



## Ollie's Diary

**Date: Fri. 18th/Sat. 19th October 1991. Event: The Recording of Nefarious Demo, Fleece Studio Witney.**

Day One: Arrived half-hour early on Friday morning (9.30 instead of 10.00) to ensure getting one of the few parking spaces available, preferably the one nearest the studio to minimise the humping of gear. The rest of the band (bar Martin) gradually arrived. Grahaeme being last (typical drummer!) missed out on a parking space and spent much of the morning, eyes out the window, waiting for a car to move.

We recorded with drums and bass in one room and both guitars in another (vocals to be added later) and recorded live connected by headphones. Any overdubs were recorded individually afterwards. The Spear joins us at about 1pm and casts his beady eyes over the proceedings, but even so we finish recording the music by about 3pm and set about a late lunch of Ginsters Pasties, Keema Nans and other assorted junk. After lunch our engineer Tim Turan sets to work while we relax in front of the goggle box. The fare includes MTV, the Lovers' Guide (video brought in by Grahaeme) and in my case reading Spiderman comics.

By 7(Church) we were ready to eat again (Sevenchurch being a band who thrive on food), and while we ate, Martin, Dave (C) and I prepared to work. Yes, now it was time for vocals so the evening was spent singing and sucking lozenges. Martin was still recovering from the tail-end of a cold but did an admirable job. While we slaved away Dave (S) and Grahaeme pissed off to the pub next door.

Finally by midnight we were ready to leave. Dave S. and I went back to Tim's home mini-studio and supervised as Tim worked on the intro that would begin 'Circus Divine' (birds, wind, thunder). Got home about 2.30am. Knackered!

Day Two: By a couple of hours into the 19th our work was finished as far as recording was concerned and the rest of the day would be spent mixing. This meant much hard work for Tim and lots of TV watching and eating for us. We improved on the cuisine by going out for fish and chips. During the day we each took turns to supervise as our own instrument was tweaked for sound, and effects were added (such as the backwards vocal reverb on the 'Twilight Of Evergreen' acoustic section). By the evening the first rough mixes of the songs were ready and we all listened to them together giving our comments, making adjustments and re-listening. After god knows how many playbacks we were all satisfied and the 2-inch masters were transferred to DAT. Our first demo was completed!

**Date: 21/2/92. Venue: Jericho Tavern. Co-Headline with 'Damage'.**

Our second gig with 'Mad' Martin Spear, the Manic Undertaker began with a bang or rather a 'phut' as 'Man Mountain' Smart's (© ATL) pre-amp refuse to produce any sound and not a note had been played! This unfortunately resulted in Mr. Spear filling the time with some of his legendary chat and joke telling and I would like to apologise now for this infliction upon the crowd, ... but as they say 'the show must go on!' Eventually Dave managed to get his mighty death rack fired up and it did!

Anyhow by the time we were halfway through our second song 'Spirit Sanctum' all mishaps were forgotten on my part and as the crowd surged forward towards the front and the doom dancing began I gained my first inking that it would be a night to remember. By 'Circus Divine' I was having a great time and so it seemed was everyone else. This becomes my favourite gig played so far.

**Date: 2/5/92. Venue: Jericho Tavern. (1st Headline Gig). Support: Arthur Turner's Loveblob.**

Well yet again things did not run as planned. Are Sevenchurch cursed I wonder as the support band the 'Loveblobs' phoned at 6.30 p.m. on the night of the gig to say they are not coming now with no explanation? First Headbutt pull of our February 21st gig and now this. Who dares to play on the same bill with Sevenchurch?! Well, the valiant Mac - Arthur Turners Loveblob and gig Promoter threw himself on the mercy of the disgruntled hoardes and launched into a handful of numbers with but his lone guitar and voice. Thanks Mac!

Tonight for the first time Sevenchurch were using an intro to start the show (A slowed down version of 'You're The One' by Chris Montez fact freaks!) and then the onslaught began. It was a fine performance by the band in general but it was also one of the smallest crowds we have played to. (Including apparently a lurking A&R man who was blown away). It was also one of the hottest gigs we have played.

**Date: 24/5/92. Venue: The Dolly. Support: Arthur Turner's Lovechild.**

The evening started slowly as Sevenchurch struggled to get the right sounds during our soundcheck on this (to us) Alien PA System. Eventually though, the elements align and all is set. As ATL begin their soundcheck, lead singer Mac delivers the immortal line, 'Leave it the same for us, just turn down my vocals!'

Being a Sunday night, showtime begins early and as such ATL did not have a great crowd when they took to the stage but they did a fine job and sure enough the audience arrived and enjoyed what they saw. By the time Sevenchurch took the stage the Dolly was packed. A new intro (taken from the film 'Eraserhead') preceding 'Old Truths, Ancient Magick'. The atmosphere was great and it felt good to be playing a different venue. The stage was larger and though the roof was low I didn't bash my head! The crowd soon moved towards the front and there was a lot of 'banging going on. As we left the stage the applause was great. This became my joint favourite gig so far!

**Date: 14/6/92. Event: Interview for July Issue of Curfew.**

It was a beautiful day and the venue was the garden of 'The Fishes' Pub, North Hinksey. With beers in hand (except for Martin on coke) Sevenchurch began their first proper interview (minus Basti who was on holiday). The four of us sat around the tape recorder with Ronan asking the questions. It was a new and fun experience. Keep your eyes open and check out the results for yourself.