

Monday 12 October

7.30pm • Oranges for Justice + Film Screening

Meet Dani from Oranges for Justice, one of the Refill Shop's suppliers. Dani will introduce the UK-based Community Interest Company, which imports ethically sourced oranges from Calabria in Italy, while supporting marginalised migrant workers and a fairer food system. The talk will be followed by a screening of *The Pickers*, a hopeful film about the people and movements working towards a fairer, more humane food system. Hosted by: **RISC and BIG** (British Islamic Gardens), RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS • ♿ • **Free** • Zainab.events@risc.org.uk

Wednesday 14 October

7.30pm • Gaza: How The Media Manufactured Consent

To examine the relationship between Western foreign policy and the media, our speaker is **Hamza Yusuf**, a British-Palestinian writer and journalist. Drawing on his research and experience, he will explore how the media frames events in Gaza, patterns of biased reporting, and how these can shape public consent for policies with profound political and humanitarian impact. Hamza is an investigative journalist at Declassified UK, with work also published in Middle East Eye, The National & more. **RISC**, 35-39 London St. RG1 4PS. • ♿ • **Free** • Fifi.events@risc.org.uk

Friday 16 October + Weekend

Friday: 10am-2pm • Weekend: 10am-4pm • Global Flavours at the Sanctuary Café Every Friday and Weekend during the Festival

Celebrate global flavours at Sanctuary Café, where food brings people together. Pop in on Fridays and weekends throughout the festival to enjoy delicious dishes inspired by cuisines from around the world. **Refugee Support Group**, Sanctuary Café, 35-39 London St. RG1 4PS. • Sorcha.sorcha@rrsg.org.uk

Monday 19 October

7.30pm • Cuba: Solidarity, Not Sanctions

Join us for a solidarity event with the people of Cuba. For over six decades, Cuba has faced sanctions that continue to affect daily life across the country. **Rob Miller**, Director of **Cuba Solidarity Campaign** will explore the impact of recent additional sanctions and their effects on healthcare, education, and wider society. Book and solidarity stalls will be available throughout the event. **RISC**, 35-39 London St. RG1 4PS • Fifi.events@risc.org.uk



Wednesday 21 October

7.15pm • Gaza – A War on Healthcare with Prof. Nick Maynard.

"What I have witnessed in Gaza is unspeakably wrong, unspeakably evil." Join us for a vital eye-witness account with Professor Nick Maynard about the Gaza healthcare system under attack. Please register here: <https://eastberkshirepsc.uk/upcoming-events/> **East Berkshire PSC**, RISC, 35-39 London St, Reading RG1 4PS • ♿ • **Free** • Josie Fear, 07712147431



Thursday 22 October

8pm • Manding Melody featuring Habib Koité & Sura Susso

Think of the ground breaking collaboration "Ali & Toumani" between Ali Farka Touré and Toumani Diabaté as a departure point, then add singers, balafon, percussion and bass to glimpse the splendour of "Manding Melody." **Produced by African Night Fever**. 21 South Street, Reading, RG1 4QU • ♿ • Tickets £ 22.50 to book <https://whatsonreading.com/book/768002>

Friday 23 October + Weekend

From 10am • Global Flavours at the Sanctuary Café
See Friday 16 October

Saturday 24 October

6pm From Gaza: A Personal Story of Survival

A powerful photographic exhibition documenting life in Gaza through the lens of Gaza-born photographer **Ahmed Abu Aisha**. Hear Ahmed speak about his experiences, enjoy Palestinian food and Tatreez (embroidery), and view his extraordinary work. **Refugee Support Group**, RISC, 35-39 London St. RG1 4PS • ♿ • **Free** • Tickets by registration, head to www.rrsg.org.uk

Monday 26th October

7.30pm • AI Goes To War

Tech companies, arms dealers, and governments are using artificial intelligence to build new high-tech weapons that can kill without human control. Learn more with Sophie Radice and Andy Bailey from the United Nations Association UK. Hosted by **Reading Peace Group**, RISC, 35-39 London St. RG1 4PS • ♿ • **Free** • [Peter facebook.com/ReadingPeaceGroup](https://www.facebook.com/ReadingPeaceGroup)

Wednesday 28 October

12noon • Half Term Event – Create, Explore, Connect

Join us for a family-friendly event exploring creativity, sustainability, and our connection to the world around us. Enjoy hands-on crafts, discover simple ways to live more sustainably and learn about the work of the RISC Education Team. There will be an opportunity to visit our roof garden as well! Come along, get inspired, and help us build a more sustainable future together. Everyone is welcome! **RISC Education Team**, 35-39 London St. RG1 4PS • **Free** • Leah.leah@risc.org.uk

7pm • Climate Risks to Reading's TwinTown in Nicaragua

Exploring potential climate change impacts in San Francisco Libre, Reading's twin town in Nicaragua, through climate model projections and residents' experiences of drier, hotter and more unpredictable conditions. **Reading San Francisco Libre Association**, Department of Meteorology, Brian Hoskins Building, Whiteknights Road, Earley Gate, Reading, RG6 6ET • ♿ • **Free** Paul Starkey 07834 638550



7.45pm • Shades of Blue

De Saussure climbed Mt Blanc in 1787 and investigated the change in sky blueness with altitude. His results will be compared with digital camera data taken during a short ski holiday. **Austrian Alpine Club (UK)**, RISC, Hall, 35-39 London St, Reading RG1 4PS • ♿ • **Free** • Jan on 0757 6261318 (text only)

Friday 30 October

7.30pm • Solidarity with Palestine: Talks, Stalls & Live Music

Join us to hear the latest news from two guest speakers representing Palestinian artisans and producers. Enjoy live music and browse **fair trade** Palestinian products, including handcrafted embroidery from Hebron, olive oil, soaps, zaatar and more. **RISC**, 35-39 London St, Reading RG1 4PS • ♿ • **Free** • Zainab.events@risc.org.uk

From 10am • Global Flavours at the Sanctuary Café
See Friday 16 October

Friday 6 November

7pm • Sound System Veterans 2026 – Reggae Collective Friday

Reality Shock Records and CultureMix Arts present a night of uplifting roots and culture courtesy of reggae sound system selectors, djs, singers and hosts. The event highlights live PA's from some of the UK's best reggae artists. Resident DJ Rueben Irie meets guest sounds all hosted by **Reggae General**. **CultureMix Arts & Music Centre**, 7 Queens Walk, Reading RG1 7QF • £5 tickets: <https://culturemixarts.co.uk/product/reggae-collective-fridays-tickets/>

From 10am - Global Flavours at the Sanctuary Café
See Friday 16 October

Saturday 7 November

7pm • The Universal Groove Festival; Local Voices, Global Rhythm

Refugee Support Group, in partnership with World Groove, presents an evening celebrating the universal language of music. Bringing communities together through unforgettable performances from talented local artists, including those from refugee backgrounds. Bar will be available. **Refugee Support Group**. RISC, 35-39 London St. RG1 4PS. • ♿ • £7 Tickets available on the door and www.rrsg.org.uk. • Info: fundraising@rrsg.org.uk

Exhibitions

10-11 October

The Secret Life of Things. An exhibition of sculpture by Andre Aghassi

The Rising Sun Arts Centre 11am-5pm

Andre is an Iranian Artist living in Reading, his work draws on Persian history and artistic traditions. This exhibition explores how everyday objects and the materials from which they are made can be transformed through art and carry stories of history, culture, traditions and customs from different peoples and parts of the world. **Opening event 5pm-7pm Saturday 10 Oct.** All welcome. **The Rising Sun Arts Centre, 30 Silver St. Reading RG1 2ST** • ♿ • **Free** • Larry Watson 0776 559 9433

17-18 October

Exhibition of work by Ahmad Alazami

The Rising Sun Arts Centre 11am-8pm

An exhibition of oil paintings by local artist Ahmad Alazami. This curated collection showcases Ahmad's explorations in storytelling exploring the rhythms of affection and peace including incredible paintings of his home city of Damascus in Syria. Ahmad invites viewers into a space of contemplation and emotional resonance.

Opening event 5pm- 7pm Saturday 17th Oct. All welcome.

The Rising Sun Arts Centre,

30 Silver St. Reading RG1 2ST • ♿ • **Free** • Larry Watson 0776 559 9433

Everything we can dream can be real.

Pablo Picasso



Reading International Development Forum

The forum aims to celebrate Reading's diverse communities and action groups. The programme highlights the many international activities, twinning links and solidarity in Reading. The theme highlighted this is:

Together, We Imagine, Together, We Act

We act to:

- Live in peace, free from division, conflict and violence
- Protect people from displacement, land theft, war, environmental and climate injustice
- Build food systems that uphold food sovereignty and protect biodiversity
- Defend all human rights and dignity of every person
- Create an economy that serves the people and planet.

The festival includes **Black History Month** events

If your organisation is planning an event with an international perspective, contact events@risc.org.uk for information, about criteria and dates. All participating groups are included free and all help to distribute the leaflets throughout Reading.



Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

Martin Luther King Junior – born 1929, assassinated 1968

Reading International Festival 2026

10 Oct-08 Nov



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