

# soundcheck

Issue 55 | July/August 2026 | FREE

## Reading's FREE live music guide



QUEEN OF  
BETWEEN



+ Salvador Scott



+ Wokingham Festival  
+ Live Gigs for July/August

# 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 12:00pm-11pm

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\*ANTONY SZMIEREK JOSHUA IDEHEN

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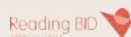
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ENGLAND**



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

Sound-check #55



The Abbey Ghosts  
The Butler, 18.06.2026  
Photo: Steve Axtell

Last month's issue will forever be known as the 'Spelling Issue'. There's often one or two mistakes in amongst the pages of Sound-check but last month's was full-on Grauniad stuff. Apologies to Will McCrear for spelling his name wrong in great big letters on the front cover, and to Steve Axtell who was devoid of his second 'l' despite us having typed his name in every issue since 2019. Takes me back to my time publishing Artrocker magazine and the great feature we did on the Super 'Fury' Animals.

Anyway, if last month was the Spelling Issue, this month is maybe the Side Hustle issue. A summer double issue for July/August (so I can calm down for a bit) featuring two acts, both of whom have some extra stuff going on beyond their own music. You'll have to read it all to find out, though. It's all good stuff.

There's plenty to get to over the summer and remember – just because the sun's still out, that's no excuse for not turning up in time for the first band.

See you there. – *Rich*

Cover photo: Andrew Merritt

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[/soundcheckrdg](https://www.instagram.com/soundcheckrdg)  
[@soundcheckrdg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



Words: RiCH Lucas  
Photos: Andrew Merritt



**F:** "All four of us come from a different musical background. We don't all have the same favourite band by any stretch. I like the heavier side of things, metal and prog, especially... you're more from the sort of grunge-y 90s era. George just listens Hip Hop now, for the most part – he used to listen to metal but doesn't really like it any more!?"

*"And Dean likes The Doors, QOTSA and has that 'classic rock' foundation"*

Now that they've been a four-piece for a while, Kirst has "relinquished control" of the songwriting and they're 100% writing together as a band which has speeded things up – George, especially is "fizzling with ideas" – so that they now have a healthy backlog of material to kick into shape.

First gig as Queen of Between was March last year and their first proper recording, 'Smoke', is out right now. Entirely self-recorded and self-produced, they've also done all of the artwork themselves although the least said about that the better probably because 'we almost broke up over it'!

'Smoke' is available to download on Bandcamp first but should be everywhere you might want it by the time you read this so go and have listen.

Coming up live, Queen Of Between are also promoting their own show at the Face Bar on Saturday 11th July along with Thrown Like Owls, Adders and Minus Human. Apparently we "see how this one goes" but, the Face Bar has been the home of heavy rock in Reading for a very long time and, since Wicked Boy promotions stopped happening, these guys are aiming to fill that hole under the name Cheeky Bitch. So, if metal/doom/sludge/even prog and all that are your game, pay attention. And turn up!

As if being a promoter as well as a band wasn't enough, these two have some other news. If you're strictly audience, this bit will be really boring but... some us might be interested to know Kirst and Faz have taken over running Pirate Studios. They were a little bit unsure about whether to mention it yet or not, though:

**F:** "I'm at a point where I'm wondering 'Am I proud enough that I want people to know yet?' because there are so many things I want to fix first. The bloody drum kits for a start."

That statement alone is a good sign, right?!

If that place ends up being run by musicians, one of whom is a dab-hand with a soldering iron and the other is an actual drummer, it could be a win for all of us. ■

I'm venturing onto the Reading Uni campus to meet these guys at Park House. For those of you who don't know, Park House is a bar in a posh old building on the campus which you're allowed in to drink cheap if you like – and which features a plaque by the front door commemorating Geoff Goddard (If you don't know, look him up.).

I'm here with Kirst and Faz who, until a year-and-a-half ago, were known as Witchmother with Faz on guitar and Kirst playing drums and singing which was "a high stress situation, as you can imagine".

After one particular show at the Face Bar a friend of theirs, George, happened to mention that he was playing guitar with someone else despite actually being a bass player. A flippant suggestion, "You could come and play bass for us." got an immediate 'Yeah, alright.' and, all of a sudden, the plan of action kind of changed. A drummer was found on one of the online Berkshire Musicians groups, in the form of Dean who 'completely fits' and new band was born.

A name change was inevitable. "People thought we'd be goth-y..." "...and kind of pagan..." "...and we aren't."

After a couple of months throwing names around, inspiration finally came from a theatre poster spotted in Bath for a show delving into the world of the mythic goddess Hecate.

Queen of Between, it is.

Apart from 'not goth-y and pagan', then, how do you describe what you do, for anyone reading this who doesn't know?

**F:** "Dark grunge, heavy rock... tinged with elements of Doom Metal... and a bit of Prog Rock as well."

**K:** "I think the thing that makes it sound different is the female vocals and the style of singing I do because I'm loud, but not particularly 'raucous'."

Kirst has form round here, you know. Did you who ever see Karn8? Yeah, that was her.



This is Salvador Scott and for this interview, we've managed to get a booth at the Alehouse! Sometimes this interviewing lark is just a reeeally slow pub crawl. Anyway...

# Salvador Scott

After six years in Nostromo, a band with mates from school that you might have seen, and now fronting Junkyard Angel, Salvador is also currently putting out solo stuff he's written over the last few years that doesn't quite fit anywhere else. Apparently, he has been listening to all three McCartney albums and Ram a lot, and it kinda shows – not just in the songwriting, but also in productivity when you find yourself 'between bands' for a minute.

Debut single **Laika Shooting Star** is currently out and available everywhere that you might expect. Three minutes of acoustic joy recorded very simply.

"I recorded it at my friend's house in April. I've got this 8-track recorder – I record all the songs on that. It's a digital one so you can do all the complicated stuff that I just sort of ignore. I recorded the guitar tracks there and then did the singing at my house. And then the dog, at the very end, is my dog."

Yeah, I did wonder about the dog.



"I brought her up to my bedroom and waved a microphone around and she wasn't doing anything. I thought, 'What can I do to make her bark? I know, I'll play a recorder!'"

"So I started blowing into this thing and she started barking – and saved the song!"

I don't know about you but I always wonder about this with acoustic stuff. A full band recording conjures up images of the band doing their thing, live or in a studio or whatever. With acoustic stuff, I find myself wondering, 'Are they in a field? In their kitchen? Trying not to wake up whoever they share a house with? What?' It turns out some of them are in their bedroom blowing a recorder at a dog! Who knew?

"I want it to sound kind of homemade, because it is. Not over produced. I'm getting more playful with the songwriting, anyway."

"When I started getting into music, I learned the guitar to write songs. I wasn't interested in playing the thing – I just wanted to write songs with it."

It used to be very Lennon, "the sad Beatle" but Salvador has lightened up a bit these days.

"Now, I don't want to take myself too seriously with the songwriting... don't want to get, like, 'drunk on my own music' or anything."

There's more to come. Two other tracks are due to drop this month – one featuring James from the Will McCrea Trio on drums. All of this is definitely a sideline while

Junkyard Angel gear up to some live plans this autumn. Make no mistake. Salvador just particularly prolific at the minute – "I've got about a hundred songs and I've got to get it out somewhere otherwise I'm just sitting on them."

As well dealing with a giant backlog of songs, Salvador has another plan. He's making a film, you know; about Reading's music scene. Tell us more!


The plan is simple. "Make a film about a local music scene which I think is underrated in the wider context of the country and, hopefully, make it in a way that is entertaining enough to spark a conversation about live music across the country. I guess."

"I see the Reading music scene as having a lot of characters and they all hang out in the same places. You'll turn up at the Turtle and see people that you know you've seen elsewhere. I noticed it when I first going to The Butler and stuff."

Our man, here, is very simply, a big fan of live music. "It's real and it's about just that moment – and you can't fake that." I can't help finding all this exciting to hear in an ever more insular, faked and filtered world – especially from someone who is too young for any of his world view to be written off as simply nostalgia.

In short, we're looking at a documentary, part presented/part more abstract Brett Morgens *Moonage Daydream*-type thing, an hour to an hour-and-a-half long and filming started properly in January this year. At the moment, it's called 'Absolutely Fantastic Stuff'. Apparently, if you're a regular at The Butler open mic nights, you'll know why.

If anyone out there can help our hero with some of that awkward distribution and 'getting it shown' stuff, look him up, eh. ■

 /salvador.island  
/junkyard.angel.25



## Josef K

*The Only Fun in Town*

1981 album from Edinburgh post punks. Great spindly guitar work and that's a cool drawing of Princes Street on the cover. BTW. We need Records and CDs! Interesting records like this have been thin on the ground recently.

Please let us know if you have records for Oxfam!



## Lal & Mike Waterson

*Bright Phoebus*

Classic British folk rock. An authentically progressive invocation of the ancient. Features a sublime version of Lal's wonderful composition "Fine Horseman".

We love finding new homes for valuable records like this and making money for Oxfam in the process. We are on the road

in July if you have donations for us to collect!

## Pixies

*Here Comes Your Man*

At the time of writing, the mighty Pixies played yesterday at the Wasing Estate near Reading! This is the original 12" of their all-time banger, "Here Comes Your Man".

We need good quality records and CDs and are hoping to source some over the summer. Please get in touch if you want us to collect your donation!



## Guitars!

Shining like a National Guitar, as someone once said. This is a beautiful replica of the famous 1959 resonator guitar with iconic metallic finish. Lovely tone for blues slide.

We can pick up larger donations from where you are in the wider Reading area in July. Please get in touch!

**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.

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email: [oxfamshop3944@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:oxfamshop3944@oxfam.org.uk)

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0118 9561598**



# gigguide

**WED 1 JUL**

**RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE**  
Artist Link Up  
Free | 7pm | All ages

Reading's premier hub for urban music, hip-hop, and R&B present live performances plus networking for rappers, singers, producers, DJs, dancers and musicians.

**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

**PROGRESS THEATRE**  
Matt Skelton presents  
**The Blackhawk Quintet**  
Celebrating Shelly Manne  
£20.69, £18.62(conc) | 7:30pm  
All ages  
ticketsource.com

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.  
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

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**The Booms**  
Free | 8pm | 18+

**SAT 4 JUL**

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

**SUN 5 JULY**

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**The Rock Academy Takeover**  
Free | 3pm -6pm  
Children must be accompanied by  
an adult

**Bone-Idle**  
"Liquorice"  
Single Launch  
**THURSDAY**  
**2ND JULY**  
with  
**VERDAGEARS / THE STRAND**  
**PURPLE TURTLE**  
**8PM FREE ENTRY**

**SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST**  
**(2PM - 11PM)**

The day will include music, poetry, comedy, food & drink, children's activities and arts & crafts

**Act Lineup:**

- Glass Half Broken
- Shallowdaze
- Nick Saxton
- Polly b Rose
- Jessica Bits
- Icky Music
- She+choir
- Dead Sea Trio
- Eleni
- Modeste
- Greg Mayston's Folk, Blues and Americana
- Louis Jacobi
- Pipe Major Ron Patterson
- Zap! Comedy & Friends
- Dreading Slam
- Primal Resonance
- Improv Comedy Group
- Pendulum Music
- Stable boys
- Neurish

**HERE COMES THE SUN FESTIVAL**

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

**the Mk II**

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

**FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 2026**  
**PURPLE TURTLE, READING**  
**FREE ENTRY 8:00-10:30PM**

Just all of the good stuff

9 Gun St, Reading RG1 2JR

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100 badges £38

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100 badges £65

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PANGBOURNE JAZZ CLUB  
 Jazz@PJC presents  
**Mark Aston, with  
 The Terry Hutchins Qrt**  
 £15.67 | 7:30pm  
 skiddle.com

**MON 6 JUL**

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

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

**THU 9 JUL**

MILK  
**Fusion 6**  
 £5.13, £3.08(NUS) | 7:30pm | 18+  
*Fusing funk, jazz, soul and Latin*

*elements: Andy Kennedy - saxes/flute,  
 Tony Imbierski - keys, Paul Wallace -  
 bass, Tony Mckenna - drums, Alison  
 Rolls - vocals.*  
 milkreading.co.uk

PURPLE TURTLE  
*Radio Wigwam*  
**Grassroots Connect  
 Two Tonne Machete + The  
 Winonas + A Dirty Soul**  
 Free | 7:30pm | 18+  
 radiowigwam.co.uk

**FRI 10 JUL**

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

PURPLE TURTLE  
**Harry J**  
 Free | 8:30pm | 18+

**SAT 11 JUL**

FACE BAR  
*Cheeky Bitch Presents*  
**Queen of Between +  
 Thrown Like Owls  
 + Adders + Minus Human**  
 £8.80 | 7pm | All ages (U14 w/adult)  
 wegottickets.com

CASTLE TAP  
**Close To The Sun**  
 Free | 7:30pm  
 Fri 17 Jul

SUB89  
*Life's A Rodeo Presents*  
**A Nashville Country Music  
 Experience**  
 £16.50 | 7pm | 18+  
 lifesarodeo.co.uk

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

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Reading's no. 1 beach-themed rock & metal party

**VANITAS**

*alotaso*

**MERCURY'S Well**

**MASQUERADER**

**MONO VOID**

**MAXWELL THE BAND**

**BOBBY MANDALA'S  
 MIDNIGHT ELITE**

**HALLORAN**

**IN MALUUM**

**PAIN ITSELF**

**SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026**  
**THE FACEBAR**  
**Ambrose Pl, READING RG1 7JE**  
**METALNOISE.NET**

TICKETS:  
 Advance: £15.00  
 Door price: £18.00

fuck generative ai

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24TH JULY TICKETS £6 7:30PM

85-91 Chatham St, Reading RG1 7DS

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE



Tape It Shut  
The Butler, 18.06.2026  
Photo: Steve Axtell

## MON 13 JUL

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

## FRI 17 JUL

**CASTLE TAP**  
*Shadow Promotions*  
Tape It Shut + Making  
Friends + Roaming In My  
Head + Waterviolet  
Free | 6:30pm

**THE BUTLER**  
Friday Night Blues:  
Chris Corcoran Band  
£11 | 7:30pm | 18+  
wegottickets.com

**PURPLE TURTLE**  
Black Market  
Free | 8pm | 18+

## SAT 18 JUL

**FACE BAR**  
*Mercury's Well presents*  
Summer Bash 8  
Vanitas + A-tota-so +  
Masquerader + monovoid  
+ Maxwelltheband + Bobby  
Mandala's Midnight Elite  
+ Halloran + In Maluum +  
Pain Itself  
£16.75 | 1pm | 18+  
*Reading's number one Beach-themed  
Rock & Metal party returns for our 8th  
Annual Incarnation*  
skiddle.com

## MON 20 JUL

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

## THU 23 JUL

**FACE BAR**  
*Stogfest Promotions*  
Do Nothing  
£15 | 7:30pm | 18+  
www.stogfest.com

**ENGLEFIELD ESTATE**  
Faithless + Leftfield  
+ Tricky  
£75.40 | 3pm | All ages (U14 w/adult)  
seetickets.com

Email listings info to [copy@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:copy@sound-check.co.uk)

ROCK, METAL, EMO, ALT CLUBNIGHT

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EVERY MONDAY NIGHT at PURPLE TURTLE READING 10.30PM TILL Close



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Purple Turtle

## THE VOID

**DJ Infamous**

21:00-02:00 every Tuesday  
£1.50 drinks 1 hour  
purpleturtlebar.com  
cellar bar / free entry 18+

DISCO HOUSE

## THE GROOVE

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TURTLE RESIDENT

### ANTONIO EL TIGRE

21:00 - 02:00

UPLIFTING STRINGS / GROOVY BASSLINES

Purple Turtle Cellar Bar  
18+ ID REQUIRED, CHALLENGE 25

## GLITCH

DJ ANTONIO EL TIGRE

### Y2K

EVERY THURSDAY

10PM - 3AM

Purple Turtle - Cellar Bar - 18+ ID Required - 18+

2 for £15 COCKTAILS ALL NIGHT

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25% OFF EVERYTHING ELSE UNTIL 9PM

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EVERY SATURDAY

## AFTER DARK

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OPEN MIDDAY - 20PM

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9th July 2026 7:30pm

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FOR MORE INFO ON OUR EVENTS VISIT PURPLETURTLEBAR.COM





2 Beer Hangover  
The Castle Tap, 01.05.2026  
Photo: Graham Martin

## FRI 24 JUL

### FACE BAR

*Runnin' Blue*

Runnin' Blue's 100th Gig

**Third Lung + Boss Caine +  
Rich Ragany + Katakomb +  
Liam Jackson Barnes**

£14.30 | 6:30pm | 14+ (U18s w/adult)

wegotickets.com

### THE BUTLER

*Glimmer Records*

**White Label + Puma Theory**

£7.21 | 7:30pm | 18+

eventbrite.com

### ENGLEFIELD ESTATE

*Heritage Live Festivals*

**Richard Ashcroft**

**+ Shed Seven + Tom**

**Meighan + The Kairos**

£75.40 | 2pm | All ages (U14 w/adult)

seetickets.com

### PURPLE TURTLE

**DV8**

Free | 8:30pm | 18+

## SAT 25 JUL

### CASTLE TAP

**Bouzouki Bellows**

Free | 6:30pm

### RAILWAY TAVERN

**2 Beer Hangover**

Free | 8pm

## SUN 26 JUL

### ENGLEFIELD ESTATE

**UB40 ft. Ali Campbell + tbc**

£50.65 | 1 pm | All ages (U14 w/adult)

seetickets.com

## FRI 31 JUL

### RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

*Future Transmissions*

**Horse Rock + Uncle Peanut**

**+ Damien A. Passmore**

£7.70 | 8pm | All ages

wegotickets.com

## SAT 1 AUG

### RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

**Tribute Night's Greatest Hits:**

**Vol.2: 2016-2026**

Suggested donation: £5 | 8pm | All ages

*It's the 20th birthday of Tribute Night at the Rising Sun! And they're marking the occasion with revisiting the artists and themes of the past 10 years.*

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

### FACE BAR

*Future Transmissions*

**The Dollheads + 18 FEVERS**

**+ Xtine and the Reckless**

**Hearts**

£11 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

wegotickets.com

## MON 3 AUG

### PURPLE TURTLE

**Turtle Underground**

Free | 7pm | 18+

Three bands, every Monday

## FRI 7 AUG

### PURPLE TURTLE

**The MkII**

Free | 8pm | 18+

## SAT 8 AUG

### RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

**Here Comes The Sun Festival**

**Glass Half Broken +**

**Shallowdaze + Nick Saxton**

**+ Polly B Rose + Dead**

**Sea Trio She+choir + Greg**

**Mayston and loads more!**

£16.50 | 2pm | All ages (U16 w/adult)

*Art, music and more as the Rising Sun opens its doors for the annual Here*

# HEAVY POP

LIVE MUSIC  
READING SHOWS



## The Wildhearts

Mon 10th Aug Sub89



## Jeffrey Lewis & The Voltage

Thu 3rd Sep Face Bar

## Mull Historical Society

(Seated)

Wed 16th Sept South St. Arts Centre

## Robyn Hitchcock

Wed 7th Oct South St. Arts Centre

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.

## Pebbledash

Mon 12th Oct Face Bar



## Sea Power

Fri 23rd October St Laurence Church

## Ezra Furman

(Unreserved seating)

Tue 27th October Minster Church

## Monster Florence

Thu 5th November Face Bar



An Evening with

## The Magic Numbers

Sat 28th November St Laurence Church

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](#) [i](#) [@](#) heavypoppromo

Comes The Sun festival – a vibrant celebration of all the things the Centre and its volunteers hold dear complete with an incredible lineup of talented musicians and performers across three stages, captivating art installations and a host of family-friendly activities.  
wegottickets.com

## SAT 8 AUG

SIP N SPIN  
**Steve Morano**  
Free | 8:30pm

## MON 10 AUG

SUB89  
*Heavy Pop*  
**The Wildhearts**  
£33 | 7:30pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)  
gigantic.com

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

## THU 13 AUG

PURPLE TURTLE  
*Radio Wigwam*  
**Grassroots Connect**  
**Tyburn Ropes + 2 Ed's**  
**+ He Fired First**  
Free | 7:30pm | 18+

## FRI 14 AUG

SUB89  
**Veridian + Mother Vulture**  
**+ InAir + Bisou Noir**  
£13.75 | 7pm | 14+ (U18 w/adult)  
*Celebrating 10 years of Veridian.*  
fatsoma.com

PROSPECT PARK  
*Soultasia:*  
**The Real Thing + Gwen**  
**Dickey + Odyssey + Loose**  
**Ends + Phil Fearon +**  
**Galaxy + tbc**  
£25.55 | 5pm | 18+  
skiddle.com

## MON 17 AUG

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

## MON 24 AUG

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

## FRI 28 AUG

CASTLE TAP  
**Horse Rock**  
Free | 6pm

## THU 3 SEP

FACE BAR  
*Heavy Pop*  
**Jeffrey Lewis & The Voltage**  
£24.20 | 7:30pm | 14+ (u18 w/adult)  
heavypop.co.uk

# 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 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  
THE KOKROACHEZ - THE OUTLIERS - THE PARADOX TWIN - THE RYMATONES  
THE STING OPERATION - TRIM



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# WIGWAM X FEST



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUPPORTING GRASSROOT MUSIC

**Saturday 5th**

**MAIN STAGE**

**Bone-Idle**



**NEON FIELDS**

**THE CERTS**

**Cold July**

**THE STRETCH**

**THIRD LUNG**

**IKARIS**

**THE JULIA SET**

**COURTYARD STAGE**

**Leon Lawler**

Ro Jordan - Caitlin Lavagna

Nina Condron - Alys Hardy

Daisy Gill - Bethia

**Sunday 6th**

**MAIN STAGE**

**THE ARISTON**

**doops**



**PALE STRANGERS**

**BLACKLIGHT**

**VICE**

**LOWER FORCES**



**COURTYARD STAGE**

**George Bone**

Tomorrow Bird - Ross Harding

Richie Pugh

Wills & The Willing

**Plus more acts to be announced**

**THE PURPLE TURTLE, READING**

All Day 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026

[www.grassrootsconnect.co.uk](http://www.grassrootsconnect.co.uk)



TICKETS



**FRI 4 SEP**

FACE BAR

Future Transmissions

**Not A Band**

£13.20 | 8pm | 14+ (U16s w/adult)

[wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

**SAT 5 SEP**

PURPLE TURTLE

Radio Wigwam

Radio Wigwam

10th Anniversary Festival

**Bone-Idle, Noen Fields,**

**Third Lung, Cold July,**

**The Certs, Doops and more**

£8 - £15 | 1pm | 18+

Join Radio Wigwam to celebrate their 10th anniversary with a two-day extravaganza of some of the finest grassroots and independent music from across the UK. Two full days and two stages of live music.

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

FACE BAR

**The Five Hundred + n0trixx**

£13.50 | 6:45pm | 18+ (14+ w/adult)

[hammerdownallin.eitickets.com](http://hammerdownallin.eitickets.com)

**FRI 11 SEP**

READING ABBEY RUINS

Heavy Pop

**Down At The Abbey 2026**

**Day 1: Nubiyah Twist +**

**Kathryn Joseph + Nathan**

**Fake + Rose Rey ...and more.**

£49.50 | 5pm | All ages (U18 w/adult)

Day 1. Early bird tickets available now.

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

**SAT 12 SEP**

FACE BAR

Good Wrecking Tonight/Future

Transmissions

**Epileptic Hillbillies + The**

**Gruffs**

£15.40 | 8pm | 14+ (U16 w/adult)

[wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

READING ABBEY RUINS

Heavy Pop

**Down At The Abbey 2026**

**Day 2: Joshua Idehen, Ibibio**

**Sound Machine, Sundaughter,**

**Paige Kennedy ...and more.**

£49.50 | 5pm | All ages (U18 w/adult)

Day 2. Early bird tickets available now.

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

**SUN 13 SEP**

WATLINGTON HOUSE

Reading

**We Mavericks**

£10, £5 U25 otd (Cash only) | 8pm

The rules:

1. Listing your gig here is free - just let us know about it.
2. Covers bands are allowed.
3. Tribute bands aren't. You lot have to buy an advert.
4. That's it.

INDEPENDENT FREEHOUSE

**THE FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE**



Home-cooked food, good beer, dogs welcome

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**

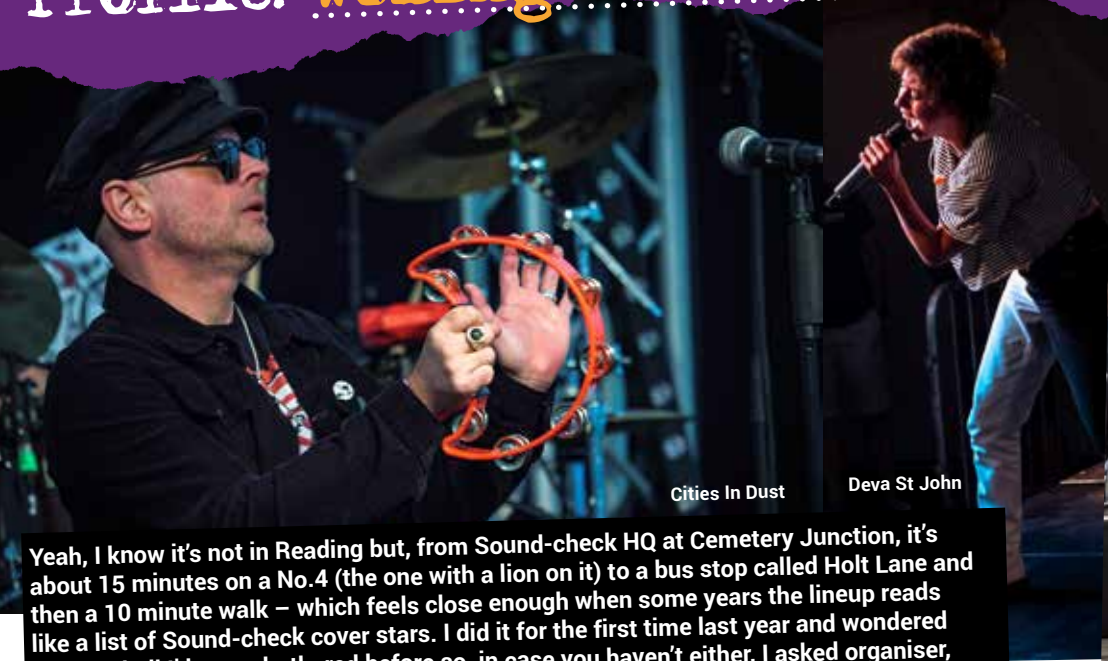
Every Wednesday

To book a table for your meal,

please call 07925 336 269

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





Cities In Dust

Deva St John



The Bluepers

Yeah, I know it's not in Reading but, from Sound-check HQ at Cemetery Junction, it's about 15 minutes on a No.4 (the one with a lion on it) to a bus stop called Holt Lane and then a 10 minute walk – which feels close enough when some years the lineup reads like a list of Sound-check cover stars. I did it for the first time last year and wondered why the hell I'd never bothered before so, in case you haven't either, I asked organiser, photographer and regular face at Reading gigs, Andy Merritt, to give us the rundown...

Wokingham Festival is an independent music festival put together by a core team of five, with the help of a small army of volunteers from the community. It has been held every August Bank Holiday weekend since 2007. [The same weekend as Reading Festival, but a better use of your time, obviously! – Rich] It has grown over the years from a council-funded Food and Drink festival into a family friendly showcase for all kinds of music.

In 2019, the event changed from a few acts on Friday night, plus Saturday and Sunday, to all day Saturday, Sunday and Monday –with Monday being primarily prog and classic rock.

In 2021, after a hiatus in 2020, the second stage was upgraded to a full-sized stage in a marquee which gave more opportunity for local original bands to appear. This is something the current organisers are very proud of; while covers and tribute acts help to bring in the casual music fan, more than 75% of the acts at this year's event are performing their own material, and 100% of the acts on the second stage.

Over the three days, this year there are 43 acts, alternating between the two stages, so there is always music to listen to.

In general, the lineup is new each year, with an informal policy of only having one or two bands

appearing in consecutive years. When it does happen, it's usually because an act that has impressed on the second stage is asked back to play the main stage the following year.

Bands from the local area on the bill this year include Reliant, Hoopy Frood, Pink Fish, The BJ Bevy, The Bluepers, Ghost Cat, The Dead Can Wait, The Paradox Twin, Cheap Suits, Belizaire, The Outliers, Silverpalm, Trim, Who Ate All the Crayons, The Dazed Minded, One Last Day, Mr Pineapple, and Mordecai Smyth. The Monday night headliners have a local claim, too; The Crazy World of Arthur Brown started his career while at Reading Uni fifty years ago!

Notable local bands that have appeared in the past include Marisa and the Moths, Selina and the Howlin Dogs, Puma Theory, Eric Street Band, John Cee Stannard, Spriggan Mist, The Steve Summers Band, Corvid, Gemma Dorsett, Never the Bride, Kyros, One Eyed Man, The Room, Third Lung, Deva St John, In Albion, Cities in Dust, Jess Tuthill, OSP, Split the Dealer, Tara Deane, AlphaLine, Elucidate, Rila's Edge, Rocket Kings, The Ariston, Grace Pounds, Jimmy the Dog, Katie Ellwood, Nicole Allan, San Demas, The Cold Blooded Hearts, White Label, Bevendene, He Fired First, Ruby Dawn, The Stretch, Verdagears.

As for the main stage, past headliners have included Dutch prog rock legends Focus, ex-Wishbone Ash bassist Martin Turner, the Tom Robinson Band, veteran prog rock band Caravan, Wille and the Bandits, and Rila's Edge.

There is a proper bar, run by the Twyford Beer Festival crew, plus cocktails, a choice selection of food stalls, and entertainment for the younger attendees.

Advance tickets are on sale now and, if you're quick enough early tickets get a discount of more than 15% on the gate price.

Dean Nelson, Festival Organiser said "Wokingham Festival has always been about bringing our community together, and 2026 is shaping up to be one of our best years yet. It's a true family event, three days of amazing live music, brilliant food and drink, and a welcoming atmosphere that everyone can enjoy. We're working hard to put together a line up packed with incredible talent from the local area and beyond, and we can't wait for people to discover new favourites, as well as enjoy the acts they already love." ■

29-31 August Bank Holiday  
Cantley Park Event Field RG40 5QQ  
More info and tickets are at: [wokinghamfestival.co.uk](http://wokinghamfestival.co.uk)

## sound-check

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.

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 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

/soundcheckreading

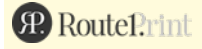
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[sound-check.co.uk](http://sound-check.co.uk)

Any questions, try me: [rich@sound-check.co.uk](mailto:rich@sound-check.co.uk)

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[FUTURE\\_TRANSMISSIONS.COM](http://FUTURE_TRANSMISSIONS.COM)

**TRANSMISSIONS**

**SHOWS AT THE FACEBAR READING 2026**

**JULY 2ND - BLACK BORDELLO** \* POLLY b ROSE  
JULIET & THE RAGING ROMEOS

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

**AUG 1ST - THE DOLLHEADS** \* 18 FEVERS  
XTIME & THE RECKLESS HEARTS

**AUG 2ND - WEBBER THE MUSICAL**

**SEPT 4TH - NOT A BAND**

**SEPT 12TH - THE EPILEPTIC HILLBILLIES** \* IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOD WRECKING TONIGHT  
THE GRUFFS  
CAZ & THE TRAITORS

**SEPT 17TH - TV SMITH & THE BORED TEEAGERS** \* FRACTURED

**SEPT 24TH - AIRCOOLED** \* POLLY b ROSE

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

**SEPT 27TH - DAY RAVE IV** LAB 4 / TIM SAMSARA  
JUNO LEIGH / TASHA KP

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

**OCT 7TH - JIM JONES ALLSTARS**

**OCT 9TH - BON GIOVI**

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

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

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

**NOV 25TH - GUANA BATZ** \* PLANET STRANGE

**NOV 27TH - SCOTT LAVENE** @JERICHO TAVERN - OXFORD