

# Pop

with Andrew Boyd

# Daffs burst through

THE After Dark Club looks set for a blooming brilliant weekend, kicking off tonight with the New Fast Automatic Daffodils.

The Mancunian melody-makers make a welcome return to Reading after their warm reception last year.

Tonight's show is part of a 14-date tour to promote their well-received second album *Body Exit Mind*.

The band's sound is an indie/dance noise which wisely kept its distance from the Manchester "baggy" beat.

Singer Andy Spearpoint said: "If your music is genuinely difficult to categorise, it creates marketing problems."

"But that's part of our incentive — that it doesn't sound like other people."

The New FADS formed in 1988, rising three years later to a Top 50 placing with their ironically-titled debut album *Pigeonhole*.

That year saw them support the Charlatans and the Wonder Stuff and play a slot at the Reading Festival.

Last year they returned to prominence in great shape, so it's looking good



▶ **HAPPY RETURNS** the New Fast Atomic Daffodils

for tonight.

Tomorrow night, meanwhile, the Big Five burst into town.

The band, who play a hybrid of ska, dance and reggae, take their name from the classic album by Jamaican star Prince Buster, with whom they have recorded an album to be released in the spring.

Vocals are supplied by songwriters Nick Welsh, bassist in the Selector and Bad Manners, and Jennie B, from the Belle Stars.

The line-up includes the legendary Jamaican trombonist Rico, who has worked with the Specials and Paul Young.

A five-track mini-album hits the shops next month.

## Bands play for free

BIG-HEARTED bands play for free at a 12-hour charity gig in Reading tomorrow.

The line-up at the Royal Berkshire Hospital Club in Craven Road includes Rock Bottom, Feyd and Junction 13. It's a noon start (tickets £5) and proceeds go to East Reading Adventure Playground Association.

## Live!

### FRIDAY

Crazy Jane at the Phoenix Plaza, Wokingham.  
Feyd at the Three Bs Bar, the Old Town Hall.  
Fatal Error at the Granby Tavern.  
New Fast Automatic Daffodils, with support from Hug, at the After Dark Club.  
The Cranberries at the Old Trout, Windsor.

### SATURDAY

Blueboy, with support from Even As We Speak at the Rising Sun Institute, Silver Street.  
Asylum warm up for their national tour at the Alley Cat Complex, Hadsall Road.  
Manic Mind Circus and Rock Bottom among a host of bands in a charity marathon at the Royal Berkshire Hospital Club, Craven Road.  
The Big Five at the After Dark Club.  
The City Hipsters at the Granby Tavern.  
Solid funk night at Bukowski's, Gun Street.

### SUNDAY

Welsh punk band Anhrefn play a return leg at the Purple Turtle, London Street, to wind up their UK tour. Support from CuckooLand.

### MONDAY

Front Line Assembly, CNN and Terminal Power Co at the Old Trout.  
Orange Tree and Mother Junk at the Purple Turtle.

### TUESDAY

Graham Hewlett's High Society Jazz Band at MacDevitt's, South Street.  
Eighties disco at the Granby Tavern.

### WEDNESDAY

Mark Tait Band at the Three Bs Bar.  
John Orway at the Purple Turtle.  
High Spirits and support at the Granby Tavern.

### THURSDAY

Use Your Loafers night, featuring jazz and rare groove, at Bukowski's.  
Marie at the Granby Tavern.

# Going out

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PERFORMANCES for FRIDAY 29th JANUARY to THURSDAY 4th FEBRUARY

**DRACULA (18)**  
2HR52MINS  
Fri & Sat: 12.30, 1.30, 3.30, 4.15, 6.25, 7.00, 9.15, 9.50, 12.00, 12.30 Midnight  
Sun-Thurs: 12.30, 1.30, 3.30, 4.15, 6.25, 7.00, 9.15, 9.50

**SOFT TOP HARD SHOULDER (15)**  
1HR 45MINS  
Fri & Sat: 12.50, 2.55, 5.10, 7.15, 9.30, 11.40 Midnight  
Sun-Thurs: 12.50, 2.55, 5.10, 7.15, 9.30

**DEEP COVER (18)**  
1HR 58MINS  
Fri: 2.45, 5.05, 7.40, 10.20, 12.45 Midnight  
Sat: 5.05, 7.40, 10.20  
Sun, Mon, Wed, Thurs: 2.45, 5.05, 7.40, 10.20  
Tues: 2.45, 5.05, 10.20

**THE BODYGUARD (15)**  
2HR52MINS  
Fri & Sat: 12.45, 3.40, 6.35, 9.35, 12.20 Midnight  
Sun-Thurs: 12.45, 3.40, 6.35, 9.35

**CHAPLIN (12)**  
2HR57MINS  
Fri-Thurs: 2.30, 5.30, 8.45

**SINGLES (12)**  
1HR 51MINS  
Fri: 2.30, 4.55, 7.30, 9.45, 12.25 Midnight  
Sat: 12.00, 2.30, 4.55, 7.30, 9.45  
Mon-Thurs: 2.30, 4.55, 7.30, 9.45

**A FEW GOOD MEN (15)**  
2HR52MINS  
Fri & Sat: 12.15, 3.10, 6.05, 9.00, 12.10 Midnight  
Sun-Thurs: 12.15, 3.10, 6.05, 9.00

**THE MUPPETS CHRISTMAS CAROL (U)**  
1HR 40MINS  
Sat & Sun: 12.00, 2.15

**HOME ALONE 2 (PG)**  
2HR52MINS  
Fri-Thurs: 1.30, 4.20, 7.00

**DEATH BECOMES HER (PG)**  
1HR 55MINS  
Fri & Sat: 10.00, 12.40 Midnight  
Sun-Thurs: 10.00

**SISTER ACT (PG)**  
1HR 58MINS  
Fri: 2.15, 4.40, 7.25, 10.05  
Sat & Sun: 4.40, 7.25, 10.05  
Mon-Thurs: 2.15, 4.40, 7.25, 10.05

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (U)**  
2HR52MINS  
Sat & Sun: 12.15, 2.30

**SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SINGLE WHITE FEMALE (18)**  
2HR52MINS  
Fri & Sat: 11.45 Midnight

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1 Kevin Costner  
Whitney Houston  
**THE BODYGUARD (15)**  
Progs 1.50, 4.35, 7.40

2 **SINGLES (12)**  
Progs 2.35, 5.40, 8.10

3 **DEEP COVER (18)**  
Progs 2.35, 5.20, 8.05

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