Experimental analogue electronic recordings resurface after almost forty years.

Digital release by The Tapeworm — 9 April 2021

First available on cassette in 2020, 127 copies (sold out)
Available on cassette in a ‘black’ signed edition of 53 copies — 13 April 2021

Recorded by The Pathfinders — Roger Cleghorn and Malcolm Garrett — ‘Imagine Something Yesterday’ is a compendium of playful explorations with analogue synthesisers and distorted found sounds.

Former art and design students at Manchester Polytechnic, The Pathfinders were sharing a flat together when Malcolm was establishing his graphic design studio, Assorted iMaGes, on London’s Tottenham Court Road and Roger was studying for a Fine Art MA at Chelsea School of Art.

These experiments from the 15th floor of a tower block in the Isle of Dogs in London were captured directly on a reel-to-reel tape recorder over a period of a few months at the tail end of 1980 and the beginning of 1981. Further embellishments were made at Chelsea School of Art.

The equipment used included Yamaha CS-10, ARP Axxe, EMS VCS3, TEAC A-3340, Bang & Olufsén Beogram 1202 and Beolab 1700.

Listeners may identify the aural influence of electronic pioneers such as Cluster, Tangerine Dream, Cabaret Voltaire or Throbbing Gristle as these were some of the musicians whose records were frequently played at home by The Pathfinders around that time.

With almost 40 years having elapsed since recording, memories are sketchy with regard to who made what noise where, but everything ended up compiled onto a couple of cassette tapes, where they have languished ever since — the master reel-to-reel tapes seemingly lost forever. ‘Imagine Something Yesterday’ has almost all of the surviving recordings. A tantalising additional 14 minutes of sound remains, the full running time being just too long for comfortable release on one cassette.

The Pathfinders remain Roger Cleghorn and Malcolm Garrett.