

sarah newsletter

number 9 october 1994 free!!!

I know, I know, it's late, but things kept happening, or not happening, it's hard to explain... basically (to fall back on metaphor for a moment) it was as if huge great slabs of rock kept suddenly materialising out of thin air to block our way across the mountaintop while evil black carrion birds swooped down low trying to peck out our eyes. You really can't imagine what it's like sometimes. These London-based labels have it so easy. AND they get to go to parties and ride on tube trains.

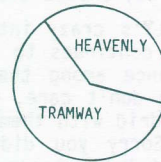
Anyway, never having been ones to let our spirits get daunted by hobgoblins or foul fiends and the like, we're now full steam ahead - a curiously apposite choice of words, actually, as a real live steam-train has just this second gone past the window (on the train-lines out the back, not down the street) - no, really, a STEAM TRAIN - GWR logo on the side, a dozen maroon coaches rattling behind, smoke billowing up over the rooftops - sometimes, you know, I feel like I've stumbled into some vast theme park in which Time and Geography have ceased to have any meaning. SARAHLAND, SARAHWORLD, now there's an idea... groups of penurious students paid to dress up in **TRAMWAY** costumes and amuse sticky screaming children with songs and dances... I see that something called FURNITURELAND has appeared up by the M5, I'm not sure if it's a theme-park or not, part of me really can't believe people could ever be so daft as to queue for 2 hours just so as to get to spend 5 minutes sitting on a natural-look cane sofa or enjoying the warm sensuous pleasures of a nice deep shag pile but then - people are bloody gullible. We should know. Othertimes, I feel like I've stumbled into some cinnamon-scented paradise where tautly-muscled eunuchs and scarcely-clad handmaidens dust my feet hourly with icing sugar. I wonder if I'm going mad? I'll get to the **HEAVENLY** dates in a minute, honest.

First, speaking to some of you, which we occasionally can't help doing, despite our increasingly polished attempts to disguise ourselves as doorways or trivial items of street-furniture, we've noticed that you mostly don't actually read these things... because you ask us questions to which, if you

had read them, you'd know the answers. I suppose it's these short attention spans everybody's got these days... So - I'll try chopping this one up into shorter paragraphs, even break some paragraphs mid

sentence if that helps, and throw in a few pictures, maps and pie-charts.

A Pie-Chart



Anyway, **HEAVENLY**: and their fab new LP which is called "The Decline & Fall of Heavenly" and not what we told you last time, because frankly we're not to be trusted. And the sleeve sports a nice photo of a kitten amid ionic columns wearing a laurel wreath and looking pensive. We also have 35 negatives of the kitten NOT wearing its laurel wreath and NOT looking pensive but that's kittens for you, no sense of history or drama. Somewhere maybe there exists a parallel universe in which this isn't the case and in which kittens take all the leading theatrical roles and hold down important jobs lecturing on pre-industrial societies at respected polytechnics but don't let me scare you with mind-blowing concepts like that. Actually though, speaking of the spooky world of the meta-normal, those who've long suspected that **HEAVENLY** are not of earthly flesh and who find it impossible to believe that the people who made "Atta Girl" could possibly be subject to the same laws of physics, biology and turbary as the rest of us, should study closely the photo on the back of the LP, for here Amelia's occasional translucence is strikingly evident. Cathy, meanwhile, is clearly distracted by the sudden unexpected return of the mother-ship.

The more hawk-eyed might also have spotted our ads in NME and MM promising a free glossy poster if you bought the LP from the right sort of shop. This poster, rather than being yet one more example of our warm and generous nature (yes, not only can we toast muffins with our natural body-heat, we'll butter them for you too), was actually a marketing-device featuring a rather lush black & white photo of the band completely naked, folded into

quarters or sixths if you bought the CD. And the intention wasn't that it should be a limited, collectable thing, because anybody who orders from us, or complains, gets one too; sadly, however, our distribution company sent posters to many shops who weren't the right sort at all, oh goodness me no... so - grrrrr, basically. We'll do our best.

Song-wise, you get eight new ones, four of them re-jiggings of things from the last Peel Session, which we've been promised will be re-broadcast in October... though I'll believe that when I see a turnip dance the two-step with a swede, as they say around these parts.

Elsewhere, **HEAVENLY**'s crazy international jet-setting lifestyle continues to rankle and cause social disturbance among the poor and self-pitying - but we don't care, we've just had a free trip to Madrid with them, and very nice it was too. Sorry you didn't get a postcard, but we don't know who you are. We especially recommend the waterfall in the Plaza de Colón (you can walk behind it, just like it was a huge metaphor for something), Atocha station (which has a tropical rain-forest in it)(just a small one)(thank you - have one yourself), and the AZCA office complex on the Paseo de la Castellana, especially the Picasso Tower. There are some museums and galleries with old stuff in too, but we didn't bother with those, because we're young and built for The Future and because they're closed on Sundays.

HEAVENLY played two concerts, both sold out, and the weekend passed in a happy blur of heaving bodies, cameras, autographs, lots of free drinks and a hotel room not looking quite as shevelled at the end of our stay as it had when we first arrived, what with the odd broken lamp and picture-frame - for this, we must blame A Drummer, who denies everything, but since that includes the very existence of the evening of September 16th, this doesn't honestly prove much. Luckily, the hotel were just happy to have had proper English rock-stars staying, and let Mathew off with signing an autograph for the receptionist's nephew.

The other good news if you live in Spain is that from next year it should be easier to buy our records, thanks to a new distribution service being set-up by the nice people from Elefant Records and Spiral Magazine (hello Luis & Joaquim!), who also organised the concerts. Metaphorically, we dredge their toes with sherbet and suck greedily.

The good news if you live in Chelmsford is that you've one less day left to live than you had yesterday.

And now, of course, **HEAVENLY** are in America - it's too late to go printing dates, but we hope y'all had a nice time, and will have other nice times in years to come, even if y'all do wake up one day to find your faces have melted as moral retribution for the sins of your president; which reminds me, we promised Heavens to Betsy we'd apologise for comments last time about them being willing tools of the Bush/Reagan administration, which we meant to be taken slightly tongue-in-cheek, but there you go. And Wiiiija Records got a bit bad-tempered and argumentative about being called bolshy, so apologies to them too!

The **HEAVENLY** U.S. tour was organised by K, who have released "The Decline & Fall" over there. Support was from Lois, who is American (go on, sue us, sue us!!!) but, more interestingly, the L.A. Alligator Lounge date also featured our own latest love-children **ABERDEEN**, whose singer Beth currently has purple hair, due to a bottle mix-up.

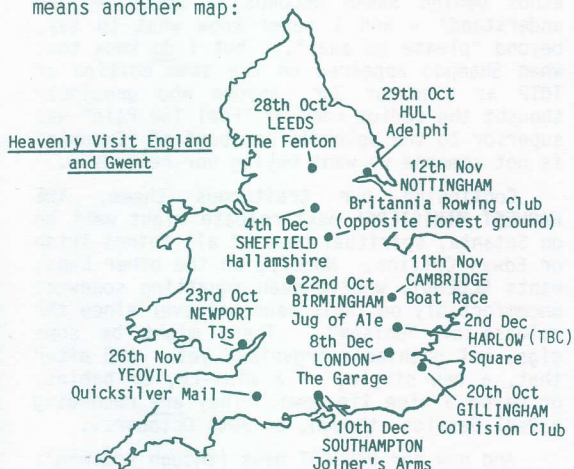
"**ABERDEEN**," you cry indignantly, "who are **ABERDEEN**?" Well, basically, if you've spent your entire life searching for the missing link between Talulah Gosh and New Order, then this is the band for you. You poor sad lonely fool you. "Byron", the debut EP, came out on October 3rd, and they seem to be playing around town quite a bit at the moment and generally becoming the toast of LA (including supporting **BOYRACER**, the crumpet of Wetherby, on their forthcoming U.S. tour...) so, if you live nearby, don't be surprised. We've also managed to obtain (well, they posted it to us) a rather wonderful cassette of them doing an acoustic version of **BRIGHTER**'s "Half-Hearted" live on KXLU - don't know what it stands for, but it's a radio station in LA. And they're now recording a NEW EP, for January release: "Fireworks", "When It Doesn't Matter" and "Super Sunny Summer", a title destined to rouse Steven Wells to the usual purple-headed fury but then he is rather pathetic, and it's not like it's exactly a paean to beachballs.

I said "**BOYRACER** U.S. tour", and there's a map over there to prove it; what's more, a 7" featuring their version of "One Step Forward" is going to be on sale at all the gigs... or you can write to the usual **BOYRACER** address...

BOYRACER have also just finished some U.K. dates with The Wedding Present - David Gedge

recognised his Edsel Auctioneer T-shirt, but that's not the point). The merry-go-round of Fame whirls ever faster. I myself was stopped in The Galleries this morning by two women handing our leaflets for the Bristol & West Building Society who wanted to tell me how good **TRAMWAY** were. I just found that bizarre, and ran away, thus forfeiting my chance to win £1000 and be used in Bristol & West promotional literature.

Back to **HEAVENLY**... once returned from the USA, they kick their heels and wiggle their toes in the UK for a bit before heading off to The Land of the Falling Exchange Rate and a December tour of Japan... but while they're here, they'll be doing a few weekends around the country, and that means another map:

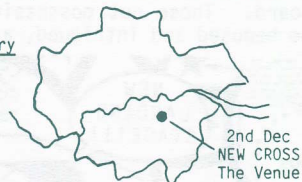


Plus maybe some others, so keep your wits about you, or somebody else's if you haven't got any... and I'll give you those Japanese dates too, in case you're Japanese, and because I'm getting into these maps:



One other possible major event this year is on December 2nd when the **NORTHERN PICTURE LIBRARY** might be (i.e. check first) supporting The Raincoats and The Pastels at The Venue. Get there early... conceivably also leave early... Doors open 8pm, nearest tube, New Cross or New Cross Gate. Furthest, Chesham.

Northern Picture Library
Visit Greater London



The first of the **NORTHERN PICTURE LIBRARY**'s two autumn 7"s came out last month, by the way - "Paris"/"Norfolk Windmills". And the second ("Last September's Farewell Kiss"/"Signs") is out on October 17th; the CD includes both tracks off "Paris". The other **NPL** news is that they have a new bassist, called Michael, which curiously was the name of THE FIELD MICE's bassist...

Next up, on 7th November, is **EAST RIVER PIPE**'s much-delayed second LP "Poor Fricky". I'm not sure why it's dragged on so... all the final tweaking in the studio took longer than expected, and then the master-tape went missing because the band sent it Express Post to hurry things along, which completely threw the Royal Mail, who panicked and hid it under a desk in the sorting-office and hoped we'd forget about it. But we didn't. Instead, we went down there and beat them up savagely. I'm afraid we're a product of our times. So - I shan't bore you again, let's just say it's got 11 new songs, including both their last two U.S.-only 7"s, a full-colour sleeve and a 3mm spine. Also, "Goodbye California" is now out in the U.S., with added singles and stuff, under the name "Shining Hours In A Can", on Ajax Records of Chicago, the Windy City. Hic.

And the year's final release, apart from Haddaway's Christmas single, is our next label compilation, "Gael Ferry Bridge" (SARAH 530), and - heck, I know I'm cynical and biased and great fun to be with and all that but it really does sound to me like the best we've done, which is weird when you remember SARAH's not as good as it used to be. Bands featured are **SECRET SHINE**, **THE SUGARGLIDERS**, **ACTION PAINTING!**, **BLUEBOY**, **EAST RIVER PIPE**, **BOYRACER**, **EVEN AS WE SPEAK** and **HEAVENLY**, and it's out on November 21st, providing the rain holds off long enough for me to take some photos for the labels - the problem with numbering it after the 530 bus is that it's a Sunday-only

service, and there's only one an hour. Life, God, who needs it? Incidentally, speaking of public transport, we mentioned in one of our 7" inserts that the Bristol Ferry Boat Company had extended their service to Temple Meads, and that this would make a big difference for Saroply buffs. So - here's how to amend your board. Those not possessing a SARAH 50 will be bemused and intrigued, as well as despised.



Elsewhere... **THE SUGARGLIDERS**, as we announced last time, decided earlier this year that enough was enough and voluntarily fed themselves into Pop's 8-speed Moulinex; by a bizarre miracle of modern food-processing, however, they found themselves not being shredded for eternity as intended, but instead forming a moist pastry-like ball which, once rolled flat and baked, puffed up into a whole new band called **THE STEINBECKS** (after John, author of "The Grapes of Wrath" and its much maligned sequel "The Plums of Love")... there's a tape on its way, but it's not here yet, maybe because the Post Office have hidden it under a cushion which they're now taking it in turns to sit on, so all I can tell you is that it's "more of a band thing" than **THE SUGARGLIDERS** (there's 5 **STEINBECKS**), and that Summershine are releasing what's been recorded so far as a album entitled "At Home And Abroad With The Steinbecks" in the very near future.

Speaking of which (Summershine, that is, not The Future - I mean, I can do prophecy if you want, second-sight is part and parcel of being a Super Indie Being, after all - I just wouldn't want to scare you, especially if you intend being in the East Midlands around the end of November) - there's a Summershine sampler CD out on Slumberland featuring three early **SUGARGLIDERS** recordings ("Stay", "Give Me Some Confidence" and "Police Me") as well as other bobs and bits, including Summershine 001, a 7" by RIPE entitled "We're All Trying To Get There" - gadzooks, the very same title as our **SUGARGLIDERS** compilation! Or not so gadzooks when you know that Ripe's Mark Murphy played on a couple of the songs, and generally

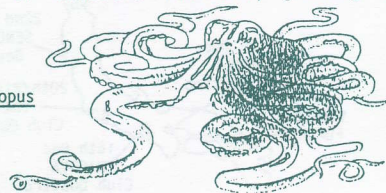
loitered around in the background. Melbourne is a pretty incestuous place; hence, I suppose, the jaw structures and body hair.

ACTION PAINTING! meanwhile continue to get doused with praise from many quarters, and now have a single out on Damaged Goods (who gave you Helen Love's wonderful "Punk Boy") called "Laying The Lodger", and it's on white vinyl, so will show the dirt. More importantly, didn't guitarist Lee look good posing with Shampoo on Top of the Pops? The day after their first TOTP appearance, Lee got kicked out of his bedsit in Brighton and made homeless. Rock'n'roll is a hard mattress. I mean mistress. Incidentally, people occasionally launch themselves acrobatically at us in shopping-centres and say: "Sum up the ethos behind SARAH RECORDS in words we can understand" - and I never know what to say, beyond "please go away"... but I do know that when Shampoo appeared on the same edition of TOTP as Dinosaur Jnr, anyone who genuinely thought the tedium rock of "Feel The Pain" was superior to the splendid pop pout of "Trouble" is not someone we want buying our records...

Continuing our traitorous theme, **THE HARVEST MINISTERS'** next release might well be on Setanta, spiritual home of all things Irish or Edwyn Collins. Nobody, on the other hand, wants **BLUEBOY**, who've been squatting somewhat uncomfortably on their haunches ever since the release of "Unisex". There might be some gigs, but nothing's organised yet. And after that, a new single, or a mini-LP, or babies, or maybe a nice lie-down. They are recording a Peel Session, though, on 30th October...

And now our BIGGEST news (though you won't realise how big for now): **ORLANDO**, who seemed destined to be nothing more than legend - a red felt-tip heart scribbled in the margin when somebody finally gets round to writing a book about the Chalk Farm Monarch - have at last agreed to let us release some songs but - because **ORLANDO** still exist and are developing in new directions, they won't come out under the **ORLANDO** name - imagine, perhaps, an octopus which has had its arms hacked off in some sort of domestic incident, growing new ones...

An Octopus



well, those new arms are **ORLANDO**, and the old dead bits that we've scooped up to sell are... **SHELMERDINE** - those who know their Virginia Woolf will understand. Or possibly **SHELLEY** for short. So, that's Dickon (guitar/vocals), Tim (vocals) and Stephen (guitar), and the EP "Reproduction is Pollution"/"Hero"/"Prejudice" will be out in the New Year, and when you play it alone in your frosty bedsit room, beautiful 19 year old poets will materialise out of the soft misty dusk, throwing stones up at your window and demanding that you come down and read their palms. Metaphorically speaking.

SARAH FUN DAY

We thought next Tuesday.

SINGLES

- 15 ST.CHRISTOPHER: You Deserve More Than A Maybe 7"
- 19 BRIGHTER: Around The World In Eighty Days 7"
- 20 ST.CHRISTOPHER: All Of A Tremble 7"
- 23 THE ORCHIDS: What Will We Do Next? 7"
- 27 BRIGHTER: Noah's Ark 7"
- 29 THE ORCHIDS: Something For The Longing 7"
- 33 THE SEA URCHINS: A Morning Odyssey 7"
- 34 ST.CHRISTOPHER: Antoinette 7"
- 35 ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: Rio 7"
- 36 THE SWEETEST ACHE: If I Could Shine 7"
- 37 EVEN AS WE SPEAK: Nothing Ever Happens 7"
- 38 THE FIELD MICE: So Said Kay 10"
- 39 THE SWEETEST ACHE: Tell Me How It Feels 7"
- 42 THE ORCHIDS: Penetration 12"
- 43 TRAMWAY: Maritime City 7"
- 44 THE FIELD MICE: September's Not So Far Away 7"
- 45 GENTLE DESPITE: Torment To Me 7"
- 46 ST.CHRISTOPHER: Say Yes To Everything 7"
- 47 THE SWEETEST ACHE: Sickening 7"
- 48 THE WAKE: Major John 7"
- 51 HEAVENLY: So Little Deserve 7"
- 52 TRAMWAY: Sweet Chariot 7"
- 53 SECRET SHINE: After Years 7"
- 54 THE FOREVER PEOPLE: Invisible 7"
- 55 BLUEBOY: Clearer 7"
- 56 BRIGHTER: Half-Hearted 7"
- 58 THE HIT PARADE: In Gunnersbury Park 7"
- 59 EVEN AS WE SPEAK: Beautiful Day 7"
- 60 ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: New Year's Honours 7"
- 61 SECRET SHINE: Ephemeral 7"
- 62 THE ROSARIES: Forever 7"
- 63 THE SUGARGLIDERS: Letter From A Lifeboat 7"
- 64 THE HARVEST MINISTERS: You Do My World The World
- 65 BLUEBOY: Popkiss EP 7" Of Good 7"
- 66 THE ORCHIDS: Thaumaturgy 7"/CD
- 67 THE SUGARGLIDERS: Seventeen 7"
- 68 THE HARVEST MINISTERS: Six O'Clock Is Rosary 7"
- 69 BRIGHTER: Disney EP 10"/CD
- 71 SECRET SHINE: Loveblind 7"/CD
- 72 THE SUGARGLIDERS: Ahprahran 7"/CD
- 73 ACTION PAINTING!: Classical Music 7"/CD
- 74 BLUEBOY: Meet Johnny Rave 7"/CD
- 75 EAST RIVER PIPE: Helmet On 7"/CD
- 76 BOYRACER: B is for Boyracer 7"/CD
- 77 THE SUGARGLIDERS: Trumpet Play 7"/CD
- 78 EAST RIVER PIPE: She's A Real Good Time 7"/CD
- 79 EVEN AS WE SPEAK: Blue Eyes Deceiving Me CD
- 80 BLUEBOY: Some Gorgeous Accident 7"/CD
- 81 HEAVENLY: P.U.N.K. Girl 7"

SARAH RECORDS, BS 99 1 FG
Tel: 0272 636929
PO BOX 691, BRISTOL, TEL: 0272 636929

- 82 HEAVENLY: Atta Girl 7"/CD (CD includes SARAH 81)
- 83 THE SUGARGLIDERS: Will We Ever Learn? 7"/CD
- 84 THE HARVEST MINISTERS: If It Kills Me 7"/CD
- 85 BOYRACER: From Purity To Purgatory 7"/CD
- 86 THE SUGARGLIDERS: Top 40 Sculpture 7"
- 87 ACTION PAINTING!: Mustard Gas 7"/CD
- 88 BLUEBOY: River 7"
- 89 SECRET SHINE: Greater Than God 10"/CD
- 90 THE HIT PARADE: Autobiography 7"/CD
- 91 IVY: Wish You Would 7"
- 92 IVY: Avenue 7"/CD (CD includes SARAH 91)
- 93 ABERDEEN: Byron 7"/CD
- 94 NORTHERN PICTURE LIBRARY: Paris 7"
- 95 NPL: Last September's Farewell Kiss 7"/CD (CD includes 96 BOYRACER: Pure Hatred 96 7"/CD SARAH 94)
- MID-PRICE LPs
- 401 THE ORCHIDS: Lyceum 10" LP
- 403 ST.CHRISTOPHER: Bacharach 10" LP
- 404 BRIGHTER: Laurel 10" LP/MC
- 405 EAST RIVER PIPE: Goodbye California 10" LP/CD
- 406 HARVEY WILLIAMS: Rebellion 10" LP/CD
- 602 THE WAKE: Make It Loud LP/MC
- 603 HEAVENLY: Heavenly Vs. Satan MC
- 604 TALULAH GOSH: They've Scoffed The Lot LP
- 606 THE FIELD MICE: Coastal compilation LP/CD/MC
- 608 THE SWEETEST ACHE: Jaguar LP/CD/MC
- 609 THE SEA URCHINS: Stardust compilation LP/CD
- 610 HEAVENLY: Le Jardin de Heavenly LP/CD/MC
- 612 BLUEBOY: If Wishes Were Horses LP
- 613 ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: London Weekend compilation LP
- 614 EVEN AS WE SPEAK: Feral Pop Frenzy LP/CD
- 615 SECRET SHINE: Untouched LP/CD
- 619 THE SUGARGLIDERS: compilation LP/CD
- 623 HEAVENLY: The Decline & Fall of Heavenly LP/CD
- 376 TEMPLE CLOUD 16 song compilation LP (15-28)
- 501 GLASS ARCADE 16 song compilation LP/CD/MC (29-40)
- 583 FOUNTAIN ISLAND 16 song compilation LP/CD (41-53)
- 628 ENGINE COMMON 16 song compilation LP/CD (54-69)
- 530 GAOL FERRY BRIDGE 16 song compilation LP/CD (71-85)
- FULL-PRICE LPs
- 605 THE ORCHIDS: Unholy Soul LP/CD/MC
- 607 THE FIELD MICE: For Keeps CD/MC
- 611 THE ORCHIDS: Epicurean compilation LP/CD/MC
- 616 THE HARVEST MINISTERS: Little Dark Mansion LP/CD/MC
- 617 THE ORCHIDS: Striving For The Lazy Perfection LP/CD
- 618 THE WAKE: Tidal Wave Of Hype LP/CD
- 620 BLUEBOY: Unisex LP/CD
- 621 EAST RIVER PIPE: Poor Fricky LP/CD
- 622 THE HIT PARADE: The Sound Of The Hit Parade LP/CD

SARAH MAIL-ORDER

All prices include p&p - please make cheques/POs payable to SARAH RECORDS. If writing from abroad, please make sure all cheques/money-orders are in POUNDS - no cheques on non-UK bank accounts! Cash is sent at your own risk - register it if possible, and please add extra to allow for bank charges if you must send foreign currency! The SARAH NEWSLETTER is quarterly - send an SAE if you want the next one, or £1 for the next four.

	U.K.	EUROPE	WORLD
7"	£2.00	£2.40	£3.00
CD SINGLE or 10"/12" SINGLE	£3.25	£4.25	£5.00
MID-PRICE LP [vinyl/cassette]	£5.00	£6.00	£8.00
MID-PRICE CD	£7.00	£8.00	£10.00
FULL-PRICE LP [vinyl/cassette]	£6.50	£7.00	£9.50
FULL-PRICE CD	£9.00	£10.00	£12.00

Also, for all 7"s up to and including SARAH 60:

Number of 7"s ordered	U.K.	EUROPE	WORLD
5 or more	£1.50	£1.80	£2.50
10 or more	£1.00	£1.50	£2.00