

Play it again Sam!

Experiences with recording

My first recording experience was with my first group, the Electrons. We spent a Sunday Morning in the backroom of our local Public House recoding some of our original material that we had written. The setup was rather primitive with a tape recorder with only one microphone. To get the balance the musicians had to be spaced out at intervals away from the microphone, the vocals at the front with drums and bass at the furthest away, the guitar amps were in the middle.

The tape was then taken to ERA in Norwich to be transferred to acetate. Before the Electrons disbanded a live recording was made using the same recorder with the one microphone, the trouble this time was the punters used to stand in front of it and then the tape ran out before we had finished. This was also taken to ERA for transfer to acetate.

Some years later my son Mark took these acetates into a studio and cleaned them up while they were transferred to Compact Disc at that time he and I decided to use new technology to re-record one of the tracks on the first recording and add this to the CD to make up an album.

In the 1990s I was working with Mervyn & The Starbeats and we were given a free slot at a studio in Norwich. The studio was state of the art but the remainder of the place left much to be desired. The recording turned out well and we were able to sell it at gigs and elsewhere it also got some radio plays. Later we made a second recording there but it did not turn out as well as the first and so Mark had to do his magic on it before we could sell it. We were videoed at one of our gigs but we did not have the expertise to edit it before sale.

Eventually Mark and I decided to record using members of his band and, occasionally, some members of the Starbeats. We made five albums with a sixth unfinished because of Mark's untimely death.