

sarah obituary

january 1996

HOW IT ALL ENDED...

... well, we had a party... and right up to the last minute it looked like we'd have no drum-kdt, because **HEAVENLY** had mislaid their floor-tom (later discovered being used by David from Comet Gain as a laundry basket), and only one guitar amp because Harvey, who was supposed to be bringing his, had got held up in London, and Cathy (Heavenly) had said that though normally she'd be more than happy to pick it up on her way from Brixton, the idea of driving via Shepherd's Bush when the Notting Hill Carnival was on didn't really appeal... she then offered to break into Amelia's parents' house in Reading because she thought there was one there, and apparently it's dead easy to do, you just go round the back and - but somehow, breaking and entering seemed an unwise thing to be getting into at this stage...

We managed in the end, though, and people came from far and wide... 48 from France, 25 from Germany... Canada, Japan, Thailand, USA... even a party of 7 from Hull. And... well, I guess if you were there then you know what happened, and if you weren't you'd probably rather we kept quiet - I know word's already got round about Harvey and Julian (Hit Parade) performing their set entirely naked, and **THE ORCHIDS** coming on-stage as a human pyramid perched atop the handlebars of a Harley Davidson, and the whole evening ending with a 400-strong conga round the streets of Bristol led by the boys from the Avonmouth Retired Dockworkers Good Time Oompah Band - so I'll say nothing: for if, as Telly Savalas once sang, a picture paints a thousand words, then, um... how can... um... how many words would two pictures paint in half the time? Exactly. **BUT** - heck - I really can't *not* mention such highlights as **SECRET SHINE**'s rendition of Take That's *Magic*, or Bobby (**FIELD MICE/NPL**) holding court by the door having been kidnapped and driven here by Ian Catt, or Lee **ACTION PAINTING!** turning up out of the blue and saying 'I'm Lee from Action Painting' as if we didn't know (**ACTION PAINTING!** were supposed to play... only they split-up instead. Lee's now in **DESIGNER** who, reading between the lines, we reckon are sort of punk-romo, and therefore probably the best band in the world), or Tim **SHELLEY** (i.e. **ORLANDO**) getting thrown out for punching Neil Bouquet. Apparently he also refused to close a window when somebody asked him. We'd like to emphasise that we in no way condone such blatantly rock'n'roll behaviour; being on the front cover of *Melody Maker* doesn't make someone big or clever, just a bit garish. And punching people just because they're in Bouquet and not closing a window when somebody's clearly a bit chilly are the first steps on a slippery slope to who-knows-what depravity. Though if it's got steps, of course, it's not really a slope: unless there's some sort of wheelchair ramp. Finally, sorry to anyone who got given a *Mendip County Council* balloon instead of a **SARAH 100** one - just one of the drawbacks of getting your balloons printed in Trowbridge. Apologies too to anyone from Mendip County Council whose Staff Party was totally ruined by getting a balloon with **SARAH 100 BALLOON** written on it and not knowing what it meant. **"SARAH"** is the name of a record-label.

Or was. Because on August 28th it all ended with the release of **SARAH 100**, *There And Back Again Lane*, our final retrospective CD thingy (21 songs from 21 bands and a big booklet of anecdotes and pictures). Though only after much trauma - I have long-suspected that there are special exams you have to fail in order to become a printer, and **SARAH 100** proved it; we nearly missed the release date and oh, the printing's still not perfect but then, what is? Life is all regrets, and I've had a few, as Frank Sinatra once sang, before hiccuping loudly and falling over sideways. But we made it - even if the final pressing order *did* have to be phoned in from Heathrow airport within earshot of various top stars from Ride, Supergrass and Echobelly - "That's just the promo quantity, of course" we said, loud as possible, but I don't suppose we fooled anyone. Heathrow? Ah yes... because that Spanish festival featuring **HEAVENLY** finally happened, personal highlights being: meeting David **POPPYHEAD** for the first time since 1988

(he's now in Revolution #9); watching Martin Rossiter getting told off at Valencia Airport for walking along the baggage carousel; Mathew Heavenly mistaking Jimbob and Fruitbat for the rest of his band; and, of course, **HEAVENLY** themselves, playing stadium rock to 20,000 people, with Amelia thankfully choosing not to witter to the front row about - anything at all. And, um, if you *did* go all the way to Spain for it, we're sorry we gave you the wrong date last time.

THE FUTURE...

... was going to be called *Metropolitan*, but sadly there's already a label called that, so we had to re-think and, keeping the railway theme, came up with

shinkansen

which is what the Japanese call the Bullet Train. So there.

First release will be by a band with the unlikely name of **TOMPOT BLENNY** - or not unlikely if you're a fish, because that's what a tompot blenny is. A fish. If you were a Pilchard, for instance, then to have the Tompat Blennies living next door would be as perfectly natural as having, say, the Smiths next door would be to a family of humans. Or would be if they hadn't split up. So; they're a duo from the Leicestershire/Derbyshire border country - Loughborough, Ilkeston... if you've ever driven up the A6 and turned right at Kegworth, you'll know where they're coming from. And if you've ever gone the other way, you'll know where they're going. Leicester. And they sound like... maybe early Microdisney, or Young Marble Giants, or The Field Mice circa *Emma's House*... and the debut 7" EP, *Thinking Of Ways Of Keeping You Warm*, should be out late March, with a real tompot blenny on the sleeve, just in case you didn't believe me. Though doubtless some of you will argue that it's just a red herring. (Send £2 now and we'll send you a copy when it's ready - I'm afraid it *doesn't* qualify for the SARAH discounts on big 7" orders, though! Sorry!!!)

We also have another new band, **TREMBLING BLUE STARS**, who, OK, aren't actually *new* as such because it's Bob from **THE FIELD MICE/NORTHERN PICTURE LIBRARY** now slimmed down to a one-piece, which makes him sound a bit like a swimming costume but he's better than that honest. Recording will be finished by the end of January, so something should be out in April - a 7" (possibly *Abba On The Jukebox*), then an LP, and oh, it's really varied, really fragile, and we think better than anything **THE FIELD MICE** or **N.P.L.** ever did.

And now we'll run through how the *other* bands are trying to pass what's left of their lives.

HEAVENLY are recording a new LP but waiting till it's finished before deciding what to do with it; one of the tracks, however, will be appearing on a split single with Bis on K. K are also doing a complete **TALULAH GOSH** retrospective CD (singles and sessions) called *Backwash* - this will be licensed to Southern in the U.K. And there's some **HEAVENLY** gigs, too:

Thu 18th January	LONDON, Upstairs at The Garage	with Bis/Lungleg
Fri 19th January	NOTTINGHAM, The Narrowboat	with Bis
Sat 20th January	LEEDS, The Fenton	with Bis
Sat 3rd February	BRISTOL, Hope Centre	with Junkie (Secret Shine offshoot)

There's plans too for an International Pop Underground style all-dayer like they have in Olympia, only this one will be in, um, Oxford. Also: we mentioned before an American AIDS benefit CD **HEAVENLY** were going to be on called *Red Hot & Bothered*, *The Indie Rock Guide To Dating*, and this is now out (on Kinetic), including also a track (*Miracleland*) by **EAST RIVER PIPE** and a board-game telling you how to have safe sex (use a condom and don't start till you've thrown a six seems to be the gist). Finally - Cathy's been moonlighting with various members of The McTells as **GILROY** (rather unreasonably described by John Peel as a "supergroup"), and they

have a 7" EP (called *Renaissance Girl*) out now on Bi Joopiter (through SRD, or send £2.50 to Bi-Joopiter, 2 Wentworth Road, Hertford SG13 8JP).

BLUEBOY have restructured themselves: they're now back to a duo of Keith and Paul. Because Keith reckoned that he'd reached his peak during their SARAH 100 performance (it's a shame we weren't watching), and that to prolong it further would just spoil it. Imagine you're making a meringue: you whip the egg-whites up to nice stiff peaks but then if you *overwhip* them they just go soft and useless; I presume that's what Keith had in mind. Which reminds me: if you spotted the copy of US gay porn mag *Blueboy* lurking on the back cover of SARAH 99, you might like to know that the magazine was so, um, tickled by this that their March issue includes a photo of our Keith amid a motley array of pink bottoms and perky whatnots (sigh... I still regret not going to that party...) along with the by-line *Britain has a new group who named themselves after their favorite manzine*. And if you're wondering how *Blueboy* (the magazine) found out about the band, blame Beth from **ABERDEEN**, who often has to speak to the magazine's editor in the course of her dayjob. Two other **BLUEBOY** items: a performance-artist in Australia is currently doing a show about River Phoenix which seems to involve much lipstick and audience-abuse to the sound of **BLUEBOY**'s *River*, and a magician in America wants them to compose the music to which he comes on-stage and, presumably, saws people in half. Another job for Keith's magic wand, methinks (see above).

Continuing the theme of bands with members in unlikely places, those with nothing better to do at 5pm might have seen Nicola **BOYRACER** playing bass for The Wedding Present on *Esther*. Curious. Though not as curious as Stewart's recent appearance on *Oprah* (*"Thinks His Record Label Doesn't Understand Him"*). **BOYRACER** themselves are off to Europe in March - Paris, Brussels and Holland - after which, having chucked in their jobs and signed to New York label *Zero Hour* (CD *In Full Colour* out in April), they leave at the end of April for a two-month U.S. tour. We shall be there at the quayside to wave them off. Already there is small **BOYRACER**-shaped hole in our lives which will be hard to... oh phooey, of course there isn't. Though what the good people of Leeds will do when they find they can no longer cup their hands round Stewart's lovely hot potatoes while he gives them the filling of their choice, Lord knows. Before licensing their souls to Uncle Sam, though, they did something quintessentially English: they recorded a version of OMD's *Electricity* (it's on a flexi free with VINYL copies of the *We Are Made Of The Same Wood* LP [Turntable Friend/Shumberland]) and thus invented Romo...

...prompting **SHELLEY** to morph back into **ORLANDO** and, with a line-up of Tim, Dickon and two other blokes, provide the missing link between Ivor Cutler, ABC and Take That. Stephen and Simon, who remember being the two other blokes on-stage with Tim and Dickon supporting **BLUEBOY** in the pre-**SHELLEY** version of **ORLANDO**, seem vaguely bemused to be reading about the band's "debut" London shows...

SECRET SHINE have a new single out on Feb 25th on Bath label Spoiler, a 7" featuring *Wasted Away* and *Wish Coming True* - £2.50 including p&p to Secret Shine, 10 Cossham Road, St. George, Bristol, BS5 8DL, cheques payable to S.Purnell. (£1.25 to the same address also gets you a copy of Scott's *Suck* fanzine/magazine). Should also be some gigs around that time. Elsewhere... **IVY** are finally facing up to life's injustices and considering a name change... they also had a track on the recent Noisebox sampler *Now That's What I Call Noisebox*, and should be recording an LP for them soon. **THE HIT PARADE** are doing some stuff with Ian Catt for Polystar, **THE SWEETEST ACHE** have split and Stuart's working in Our Price in Bristol (though demo-ing new stuff back home in Wales), and **THE HARVEST MINISTERS** are doing new demos for Setanta - we also saw them play in Dublin, and went to a party with them which we assumed would be all drink and drugs and loud music and nude sardines but which actually turned out to be a group of people playing chess on someone's parents' patio. Life's a scary place at times.

Now, one question we're often asked is: "Did **EVEN AS WE SPEAK** *really* all go back to Australia and fall down a large hole, or were you just making that up?" - and till now we've simply smiled enigmatically and tapped the sides of our noses. But now we must come clean and admit

that we *did* make it up, as Mary and Anita have a track on a split EP out soon on Season Records. So there. The others? Oh, they all fell down a large hole. No, a different one.

Another much-asked question is what were all those bloody tokens for? Well... this is a bit painful for us but... basically, it was all going to be part of a competition, to win a night out with the cat, in an alley behind the restaurant of your choice. You'd collect the tokens, then complete the sentence 'I would like to have a bloody good time with the Sarah Cat because...' Sadly, once the cat got wind... we threw her out, because there's nothing worse than a cat with wind, and, basically, she's not been seen since, and -

Actually, she disappeared the very day we announced the end of SARAH; we knew she was going to take it badly, but not that bad. That was also the day the computer finally packed-up and the roof blew off - not that we believe in omens or anything. It's very sad, almost like she never existed. Almost like we invented her.

Finally: yes, we are still selling SARAH stuff - but lots *has* sold out, even if only on certain formats - and a few things have reappeared! - so please read the list carefully. And we've just paid £50 to hire the PO Box for another year, so don't worry, letters *will* still reach us. And, for now, keep sending cheques made out to SARAH RECORDS. Even if you don't want anything.

Oh and let us know if you want to receive more Shinkansen information in future - our mailing-list's getting a bit out-of-date in places, and we don't know if some of you still exist.

SARAH RECORDS/SHINKANSEN

PO BOX 691, BRISTOL, BS99 1FG
0117 963 6929

Singles

- 15 - ST. CHRISTOPHER: You Deserve More Than A Maybe 7"
- 20 - ST. CHRISTOPHER: All Of A Tremble 7"
- 24 - THE FIELD MICE: The Autumn Store Pt. 1 7"
- 26 - GENTLE DESPITE: Darkest Blue 7"
- 33 - THE SEA URCHINS: A Morning Odyssey 7"
- 34 - ST. CHRISTOPHER: Antoinette 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"
- 45 - GENTLE DESPITE: Torment To Me 7"
- 46 - ST. CHRISTOPHER: Say Yes To Everything 7"
- 52 - TRAMWAY: Sweet Chariot 7"
- 54 - THE FOREVER PEOPLE: Invisible 7"
- 56 - BRIGHTER: Half Hearted 7"
- 60 - ANOTHER SUNNY DAY: New Year's Honours 7"
- 61 - SECRET SHINE: Ephemeral 7"
- 62 - THE ROSARIES: Leaving 7"
- 64 - THE HARVEST MINISTERS: You Do My World The World 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 10"/CD
- 71 - SECRET SHINE: Loveblind 7"
- 72 - THE SUGARGLIDERS: Alprahran 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: 3 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"
- 81 - HEAVENLY: P.U.N.K. Girl 7"
- 82 - HEAVENLY: Atta Girl CD (includes SARAH 81)
- 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"/CD
- 87 - ACTION PAINTING: Mustard Gas 7"/CD
- 88 - BLUEBOY: River 7"
- 89 - SECRET SHINE: Greater Than God 10"
- 90 - THE HIT PARADE: Autobiography 7"/CD
- 91 - IVY: Wish You Would 7"
- 92 - IVY: Avenger 7"
- 93 - ABERDEEN: Byron 7"/CD
- 95 - NORTHERN PICTURE LIBRARY: Last September's Farewell Kiss 7"
- 96 - BOYRACER: Pure Hatred 7"/CD
- 97 - ABERDEEN: Fireworks 7"/CD
- 98 - SHELLEY: Reproduction Is Pollution 7"/CD
- 99 - BLUEBOY: Dirty Mags 7"

Mid-Price LPs

- 401 - THE ORCHIDS: Lyceum 10"
- 403 - ST. CHRISTOPHER: Bacharach 10"
- 404 - BRIGHTER: Laurel 10"/MC
- 405 - EAST RIVER PIPE: Goodbye California 10"/CD
- 406 - HARVEY WILLIAMS: Rebellion 10"/CD
- 407 - EAST RIVER PIPE: Even The Sun Was Afraid 10"/CD
- 602 - THE WAKE: Make It Loud LP/MC
- 606 - THE FIELD MICE: Coastal compilation LP/MC
- 608 - THE SWEETEST ACHE: Jaguar CD/MC
- 609 - THE SEA URCHINS: Stardust LP/CD
- 610 - HEAVENLY: Le Jardin de Heavenly LP/CD/MC
- 614 - EVEN AS WE SPEAK: Feral Pop Frenzy CD
- 615 - SECRET SHINE: Untouched CD
- 619 - THE SUGARGLIDERS: Compilation LP/CD
- 683 - HEAVENLY: The Decline & Fall of Heavenly CD
- 685 - SHADOW FACTORY: 16 song compilation LP (1-12)
- 376 - TEMPLE CLOUD: 16 song compilation LP (15-28)
- 501 - GLASS ARCADE: 16 song compilation CD/MC (29-40)
- 628 - ENGINE COMMON: 16 song compilation CD (54-69)
- 530 - GAOL FERRY BRIDGE: 16 song compilation LP/CD (71-85)
- 359 - BATTERY POINT: 16 song compilation LP/CD (86-99)

Full-Price LPs

- 605 - THE ORCHIDS: Unholy Soul LP/CD
- 607 - THE FIELD MICE: For Keeps LP/CD
- 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/MC
- 618 - THE WAKE: Tidal Wave Of Hype LP/CD
- 620 - BLUEBOY: Unisex LP/CD
- 621 - EAST RIVER PIPE: Poor Frisky LP/CD
- 622 - THE HIT PARADE: The Sound of The Hit Parade LP/CD

100 - 'There And Back Again Lane' (booklet + CD)

All prices include p&p - cheques/POs payable to SARAH RECORDS, and please make sure all Eurocheques/bank-drafts/money-orders are in POUNDS. Cash is sent at your own risk - please add extra to allow for bank charges if you must send foreign currency!

	U.K.	EUROPE	WORLD
7"	£2.00	£2.40	£3.00
7" (if ordering 5 or more)	£1.50	£1.80	£2.50
7" (if ordering 10 or more)	£1.00	£1.50	£2.00
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
SARAH 100	£10.00	£11.00	£13.00