

# THE RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE

MAY - AUGUST 2017



**READING'S INDEPENDENT ART SPACE**

LIVE EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & CLASSES, PROJECTS & PARTICIPATION



## ABOUT US

We are an independent arts centre firmly rooted in the community. The centre has brought groundbreaking, high-quality arts to the town for 25 years. We have a strong commitment to making participation work and to making the centre as inclusive as possible.

The Rising Sun Arts Centre is a registered charity governed by a board of trustees and has two part-time paid workers. Volunteers do all the core work of the centre and it survives on the basis of earned income with occasional funding for specific projects.

## GET INVOLVED

The Rising Sun is run by a team of courageous volunteers who are responsible for all of the centre's core work and sustain it with vision and skill. Be a part of something awesome. Email us at [info@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk)

## OUR HISTORY

The Rising Sun Temperance Tavern was built in 1877 among the then massed ranks of pubs and other houses of ill-repute on Silver Street. It was built to the design of Alfred Waterhouse (also responsible for the far grander Natural History Museum in London) and is now listed as a Grade II building by English Heritage. After some years spent as a shop, the building eventually fell out of use and into disrepair, when it was squatted by artists in 1990. The group founded The Rising Sun Arts Centre, which opened its doors in 1991 and gained official charity status in 1997. It has been at the heart of Reading's cultural life ever since.



Check out our website

**[WWW.RISINGSUNARTSCENTRE.ORG](http://WWW.RISINGSUNARTSCENTRE.ORG)**

Like us on facebook

**[FACEBOOK.COM/RISINGSUNARTSCENTRE](https://FACEBOOK.COM/RISINGSUNARTSCENTRE)**

Follow us on twitter

**[@RISINGSUNARTS](https://@RISINGSUNARTS)**

But most importantly...visit us!

**30 SILVER STREET, READING, RG1 2ST**



In 2016 we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> birthday but what you may not know is that last year we also received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This prestigious award is the highest that can be given to local volunteer groups in the UK and recognises the outstanding and continued work we do in our community.

## RIVER OF CREATIVITY

Saturday 8 July

Broad Street, Reading

A new project bringing a River of Creativity featuring music, dance, theatre, a procession of fish and a huge Spanish galleon floating down a fabric river to Broad Street in Reading town centre.

All are welcome to come and help. We will be meeting on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings throughout May and June to build the boat and the fabric river. There will also be other opportunities to create shoals of fish and a dance project for anyone interested to perform in the waves. The River will be accompanied by live music and will end with a short piece of theatre for children based on *Tales from the Riverbank*. Dance workshop times tbc but do get in touch if you are interested in taking part in any aspect of the project. Contact Larry at [info@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk)

The River of Creativity will be in Broad Street on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of July and is funded by Reading Business Improvement District (BID) as part of the 2017 ARENA programme of Reading town centre arts and cultural events.



## HERE COMES THE SUN FESTIVAL

Saturday 12 August

11am - 11pm £7 / under 14s go free

Now in its eighth year, The Rising Sun's annual summer festival returns on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Described by one happy attendee as "like a mini-Woodstock", each year the festival highlights some of the best music from Reading and from further afield, along with participatory activities for both children and adults of all ages and abilities. The event has the ambience of a festival with the homely feel of a very large house party. Look out for more details on our website, Facebook and Twitter as we approach the big day.



CREATIVITY

PARTICIPATION

KNOWLEDGE

## MONDAY

SOLO JAZZ  
&  
CHARLESTON

7.15 - 8.30pm £5

A fun and informal weekly class guiding you through a series of jazz strolls and choreographed routines, led by Reading Swing Jam. Great for both complete newbies and those already familiar with partnered swing dances.

BACHATA  
&  
KIZOMBA

7.30 - 8.15pm: Kizomba / 8.15 - 9pm: Bachata / 9 - 10pm: Social Dancing

£5 for one class / £8 both classes and social dancing / £3 social dancing only

Bachata is a sensual and romantic Latin dance from the Dominican Republic. Kizomba, along with Salsa and Bachata is now one of the most popular genres of dance and music. See Facebook for more information.

BALBOA  
MONDAYS

8.30 - 9.10pm: Balboa Beginners / 9.20 - 10pm: Balboa Improvers £5

A weekly Balboa class covering all of the main Balboa figures as well as ample technique and styling to get you social dancing. Balboa is a partner dance from the 1920s and 1930s for swing dance music. After each class there is social dancing. Contact us at [balboamondays@gmail.com](mailto:balboamondays@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook.

## WEDNESDAY

## LA RUEDA

7.30pm : Beginners 9pm: Intermediates £6

Cuban Casino style salsa in the wheel – danced by multiple couples passing on partners, fast and fun, and great way to learn to salsa. Beginners' class is always free but phone Larry to say you are coming - 07765599433.

## THURSDAY

ARGENTINE  
TANGO

From 7.30pm £6

The most elegant dance in the world, Argentine Tango is not like other dances. It relies on the ability of the dancers to connect through the dance and create a shared, improvised experience. The steps are easy – the skill is in creating a close and sensitive connection with your partner. For more info, call Larry on 07765 599433.

## MILONGA SIMPATICA

Sunday 16 July

Starts 4.30pm Entry £6

A Sunday afternoon/early evening opportunity to dance tango in a friendly environment, with live music from Tango Select. Very relaxed, great company. Very simpatico.

## FIESTA LATINA

Saturday 24 June

Starts 9pm Entry £6

Relaxed and friendly Latin party with salsa, tango, bachata, meringue, milonga and more.





## READ COLLEGE

Sunday 28 May

Doors: 7.30pm Performance: 8pm

Entry is free but we ask for a donation to the charity for what people feel the show was worth!

Following on from their 2015 award for Best Young Performer at Reading Fringe Festival, and 2 highly successful years here at the Rising Sun, the UK's leading Performing Arts Foundation College presents yet another brand new comedy show! 4 weeks, 10 actors, zero scripts... come and find out what happens next!

## CLASSICAL FOR CHARITY

Saturday 6 May

Starts 1pm

Entry £3

Enjoy a series of hour-long classical and jazz concerts performed by local musicians and hosted by local pianist and piano teacher Maija Varvatsis. They take place every two months and the proceeds are divided equally between The Rising Sun Arts Centre and a chosen Berkshire charity.



## BALBOA TEA DANCE

Sunday 14 May 2 - 6pm £10

Come and join us at The Rising Sun Arts Centre for a charity swing dance, raising money towards the restoration of this listed building.

Arrive at 2pm for a free Balboa taster session – no dance experience necessary – before homemade cakes and tea will be served while our swing DJs provide the dance music from 2.30pm. Dress to impress or come casual. Why not support this event by donating a cake for reduced entry fee (pre-registering essential)? £10 entry on the door gets you entry for the taster class and all the tea and cake you can eat!

Contact [balboamondays@gmail.com](mailto:balboamondays@gmail.com) or search for “Balboa Mondays” on Facebook for more details.





## BLACKHEART ORCHESTRA

Friday 2 June

Starts 8pm      Entry £8

The Blackheart Orchestra are award-winning British songwriters, composers and multi-instrumentalists Chrissy Mostyn & Richard Pilkington. The band blend musical styles in a non-conformist way seamlessly sidestepping boundaries to create their unique, highly individual, emotion-drenched music.

Combining fragility and pulsing electronica, The Blackheart Orchestra's experimental approach combines acoustic instrumental dexterity and 80s synthesisers with classical composition. Often mistaken for an 8-piece band on first listen, The Blackheart Orchestra can be found on stage with a multitude of instruments as they continuously change from electric and acoustic guitars, bowed guitar, piano, bass and electronic percussion to vintage synthesisers, omnichord and melodica.

## TRIBUTE NIGHT

Doors: 8pm      Performance: 8.30pm

Free Entry (donations welcome)

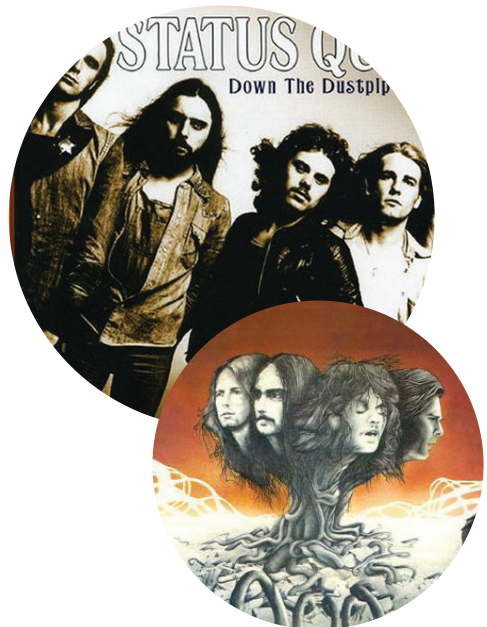
### Status Quo Tribute Night

Friday 5 May

Formed in the mid-1960s from members of the bands The Spectres and The Highlifes, the 'Quo' had early success with the psychedelic pop of Pictures Of Matchstick Men, but soon jettisoned that sound for hard rock boogie, becoming one of the UK's most enduring bands by sticking to a winning formula for six decades. Sadly, co-frontman Rick Parfitt was one of the many high profile musical heroes to be claimed by 2016's scythe-happy culture cull. But we were going to do a Quo night eventually anyway...

### Friday 4 August

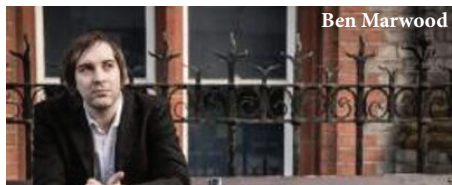
The subject of each Tribute Night is a closely guarded secret, revealed only at the end of the previous Tribute Night. To be among the first to discover the subject of August's event, you will have to attend the Status Quo Tribute Night in May!



**CLUB VELOCITY**

Last Friday every month\*

Doors: 8pm Performance: 8.30pm

For full details and tickets visit [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)**26 MAY****THE AUGUST LIST / ED LOFSTEDT  
/ JONATHAN AMPHLETT & THE  
HOME COUNTIES BAND****30 JUNE****PINK DIAMOND REVUE /  
CODY NOON / DEERFUL****28 JULY****DRAW THE SHADES /  
WOLFS / ROVES****BANDORAMA**

Third Saturday every month\*

Doors: 8pm Performance: 8.30pm

For full details and tickets visit [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)**20 MAY****PINK DIAMOND REVUE / HERE  
ARE THE YOUNG MEN AND UNCLE  
PEANUT****17 JUNE****THE DERELLAS / RAGE DC / NOT  
FIT FOR HUMANS****15 JULY****BEN MARWOOD / QUIET QUIET  
BAND / DAMIEN A PASSMORE &  
THE LOVEABLE FRAUDSTERS****BIG UNTIDY NIGHT OUT**

Second Friday every month\*

Doors: 7.30pm Performance: 8pm

Entry £5

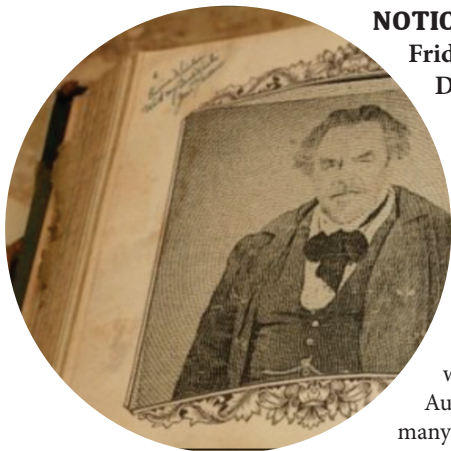
The Big Untidy Night Out is one of our regular programme events and specialises in bringing new and unusual talent into the Rising Sun Arts Centre. Singers, songwriters, poets, punk outfits, ambient experimentalists, sensational cellists and demonic banjo-players...the possibilities are endless.

**12 MAY****GRANT SHARKEY / WOLFNOTE  
PLUS MORE ACTS TBC****9 JUNE****BARON MARE / HEAD OF STEAM  
PLUS MORE ACTS TBC****14 JULY****ACTS TBC**

For the most up to date information find us on facebook - [facebook.com/BigUntidy](http://facebook.com/BigUntidy)



\*there will be no event in August

**NOTIONAL THEATRE PRESENTS WELL-THUMBED****Friday 23 June****Doors: 7.30pm Performance: 8pm Entry £6**

There is a generation that still remembers the erotic education and salacious thrills to be had in the well-thumbed pages of respectable libraries; the promises and temptations of dirty words and suggestive passages that then-young readers found irresistible. And now there's a new generation that needs to be pointed in the right direction...

Well Thumbed (and well out of copyright) is one man's gentle yet irredeemably prurient thumbing through those well-used pages of literature, including words from Aesop and Austen, Doyle and Dickens, Shakespeare and de Sade and many, many more.

**MADCAP MOONSOUP****Friday 7 July****Starts 7.30pm Entry £4**

Madcap Moonsoup bring you another evening of unpredictable mayhem and surreal goings on. Every Madcap Moonsoup event is a mix of artistically adventurous performers, comedians, musicians and mimes who combine to create an explosion of comedic possibilities.

**SCARLET VIXENS****Saturday 6 May****Doors: 8pm Entry £12**

The Scarlet Vixens are back at their original home, The Rising Sun Arts Centre, with a show not to be missed! This time they're bringing you a night of heroes and villains. Check our website for more details. Line up currently includes Lady Lisette Ruby, Layla Cherry, Mojo Jones and your host Miss Kitty Pimms. Tickets in advance are £8 or £12 on the door. The VIP package is £17 and includes a glass of fizz on arrival and a guaranteed front row seat with table and nibbles.



**READING  
FRINGE**

**READING FRINGE FESTIVAL****Friday 21 July / Saturday 22 July / Sunday 23 July**

From the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2017, Reading will be host to a whole lot of theatre with a sprinkling of comedy, music, film and art for good measure! The Rising Sun Arts Centre will specifically be hosting a mix of theatre and comedy events across the weekend. Please check our website for full details.



**B.ALIVE.ART :  
LIFE DRAWING WORKSHOP**  
Every Tuesday from 7pm-9.30pm  
£7/£6 concessions

Draw from a model in a relaxed setting. Please bring your own materials and if possible a board to lean on.



Drawing by Tanisha Walker

## **DJEMBE DRUMMING CLASS**

Every Wednesday  
7.30 - 9pm £5

Hands of Rhythm is a well-established Djembe hand-drumming class, led by drum teacher Abdul Davies from Gambia. Learn basic African rhythms and technique. New people can join any time. Drums available. All abilities welcome.



## **'MY WORD' POETRY**

### **POETRY WRITING AND PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP**

Second Thursday every month  
11 May / 8 June / 13 July / 10 August  
6.30pm £3

Creative writing and performance workshops. Opportunities to write, share and perform. All that is required of participants is to bring a pen, notebook and their creativity!

### **CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY DISCUSSION**

First Thursday every month  
4 May / 1 June / 6 July / 3 August  
7 - 8.30pm Free Entry

The latest in the series of discussions hosted by 'UK Caribbean' where local artistes discuss forthcoming arts projects, share ideas, talk about forms of Caribbean art, music and dance as well as upcoming events. For more information contact helloukc@gmail.com

### **BOOKFACE BOOKCLUB**

Second Saturday every month  
13 May / 10 June / 8 July / 5 August  
\*nb the August date is the first Saturday  
10am-12pm £4

This is a group for book lovers and makers. Monthly meetings vary with different workshops and talks as well as providing a space to make things mostly of the book variety!

### **OPEN PAGE/OPEN STAGE**

25 June / 27 August  
7 - 10pm

A monthly collaborative event for writers, artists, musicians, and everyone in between! The premise is an extension of the traditional 'open mic', however the focus is on words and collaboration. We want people to come and showcase their art in a safe and comfortable environment, with the aid of the Arts Centre's beautiful acoustics and architecture.

If you're an artist, bring your work early on so we can hang it around. If you write - poetry, prose, songs, plays - bring a piece or an excerpt. Actors - come and practice for auditions! Some writers lack the confidence to read themselves, so the idea is to have a standby 'cast' for pieces with shy voices. If you play an instrument, bring it along! Think of the evening as a cross-creative spectrum jam night. The aim is to build people's confidence and create something new! And just to meet the brilliant people we might not otherwise know about.



## THE MOVE UP PROJECT

Monday to Thursday

9.30am – 3.30pm

Four days of creative, learning activities for people with learning disabilities, including arts and crafts, music, drama, publishing and much more. Participants plan, coordinate and market their own programme and are involved in running the project. Call Larry 07765599433 for info on availability of places and costs.

## ART SPACE: OPEN ART STUDIO

7 May / 4 June / 2 July / 6 Aug

1 - 4pm

Free Entry

Come to this informal and social session to create your own artwork. No tutor, no pressure, bring your own materials. There will be opportunities to see what other people are doing and discuss ideas.



## THE STEP UP PROJECT

is a training project which is currently running training for people with learning disabilities in community consultation. The group is working with a variety of voluntary organisations to run consultation projects to gain experience and is happy to meet with community and voluntary groups to discuss projects.

## ZAP COMEDY

Every Tuesday

4.30 – 5.30pm

Comedy writing and performance for people with learning disabilities. The Zap group write comedy and perform at various events and festivals etc. New members welcome. Call Larry on 0118 9866788.



## FINCHIES BAR

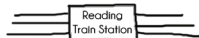
Alternate Tuesdays

7 - 9pm

Finchies is an evening cafe bar currently happening every other Tuesday which is run by people with learning disabilities. Finchies is open to all and provides a safe and relaxed environment where people can meet friends, socialise and chat.

# QUICK GLANCE EVENT LISTING

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## CONTACT US

**Address:** Rising Sun Arts Centre,  
30 Silver Street, Reading, RG1 2ST  
**Telephone:** 0118 986 6788

**Website:** [www.risingsunartscentre.org](http://www.risingsunartscentre.org)  
**Email:** [info@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk)  
**Twitter:** @RisingSunArts  
**Facebook:** TheRisingSunArtsCentre

## WANT TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

**Email:** [info@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk)  
**Call Larry:** 0118 986 6788

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

**Subscribe:** [mailing@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk](mailto:mailing@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk)

## PROGRAMMING ENQUIRIES

**Email:** [programming@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk](mailto:programming@risingsun-artscentre.co.uk)

A big thank you to all our amazing volunteers who make all these events happen!  
Information correct at time of printing. Check the website for up to date information.  
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Map and layout by Jaz Meader.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



## YELLOW TEAPOT CAFE

Second and last Saturday of every month

1 - 3pm

A family-friendly volunteer run cafe, showcasing local artists' work as well as interesting books to browse, delicious homemade cakes and exotic teas to sample. Surely not to be missed! Find us on facebook for more information.

