

sarah newsletter

no.5 oct.93



First off, we've had loads of letters about the cat and her non-appearance in the last newsletter - a few people seemed not to believe she'd gone inter-railing, preferring instead to insinuate that we'd in some way disposed of her, and were about to announce her demise in mysterious circumstances; I sometimes wonder why you have such a low opinion of us. As you can see, she's back with us and apparently had a lovely time. But enough of Puss, you want NEWS, and **HEAVENLY** are on tour again in October:

Fri 15th: EDINBURGH Calton Studios

Sat 16th: GLASGOW Cathouse

Sun 17th: NEWCASTLE Cumberland Arms

Thu 21st: BIRMINGHAM Jug Of Ale

Fri 22nd: HARLOW Square (w/ Pussycat Trash)

Sat 23rd: OXFORD The Venue (w/ The Anyways)

Sun 24th: DERBY Wherehouse (w/ Pussycat Trash)

Mon 25th: NORWICH UEA (w/ The Bardots [ugh...])

Wed 27th: WOKINGHAM Pheonix Plaza

Thu 28th: LONDON The Garage

(w/ Delicate Vomit & Meredith)

Fri 29th: TUNBRIDGE WELLS The Forum

all with LOIS (plus whoever's in brackets) except WOKINGHAM, as she's recording a Peel session that day. Or possibly just has more sense. Also a couple of one-offs:

Sun 14th November: SHEFFIELD Hallamshire Hotel (w/ The McTells)

Thu 16th December: LONDON, NEW CROSS The Venue (w/ Orlando)

And a quick reminder of **HEAVENLY's** last couple of singles in case you've been in prison or something. SARAH 81 was "P.U.N.K Girl"/"Hearts & Crosses" and SARAH 82 "Atta Girl"/"Dig Your Own Grave/So?", "Atta Girl" being the best thing they've done, despite lots of people not liking it. These people are wrong. No new things yet, I'm afraid - they've even turned down a Peel Session because they had no new songs; such purity of purpose will earn them their reward in Heaven but, alas, not do too much for earthly sales figures. Which, to those of us in league with the Devil, is annoying.

One other thing, if I may metaphorically dip my ladle into **HEAVENLY's** primordial soup for a few moments - **TALULAH GOSH's** "They've Scoffed The Lot" (SARAH 604) was licensed from the BBC for 3 years only, and 3 years is pretty much up, so we won't be pressing any more; so, if you've still not got a copy...

Back now to Wokingham and up the A329(M) to Reading where **BLUEBOY** are busy with their second LP, a 12 song affair probably called "Marble Arch" after the famous landmark (in London; Reading's got a nice town-hall, but that's hardly an LP title) and featuring all the live classics and maybe a couple of dead ones. 2 songs recorded so far, "Cosmopolitan" and "Finistère", both at Chiswick Reach Studios, but they'll be re-doing the vocals elsewhere as Keith wasn't too happy with the ambience in Chiswick: "It's too much like Acton," he said, enigmatically. 4 "band" songs, 7 acoustic/cello/keyboard things, and one ("Hit") entirely sequenced, it'll be out next spring, with sleeve-notes by the legendary Mike Alway of El Records, provided they're any good. Other **BLUEBOY** things: their much talked about - well, by them - fanzine "Applause" is out in November, and Gemma's "doing some work with The Nelories" - not involving too much heavy lifting, I hope. And there's a track on the up-coming WAAAAH! "Sound of Music" LP which, if you don't know, is lots of your favourite people (though several I'd myself quite happily see wrong way up and full of holes in a gutter)

singing songs from the Nuns v. Nazis Rogers & Hammerstein classic. **BLUEBOY** have done the, um, "brown paper packages tied up with string, these are a few of my favourite things..." one. Which I always thought was from Mary Poppins, but there you go - I thought Keith was from Mary Poppins too, when I first met him.

Meanwhile, **BLUEBOY** guitarist Harvey, ex-**THE FIELD MICE** and more importantly ex-**ANOTHER SUNNY DAY**, has finally decided to make his first proper solo LP. It'll be a 7 song 10" called, disconcertingly, "Harvey Williams". As is he. To be recorded at CAT, Mitcham, it features (deep breath) NO GUITARS. Not even little baby ones. Though it does feature real-life flute and cello as well as Harvey's thoughts on Noel Edmunds, Riot Grrrrls, us, and several of our close friends. Or am I just paranoid, like everybody says? He starts recording next week, and has just this minute mentioned that it might actually be called "Rebellion" instead. Hum. Out in February, at a guess, SARAH 406.

Whereas SARAH 405 was "Goodbye California", the glorious debut 10" LP from New York City's **EAST RIVER PIPE** - 8 wonderful songs, and generally receiving as much all round acclaim (i.e. people from Melody Maker and NME keep ringing up to ask for free CDs) as anything in ages... They've also just released a fourth 7" on their own Hell Gate label - "Firing Room"/"Hey, Where's Your Girl?" - the former the same as the LP track, the latter a song so new even we've not heard it, though it's supposed to be in the post. It is distributed, but if you have problems, or once had a nasty experience in a record-shop (and wasn't it great news about Eastern Bloc closing...), write to them at the address on the LP.

Flicking back through the time-zones, **EVEN AS WE SPEAK** are now returned to Australia - apologies if you went to any of the cancelled gigs on the recent tour - "circumstances beyond our control", as they say; at least you didn't spend most of July writing "Cancelled" across things. Don't know when they'll be returning, but they left us the parting gifts of SARAH 79 ("Air"/"Getting Faster"/"Blue Eyes Deceiving Me") and a third Peel session. On their previous visit, they left us the parting gift of a stuffed toy wombat. People change. Oh - those T-shirts did happen in the end - a dancing-eye, in either a purple or a green print on white. Sounds horrific, I know, but actually quite cute.

Fellow Antipodeans **THE SUGARGLIDERS**, meanwhile, have just released their fourth single for us (SARAH 83: "Will We Ever Learn?"/"Dolly"/"Reinventing Penicillin") - joint Single of the Week with New Order in something important and Australian - and a fifth is, not surprisingly, already recorded, featuring "Top 40 Sculpture", "90 Days Of Moths And Rust" and "Yr.Jacket" - but that won't be out till January. There's also going to be a **SUGARGLIDERS** compilation, featuring 12 of the songs they've recorded for us, i.e. NOT every thing from every record, because they'd rather people bought the 7"s (this is the band who wanted their CD singles to have less tracks on, remember...). So - that's also down for January, and will probably be released simultaneously worldwide on Summershine in Australia, Slumberland in The States, and Quattro in Japan. Incidentally, the Summershine 7"s have all sold out, but some tracks will be featured on a forthcoming Summershine label-compilation. Oh, and there appears to be a band in London at the moment called The Sugar Gliders - these are NOT the same people; we've sent a few of our heavier, more thick-set and low-browed chums round to have a word, so hopefully the matter can be sorted out fairly efficiently. We never had this trouble with The Field Mice...

Also getting wider release is the debut LP from **THE HARVEST MINISTERS**, "Little Dark Mansion" (SARAH 616: LP, CD and cassette; I wonder why the people who claim that doing CDs to be acceptable to Japanese/French/US markets is wrong as it's giving in to market pressure don't complain we're doing a cassette for the Irish market...), which is coming out in The States on Widely Distributed Records of Chicago, as should the forthcoming LPs by **THE WAKE** and **THE ORCHIDS**. 13 songs, and lots of gigs in and around Dublin. They've also just released their third single, "If It Kills Me And It Will"/"Can't Go It Alone" (SARAH 84).

That **WAKE** LP is now full-steam ahead - though again it'll be a post-Christmas release; called, possibly ironically, "Tidal Wave of Hype", it features such classics as "Provincial Disco" and the completely wonderful "Britain". Hopefully some gigs too, possibly with Northern Picture Library, but you know what it's like. If not, there's some in the fridge.

And **THE ORCHIDS'** LP ("Striving For The Lazy Perfection") is now also down for January or February - the master tapes turned up this morning, and apparently the sleeve's all-but finished. 12 or 13 songs (undecided because there's one track we've still to clear samples on, not because the doorbell always rings before we get to the end or anything like that), and needless to say it's very wonderful indeed. And they're headlining a semi-SARAH showcase at The Powerhaus on Friday 8th October, their first gig in England this year, and well worth catching if last summer's event at The Venue was anything to go by. Support will be **NORTHERN PICTURE LIBRARY** (which is some of Bobby, Annemari & Mark ex-Field Mice, who aren't on SARAH but it lets them off playing Vinyl Japan Nights. Warning: they do a Spaceman 3 cover...) and **BOYRACER**, who'll hopefully have their **GUITARS TURNED ON** this time please Mr.Soundman.

BOYRACER also have their second SARAH EP, "From Purity To Purgatory", out on October 4th, with 5 songs - "Cog", "David Byrne", "Distraction", "Doorframe" and "Close" - one of which features a Sarah Records bicycle, and another a Sarah Records guitar. They've also got an EP up-coming (or even come-up - I'm not quite sure of the date) in America (so everyone can pretend to start liking them after all) on Slumberland, featuring six short songs beginning with "S". And they've had about 5 offers from other labels in the past week... this, of course, being typical of the new breed of risk-taking ground-breaking independent labels - scarcely a week goes by when there isn't a letter from somebody about to start his (never her) own "independent" label, if a couple of our bands would just like to record tracks for him... I wonder what the motivation is, soon there's going to be more record labels than bands... (probably silly putting this in a paragraph on Boyracer who obviously had recorded for other labels before us but - oh, I just wish we could get back to everybody hating each other rather than all these little cliques of people writing fanzines for each other and doing records on each other's labels - there's a whole world out there...)

Anyway, that's **BOYRACER** for you. Oh, and Stewart would like a girlfriend, especially one who plays bass so that they'll have lots to talk about. Please apply via us, as he doesn't trust his own judgement.

Since I seem to have strayed into International Waters, and since these newsletters do go abroad a fair bit, I might as well just summarise that **HEAVENLY's** last LP and the "Atta Girl" CD both came out in The States on K and must therefore be good, and their two LPs have now come out in Japan, as have a couple of label-compilations, **THE SEA URCHINS**, **FIELD MICE** and **ORCHIDS** compilations, the **EVEN AS WE SPEAK** and **BLUEBOY** LPs, and **BLUEBOY's** latest two singles, with **EAST RIVER PIPE's** LP scheduled next. But no we don't have copies to sell and, since there's nothing on them that hasn't been out on regular UK releases, the only reasons for you wanting them anyway would be scummy ticket-collectorly reasons with which we have no truck. Not even a little truck. Not even one of those little baby Escort low-sided pick-up jobs. Umm, I mean train-spottery; ticket collectors do a fine job, albeit slightly one-dimensional.

ACTION PAINTING! ("featuring Shampoo's guitarist"... ahem) also have a new EP - "Mustard Gas", SARAH 87, out November 1st, and very popular with the Revolver tele-sales staff, who enjoy a bit of jumping up and down and shouting - er, enjoy hearing other people do it, I mean; if they did it themselves they'd pull the phones out of their sockets and annoy important customers. Other songs are "Art Student" and "Collapsing Cloud", the latter made "sadly relevant by recent events in Millwall" adds a sorrowful Andy in this morning's post.

SARAH GRAND WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE SALE

This has been such a success we're keeping it going; so, for all 7"s up to SARAH 60, it's £1.50 each for 5 or more (£1.80 Europe, £2.50 world), or £1.00 each for 10 or more (£1.50/£2.00) - but 7"s ONLY, i.e. not SARAH'S 38, 42 or 57. And note that quite a few things have now sold out, namely SARAHs 1-14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31 and 40; plus "Snowball", SARAH 402. And please stop writing to ask if you can buy copies from our "own private collection" - we don't have one, and offering lots of money won't make one materialise, it'll just make us think even less of you. We have one copy each, and that's all.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

OK, you win, we're going to have another Christmas Party. YIPPEE!!! On the Thekla again, which is a boat in the docks here in Bristol. Wednesday December 22nd, 8.30pm - 1am (last band off at 12.15). And there'll be popbands and balloons and tinsel and vomit and hmmm... actually, maybe we'll skip the chocolates and accidental snakebites this time. And the throwing up on complete strangers' feet, because Life is such that those complete strangers always seem to become our label-managers at Revolver 18 months later, and blackmail's such an unpleasant business, I always find. So - line-up will hopefully be along the lines of **HEAVENLY, THE ORCHIDS, BLUEBOY, BOYRACER, SECRET SHINE & ACTION PAINTING!**, WAAAAH! will be DJing and running the infamous coach from London, and I think we might do some competitions, wet flouncy skirt contests, raffles etc. Like we did the first year, when someone won a T-shirt bearing the legend, "I won the raffle at the SARAH Christmas Party". God we're so cute. Mmmmm. Tickets £5.00 + SAE from us, or joint coach/party ticket details from WAAAAH! at 4 Shortlands Road, Kingston-Upon-Thames, KT2 6HD. But please write off sooner rather than later, because it did sell out last time, and someone in Swindon's still not forgiven us for messing up his last-minute telephone-reservation. Not that we were actually aware we did last-minute telephone-reservations - we're a record company, not the Bristol Hippodrome; where, if it does sell out, you can see Philip Schofield in "Joseph" instead. Do you think the gopher's in it too, I liked the gopher... maybe as some sort of technicolour dream muff... IMPORTANT: it's all-ticket so that everybody knows they'll be let in, and so that we don't have to sit on the door all evening taking money, because that's hardly fun, and Christmas is supposed to be about good times. But last time a lot of people bought tickets and then, for various reasons, such as long late night drives in the fog, didn't come, which meant we were manhandling people over the side unnecessarily... SO! - if you buy a ticket and find out later you can't make it, even if it's on the day itself, PLEASE let us know...

ENGINE COMMON

Is, of course, an immensely dull straggly village just this side of Yate. But it's also the title of our new label compilation LP, SARAH 628, released November 8th, and thus a perfect Christmas gift, especially if wrapped up and placed under a tree. Not any old tree, mind. It has to be a special tree. For Christmas is A Special Time. One of those Norwegian spruces will do. The LP takes up where the last one stopped and goes up to SARAH 69 which means **BLUEBOY, BRIGHTER, THE FIELD MICE, THE HIT PARADE, ANOTHER SUNNY DAY, THE ROSARIES, SECRET SHINE, THE SUGARGLIDERS, THE HARVEST MINISTERS** and **THE ORCHIDS**.

OLD ROPE

Just send us some money, and we'll let you have a piece.

Think that's all... write to us if you want a full up-to-date list of releases (with mail-order prices), send an SAE if you want the next issue of this (or £1 to cover the next four...) and, um - oh, can we just say how pleased we are with the response to our latest series of labels/inserts - that's the 81-90 series, a basic (non-academic) introduction to Bristol's historic Castle Green. Not one complaint yet. Except from the cat, who feels there should've been more pictures of her. Which is where we began. I sometimes feel space is more finite than scientists give it credit for. What do you mean, "that's never a real cat..."???

SARAH RECORDS, PO BOX 691, BRISTOL, BS99 1FG
Tel: (0272) 636929

Broad Lane
CLOSED
at Rail Bridge
Access Only

