

# soundcheck

Issue 54 | June 2026 | FREE

## Reading's FREE live music guide



# WILL MCCREA TRIO



+ live gigs for June  
+ Space Heaters Recordings

WOKINGHAM  
**Festival**  
 2026

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

**COUNTRY CHICKS** **THE OGRE TONES** **THE CRAZY WORLD OF ARTHUR BROWN**

**WHO ATE ALL THE CRAYONS** **ONE LAST DAY** **splink**

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  
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Sound-check #54



**Bone Idle**

Are You Listening? Festival, Purple Turtle, 09.05.2026

Photo: Andrew Merritt

**B**loody hot, in't it. So, you know, I don't expect much from me. I've been marinated in factor 50 and rendered useless by the sun. This is why I mostly only come out at night. There are other reasons, too – some of which are here in a big, long list!

Heads up... we're filming Ep.3 of Sound-checkTV at the Rising Sun on the 19th. This one features the

return of Doops along with My Liberal Pony and should be an absolute belter. Feel free to join us.

Before, after and during that, there's a whole world of proper gigs to get to so, you know, get yourself a ticket and get out there and catch some irreplaceable, higher value "human capital" in action.

See you out there.  
 Once it's dark. – RICH

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

Cover photos: Steve Axtell

# THE WILL MCCREA TRIO



Here at Chateaux Sound-check, we like to mix things up so this month, instead of the regular skinny indie-kids with guitars we've brought you a trio of skinny jazz-kids with a double-bass. "Jazz???" I hear some of you cry, "but I don't like that." Well keep on reading and you might be surprised.

The Will McCrea Trio are Will (keyboards), Matt (double-bass) and James (drums) and like a lot of bands these days, they have their very own Jazz Shack (their name for it). It's actually a Victorian terrace they moved into together after leaving Uni. And of course, being a band house much of the space has been taken over by instruments, and in a jazz band that means a hell of a lot of space.

Forget having a living room and furniture and welcome to the practise room. And they hope the neighbours can "see the vision".

So why jazz, Will? *"Why not jazz? Everything else is boring. I started getting into jazz because I enjoy the harmonies that are in jazz and the freedom with which you can explore these harmonies. Then when I started to play with people I realized how much fun it is to create on the spot. That's how I was hooked onto the genre I suppose."*

Words: David Conquest

Photos: Steve Axtell

They met as students at Reading Uni and after much time spent practising they formed a real-life group in 2022 that soon actually got paid for gigs.

Will: *"Yes, I met James at the big band auditions. He came along and I really enjoyed the way he played, specifically on his snare hand. His left hand was really light and soft and it was very well controlled and I was immediately hooked on that. So, I thought I've got to play with this guy. He's pretty cool and he was wearing a nice tie and nice shirt and everything."*

After a couple of years playing around Reading they released an album last year called 'Loose Leaf'. It's a gorgeous set of uplifting, fun jazz standards plus one original composition by Will called 'Sweet Georgia Walks in the Park'. But just because the music might be called a bit more sophisticated it doesn't mean the recording process is any different to the usual DIY first album.

With no money to hire a proper recording studio and engineer, they essentially commandeered a room at the university campus for an eight-hour weekend session, slapped a cheeky "recording in progress" sign on the door and hoped nobody would kick them out.

They knocked out the album in a single day, recording most of the tracks in just two or three spontaneous takes.

*"Should we talk about that?"* Too late. Their look is anything but DIY though. Sartorial elegance is a better description. In a local music scene filled with typical indie jeans and grubby t-shirts, the trio deliberately stands out by wearing vintage suits, and they have recently all acquired full dinner jackets for their evening gigs.

*"It's a nod to the golden age of jazz, but also probably quite a lot in part to James' influence. If you look at recordings of John Coltrane or any jazz group from the 50s and 60s, they're always wearing suits on stage and it looks good. Going back to the 1920s and 30s, wearing a dinner jacket or tuxedo was like the official uniform of jazz."*

A few bands try a coordinated look or even something like boiler suits, but for jazz it's almost essential, a part of the performance. The guys are well aware that dressing up smart gives them a unique look and they haven't seen any other bands their age doing it in Reading.





Playing around Reading for a few years now, they started out at the Biscuit Factory, the wonderful independent cinema in Broad Street Mall with a huge foyer that often hosts live music. It has a nice relaxed feel about it that the guys enjoyed playing in, building their confidence and sound.

Now, their favourite spot is the Milk Bar; they love it because they feel its dimly lit, cocktail-lounge atmosphere perfectly suits them, making the audience feel like they've stumbled onto a well-kept secret.

Matt: *"The venue lends itself really well to jazz because it's surrounded by those big tall buildings and it's quite an old building itself. It's just the right amount of dark we find. Intimacy goes quite well with jazz, we feel Milk is not a huge space, but when you go in there, it always feels like you're in on something. Something that not everybody knows about, but great space and we enjoy playing there."*

Their sound has naturally developed, even more so now that Matt has swapped his electric bass for a traditional double-bass. He says that the physical handling of the massive instrument has made his playing much more emotive, completely changing the band's dynamic and making them sound freer, more spontaneous and closer to the real jazz sound they're chasing.

But they're also feeling confident enough to bring in their own arrangements and compositions. A second album is in the works promising a more evolved sound. That includes a new take on the 1928 love song 'Love Me or Leave Me' which they're excited to talk about.

*"It was recorded in 1928 and initially it was quite a slow ballad love song, but it doesn't resemble the original mode at all. This arrangement we've made of this tune is actually particularly schizophrenic and*

*quite brooding. It has some very chromatic harmony in it that will spike the ears of the music lovers."*

The new album is provisionally titled Calling Dr. Jazz or Bebop Rejuvenations but there is some discussion about naming it after one of the original pieces instead. There are no vocals planned in the traditional sense but they are considering the idea of including a completely spoken-word speech about jazz as an outro. That freedom to reinvent the music is why they all love jazz so much. They all are keen to explain that underneath the genre's reputation for complexity are beautiful, timeless melodies such as from the American Songbook, like those by Gershwin and Cole Porter.



But the real magic, they argue, lies in the spontaneity. The trio loves the freedom to compose on the spot, creating a slightly chaotic, unplanned vibe that keeps them and the audience on their toes. Ultimately, they believe jazz offers a deeply satisfying mix of sophistication, the chance to be creative and just have fun.

Lastly, a surprising (to me anyway) revelation of how widely jazz has influenced other genres. Even if you don't actively listen to jazz, you are probably listening to its influence.

*"A lot of hip-hop artists sample jazz stuff. A Tribe Called Quest did a lot of jazz samples. The main bit of a lot of jazz numbers, they were quite catchy hooks. It has influenced the way that players play as well, Steely Dan of course has lots of lovely chords and it's very jazz influenced."* ■

See them in June on 21st at Milk Bar and 27th at Waterfest.

Instagram: @willmccreatrio

**DRUMMER 57**  
CHARLIE ALESSANDRO

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

[charliealessandrodrummer57.co.uk](http://charliealessandrodrummer57.co.uk)

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# OXFAM MUSIC SHOP



## Brass!

We have received a beautiful collection of tubas and other brass instruments at Oxfam Music. In gleaming condition. In the bottom left of the photo is an arrangement for brass band of John Williams' classic score for Jurassic Park. More like Jurassic Parp!

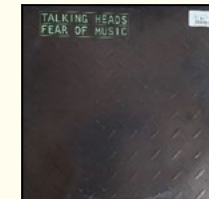
## Press!

For British music fans over a certain age, there are three weekly rituals for which there is widely shared nostalgia: Top Of The Pops, the John Peel show and the weekly music papers. We have almost every issue of *NME* from the early 80s till the late 90s plus some issues of *Sounds*. Amazing time capsules and many of the covers are potentially frameable for the wall of your boho' digs.



## Various

*Mojo Presents: Acid Drops, Spacedust & Flying Saucers*  
Speaking of nostalgia. In 2001 Mojo magazine presented this tastefully curated overview of the British Psychedelic scene. It had been done before of course. In the wake of the classics Nuggets set of mid 60s US 'garage punk' in 1972 (only two years after the end of that bejewelled decade!), there had been an endless avalanche of 2nd division 60s rock: Pebbles, Boulders, Rubble etc. This is a very handy set, everything from hits by Donovan and the Hollies to choice deep cuts by Rupert's People and Mandrake Paddle Steamer.



## Talking Heads

*Fear Of Music*  
A lovely 1979 original of one arguably the best Talking Heads album (the obvious argument would be with the following year's *Remain In Light*). The rerelease of their concert film *Stop Making Sense* a couple of years ago reminded many of us just how enduring is their appeal. The

floor of a well-known chain café opposite the pub on Broad St appears to have flooring made of the same material as this album's cover.

**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](mailto:oxfamshop3944@oxfam.org.uk)

Oxfam works with others to fight global poverty.

## OXFAM MUSIC

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

# gigguide

## MON 1 JUN

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Turtle Underground**  
**Blockade + MT Skies + tbc**  
 Free | 7:30pm | 18+  
*Three bands every Monday night.*

## WED 3 JUN

**RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE**  
*Icey Music Presents*  
**DreDreKings + Young Gstar**  
 + more tbc  
 £5.50 | 8pm | 16+ (U18 w/adult)  
*The home of Hip-Hop/R&B in Reading.*  
 wegottickets.com

## THU 4 JUN

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**The Pursuit of Pleasure**  
 + Cold July  
 Free | 8pm | 18+

## FRI 5 JUN

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

## THU 4 JUN

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**The Pursuit of Pleasure**  
 + Cold July  
 Free | 8pm | 18+

## FRI 5 JUN

**PROGRESS THEATRE**  
*Jazz in Reading*  
**Derek Nash**  
 with the PJC Quartet  
 £20.69 | 7:30pm  
 ticketsource.com

## SAT 6 JUN

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

**CASTLE TAP**  
**Skinhawk + Hollow Minds**  
 + Kem Trails  
 Free | 7pm

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

**WOODCOTE VILLAGE HALL**  
**Ducato Piotrowski Quartet**  
 £20 | 7:30pm  
 woodcotevillagehall.com

**THE TURKS**  
**Paddington**  
 Free | 9pm

## 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

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

## TUE 9 JUN

**FACE BAR**  
*Heavy Pop*  
**HEADWRECK + Paradise Fell**  
 £16.50 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U8 w/adult)  
 heavypop.co.uk

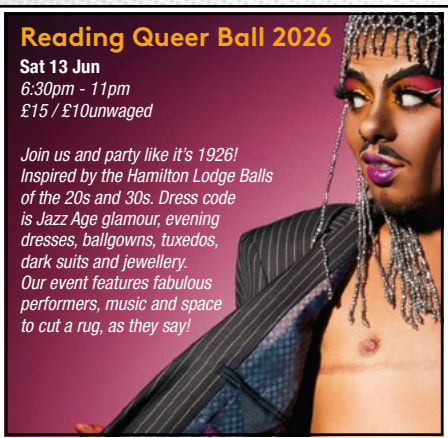
**Rising Sun Arts Centre**  
 30 Silver Street, Reading RG1 2ST  
[risingsunartscentre.org](http://risingsunartscentre.org)

**Howling @ The Moon:**  
**Reading's Biggest LGBTQ+ Cabaret**  
 Sat 6 Jun 7pm  
 £14 / £11.20NUS / £8.40unwaged



Your dose of Queer chaos from local riot grrlz Dogmouth Theatre

**Reading Queer Ball 2026**  
 Sat 13 Jun  
 6:30pm - 11pm  
 £15 / £10unwaged



Join us and party like it's 1926! Inspired by the Hamilton Lodge Balls of the 20s and 30s. Dress code is Jazz Age glamour, evening dresses, ballgowns, tuxedos, dark suits and jewellery. Our event features fabulous performers, music and space to cut a rug, as they say!

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



**PROUDLY PRESENTS**

**HAPPY 100<sup>th</sup> GIG TO US!**

**THIRD LUNG**



**RICH RAGANY**

Liam Jackson Barnes

**Katacombs**

**friday 24 JULY**



**WeGotTickets**

**Turtle UNDERGROUND**  
 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  
 MONDAY 1ST JUNE

**BLOCKADE**  
 SUPPORT TBC

**MO SKIES**  
 STRAIGHT INTO  
**CLUB RECKLESS**  
 PUNK, EMO, METAL, ROCK, 10PM TO 3AM  
 FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID REQUIRED

**Blackstar**  
 AMPLIFICATION

**THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE**  
 alt-folk, country, indie Americana (Portsmouth) @tppoband



**THURSDAY 4th JUNE**  
**COLD JULY**  
 8PM FREE ENTRY / 18+ ID Required

**HAPPY MON DAZE**  
 THE NOT HAPPY MONDAYS TRIBUTE BAND

**FRIDAY 5th JUNE**  
 8PM FREE ENTRY

**RADIO WIGWAM PRESENTS GRASSROOTS CONNECT**



**PIXELSTORM**  
**ASTEROID LILY**  
**MURMURS OF EARTH**

THE PURPLE TURTLE, READING  
 11th June 2026 7:00pm  
[www.grassrootsconnect.co.uk](http://www.grassrootsconnect.co.uk)

**shallowdaze**



with **ALTO** and **last july**  
**thurs 18th june**  
 8pm free entry / 18+ id required

**JESTIVAL**



**SUNDAY 21 JUNE**  
 Jessica Lee Morgan  
 50 years in life/music  
 Live sets with JLM & friends  
 FREE ENTRY  
 3pm-10pm

**STORM WYTC**  
**RESURRECTION**

**MARLOW**  
 GOOSE DISASTER

**WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE**  
 8PM FREE ENTRY  
 18+ ID REQUIRED




**Ding Dong Daddies**  
 Keep live and rock

**NEXT SHOW @ THE PURPLE TURTLE**



**THURSDAY 25 JUN**  
 8:30PM TO 11PM

SWING / JUMP / JIVE  
 FREE ENTRY  
 18+ / ID REQUIRED


**IN ASSOCIATION WITH RADIO WIGWAM GRASSROOTS CONNECT**



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**EMERSON**  
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THE PURPLE TURTLE, READING  
 30th June 2026 7:30pm  
[www.radiowigwam.co.uk](http://www.radiowigwam.co.uk)


**Bone-Idle**



**"Liquorice" Single Launch**

**THURSDAY 2ND JULY**  
 8PM FREE ENTRY  
 18+ ID REQUIRED

**VERDAGEARS**



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**FOR MORE INFO ON OUR EVENTS - PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM**



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

**BAR // VENUE // NIGHTCLUB - PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM**



## WED 10 JUN

HEXAGON

**Beverley Knight**

£61, £48.50, £36 | 7pm  
whatsonreading.com

## THU 11 JUN

PURPLE TURTLE

Radio Wigwam

**Pixelstorm + Asteroid Lily  
+ Murmurs of Earth**

Free | 8pm | 18+

## FRI 12 JUN

THE BISCUIT FACTORY

Please Ban Music / Certain Sound

**The Phone Call + Powdered  
Cows + Vinyl DJs**

£5 donation | 7:30pm

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB

**Cloud Studies**

**+ House Of Cats**

Free | 7pm | 18+

PURPLE TURTLE

**The Booms**

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SAT 13 JUN

THE BUTLER

Summer Soulstice '26

**Backbeat Band**

£16.50adv, £20(cash) otd | 8pm | 18+

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

wegotickets.com

OAKFORD SOCIAL CLUB

Readipop

XOX 2026

**Movement81 + Mentat +**

**Bloco Electrohed + Sophie**

**Sirota + Spryt Electra**

Free | 6:30pm | 18+

Six live electronic acts with live visuals  
from 6.30-11pm, DJs until 1am.

FACE BAR

**Stonegarden**

£14.30 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

gigantic.com

soundcheckTV

We're filming another episode  
of Sound-checkTV at the  
Rising Sun Arts Centre  
on Friday June 19th  
This time, featuring

**DOOPS**

and

**MY LIBERAL PONY**

Come and be our  
'live studio audience'!

**Doors are at 8pm**

The bar's open.



youtube.com/@soundcheckrdg

# DOWN AT THE ABBEY

AN INDEPENDENT MUSIC FESTIVAL

\*FRI 11<sup>TH</sup> + SAT 12<sup>TH</sup> SEP

Age 11+ 5pm-11pm

All ages 12:30pm-11pm

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C DUNCAN \*KATHRYN JOSEPH \*NATHAN FAKE

PAIGE KENNEDY \*ROSE REY SUNDAUGHTER

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ZIYAD AL-SAMMAN

and many more artists to be announced!



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ENGLAND**

SIREN CRAFT BREW HEAVY OP

gigantic

Reading Abbey Ruins



@downattheabbey

This is an outdoor event. Line up subject to change. Event subject to License

# urban

TATTOO REMOVAL

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Lost Velvet  
Are You Listening? Festival, Purple Turtle, 09.05.2026  
Photo: Andrew Merritt

### MON 15 JUN

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

### THU 18 JUN

PURPLE TURTLE  
**Shallowdaze + Alto Alto + Last July**  
Free | 8pm | 18+  
  
THE BUTLER  
*Shadow Promotions*  
**Cheap Dirty Horse + Tape It Shut + The Abbey Ghosts**  
£11 | 7pm | 16+ (U18 w/adult)  
wegottickets.com

### FRI 19 JUN

THE BUTLER  
**Friday Night Blues The S.H.I.T.!**  
£17.60 | 8pm | 18+  
wegottickets.com

PURPLE TURTLE  
**Rob and The Retros**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

### SAT 20 JUN

THE FLOWING SPRING  
**King Awesome**  
£15 cash/£18 online  
theflowingspringpub.co.uk

### SUN 21 JUN

WATLINGTON HOUSE  
*Readifolk*  
**Daria Kulesh**  
£10 cash *otd*, £5 (U25)  
  
PURPLE TURTLE  
*Jessica Lee Morgan presents*  
**Jesstival**  
Free | 4pm | 18+  
*Reading born and bred musician, Jessica Lee Morgan, celebrates her 50th anniversary with an all-star jam at The Purple Turtle.*

MILK  
**Will McCrae Trio**  
£5 | 8pm | 18+

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

### MON 22 JUN

PURPLE TURTLE  
**Turtle Underground**  
Free | 7:30pm | 18+  
*Three bands every Monday night.*  
WED 24 JUN

PURPLE TURTLE  
**Storwyth Resurrection + Marlow Goose Disaster**  
Free | 8pm | 18+  
WED 24 JUN

THE RETREAT  
**Jazz Singers' Night**  
Free | 8pm

### WED 24 JUN

PURPLE TURTLE  
**Stormwyth Resurrection + Marlow Goose Disaster**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

### THU 25 JUN

PURPLE TURTLE  
**The Ding Dong Daddios**  
Free | 8:30pm | 18+

# HEAVY POP

## Hayseed Dixie

Saturday 6th June  
Face Bar, Reading

## Bat Sabbath

(Cancer Bats playing Black Sabbath)

Monday 8th June  
Face Bar, Reading



## Headwreck

Tuesday 9th June  
Face Bar, Reading



## Master Peace

Thursday 25th June  
Face Bar, Reading

## The Wildhearts

Monday 10th August  
Sub89, 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 SHOWS



## Mull Historical Society

(seated)

Wednesday 16th September  
South St. Arts Centre, Reading

## Robyn Hitchcock

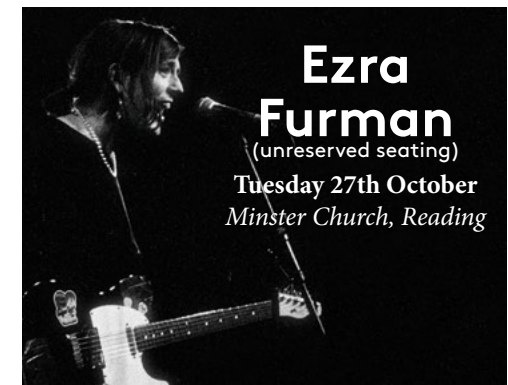
Wednesday 7th October  
South St. Arts Centre, Reading

## Pebbledash

Monday 12th October  
Face Bar, Reading

## Sea Power

Friday 23rd October  
Saint Laurence Church, Reading



## Ezra Furman

(unreserved seating)

Tuesday 27th October  
Minster Church, Reading

For full gig listings and tickets: [heavypop.co.uk](http://heavypop.co.uk)  
Contact: [info@heavypop.co.uk](mailto:info@heavypop.co.uk)  
f x @ heavypoppromo



Mordecai Smyth  
Face Bar, 10.05.2026 Photo: Andrew Merritt

## FRI 26 JUN

**RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE**  
*Future Transmissions*  
**The August List + Baby Maker + BEDD**  
£7.70 | 8pm | All ages  
wegottickets.com

**WASING ESTATE**  
**Mika + Meek**  
£26.65 | 5pm | U14s w/adult  
ticketmaster.co.uk

**HEXAGON**  
**Hawkwind + tbc**  
£48.50, £38.50, £33.50  
7pm | 16+  
*Summer festival warm-up show.*  
whatsonreading.com

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Envy**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

## SAT 27 JUN

**CASTLE TAP**  
**Flint**  
Free | 7pm

**WASING ESTATE**  
**Pixies + Gans**

£26.65 | 5pm | U14s w/adult  
ticketmaster.co.uk

**FACE BAR**  
**Rock For Ukraine**  
**Sunrise + Number of the Beef**  
**+ Apache Rose + Dirtbag**  
**+ mystery guest!**  
£10 | 2pm | 18+ after 9pm  
*This large and loud line-up are all giving their time and talent to raise a maximum amount of funds to go to The Reading Ukrainian community centre.*  
whatsonreading.com

## SUN 28 JUN

**WASING ESTATE**  
**Belle & Sebastian**  
**+ Saint Etienne**  
£26.65 | 5pm | U14s w/adult  
ticketmaster.co.uk

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

## MON 29 JUN

**PURPLE TURTLE**

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

## TUE 30 JUN

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
*Radio Wigwam*  
**Sonic Whip + Emerson**  
**+ Cheap Suits**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

## THU 2 JUL

**FACE BAR**  
*Future Transmissions*  
**Black Bordello + Polly b**  
**Rose + Juliet & The Raging**  
**Romeos**

£11 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)  
wegottickets.com

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**Bone Idle + Verdagears**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

## FRI 3 JUL

**WASING ESTATE**  
**Ben Howard + This Is The Kit**  
£26.45 | 5pm | U14s w/adult  
ticketmaster.co.uk

## SAT 4 JUL

**WASING ESTATE**  
**Self Esteem + This Is The Kit**  
£26.65 | 5pm | U14s w/adult  
ticketmaster.co.uk

## MON 6 JUL

**CASTLE TAP**  
**For Lack Of A Term**  
Free | 7pm

## FRI 10 JUL

**FACE BAR**  
*Future Transmissions*  
**The Chords UK**  
**+ The Hurricanes**  
£18.20 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)  
wegottickets.com

## UP THE JUNCTION BAR

**Karaoke!** every Tuesday 8pm-2am Free

**Saturday 13th June**  
**The A.S.B.O.s Live DJs** 10pm-2:30am Free  
**DJ Subject and Mr Marvellous** (The Hub / iLiveRadio)  
*R'n'B, Hip Hop, reggae, Bashment, Afro beats. ID required.*

**Wednesday 17th June**  
**World Cup** England v Croatia 9pm Free

**Sunday 21st June**  
**Fiddle & Fender** 8pm Free

**Friday 26th June** (Last Friday of every month)  
**Strictly Reggae** 10pm Free  
with DJ Killah Kutz

Mon	closed	
Tue - Thu	5pm - 2am	<b>231 London Rd</b> <b>Reading RG1 3NY</b> <b>18+</b>
Fri - Sat	5pm - 3am	
Sunday	5pm - 2am	

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INDEPENDENT FREEHOUSE

## THE FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE

Home-cooked food,  
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**Pickin' Lunchtime Sessions**

1st Sun of the month: American Old-Time  
3rd Sun of the month: Irish/Celtic

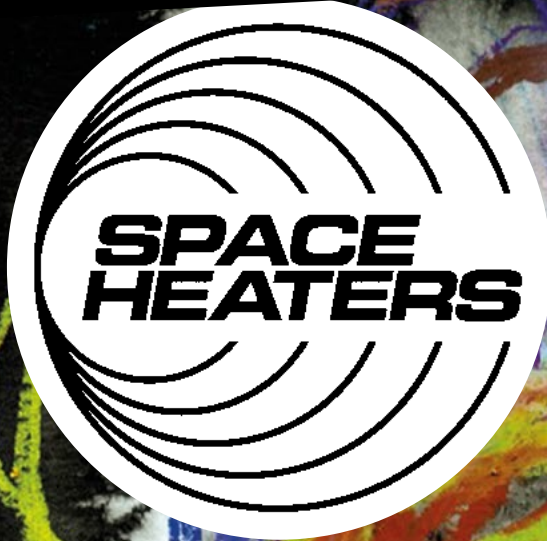
**Jazz**  
most Fridays

**Bohemian Night Open Mic**  
Every Wednesday

To book a table for your meal,  
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**VG V**

[thefishermanscottagepubreading.co.uk](http://thefishermanscottagepubreading.co.uk)



Space Heaters is a new physical and digital label grown out of a love of off-kilter music and adjacent art, honed over decades of record collecting and deejaying.

The first releases cover harmonic post-punk (Bristol legends and erstwhile This is The Kit & Rozi Plain band members, **The Liftmen**, with new 'Golden Token' LP); live long-form, avant-garde, post-rock hyphen music on tape (Reading's **\$un \$keletons**' 'DeepFriedPrincess' – performed live only once at Are You Listening? festival), and kosmiche jams from London-based **Black Knight Satellite** (Wolf People/ Green Seagull), also on tape.

What links these releases is a shared sensibility and loved orphan status. All were recorded for release before other success, life and the record industry intervened. We are delighted to be trusted to adopt and put these out, and doubly pleased to be getting radio play on 6Music, plugs from artists, DJs and labels we admire and encouraging feedback from listeners.

Next up is a sound art project from a Brussels collective concerning gentrification in rural Ireland. Why not?

Releases are currently available physically (with downloads) in Certain Sounds (Reading), Rough Trade and Astro (Bristol). Physical and digital available on Bandcamp (spaceheatersrecordings.bandcamp.com)

We are open for ideas. Invite us to your shows and share tracks on spaceheatersrecordings@gmail.com or on insta @spaceheatersrecordings.



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**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.

To advertise in Sound-check, email 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 but this very much a 'use it or lose it' affair. Buying an ad is, allegedly, really good for you.

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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Any questions, try me: rich@sound-check.co.uk

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**TRANSMISSIONS**

**SHOWS AT THE FACEBAR READING 2026**

**JUNE 18TH - THE MARCH VIOLETS** @ THE BULLINGOON - OXFORD  
+ FLOWERS OF SACRIFICE

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

**JUNE 30TH - HEATHEN APOSTLES** @ JERICHO TAVERN - OXFORD  
+ TOM WEBBER

**JULY 2ND - BLACK BORDELLO** + POLLY D ROSE  
JULIET & THE RAGING ROMEOS

**JULY 10TH - THE CHORDS UK** + THE HURRICANES

**AUG 1ST - THE DOLLHEADS** + 18 FEVERS  
XTINE & THE RECKLESS HEARTS

**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 TEENAGERS** + THE FRACTURED

**SEPT 24TH - AIRCOOLED** + POLLY D ROSE

**SEPT 25TH - DISCHARGE** + UNCLE PEANUT

**OCT 6TH - DICK VALENTINE** + BEN MARWOOD

**OCT 7TH - JIM JONES ALLSTARS**

**NOV 4TH - MILLIE MANDERS & THE SHUTUP** + BUGEYE

**NOV 19TH - ROSALIE CUNNINGHAM** + THE ELECTRIC SHAKES

**NOV 20TH - KING KURT** + SURFIN' LUNGS

**NOV 25TH - GUANA BATZ**