

# RUSS BALLARD

## official NEWSLETTER



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

It seems like no time at all since I was writing that the newsletter had completed its first year. Now, here we are at the end of year two! (First edition was in March 2013) Many of you have been with us right from the beginning and we are picking up readers all the time. We have more than usual new readers this month.... welcome all!

I would like to thank the people who regularly help with the newsletter...with artwork, promotion and contributions. Thanks, this month, to Ian Street and Dave Williams for some great ideas. More of those coming later. I am always happy for readers to get involved. Ian and Dave came up with similar ideas which they actually sent to me on the same day!! So, with the possibility of a UK/ European tour sometime in the future (at the moment this is just a proposal but watch this space!) **what would be your ideal Russ Ballard Band set list?** Dave has sent me his and it is featured in this newsletter. If you would like to send your list to this email address I will put a couple more into future newsletters. Maybe make them between 12 and 20 songs and could you please indicate which are your favourite three songs out of the list. If you don't want to compile a whole set list, please send me your top three Russ songs. I know that is difficult!!! If enough of you take part in this we should be able to combine them and come up with the definitive set list and also find the three most popular songs (I think we might have a good idea what those will be but hoping for surprises!)

Sue

## THIS MONTH....

Russ: *It has been another month of studio work....usually up between five and six a.m. - a cup of tea, then, a walk of fifty paces to the studio. It's usually a bit cold in the studio. I turn on the heat and listen to the previous days recording as I drink my tea. I still don't understand why I still get such a kick out of writing and recording...anyway, the feeling is as good if not more intense than it used to be. I'll work until one o'clock, come in to the house and have lunch. When 'The Archers' comes on to radio four, I go for a run, usually that lasts forty minutes. I go back and work around about three thirty. I finish at about five, come indoors, have a shower - often I go out to eat at the local Italian or Indian restaurant....well, that's my usual kind of day. I might eat out at lunchtime, if friends show up.....usually Bob Henrit, Mod Rogan or Peter Ross.*

### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH...Ambition etc..

Russ: *It's strange how we often hear about people 'making a name for him/herself' - Humans are incredibly ambitious - I suppose it's one of the reasons the species has evolved as it has....But, it seems, what is more important than the human, is that what the human leaves behind when he/she dies...the life's work, the business, the scientific achievement, the poem, the song....or, the good deeds of the Doctor, Nurse, Carer....Or, the most seemingly ordinary person, who leaves a great spirit for us to admire....Whatever, it's certainly a great life when one is lucky enough to find a passion....it means one gets up everyday looking forward to what the day has in store....Finding that passion in their pupils is something Teachers have to do....In my opinion, it means the difference between a fulfilled life, or, often a mundane one.*

*It's good to see the light mornings have arrived.It's the promise of Spring....I love it! - It gets sweeter. - I want to wish everyone a great February...As Ever, Russ x*

### THE IDEAL SET LIST

From Dave Williams

Look at her dance  
Come and get your love  
I Don't Believe in Miracles  
The Fire still Burns  
Liar  
Voices

I Can't Hear You No More  
Since You've Been Gone  
It's Only Money  
I Surrender  
Can't Shake Loose (Agnetha) / I Know There's Something Coming On  
(Frida)  
God Gave Rock & Roll To You  
I Will Be There  
Flyaway  
It Takes a Man To walk Away  
New York Groove  
So You Win Again  
This is not a Love Song  
Just a Dream Away.

#### YOUR QUESTIONS

What recollections do you have of this tour, Russ Ballard Band USA Europe Spring 1976 Tour....band members, anything?



Russ: *"The poster is from the one and only European tour I did in after leaving Argent...CBS offered me a package with David Essex... I took the band that later went on to play with Paul Young....at the time they were called 'Curly' - We did have some fun. Most of the guys in the group had to get passports, because they hadn't been out of the country."*

## RECORDED BY OTHERS

Suggested by Dave Williams

Barry Ryan started performing at the age of 16 with his twin brother, Paul. Under the name Paul and Barry Ryan, their biggest hit was Eloise in 1968. Barry Ryan also recorded solo and released Can't Let You Go, written by Russ in 1971. It reached #32 in the UK chart in January 1972.

<http://youtu.be/rms3bco1pkQ>

## YOUR STORIES

From Joy Andis

“This Month my great friend Beki Brindle Scala is on her first ever UK tour. I have known Beki for as long as I have known Russ, we met when we both originally came over as guests of The Zombies at their London 2009 “Odessey and Oracle” show. 3 years later we were together again in 2012 when Argent toured and we went up from London to Bilston, Wolverhampton to see Russ, Rod, Jim and Bob along with many others who came that night. Backstage Beki and I met Alan “Stickey” Wickett and John Riordan, members of a legendary band fro the 70’s called Clayton Peacock and who had also played with Russ in the 70’s and 80’s. We all kept in touch after that, and John Riordan along with John Davis and George Pryce got some shows booked for Beki to play this month and next (Feb-March). John, Stickey, George and Beki all asked me to join them as they would need a merchandise person and general ‘gopher’ type which I was happy to do.

If we hadn’t all met up in Wolverhampton that February 2, 2012 all friends of Russ’s none of this would be happening. Beki and I are once again thankful to be friends with Russ and all his other friends who have brought many happy times and lasting friendships, along with great music into our lives. Thank you Russ <3”

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