

# tansads

...NEWS...

Hi Everybody,

I thought it was time to update you all on the latest developments especially as we have exciting news on the new Merry Hell project and I hope this new format will be easier on the eye than just a long e-mail.

Firstly, quite a few people have been emailing in asking about the DVD of the gigs. Basically there have been a few technical issues with the DVD and it's mainly your fault. We hired in equipment to record the gigs - but - because it got so hot and sweaty the recorder had a few glitches - so it is going to be a harder job than expected putting together something taken from the 3 nights - apparently we will get there but it may well be after the new year.

I am still getting emails in about the Rough and Ready CD and the gig t-shirts, both of which are still available - although not all sizes are available in both styles. I am charging £8.00 for the CD and £12 for the t-shirts but not charging for postage as it has been pointed out to me that lots of people wanted to buy things at the gigs but had to leave because the queues were too long. To order please send a cheque or postal order made payable to Peter Liptrot

to: Peter Liptrot  
4 Wilson Avenue  
Wigan  
WN6 7HD

If this is a problem and you want to pay by paypal then drop me an email and I will sort it out that way

T-shirt sizes and styles left are as follows:

Shirker	Black	Blue	Tansads	Black	Blue
XL	0	14		0	0
L	13	0		0	0
M	3	11		3	0
S	0	0		4	0

I am hoping for a few more orders so that the money can go towards financing the issue of a second Tansads archive CD. Mike (Jonah) Jones has been working on assembling a very interesting track listing and I would really like to see this happen.

# tansads REUNION

As we head off on a new adventure just a brief mention for the hugely successful Reunion shows.



As the months of rehearsals flew by all too quickly the band were visited by an endless stream of old friends as they dusted off and polished up the old songs.

Everyone from original sound man, Terry, designer Simon and Oz on merchandise returned to do their bit. Steve Edwards was also on hand to film the proceedings for the forthcoming DVD. Things got a bit frantic with tickets to allocate and send out, T-Shirts and CD's to produce and other endless chores but it all came together in the end.

The gigs turned out to be spectacular and went better than anyone could have imagined. The band have already gone on record to say a massive thanks to everyone who came along and played their part in three unforgettable nights.



# PLANET tansads

Moving swiftly on - just a couple of mentions for bands within the Tansads/Merry Hell orbit who you might find interesting depending on your tastes.

I have recently had the delightful experience of **The Midwich Assembly** - a project put together by ex-Tansad David (Shrub) Atherton and featuring Chris (Bug) Atherton (no relation) the ex-drummer of this parish as well as Paul Bibby who was a touring member of The Tansads for a while - and features on the Tansads live TV version of She's Not Gone that appears on You Tube. The project is called littleSELF and is a really interesting and enjoyable musical and dramatic presentation that deserves wider recognition. The littleSELF is divided into two halves - the first sets the scene with a spoken word presentation set over a musical backdrop and combines elements of the tales of Victorian/Edwardian Gentleman adventurers, the work of Philip Pullman, Thomas de Quincoy and the 1970s extravaganzas of Rick Wakeman with a long time actor friend of David's, Tim Hans Smith, providing the David Hemmings type narration in a suitably sonorous and dramatic manner. The accompanying music encompasses a range of musical styles and influences from the prime of 70's prog to the pick of more recent electronica.

The second half comprises a song cycle which develop the themes of exploration, curiosity, alienation and reconciliation introduced in the first half. Once again the song influences are drawn from eclectic sources but are woven with a lightness of touch into a seamless whole that is both satisfying and intriguing. If any of you are involved in Arts festivals and the like and want something that manages to be both challenging and accessible at the same time - then this is for you - please get in touch and I will pass on your details.

Speaking as we were of Paul Bibby and Bug (and indeed Dave Parkinson who is also a member of the Midwich Assembly) they will be playing in their more usual guise of **Volunteers** at the Tudor House in Wigan on October 23rd. Those of you who have read this far on previous ramblings will know that my love of Volunteers knows no bounds and while they are a very different fish of kettles from the Tansads (and most other bands you've ever heard) I would love to see some of you there!

**Celtic Cross** are a duo based in the wilds of North Lancashire and an offshoot of Riotous Assembly who were one of the support bands at the gigs (the review in Rock n Reel bemoaned the fact that their set was too short!). Celtic Cross get out and about quite a bit in the area and should be easy to track down - look them up on facebook and myspace. At the gigs I got sufficient time to pass a few pleasant words with Paul who had travelled from Penzance for the gigs and have had a little contact since. He is in a band called Pondlife and although many of you would find getting to their gigs something of a geographical challenge, they will be playing some festivals next summer. A measure of how good they are is that as I was enjoying their myspace offerings, my wife who was wandering through the room at the time was moved to ask who it was, to comment that they were interesting and then sat down to share the Pondlife experience - high praise indeed.

<http://www.pondlifeska.co.uk/>  
<http://www.myspace.com/pondlifeska>

On a sadder note, I found out that Guy Keegan, another ex-drummer of both this parish and that of The Railway Children, will be performing his last ever gig on October 29th in St Helens. Guy, perhaps more than any of the Tansads has been there, done that and featured on the t-shirt. Touring the US, playing Wembley Arena, supporting REM and most recently invading the stage at the reunion gigs, Guy has developed tinnitus and so must hang up his sticks. The gig features his current band **The Ultras** (coincidentally including one Andrew Dawson to whom you will be introduced shortly) and will be held at The Zoo Bar, St Helens on 29th October - admission £3

On a final ex-Tansad drummer note, I cannot fail to mention that **Phill Knight**, the Master Blaster himself, offers drum tuition on an individual basis and anyone who wants to learn the one skill guaranteed to annoy the neighbours more than any other, can drop me an email and I will pass it on.

Following on from the Reunion gigs - there have been reviews of the gigs in Record Collector and Rock n Reel (R2) and a review of Rough and Ready in R2 - so thanks to Simon Jones and Dai Jeffries for those. We are hoping for a little more press in the not too distant future and I will let you know - I don't like to take these things for granted as editorial decisions can always change after articles have been written etc.

If you have any music or events that you think will be of interest to those discerning individuals that make up the Tansads/Merry Hell community, then please let me know - I'll do what I can and am always curious as to what you get up to in your spare time and real lives.

# merry hell

Right, let's cut to the chase - **it's Merry Hell time!**

As you probably know the band really enjoyed the reunion gigs but unfortunately cannot carry on in that form - several ex-members now live too far away and others have jobs or family situations that prevent them giving the time or commitment that the band would require if it was to carry on as anything other than an occasional event. So when some of the members decided they would like to carry on the first big question was under what name, should it be as The Tansads or as something else? It was felt that to present the new band under The Tansads name might be a step too far and too cynical - the new band can't help but feature some of The Tansads material at least while playing live - that's a promise - but the song-writing members of the new band have not been idle for the last 12 years - they have new songs of which they are immensely (and having heard them, rightly) proud - and that is why we are going to start out under a new name, **Merry Hell**, and see where the journey takes us.

So - the big question is, who is in Merry Hell? Well to start off with, we have the **Kettle Brothers 3** - you wouldn't expect anything less - and there aren't any more. The other ex-Tansads are drummer **Phill Knight**, keyboard player **Lee Goulding** and guitarist **Tim Howard**, 3 members spanning different eras of the band (Tim incidentally was involved in the reunion gigs as the sound engineer as he is also something of a sonic wizard). The new members are an interesting duo - firstly **Andrew Dawson** on bass - currently playing in The Ultras with ex-Tansads drummer Guy Keegan as we've already mentioned - Andrew is something of a youngster and as is the way with young people, he is generally known only by his surname - so Dawson it is from here on in. The final new member is a singer-songwriter with a growing reputation on the folk circuit under the name **Virginia (Vin) Barrett** but others know her as Mrs Kettle, for the simple reason that she is married to John. Having seen the reunion gigs she was persuaded (with little effort) to come on board and will provide guitar and accompany Andrew on backing vocals as well as lending her considerable songwriting talent to the mix.

If you want to check out Merry Hell's newest member immediately then visit Virginia's site where you can download a free EP <http://www.virginiabarrett.co.uk/> or see her live in solo mode at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uSw\\_\\_Ykr8o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uSw__Ykr8o)



At present we are hoping to have a few songs finished in the very near future which we can then use as demos to try to get up and running gig wise and hopefully we'll soon have our own myspace site where you will be able to hear some of the new material. I have been in touch with a lot of festival organisers to try and drum up some interest - but anyone who knows of festivals and gigs that might be interested in **Merry Hell** - then please let me know. I have had some interest and some help in this direction - but more is always appreciated. We are anticipating the album being ready for launch in the New Year with some taster tracks available before that and gigs according to when we can schedule them once the album is available.

One thing that I can guarantee is that, based on the tracks that I have heard so far, anyone who had a love for The Tansads will not be disappointed by **Merry Hell** - they are sounding wonderful.

Well, that's about as much as anyone can stand so it's pretty much time to go. And now for the apology - sorry if anyone has been waiting for replies to emails the last 6 weeks or so have been a little difficult, but thanks to our wonderful NHS it is full steam ahead.

And finally - if you haven't looked - there are some great Tansads videos up on You Tube and the My Space and Wikipedia pages have been updated. The Merry Hell My Space will be coming soon. Keep in touch .... **Damian**

Design - Jonah