



...ITS... **OLLIE'S DIARY II**

Date: 17/792. Venue: Jericho Tavern. Support: Walk On Water.

This was an interesting gig as it provoked some extreme responses. Walk On Water began the evening well. The female vocalist was reminiscent of Siouxsie Sioux in sound if not look. Unfortunately the evening was running late as we took to the stage and we were slightly unsettled as the intro began. As it turned out we gave a good performance, although the pace was fast for us, one for the history books!

As I said extreme reactions were generated. This was the gig that Robin Poultney reviewed (and slagged) in Kerrang! It was also the gig that was watched by Mike Exley from Noise Records who thought we were great and has led to Noise offering us a record deal!

Date 8/9/92. Venue: The Pennyfarthing.

There were a few ghosts stirred up for me tonight. This was a weird place to be playing as I'd seen so many great bands playing here in the early eighties. Now it was open again and Sevenchurch were playing here. It was a good gig in all. The stage was tiny and the lights few but the PA had a good sound. At least it did until it went down halfway through the gig! There was a good turnout, in fact its rarely (if ever) been beaten since the Pennyfarthing's reopening. Tonight was the first time we played 'Inavoid' and it went down really well. Meanwhile outside a storm was raging, yet again. Something that seems to happen every time we play?!

Date 21/9/92. Venue: Jericho Tavern. The 'OUR SONGS' Covers Night.

Tonight was different. It was Mac's (the Tavern's promoter) Birthday and to celebrate he had arranged for nine top local bands to each play a fifteen minute set of cover songs with all bands using the same backbone. The bands playing were 'Death By Crimppers', 'Squid', 'Arthur Turner's Lovechild' (Mac's band), 'The Jennifers', 'The Daisies', 'The Candyskins', 'The Anyways', 'Saturn V' and ourselves. The running order was pulled out of a hat, and we got the second slot of the evening, rather fortunately as it turned out because there was free beer available for the bands. The place was packed, completely sold out and the atmosphere was phenomenal. What did we play? Well, we began with a totally doomed out version of the 'Funeral March' which metamorphosed into 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic' without changing pace! Next it was time for a couple of old punk tunes completely thrashed out and the sudden change of pace certainly shocked. We played the Sex Pistols 'New York' first with an excellent Johnny Rotten impersonation from Martin (vague memories of Madamadam!) and followed that with Discharge's 'Protest And Survive'. Finally it was back to the Doom as we finished our set with our own special version of 'Happy Birthday' for Mac. This evening was purely for fun, and great fun it was. All the bands were excellent and by the end of the evening I was very drunk.

Date: 1/10/92. Venue: The Mean Fiddler, Harlesden, London. Oxford Showcase featuring Sevenchurch, Squid, Death by Crimppers and Arthur Turners Lovechild.

This was a gig we had all been looking forward to. A showcase gig of Oxford bands billed as the 'Oxfordpolooza', with Sevenchurch headlining. For us it was our first gig outside of Oxford which made it even more fun. The band (minus mad Martin who lives in London) set off for the smoke around 1pm in a hired Ford Transit Van. Dave 'The Ghost' Capel was at the wheel, 'Man Mountain' Smart was navigating and the rhythm section (Basty and myself) were in the back trying to hold everything down! (no change there then!).

We made the venue in plenty of time for our 4pm soundcheck and we were very impressed by the venue - a big stage, lots of lights and a great PA. Martin joins us and the soundcheck was duly completed. Now there is nothing left to do but relax until showtime. At 8pm the doors are opened and people started to arrive. Two full coaches have travelled down from Oxford/Banbury (plus the odd car load) so there were lots of familiar faces around as the place filled up. The other bands all put on good performances and the crowd was well warmed up when we took the stage. The reaction was fantastic, lots of movement going on down the front and we were having a great time on stage. We started with 'Circus Divine', for the first time in a few gigs. Next came 'Autobiutary' (which is my own personal favourite) closely followed by 'Inavoid'. Things just couldn't get any better - so instead they got worse! As we finished 'Inavoid' Martin was asked to make an announcement - namely that the Oxford coaches were just leaving prompting a mass exodus as we begin 'Twilight Of Evergreen' It's rather a strange feeling to see 150 odd people all leaving your gig at the same time while you are still playing. Nevermind, we still had a crowd to play to, just a smaller one. Also at about this time the crowd for the post-gig nightclub were beginning to arrive and I don't think they quite knew what to make of us. It was cool, they got up and tried dancing anyway and didn't heckle. In fact, by the time we had finished 'Twilight', I think most of them were quite enjoying our vibe!

Date: 11/10/92. Event: Recording of 'Old Truths, Ancient Magick' at Courtyard Studio, Sutton Courtenay.

This was another event we were all looking forward to, roughly a year since the recording of the 'Nefarious' demo we were back in the studio. This time it was Courtyard Studio and what a superb studio it was. Upstairs were living quarters fully equipped with about 8 bedrooms plus dining room, lounge, bathroom and kitchen. The studio itself was downstairs - 3 recording rooms and the control room.

In an effort to capture that 'live' sound that is so hard to get in a studio we decided to set up the equipment so we could play together in one room. We put the guitar cabinets in another room and my bass cabinet in the third room to achieve the separation. Martin sang a guide vocal from the control room and all the separate instruments came together via our headphones. Also we spent a lot more time miking up the instruments this time which gave better sounds. Final vocals were added separately, (the same as when we had recorded the demo). John and Man Mountain then shared the duties of mixing and producing. This left Dave C, Basty and me free to play Sonic The Hedgehog on the Sega Mega Drive supplied by the studio! It goes without saying that during the day huge amounts of Junk Food were consumed by the band including Pizzas, Ginsters Pasties, and the odd beer or three! As with our last studio visit it was far more tiring than I would expect. We had begun at 10am and finally left the studio 16 hours later at 2am Monday morning. Really we would have liked just a few more hours . . . Certainly we hope to be going back there soon.