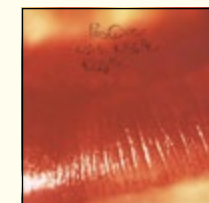
OXFAM MUSIC SHOP



The Beatles
Nowhere Man
The rarest of the fab's UK EPs. A lovely selection of tunes and a nice colour cover image from the 'Rain' promotional film. Although *Nowhere Man* obviously would have been a huge hit single in any another universe, the fact that all these songs had already appeared on the Rubber Soul LP a few months previously means this attractive little artefact was probably fairly redundant for most fans and sold poorly, hence it's relative scarcity now.



Cenotaph Corner
Ups & Downs
Released 1976 on the tiny Cottage label which specialised in contemporary folk. British private press or (in this case) 'indie' folk lps of the 1960s and 70s are a rich seam of our neglected pop culture and some of the most sought after records by vinyl boffins and, unlike say, Japanese City Pop or German Kosmische, ones it's not impossible you might stumble across in the wild in Reading. Nice playing and strong melodic songs on this.



The Cure
Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me
From this band's peak period (1987). The Cure's epic exotic double lp featuring the fantastic singles *Catch* and *Just Like Heaven* (what Indie disco has been complete without it in the last 40 years!). We currently have a spiffing, still sealed repress remastered by Robert Smith himself. "Lots of wah wah", says the shop's resident Cure fan!



DVDs!
In addition to offering a great selection of music, we also have a great selection of film on DVD, blu ray and even video. We also sell the machines to play these arcane mystical objects. If you're determined to live in the present and want to give us your old physical media, donations are always very gratefully received! We can even collect. We sometimes are even lucky enough to get titles from hip boutique dvd labels like Radiance, Arrow, Shameless Bfi etc....

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
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Oxfam works with others to fight global poverty.

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

gigguide

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 1 MAY

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

Class of '79

£14.30 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

Featuring members of Ruts DC/Rezillos/
Eddie & The Hot Rods/Dept S
wegottickets.com

THE GREYFRIAR

Please Ban Music & Certain Sounds

Biscuit Factory Sessions 01

Baby Maker + Rhaineforrest

£5 suggested donation | 7:30pm

Live music from 8pm plus vinyl DJs from PBM and Certain Sound playing the best in classic hip-hop, funk and more throughout the night.

CASTLE TAP

Two Beer Hangover

Free | 7:30pm

PROGRESS THEATRE

Jazz in Reading

Jazz Samba!

£20.69 | 7:30pm | All ages

ticketsource.com

UP THE JUNCTION

Bowsey Woods + Toby Taylor

Free | 8pm | 18+

SAT 2 MAY

THE FLOWING SPRING

Jewels & the Jacuzzis

£7.50 cash, £9 adv | 8:30pm

theflowingspringpub.co.uk

FACE BAR

Specialized Reading '26

The Scavengers + New Tonic + Caz & the Traitors + Wardour Street + The Highwasters + Straw Dogs + Subject A

£16.50 | 1pm

The Specialized Project contributes funds, time, energy, music, facilities and equipment to a wide range of charitable, educational and humanitarian causes.

SAT 2 MAY

THE TURKS

Judas Rising

Free | 9pm

SUN 3 MAY

FACE BAR

Shadow Promotions DIY

The Shadow Shuffle 3

Sonic Boom Six + The JB

Conspiracy + Wonk Unit

+ Pizza Tramp + Ill Gotten

Gains ...plus 12 more of the best UK punk and ska bands!!

£24.80 | 12:30pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegottickets.com

MON 4 MAY

PURPLE TURTLE

Turtle Underground

Two-Man Giant Squid

+ Bored Slippy

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

TUE 5 MAY

FACE BAR

Heavy Pop

Moonchild Sanelly + tbc

£19.80 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

heavypop.co.uk

WED 6 MAY

PURPLE TURTLE

Rats! Rats! Rats! + The

Guillotine Union Boys + HööF

Free | 8pm | 18+

WOKINGHAM Festival 2026

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

COUNTRY
CHICKS

THE
OGRETONES

THE CRAZY WORLD OF
ARTHUR BROWN

WHO ATE ALL
THE CRAYONS

splink

ONE LAST DAY

AMITY - AMY DX - BAD WEATHER FRIENDS - BELIZAIRE - CHEAP SUITS - EBONY BUCKLE - ECLIPSE MACHINE - 4G - FORGOTTEN GODS - FUNKIN SOULED OUT - GHOST CAT - HOG WILD - HOOPY FROOD - KATIE ELLWOOD - KEPLER TEN - MATT KIANO - MORDECAI SMYTH - MR PINEAPPLE - NINETEENTH HOUR - PERFECT BEASTS - PINK FISH - PIXELSTORM - PURPLE GRACE - RELIANT - RO JORDAN - SILVERPALM - TASIA - THE BLUEPERS - THE BJ BEVY - THE DAZED MINDED - THE DEAD CAN WAIT - THE KOKROACHEZ - THE OUTLIERS - THE PARADOX TWIN - THE RYMATONES - THE STING OPERATION - TRIM



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SILENT DISCO
KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

WWW.WOKINGHAMFESTIVAL.CO.UK



Embodiment of Imagination

Exhibition

8/9/10 May 11am - 5pm Free

Andre, an Iranian artist, presents a series of sculptural and relief works inspired by the interaction between human, animal, and abstract forms. Admission is free and open to all.

Iota Events presents:

The Haunted Drag Cabaret

Fri 15 May 7pm - 11pm £8

We would be thrilled to horrify you with an evening of the best, the spookiest, drag entertainment from Reading's drag scene. Featuring a seance led by an experienced ghost hunter, Philli Mi Up, to discover exactly what is haunting the Rising Sun Arts Centre.

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

Rising Sun Arts Centre
30 Silver Street, Reading RG1 2ST
risingsunartscentre.org

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

DON LETTS
 SUNDAY 3rd MAY
 POSTPONED TO
 SUNDAY 30th AUGUST

TWO-MAN GIANT SQUID
 POST-PUNK / ART-ROCK / BROOKLYN, USA
SORED SLIPPY
 Monday 4 May
 8pm FREE ENTRY

RATS! RATS! RATS!
 THE GUILLOTINE UNION BOYS
 Wednesday 6th May
 free entry

RILA'S EDGE
 + SPLAT the DEALER
 FRIDAY 22 MAY
 FREE ENTRY

THE TWO MAN TRAVELLING MEDICINE SHOW
 SARGORDAY 23RD MAY
 8PM TO 8PM
 FREE ENTRY

The Purple Turtle, Reading
 27th May 2026
 FREE ENTRY
 ENTER TOUR

AS8502
999
 THURSDAY 14TH MAY
 WITH RAGE DC
 FREE ENTRY
 8PM 18+ ID REQUIRED

SUNDAY MOURNERS
 RAW, ANGRY MIX OF POST-PUNK, ART-ROCK, AND PROTO-PUNK
 REMINISCENT OF WIRE, TELEVISION, AND RICHARD HELL
 SUNDAY 17th MAY
 8pm FREE ENTRY

OH HAZAR
 WEDNESDAY 20th MAY

CHAMELEON'S MUSIC FOR HS IN SUPPORT OF MS THERAPY
 HOOF SUNDAUGHTER DOOPS
 BABY MAKER LOTS OF MORE TBA...
 SUNDAY 31 MAY 3PM TO 10PM
 810 VIA WE GOT TICKETS ID REQUIRED

HAPPY MON DAZE
 FRIDAY 5TH JUNE
 8PM FREE ENTRY

JESTIVAL
 Sunday 21 June, 4pm-early night
 The Purple Turtle Reading
 Celebrate Jessica Lee Morgan's 50 years in life/music: live sets with JLM and friends

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

PUNK PILE UP
 SUNDAY 24th MAY
SPIZZENERGI **the DECKCHAIRS**
BRIOCHE **VANITY ROSE**
 7PM to 10PM FREE ENTRY

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM MIDDAY - PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM

BAR // VENUE // NIGHTCLUB - PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM

CRAZY COWBOY FESTIVAL II

SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2026

AXIS
THE MOST EXCITING BAND
IN THE GALAXY!

MINGO'S
CARIBBEAN
BBQ

PETE'S ROCK NEWS
AND VIEWS.COM

CIRCUS
66

LEAD
FEATHER

THE DEAD
CAN WAIT

PUZZLE TREE

Katie
Bad
Sign

PULVERISE

NOT NOW
NORMAL

THE
ANDRÁS
DROPPA
BAND

CANCEL
THE
TRANSMISSION

★ TROUBLE
COUNTY

TENDER
VENDETTA

THE
CASEY
MAUNDER
BAND

TWO TON
SHOES

THE FACEBAR
AMBROSE PLACE,
CHATHAM STREET
READING



ADULTS £35 + BF
STUDENTS/U21S £10 +BF
NOON - 11PM
DOORS 11:30AM

WEGOTTICKETS.COM/EVENT/661841

FRI 8-SAT 9 MAY

VENUES ACROSS CENTRAL READING
Are You Listening? Festival

Reading's celebrated one-day multi-venue festival returns for 2026. Friday at Saint Laurence Church and Saturday across central Reading at the Market Place Hub, The Facebar, Milk, Purple Turtle, St. Laurence Church and Sub89 with more than 45 acts.

Fri from 6:30pm

Sat from 12:00 noon

Full details and tickets at:
heavypop.co.uk

FRI 8 MAY

SUB89

Sanctum Sanctorium

£19.80 | 7pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

fatsoma.com

SAT 9 MAY

THE CASTLE TAP

A Dirty Soul

Free | 6pm

THE GOOD COMPANIONS

Code Red

Free | 9pm

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

SUN 10 MAY

FACE BAR

Mega Dodo Record

**Mordecai Smith + Icarus Peel's
Acid Reign + Robert Sowden**

£10 | 2pm

ticketsource.com

MON 11 MAY

PURPLE TURTLE

Turtle Underground

Free | 7:30pm | 18+

Three bands every Monday night

THU 14 MAY

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

Helicon + Livestock

£16.50 | 8pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

SOUTH STREET ARTS CENTRE

Readipop

RG EMOM

**The Dark PyrAmid + this
occasional society + Neurish**

**+ Cephid + Fingerwolf +
John Christian**

£Donation | 7pm | Book ticket at:

eventbrite.co.uk

PURPLE TUTLE

999 + Rage DC

Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 15 MAY

THE BUTLER

Friday Night Blues

**Big Joe Louis + Thomas
Heppell**

£17.60 | 7:45pm | 18+

wegotickets.com

SAT 16 MAY

THE BUTLER

DanFest 2026

**Harry J + Nicole Allan
+ Let It Bleed and more**

£17.50 | 3:30pm | All ages

DanFest returns: a grassroots Reading festival blending live music, comedy, and community spirit – all in aid of epilepsy charities in memory of Dan Pennicott

tickettailor.com

UOR WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS

Centenary Community Festival

**The Stretch, Mazawattee,
WolfNote, UoR Big Band &
more**

Free | 12noon | All ages

A full day of live music across two stages.

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

**Inkubus Sukkubus + 1919
+ The Go Go Cult**

£18.70 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

DanFest UK 2026 The Butler, Reading (16 May)

A grassroots festival with real purpose, DanFest returns for its third year with a full bill of live music and comedy.

Created in memory of local music lover Dan Pennicott (25), the event has grown into a key date on the Reading scene, raising over £12,000 for epilepsy charities to date.

Expect good bands, good people and a genuinely great atmosphere.

DanFest

LiveMusic ComedyActs

FingerBuffet RafflePrizes

ReikiMassages

3.30pm 'til late ♥ Tickets in advance





Lots Of
Purple Turtle, 20.04.2026
Photo: Steve Axtell

SUN 17 MAY

PURPLE TURTLE
Sunday Mourners + tbc
Free | 8pm | 18+

THE FLOWING SPRING
**Moonshine + Rotherfield
Walking Football Club
musicians + The Incredible
Spring Band + The Ding
Dong Daddios + Moonage**

Free entry but book online | 2pm
*A memorial to Dave Robinson, raising
money for Blood Cancer UK.*
theflowingspringpub.co.uk

MON 18 MAY

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

Three bands every Monday night.

WED 20 MAY

PURPLE TURTLE
Oh Hazard + tbc
Free | 8pm | 18+

FRI 22 MAY

PURPLE TURTLE
Rila's Edge + Spit the Dealer
Free | 8pm | 18+

SAT 23 MAY

RIISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
**Uneasy Easy Listening
Mike Cooper & Alan
Clayson**

£10 | 7:30pm

*For the first time ever, Mike Cooper and
Alan Clayson will be performing at the
same venue on the same night!*

PURPLE TURTLE
**The Two Man Travelling
Medicine Show + Corvid**

Free | 3pm | 18+

TOWN HALL: CONCERT HALL
The Unthanks

£36 | 7:30pm
whatsonreading.com

THE GOOD COMPANIONS
The New Highs

Free | 9pm

SUN 24 MAY

PURPLE TURTLE
**Punk Pile Up 2026
Spizz Energi +
Splodgenessabounds + The
Deckchairs + Bambees +
Vanity Rose + Brioche +
The Freudian Session**

Free | 2pm | 18+

FACE BAR
**Crazy Cowboy Festival 11
Fury, Leadfeather, Puzzle Tree,
The Dead Can Wait & more**
£38.50 | 11am | All ages
wegottickets.com

PANGBOURNE WMC
Pangbourne Jazz Club
Laurence Cottle Quartet
£15.65 | 7:30pm

*The Laurence Cottle Qt: Jim Watson
(piano), Paul Booth (sax) and Joel
Barford (drums).*
skiddle.com

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Reading
Jack Rutter

£10, U25 £5 Cash only *otd* | 8pm

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DOOPS

LOTS OF
BABY MAKER
AND MORE TBA

SUNDAY 31 MAY 3PM TO 10PM
PURPLE TURTLE READING
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ID REQUIRED

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Baby Maker
 Rising Sun Arts Centre, 27.03.2026
 Photo: Steve Axtell

MON 25 MAY

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

TUE 26 MAY

HEXAGON
Midge Ure
 £52, £49.50, £46.50, £44.50 | 7pm
whatsonreading.com

WED 27 MAY

PURPLE TURTLE
Heavy Pop
Y
 Free | 8pm | 18+

THU 28 MAY

FACE BAR
Runnin' Blue presents
The Warner E Hodges
International All Stars
+ Sarah Borges
 £19.80 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)
wegottickets.com

FRI 29 MAY

RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE
Future Transmissions
Bored Slippy + Barrelhaus
+ Belzaire
 £7.70 | 8pm | All ages
wegottickets.com

SOUTH STREET ARTS CENTRE
Heavy Pop
Fionn Regan
 £22 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)
heavypop.co.uk

SAT 30 MAY

FACE BAR
Beat: Cancer & Church of Madness
Deviant + TIRS + The Go Go
Cult + Palindrones
 £23.50, U18 £6 | 7pm
beatcancer.info

SUN 31 MAY

WATLINGTON HOUSE
Readifolk
Johnny Coppin
 £10, U25 £5 Cash only otd | 8pm

FACE BAR
Hammerdown All In
One Last Day + The Hellfire
Club + Purple Grace + tbc
 £11.50 | 7pm
eitickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE
HööF + Sundaughter + Doops
+ Lots Of + Baby Maker & more
 £10 | 3pm | 18+
Raising money for Berkshire MS Therapy Centre which supports people with multiple sclerosis (MS). With no NHS funding, they rely on the public to keep services running so get yourself a ticket.
wegottickets.com

MON 1 JUN

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

FRI 5 JUN

PROGRESS THEATRE
Jazz in Reading
Derek Nash
with the PJC Quartet
 £20.69, £18.62 (conc), £10.35 (U16)
 7:30pm
ticketsource.com/progresstheatre

SAT 6 JUN

SOUTH STREET ARTS CENTRE
Heavy Pop
Hayseed Dixie
 £28.60 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)
heavypop.co.uk

MON 8 JUN

FACE BAR
Heavy Pop
Bat Sabbath
 £23.65 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)
(Cancer Bats playing Black Sabbath)
heavypop.co.uk

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



CINEMA | EVENTS BAR | CAFÉ



FT. CERTAIN SOUND RECORD SHOP



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HEAVY POP

LIVE MUSIC

READING AND OXFORD SHOWS

Humour
+ Suspire + Fawlers
 Wed 20th May Jericho Tavern, Oxford

Y
+ Zenden Greepurp + Shock Horror
 Wed 27th May Purple Turtle, Reading **FREE ENTRY**

Fionn Regan
 Fri 29th May South St Arts Centre, Reading

Hayseed Dixie
 Sat 6th Jun Face Bar, Reading

Bat Sabbath
Cancer bats playing Black Sabbath!
 Mon 8th Jun The Face Bar, Reading



Headwreck
+ Paradise Fell
 Tue 9th Jun Face Bar, Reading

Mull Historical Society
 Wed 16th Sep 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](https://www.facebook.com/heavypop) [i](https://www.instagram.com/heavypop) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@heavypop) [y](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) [s](https://www.spotify.com/artist/heavypop) heavypoppromo

50 years of Jessica Lee Morgan

Bit of a one-off coming up that you might want to know about. Musician, songwriter and author Jessica Lee Morgan is celebrating 50 years "in life and music" with an all-star jam at The Purple Turtle on Sunday 21st June.

Apart from the seven albums of her own, Jessica is touring the UK again in September with Holy Holy – that proper David Bowie supergroup with Tony Visconti and Woody Woodmansey from The Spiders From Mars in it. (And Tony Visconti is her Dad.)

She also set up a label in 2005 to release Mary Hopkin's music DIY-style using some CDs, PayPal and a post office instead of all that record company faff. (And Mary Hopkin is her Mum.)

She has written a book, and album, called 'You Know What You Should Do?' trying to make sense of the stream of 'advice' nobody ever asks for but half of the people in the music industry

will constantly give out; even to Jessica who was essentially raised in a recording studio and who's first guitar was, apparently, a present from Joe Brown.

So... why do we care at Sound-check? Well... it's 'cos she's from round 'ere, of course!!

Jessica is Reading born and bred... went to the Abbey School... her 18th birthday party saw her Mum getting banned from The Turtle... all that kind of stuff.

So, yeah, she's played Carnegie Hall and whatever, but she has also played Club Velocity shows at the Rising Sun Arts Centre. And, despite being 'connected' up to the eyeballs, when a 50th

anniversary comes along, it's not an 'exclusive' industry affair up that London and it's not in a club in a shipping container in Hackney full of PR tossers. No. It's at The Turtle. And it's free in. They might even let her Mum in again now, I guess.

Doors open at 4pm, live music with short sets of Jessica's favourite songs played with friends, seasoned performers, band members from Those Were The Days and Holy Holy... all that, ending at 9:30pm. A proper party, going by the name of **Jesstival**.

The whole do will be live streamed, marking the launch of The GiG TV Show which is obviously not nearly as cool as Sound-checkTV so never mind that bit but it sounds like a hell of a party and we're all invited. See you there, I expect. ■



DRUMMER57

CHARLIE ALESSANDRO

For info on drum lessons, sheet music and session work, scan here!

charliealessandrodrummer57.co.uk

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VG V

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+ Toby Taylor

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SHOWS AT THE FACEBAR READING 2026

MAY 1ST - CLASS OF '79 + The Deckchairs

MAY 14TH - HELICON + LIVESTOCK

MAY 16TH - INKUBUS SUKKUBUS + 1919
The Go Go Cult

JUNE 18TH - THE MARCH VIOLETS @ The Bullingoon - Oxford
+ Flowers Of Sacrifice

JUNE 28TH - DAY RAVE III BLU PETER GRENZ
CHOCI BOB TROMBOSIS

JUNE 30TH - HEATHEN APOSTLES @ Jericho Tavern - Oxford
+ TOM WEBBER

JULY 2ND - BLACK BORDELLO + POLLY b ROSE
JULIE & THE RAGING ROMEOS

JULY 10TH - THE CHORDS UK + The Hurricanes

AUG 1ST - THE DOLLHEADS + 18 FEVERS
Xtine & TheRecklessHearts

AUG 2ND - WEBBER THE MUSICAL

SEPT 4TH - NOT A-BAND

In Association With Good Wrecking Tonight
SEPT 12TH - THE EPILEPTIC HILLBILLYS

SEPT 17TH - TV SMITH & THE BORED TEEAGERS + FRACTURED

SEPT 24TH - AIRCOOLED + POLLY b ROSE

SEPT 25TH - DISCHARGE + UNCLE PEANUT

NOV 19TH - ROSALIE CUNNINGHAM + The Electric Shakes

NOV 20TH - KING KURT + SURFIN' LUNGS

NOV 25TH - GUANA BATZ