

# >Merry Hell<

..NEWS.. JANUARY, 2011



## "Gather All Your Children Once Again"

It's official! Your first chance to see >Merry Hell< live will take place at **The Citadel, St Helens** on **Saturday April 30th 2011**. We promise an evening high in melody, long on lyrics, boundless of energy and rich in emotion, an opportunity to view the future and to experience a dawn that will be as brilliant as it is welcome, a veritable phoenix of hope rising roseate and golden from the still smoldering embers of those fabulous nights last July. So, it's going to be pretty good and this is your chance to be there.

Tickets will be available direct from the Citadel box office and will cost £9.00. Call 01744 7354436 or check the Citadel website at :

<http://www.citadel.org.uk/site/whats-on/merry-hell-feat-the-tansads-p281451>

## Take Part in an Unforgettable Night!

As a special incentive to play a full part in what we are sure will be another memorable night, anyone attending the gig dressed exclusively in **red and black** will receive a free limited edition 3 track CD featuring acoustic versions of tracks from the first >Merry Hell< album.



## Introducing.....

Things are finally happening as the >Merry Hell< publicity drive gathers momentum. As you can see we finally have the first official pics of the band captured in all their **red and black** glory by photographer, Alex Taylor, at a recent photo shoot.

The >Merry Hell< web site is now online so look out for all manner of exciting content in the near future at <http://www.merryhell.co.uk/>

We also have new myspace and facebook pages where you can hear some of the new songs ahead of the album release <http://www.myspace.com/merryhell>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Merry-Hell/168712159832414>

## ...STUDIO REPORT...

The >Merry Hell< debut album is coming together nicely with John directing operations, twiddling the knobs and generally making it all sound excellent. Featuring some very strong writing contributions from Virginia and Bob, a number of songs are already in the can including a new recording of a Tansads favourite!

The classic Tansads sound is very much in evidence on Bob's "This Time". Lying somewhere in the territory between Big Wednesday and English Rover its appeal is immediate and sure to make it a winner. "Over The Border" develops a Celtic/folk feel building from a sparse acoustic/mandolin intro to a rousing full band climax.

Virginia's "One More Day" is insistent and catchy with an unforgettable chorus hook which is sure to have heads nodding, feet tapping and the listener singing along. "The War Between Ourselves" is a harder hitting offering dealing lyrically with the link between petty aggression and conflict in general.

Vocally things are gelling perfectly with Andrew's unique rasping delivery complimented by Virginia's sweet, energetic, vocals. The duo are ably supported by the marvelous backing vocals of Tim.

There are many other brand new songs in the **Merry Hell** pipeline and some rejuvenated from the Tansads era. Expect to hear much more from Bob and Virginia along with compositions from John and Lee, all springing from the same fertile roots that gave us the band we love.

Another exciting prospect involves the development of an unplugged >Merry Hell< line up which will highlight the band's vocal and instrumental arrangements in a more subtle, acoustic setting, allowing them to play more intimate gigs. Acoustic shows were very much a feature of the early days of the Tansads and anyone who witnessed one will certainly welcome their return.

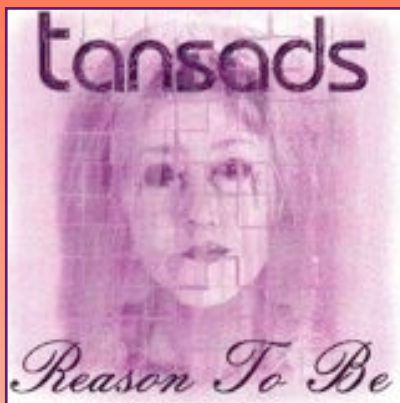
It's been far too long since we heard brand new material in the Tansads style and we are confident that the new songs will sound fresh yet familiar. All the usual Tansads elements are there and some new ingredients that will delight fans young and old! We are excited by what is emerging from the studio and hope to bring you the album early in 2011





## "Reason To Buy"

We have found a small number of copies of the criminally underrated **Reason To Be** CD. These are likely to be the very last copies available. Released in 1998, this was the Tansads final album, recorded and released independently by the slimmed down 5 piece band and featuring Janet as the sole lead vocalist.



The album is less folky and features more of a direct indie/rock sound than previous efforts but the songwriting is as strong as ever. With more polished arrangements and punchy production, the album delivers its fair share of Tansads classics like Roll Away Your Stone, All The Madmen and Drunken Serenade, making it an essential addition to the collection if you don't own it already. The album is just £8 including UK postage. For orders outside the UK please email first for postage details. Get this one while you still can...She's not gone...but she soon will be!

**Full track list** - Roll Away Your Stone, Higher Ground, All The Mad Men, Hello, Reason To Be, Sad Song, Jealousy, Middle of the Night, Julian, Miss The Bus, Burning Bridge, Drunken Serenade

John Kettle - Guitars, Janet Anderton, Lead Vocals,  
Robbie Ryan - Bass & Backing Vocals,  
Tim Howard - Guitars, Andy Jones - Drums

## "I Posed With God For A Photograph"

When a couple of people start to do the same thing then I would consider that to be a trend - so catch up with the latest one by sending in photos of yourselves in your Tansads t-shirts. If they are in interesting situations or locations so much the better. I do know of a SHIRKER t-shirt being worn during the cleaning of a predator tank at an aquarium in Australia - but haven't yet seen the pics to prove it. The more astute amongst you will have noticed that the newsletter has become more visual of late - so what better way to celebrate this than including an image or two of you good people in your band apparel. E-mail your interesting location photos to us if you want to appear.

Behind all the **Merry Hell** activity The Tansads Archive project is still simmering on a low light and we are working towards an exciting second CD release. We hope it will feature mostly unreleased songs recorded by the "Flock" & "Drag Down the Moon" line ups including some songs that the band actually played live. Those of you with long memories might remember the band performing Scottie, Lay Me Low or Stone The Crows and we hope to include all of these and more.

The Tansads web site <http://www.tansads.com/> now features an updated **discography** with albums, singles, compilations featuring the band and rare bits and pieces. It can be accessed via the link on the Tansads home page.

## "Damian's Dash"



As some of you know I have been recovering from a serious illness that put me out of action for around 6 weeks towards the end of the year. Thankfully I am now much better and looking forward to playing a full part in creating a year of **>Merry Hell<** - hopefully the first of many. As part of my fitness programme I am working towards completing a 5K run on Sunday 13th of March in Heaton Park, Manchester. Besides the benefits to myself, I will be trying to raise money for The Stroke Association and would be grateful if anyone wishes to support me by visiting my fundraising site at :- <http://www.justgiving.com/Damian-Liptrot> Many thanks for any donations received.  
**Damian**

PLANET



When the idea of the Tansads archive project was first hatched and the appeal went out via the mailing list for rare recordings and videos you didn't let us down - thanks to all those who responded. In addition to the audio and video treats, an interesting Tansads artifact also surfaced. An old associate of the band, songwriter Rob Abraham, who often jammed with John & Bob in various living rooms in the pre-Tansads days, got in touch. As well as some interesting audio, Rob also sent us this snap of a Harmony acoustic which he bought for a more than reasonable £10 from one Bob Kettle.

Bob bought the guitar from Harker & Howarth in Wigan planning to go busking with it in France and it also accompanied him to Ireland. However, the instrument's main claim to fame is that Bob composed none other than "Fear of Falling" on it. If anyone has any similar Tansads artifacts or trivia please let us know.

**"Order Stuff"** To order the 'Reason To Be' and 'Rough And Ready' CD's or Tansads T-shirts (see last newsletter) please send a cheque or postal order made payable to **Peter Liptrot** to: *Peter Liptrot, 4 Wilson Avenue, Wigan, Lancs WN6 7HD*

**"Sponsor Damian"** To sponsor Damian <http://www.justgiving.com/Damian-Liptrot>

**"I Posed With God...."** E-mail your photos to [damianlostart@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:damianlostart@hotmail.co.uk)

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