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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

READIPOP ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

A summary of Readipop's
work from April 2022
to March 2023



LIVES • MUSIC CHANGING LIVES • MUSIC CHANG

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**MUSIC
CHANGING
LIVES**

About Us

This year, Readipop turns 25! First established in 1998, we are a specialist music and arts charity. Our projects aim to bring communities together through the shared experience of making and enjoying music. Readipop offers specialist music provision for a wide range of people and partners, including those experiencing complex social issues.

With investment from a range of national funders, including Youth Music and Arts Council England, Readipop has developed its offer to meet local needs. We provide studios, open-access workshops, community projects and an annual music festival. Our projects engage over a thousand regular participants, including aspiring artists and those just discovering their interest in music.

MUSIC CHANGING LIVES

- Create work that inspires people and improves lives.
- Nurture creativity as a vital part of a fulfilled life.
- Connect people through a shared love of music.



Who We Are

Our projects are led by the people we work with; young people, artists and the community. Through our sessions, we help build confidence and develop opportunities for the people we work with. Our projects are inclusive, involving musicians of varying skill levels, while celebrating both social and musical diversity.

Creativity is at the heart of Readipop, from our annual music festival, to music education in schools and 1:1 sessions. We listen and help people discover their life paths, as well as their musical talent. Readipop targets the places where the need is greatest in Reading and the Thames Valley. When planning new projects and programmes, we prioritise the needs of marginalised people and those facing barriers or hardship in our local community.

Music Changing Lives is our mission and this appears in many different ways. We host weekly music sessions for community bands, run youth clubs or 1:1 studio sessions for a young person to develop skills and confidence.

A message from Chris Bloomfield, Readipop Chair:

"As you can see from the following programme summaries, Readipop has had another exciting and productive year. During this year we have managed to come back with energy and determination following the Covid pandemic and organised a memorable Readipop Festival that featured many of the young people that have attended our programmed activities. Our Staff Team has been strengthened by the arrival of Molly Banbury and Eva Rowlatt, and along with the rest of the team (Gavin Lombos, Amy Hodder, Louise Godfrey, Abbie Hill and Harrison Screen) has undertaken excellent work day in and day out. The Management Board are rightly proud of Readipop's achievements and thrilled that so many local people benefit from the joy that music brings to their lives."

"I CANNOT EXPRESS HOW MUCH READIPOP HAVE HELPED US. THEY WERE THE ONLY SUPPORT THAT DIDN'T GIVE UP ON MY CHILD, THEIR APPROACH IS WHAT IS NEEDED MORE"



**“THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME I’VE
FELT FULLY
COMFORTABLE
IN WHAT I’M
DOING ”**

A Year at Readipop

This post-pandemic year began with a diary packed full of 1:1 referral music sessions, RISER meetings, community band rehearsals, and Festival planning. Eva joined the team as a full-time member, working as the Music Coordinator for Readipop. Our time was spent developing the skills of the young people we were already working with, and making space to include even more!

Summer came with some last-minute drama courtesy of the Sugarhill Gang, however this was quickly sorted by having Grandmaster Flash step in to headline the Saturday of Readipop Festival 2022. He also signed a pair of turntables for our new XOX electronic music heritage project. The sun was out, the site was filled and the team were busy keeping the festival running! We also hosted our first festival 'AAA Takeover' with local young people performing to the festival crowds.

September launched us back into the school term and more referral sessions. Readipop offered our stage, back line, and Studio Technician to Reading Pride and ran the Pride aLive stage! With the start of the school year came lots of team CPD (Continuous Professional Development) from ukulele and djembe to DJ skills.

The main highlight of Autumn was learning that we'd retained our status as a National Portfolio Organisation of the Arts Council England for another three years. This was celebrated in the office with the team and trustees of Readipop.

In December, thankfully we were able to have our AGM and Hootenanny in person for the first time since 2019. It featured live performances from our young people, community bands, and RISER artists, as well as the introduction of Molly joining the team as our Festival Producer for Readipop Festival 2023.

We had another busy February half term thanks to the Princes' Trust "Get Started With Music" Programme. From which the majority of participants then joined our AAA Friday Youth Club and still come to this day!

For a satisfying end to the year, Readipop held a 303 event on the 3rd of March at South Street Arts Centre in celebration of the Roland TB-303. Headlined by Saytek Live, we had synth enthusiasts join us for a night of live electronic music using original Roland Synths.

OUR FUNDERS

7



"I'M ONLY MAKING MUSIC NOW BECAUSE OF READIPOP"

Readipop's work is supported by a large number of funding partners whose contributions are invaluable to the charity and enable us to change more lives through music. We want to extend our thanks to the following organisations who helped us in the 2022- 2023 financial year:



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Andrew
Lloyd Webber
Foundation



BBC
Children
in Need



**BERKSHIRE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

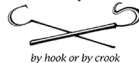


THE Blgrave TRUST
Supporting young people



**CHRIS BEVINGTON
FOUNDATION**

The Earley Charity



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

**PROUD TO SUPPORT
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Reading
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*Saint
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**YOUTH
MUSIC**



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Readipop Programmes 2022-2023

Readipop projects are always evolving based on the need in the local area and 2022 to 2023 was no different. This year we were looking to make our projects even more accessible to participants following the various COVID-19 lockdowns. With some being entirely open access, and others specifically targeted for what is necessary in the area, here's an overview of the projects we ran between 2022 and 2023.

‘AAA’ - ACCESS ALL AREAS

Readipop’s AAA (Access All Areas) programme brings together a number of projects designed to engage and support young people and their music.



MUSIC BASED MENTORING

Working with young people referred to us from places including pupil referral units, the young offenders service, schools specialising in special educational needs students and other children’s services. These 1:1 Music sessions provide young people with a safe space to be creative and learn skills, from guitar to music production and rapping, all with an experienced music leader. The sessions aim to grow confidence and awaken opportunities.



OPEN ACCESS SESSIONS

A weekly, term-time evening workshop allowing young musicians to work together in live band workshops, music production and/or studio work.



IN THE MIX

Working with young musicians from the Amersham Road (and surrounding areas) at the Weller Centre, Caversham on Monday afternoons.



GET STARTED WITH MUSIC

In partnership with The Prince’s Trust, this is a one-week intensive music project for young people aged 16-25 who are NEET (not in education, employment or training).

**“AN INTERESTING,
INNOVATIVE TAKE ON
GAINING CONFIDENCE,
SELF-BELIEF AND
SELF-WORTH. YOU HAVE
TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT”**



ARTS AWARDS

Arts Awards are a set of qualifications ranging from exploratory and creative early learning, up to AS level equivalent. Readipop helps hundreds complete Arts Awards across schools and within our provision.



FAMILY JAM

A family music session for kids and adults to experience and learn to play together. Held on the first Saturday of every month at Readipop Studios.



PRIMARY SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

A variety of engaging, creative workshops for schools, from half-day taster workshops to regular projects enabling children to learn new instruments.

Community Bands

Lead by experienced, professional musicians who create a fun and sociable space in which to make and play music together. Readipop's community band sessions are open to beginners and the more experienced players.



XOX Music Heritage Project



XOX is an electronic music heritage project lead by Readipop, and built around a collection of classic beatboxes, synths, FX and more. XOX brings workshops to schools and colleges as well as creating the XOX lab at Readipop Studios where musicians can access the instruments to make and record new music.

Readipop Festival

Readipop festival is a homegrown, charity festival run by Readipop, for three days by the river Thames. Platforming local Berkshire-based artists and bands alongside big name headliners such as Grandmaster Flash. All the proceeds from the festival go back into the charity so that we can continue our work within the community.



RISER



RISER is a not for profit, ethical music label for new music and artists run by Readipop. Readipop supports musicians at a critical stage in their career development to manage initial releases and build an audience so that the artists can focus on the creative process.

310 HOURS OF 1:1 MUSIC BASED
MENTORING **12** NEW RELEASES
ON RISER **14** LIVE PERFORMANCES
FROM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE **85**
YOUTH CLUB SESSIONS **1** 3-DAY
FESTIVAL WITH **5248** ATTENDEES
2 NEW FULL-TIME MEMBERS OF
THE TEAM **2094** CUPS OF TEA
DRUNK **9** FAMILY JAM SESSIONS
531 PODCAST DOWNLOADS **5**
MUSIC MEET-UPS **1** IN-PERSON
HOOTENANNY!



8546 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

facebook.com/readipop | facebook.com/readipopfestival



4713 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

[@readipopcharity](https://instagram.com/readipopcharity) | [@readipopfestival](https://instagram.com/readipopfestival) | [@riser_music](https://instagram.com/riser_music)



3542 TWITTER FOLLOWERS

[@readipop](https://twitter.com/readipop)



936 YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS

[@readipop](https://youtube.com/readipop) | [@riser5026](https://youtube.com/riser5026)



138 LINKEDIN CONNECTIONS

uk.linkedin.com/company/readipop-limited



46 SOUNDCLOUD SUBSCRIBERS

soundcloud.com/readipop | soundcloud.com/riser-uk



28 TIKTOK FOLLOWERS

[@readipop0](https://tiktok.com/@readipop0) | [@readipopfestival](https://tiktok.com/@readipopfestival)



13 SPOTIFY SUBSCRIBERS

open.spotify.com/user/readipop

INCOME

Grants & Donations:	£229,280
Charitable Activities:	£186,689
Investment Income:	£59
Other Income:	£710
Total Income:	£416,738

EXPENDITURE

Raising Funds:	£1,673
Charitable Activities:	£421,925
Total Expenditure:	£423,598

ASSETS

Fixed Assets:	£316,088
Net Assets:	£212,058

CHARITY FUNDS

Restricted Funds:	£136,804
Unrestricted Funds:	£75,254
Total Charity Funds:	£212,058

Readipop wants to give thanks to everyone who attended, performed, participated, collaborated, supported, lead, or had any other involvement with our events and projects, or donated to the charity. We can only do what we do through grants and donations and donations don't go unnoticed.

To find out more about our work,
become a friend or to kindly
donate, please visit:
<https://www.readipop.co.uk/>





**“READIPOP IS PRETTY
COOL OUT OF 10”**

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