

THE OFFICIAL
TANSADS NEWSLETTER

NEW
MUSICAL
EXPRESS

Spells like mean fillet
those crap NIRVANA puns
- a complete guide

FOUR
WHEEL?
THE
TANSADS



Je me pramene



STREET CORNER LIFE
- a new slant



ODDS & SAIDS

Starting the newsletter on an upbeat set of notes, here's a big list of apologies.

MRS KETTLE

The interview will have to be held over until the next edition.

PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMS

Aunty Jean's problem page has also been held over to next time - so hold that angst for the time being.

MORECAMBE AND PRESTON

Apologies to anyone who travelled to either of these gigs. Both cancellations were unavoidable - Morecambe for personal reasons, Preston because John had a stupid accident and had to lie down for a week - hopefully both gigs will be re-scheduled.

JANET - has complained that the personality round up in the last issue didn't make her interesting enough. At the time we didn't want to mention her startlingly realistic impersonation of Noddy Holder, but it was bound to come out sooner or later.



PHOTO BY STUMP

EVERYONE

Sorry for the delay in getting this out to you. Things appear to be taking off here at Tansads Towers, and we are busy, busy, busy. If anyone has a few hours to spare, we're willing to buy them off you.

HURRAY

Big Cheers, and many thanks go out to ;

ST HELENS COUNCIL

Given that The Tansads are Rock 'n' Roll desperadoes to a person, with an uncompromising political stance, that is a fine synthesis of naive pre-purge Situationism with the basic tenets of Social Anarchism, dedicated to the overthrow of all repressive regimes and their capitalist running dog lackeys (with the exception of the major record company offering the largest advance and highest royalty rate), we, The Tansads, have decided that, come the revolution, when the decadent imperialist scum and their jobsworth minions are up against the wall, an amnesty will be granted to all members and employees of St Helens Council. You may be asking Why? And, in a sentence considerably shorter than the previous one, we shall explain. The brothers and sisters of vision and integrity that form St Helens Council have sufficient belief in the Tansads to support the band financially. In addition, we have the invaluable and expert services of their Community Music worker Dave Evans - who is effectively the current co-manager of the band. Of course, the plan is that should the band live up to the predictions made of it, then we in turn will offer help and support to bands/projects in St Helens.

You may also be thinking that The Tansads are a Wigan band - what help have you had from your own council? To date, we can thank them for a letter threatening fines of £4000 per fly-poster, and a phone call threatening legal action if we didn't immediately remove placards that would obscure the view motorists would have of any 4 year old child vaulting over the railings to throw themselves under cars. The Tansads say "Thanks a lot".

Quite a bit has happened since we started typing the newsletter right at the end of February - which is why it's taken until now to get it together.

THE SINGLE: Well yes, erm, OK, we have had slight problems in this department, like what record company is going to put it out. Favourites at the minute are Musidisc, the label that put out The Levellers first album. We are deep in negotiations with them, and it looks as though the contract will be signed within the next couple of weeks. This will mean that there should be a single out at the end of June, with another single in September, and an album in October. Or at least that's the plan. What will probably emerge is a triple live concept album sometime in August. We're pretty pleased at the prospect, because it should also see a re-release of Shandyland which is apparently very difficult to get hold of at the minute due to there not being many left. The album should also be released worldwide so that we are desperately hoping that we will be able to retire to a Caribbean island and sup pina colodas all week. We know that we have promised to keep the faith with our Northern roots, but that was when we didn't have any money whatsoever and we were lying through our teeth. Still, we will have copies of the Wigan Reporter and The Evening Post air mailed out to us. The Tansads - absolutely no different from any other lying bastards - and then we wake up.

GIGS

Well we didn't get either of the tour supports we were looking for (Levellers and The Beautiful South) so we say Bastards!!

Put down those pina colodas and leave your Caribbean islands and come back to the real world - Oh, and have a bath before you do. Apart from those minor disappointments, we are pleased that we have been offered three of the Heineken Big Top concerts.

These are free gigs that travel around the country and put on some rather decent bands. At the minute we don't know who we'll be playing with, but have been put down for Sheffield, Preston and Swansea. We are also reasonably excited about playing Glastonbury. We are planning a proper tour for July, but there should be another newsletter out well before then - and then we wake up.

TRAVEL: We know that lots of you make it to as many gigs as you can, and that some of you want to make it to gigs but you can't because you haven't got a car, and we know that sometimes there are spare places in those cars that do come to our gigs. So, if you are prepared to share your car with others, please write in and let us know, and if you are looking for lifts, please let us know, and we'll try to put you together. Please note that we will not accept responsibility for non-payment of petrol money, cleaning out of vomit, or any other problems that arise because we are the Tansads and we don't care about the interior decor of motor vehicles.

MAY

15th: RIPON - COLLEGE OF H.E.

23rd: HEBDEN BRIDGE - TRADES CLUB

28th: CHESTERFIELD - ARTS CENTRE

JUNE

3rd: MORECAMBE - THE EMPIRE

5th: LIVERPOOL - THE PICKET

25th: CAMBRIDGE - ANGLIA POLY
(MAY BALL)

WEEKEND 26/27/28 GLASTONBURY AND
ST. HELENS (Dates to be confirmed)

JULY

11th: SHEFFIELD - HEINEKEN BIG TOP.

17th: MILTON KEYNES
WOUGHTON CENTRE (T.B.C.)

22nd: BUCKLEY - TIVOLI

23th: CONWAY - FESTIVAL

25th: MACCLESFIELD - Venue (T.B.C.)

26th: PRESTON - HEINEKEN BIG TOP

AUGUST

7th: SWANSEA - HEINEKEN BIG TOP

Please make sure that you check the press to see that the gigs are still on.

FEB 15th: WIGAN - MILL AT THE PIER

Thanks for all the heart attacks - 28 advance tickets the week before - 700 on the night and people turned away again. There's a lesson in here for us all. Having filled the place 4 times now we are wondering when we get our picture up in the entrance along with such luminaries as Charlie Williams, The Houghton Weavers and The Wigan Youth Jazz Snorchestra. A belting gig as they say.

FEB 20th: MANCHESTER THE BUZZ CLUB

A strange thing. The Tansads do an acoustic set as support to comedian Bob Dillinger who does a routine as a support to an electric set by The Tansads, but the most incomprehensible thing of the evening were the two Italian students who wandered in looking for Manchester airport and ended up doing an impersonation of two drunken Polish sailors - no we didn't understand it either.

FEB 22nd: ALL OVER THE PLACE

Starting the day in a studio in Liverpool everything stops at tea-time for a mad dash down the M62 for a gig in Widnes. A bit of a surprising - 50 people there in November - 300 tonight and the band get besieged in the dressing room - Widnes we love you. After the gig it's everything back into the big red van and back to Liverpool until 7 in the morning on Monday when people have to go back to work - the mad bad world of Rock and Roll, all lazing around on Carribean islands with the odd stadium gig thrown in to keep us in pina colodas and then you wake up when the boss shouts at you.

FEB 28th - MARCH 1st A STUDIO IN BURY

Three days in the sort of place that minor local government officials will retire to in the event of a nuclear attack, nothing for it but to play pool, play pool and play pool. When the novelty of playing pool wears off Ed and John make up a game called who can jump the highest. John loses by injuring his back badly enough to have to lie down for a week. Producer, Philip Tennant may have worked with people like The Levellers, Waterboys, Cure, Dexy's and some other people you may just have

heard of, but he's never worked with a guitarist who uses a keyboard stand as a zimmer frame. The Tansads - Rock and Roll animals to the max.

MAR 10th: BOLTON CROWN AND CUSHION

A good gig is overshadowed by Shrub's decision to leave. He realised that the band was taking up too much of his time and that he wasn't able to do any of his own music. He has already been doing some recording under the name of SKINNY MIRACLES keep a look out for it. Actually, it's a band tradition that we have an argument when we play Bolton.

MAR 12th: NEWCASTLE - UNIVERSITY

Not the best gig the Tansads have ever done. This is what it's all about. 4 hours in a refrigerated van up to the gig. Headline band Half Man, Half Bastard don't bother turning up until the last minute, so we get no soundcheck so the sound engineer decides to eat a pizza through our set, the band sound as though they have lived off curried eggs for a year and a half and have only just risked going to the toilet - a legendary gig, and the first time we haven't been offered a re-booking in over a year.

MAR 13th: LONDON - MEAN FIDDLER

If it's Friday the 13th, it must be London. So here we are as support to Johnathon Richman. The coach turns out to be the charabanc from Hell. While liggig backstage, John tells an American bloke that he's heard the Johnathon Richman is a bit of a weird fellow like. Johnathon Richman goes off in a huff. The Tansads - Rock and Roll diplomats. London - you are the Rock and Roll capital of the Universe - we always love it when we play London Yeahhh. Back soon.

MAR 19th: MANCHESTER - UNIVERSITY

Heart attack city again. At 10 to 9 there were three people in the room, and most of those were members of the band. By show time 40 minutes later the room was packed, and lots of money was made for the very wonderful Hunt saboteurs. The Tansads - a social conscience on 18 legs.

PRAM HEIRS

C'mon, c'mon. We don't have a great deal of time here.

THE TANSADS are household names in their native north west (Wigan, in case you're filling in a wall chart or something), regularly selling out venues that a whole posse of media darlings couldn't half fill and generally bringing truth, beauty and rumness to millions with their salty humour and robustly eloquent celebrations of life in their home town.

"We recently played in London and some bigwig said to us that we were great but that we were too entertaining. How can you be too entertaining?" Tansads' generalissimo John Kettle looks bemused over his bitter. The Tansads are a motley nonet (that's nine-piece, Ned's fans!) some of whom are on the dole, some of whom are in local government and one of whom (bass player Ed Jones) is pop columnist of *The Wigan Reporter*.

With musical strands as diverse as their personnel, The Tansads, named after a legendary pram, now stand on the cusp of a stardom that will radiate far from the St Helen's Citadel and Liverpool Poly.

"Whatever kind of person you're interested in, you can find one to relate to in The Tansads," remarks John. "Dog-on-a-string types, sex objects, trendies, people who look like policemen

The Tansads' debut album 'Shandyland', a mix of punkish urban folk and dogged fun, has already garnered praise and followers far and wide. A new EP in the spring will hopefully carry the word further.

"We aren't a celebration of Wigan. We aren't cloth caps and whippets, but we are proud of where we're from. And we would like to be a success for the people round here."

Stuart Maconie

PICTURE: PETER WALSH



The Top Tannies (clockwise from left): Dom, Bug, Cudo, Ed, Bob, Janet, Andrew, John and Shrub

TURN ONS

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | LEAVE THEM ALL BEHIND..... | Fide (Creation) |
| 2 | GENERATION TERRORISTS (LP)..... | Manic Street Preachers (Sony) |
| 3 | SEVEN (LP)..... | James (Fontana) |
| 4 | DRAGGING ME DOWN..... | Inspirational Carpets (Mute) |
| 5 | GALLON DRUNK (LP)..... | Gallon Drunk (Clawfish) |
| 6 | LOVER LOVER LOVER..... | Ian McCulloch (east-west) |
| 7 | SHEELA-NA-GIG..... | PJ Harvey (Too Pure) |
| 8 | DREAM COME TRUE..... | Brand New Heavies (Irr) |
| 9 | WHERE'S ME JUMPER..... | Sultans Of Ping FC (Rhythm King) |
| 10 | NO FISH SHOP PARKING (LP)..... | Jacob's Mouse (Bitching Idiot) |

What's going On the NME stereo

ODDS & SADS

THE POP STARS BIT

A good few people have written in asking what music the Tansads listen to. So, to save me writing out the same things time after time (being the lazy get that I am), and in true Smash Hits style, all the band members were asked, not just about their favourite 2 bands, but also what was their favourite colour - the excitement of it all.

MEMBER	FAVOURITE 2 BANDS	FAVOURITE COLOUR
John	The Jam & Roy Harper	Red and Green (seldom seen)
Bob	Bob Marley & Bob Dylan	Purple
Andrew	Indigo Girls & Pink Floyd	Green
Bug	Funkadelic & Husker Du	Black
Ed	The Jam & The Chameleons	Turquoise
Cudo	Pink Floyd & Pink Floyd	Matt Black
Dom	Chumbawumba & Bernard Wrigley	Green
Janet	Kate Bush & Phil Collins	Green

Just so that they didn't feel left out, some of the crew were also asked

Terry	Pink Floyd & The Tansads	Black
Simon	The Smiths & The Jam	Green
Steve	The Jam & The Police	Blue
Damian	Neil Young & The Doors	Blacks

Just like Jeremy Beadle, with The Tansads you too can be the stars; the following being the top 10 favourite bands of those of you who have written in ;

1. The Levellers
2. The Beautiful South
3. Billy Bragg
4. James
5. The Smiths
6. The Sundays
7. Deacon Blue
8. The Waterboys
9. The Stone Roses
10. The Oyster Band.

STUDENTS

If the address we have is your term time address, please let us know when you change back to your home address. Licking several hundred stamps can only be considered worthwhile if the letters actually get to someone. The Tansads, the band that has a nasty gummy taste in its mouth.

THANKS

To everyone who has written in, please be patient if you don't get a reply straight away. There's a lot going on at the minute, and although those members of the band who have jobs are giving them up to be full time Tansads, those of us who do all the donkey work in order to be able to hang about with the band still have to get up early in the morning to earn the money to pay the taxes to kick start the economy, to make this country great again, or at least to be able to get the round in so that the band let us hang around with them. Oh, and the person who wrote in from Lancaster Uni on the lovely black paper with the gold ink, I couldn't decipher your signature!

COMPLETISTS

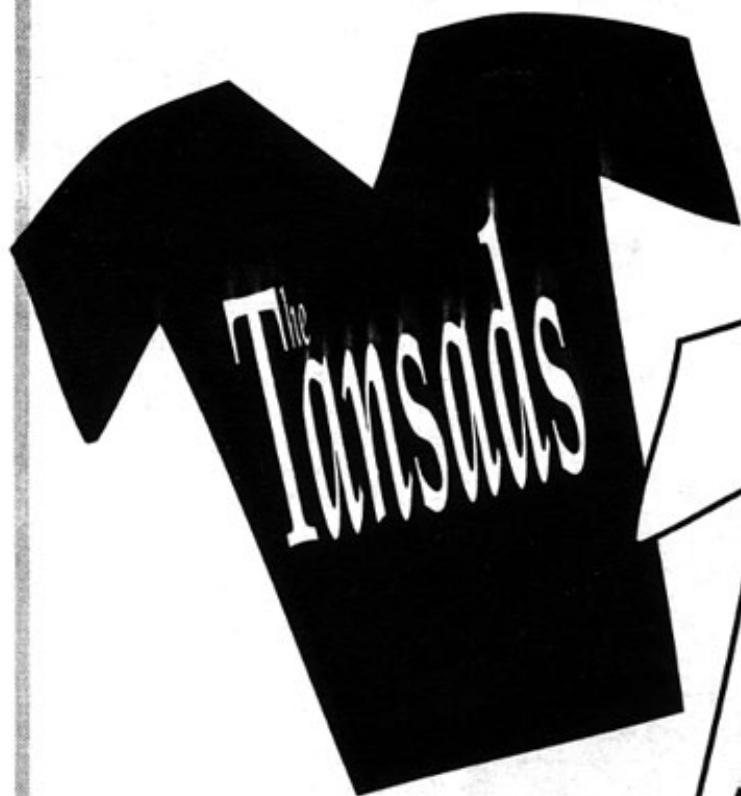
For those of you who just have to have everything, keep an eye open for a compilation tape to be released soon featuring demos first played on Radio Lancashire's excellent (some would say bodacious) On The Wire programme. The Tansads track included is "Fit To Drop", and was first broadcast nearly two years ago. On The Wire goes out on Sundays on Radio Lancashire between 2pm and 5pm, and is thoroughly recommended. The band owe many debts of thanks gratitude and platitude to Fenny, who hosts the demo bit in the middle, and can best be described a a good egg. Other than that, The Tansads have contributed a version of "Right On" to a compilation album called IDEA Coincidentally the IDEA album also contains a track by a band called Volunteers that included John and Bug. Volunteers recorded a mini album called Bladder of Life which was released on Village Records in 1989. They also contributed a track to a compilation album called Vonitza made up of bands that played the One in Twelve club in Bradford during 1989. Bug was also the drummer for a band called Dixie Cartoon who contributed one track to a compilation album of St. Helens bands. The album, called "Elegance, Charm and Deadly Danger" also featured a track by some band called The La's.

NEXT ISSUE

That Mrs Kettle interview in full - what's it like to share your house with the Kettle Brothers Three. Plus - lots more turgid drivel that no one in their right mind would want to read - Don't miss it. And remember, no-one would want to buy it, so we give it away for free. (BUT any donations of stamps will be gratefully received)

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