

Vanden Plas



It was the 10th of June 1996 when Jon, Graheme and David last played together, in a quiet rehearsal room, near a deserted railway station. At the time, none of them realised that Vanden Plas was coming to the end of the line and indeed there were plans to record in the August of that year.

So, with rumours of a reunion and possible new album doing the rounds on several fan forums, I arranged to speak to the bass player & singer David Wilson.

David released his second solo album **People Watching** in May 2008 and while many of the tracks are reminiscent of the Vanden Plas sound, three songs in particular stand out as they feature Jon Clark on drums.

Dan: Is it true that you all fell out after your last UK tour finished at the Pyramids?

David: I'd never really fallen out with the guys, we just stopped hanging out with each other and days became months, became years. I brought out my first solo album in 2006, **Egg Beef Nine**, after 7 years of writing and 3 years of recording and sent Jon a copy. He got back to me saying "you should have had real drums on it", so i said "will you play on the next one then?"

Dan: So did he take you up on that?

David: He did indeed and it was during these sessions that the conversation came around to the question of "who put the brakes on Vanden Plas?".

Dan: According to the credits you played most of the bass on Graheme's first solo album "Soon" in 1996, and made a guest appearance on the follow up MOTM.

David: Thats right, the vibe between Graheme and I has always been good.

Dan: There was speculation that Graheme and Jon hadn't spoken since 1996?

David: That's not the case, oh hang on, well it was the case, until recently when we all met up to discuss terms and conditions to re-release our archive material with Yew Tree Music.

That's the name of the new album, "Terms and Conditions". It seems so appropriate as all three of us find it hard to sign anything these days without reading all the small print and getting someone to check it over first".

Dan: So, what can we expect from Vanden Plas in the 21st century, a new sound?

David: Not really, we're bass, drums and guitar so, at its core that's the sound you'll get but we will be adding loops and samples so that will be different this time around.

Grahame's been writing for this project like a madman, his demos are cracking. I've been trying to speak to him for weeks but he's always in the studio, creating. He sent me an e-mail recently...oh, I printed it out, its here somewhere... right it says:

"I've been working on remastering the Vanden Plas back catalogue and it's heartwarming to hear our recordings from the original masters. People don't realise how tight we were, you know, there was a little too much reverb for my liking on the earlier stuff but we did a good job."

Dan: Why is now the right time for Vanden Plas to make a comeback?

David: We've still got something together that we don't have apart and we're raring to go, ready for another crack at the big time. Twelve years is long enough away so that the public miss you.

Dan: Its going to be that good?

David: We are going to the top Dan.

(David was talking to Dan van der Plovereenen)

