



(Banner with thanks to Sven Kramer)

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to yet more new readers. Please feel free to contribute.

We have a Roulettes theme this month, which I know will please many of you. It seems like yesterday, doesn't it?!

Many thanks to Nigel, Lord Jones, for telling us about Russ's latest visit to the House of Lords.

Sue

## THE LAST MONTH

Russ: *"I'm pleased to say I've seen quite a bit of my friends from 'The Roulettes' days. The Roulettes were the first pro group that I joined in the sixties. We were formed to back Adam Faith. Then, when the sixties 'beat boom' happened, we were known as Adam Faith and The Roulettes...We had some hits and appeared on numerous TV and Radio Shows. After three years we split from Adam, then, eighteen months later we called it a day as The Roulettes and went our separate ways. I'm pleased to say we're still alive and kicking and still good friends, although we don't see as much*

*of each other as we did in the sixties. We try to get together every Christmas and Summer, however, this December was very special as we were asked to be interviewed for a music magazine to talk about our sixties experiences. Then our good friend, Lord Nigel Jones, invited the four of us to The House of Lords for lunch....he's a great host and showed us all around before lunch - Lord Jones brother, Roland was also invited....we've met a few times before, so, a good time was had by all....*

*To the other extreme, I attended Greg Lake's funeral, which turned out to be a real celebration of a great life, well lived. As I said last month....Greg and I had been a part of The Teenage Cancer group, Greg as bass player and myself as guitarist. The thing was started by Roger Daltrey, along with Richard Desmond, owner of Express Newspapers and OK Magazine. Richard being a talented drummer, was a big part of the organization for TCT, and has become a good friend. I saw Roger standing outside the Chapel, he looked a little sad then said..."Well, we're still here, mate" I'll miss Greg."*

## **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

Russ: *"Thought For The Month....'DARK ENERGY'*

*There's a lot of coverage given to Dark Energy - [also known as 'DARK Matter'] — I'm not a scientist but apparently, there's more out there in Space we can't see than the stuff we can see.....You know, it's always been a Mantra of mine 'What we can't see appears to be more powerful than what we can'. If you think about 'Air' - We can't see it....We breathe it and it keeps us alive....We can't see it and yet it harnesses electricity, which can make light from darkness, as in the light bulb.....We can't see it and yet it can produce heat, as in the oven....Cold, as in the air conditioner....So many things - Recorded music, electric guitars, synthesizers....So many things.....In the end, we've evolved needing only what we use.... there has to be so much more....ISN'T IT EXCITING!!!*

*Have a great new year....See you next month"*

## FROM LORD JONES

A few months ago I invited Bob Henrit to the Performers' Alliance Christmas Party in the House of Commons. I told him to bring Russell and suggested lunch beforehand. Then Bob had an idea. "Do you think you could put up with a quartet of Roulettes?" he asked. So a few days ago I greeted the heroes of my youth at Peers' Entrance in the House of Lords, along with my brother Roland, who has been a Joe Brown Bruvver.

Off we went to the Barry Room where head waiter Alistair had been primed to expect them. It was a very long lunch during which the boys rolled back the years. Peter Thorp was unable to explain how he had coped with the other three. Mod Rogan kept calling me Norm. Bob was slightly subdued as he is still recovering from a broken collar-bone. And Russell was, as ever, Russell.

Secrets were revealed. I knew Bob had played on Ringo's first solo album but did not know that Russ had produced it. When I asked why Bob did an extra piece of percussion at the end of *Can you go?* Mod explained that he was always doing it - but that was the only time they let him get away with it on record.

A tour of Parliament followed. They even sat in the House of Lords public gallery for a while listening to the second reading debate on the Digital Service Bill. They claimed it was very interesting - something which had passed me by. A few minutes on the Terrace looking at the Wheel and St Thomas's Hospital and it was time for the party.

A few famous names appeared, Baldrick among them. And then I spotted Sandie Shaw. "Hello Sandie," I said. "The entire Roulettes are here." "Where?" she asked squinting around. I led her to them and a lot of hugging went on. The Roulettes discovered Sandie when she was a teenager and Adam Faith arranged her audition and recording contract which led, among other things, to victory in the Eurovision Song Contest with *Puppet on a String*. Everybody seemed to have a good time, although Peter told me he hadn't seen Sandie since 1965.

And then it was time to go after a wonderful afternoon. The boys all expressed their gratitude, including Mod who said "Thanks Norm".

Russ explained to me in an e-mail later that Mod doesn't get out much and it was way past his bedtime. I don't think he had a *Bad Time* - and Peter seemed to *Settle Down* quite easily. *I don't believe in miracles*, but maybe we can do it again another day.

Nigel

The happy group at the House of Lords, with thanks to Lord Jones for the photo. L to R... John (Mod) Rogan (looking bigger in the photo than he really is!), Bob Henrit, Nigel, Lord Jones of Cheltenham, Russ, Peter Thorp.



VIDEO 1



I know a lot of our readers go back to The Roulettes so, to continue the Roulettes theme....I came across this video recently, Adam Faith and the Roulettes. Listen to the words as Adam introduces the band.

<https://youtu.be/ppuYCDnETPO>

## QUESTION

Russ, as a vegan, what did you have for your Christmas dinner?

**Russ:** *"Christmas lunch.....My daughter made lunch.....Vegetables [Sprouts, greens, swede and carrots and roast potatoes] with a bean curdy/ proto veggie thing — Very good - Oh!, and also Christmas pud with soya cream - Very naughty but NICE!!"*

## VIDEO 2

A couple of months ago we had a video from The Old Grey Whistle Test in 1975. Here is a double treat from the same show, with Russ's brother, Roy, on keyboards.

<https://youtu.be/ltOTcujHSTk>

## RECORDED BY OTHERS

Russ mentioned him above, Roger Daltrey with Russ's song, Hearts of Fire. This was released as a single in 1987.

<https://youtu.be/x0OzcpwOTRw>

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