

RUSS BALLARD

official NEWSLETTER



February already! This is the 12th monthly Russ Ballard Newsletter so we have completed our first year! It has been fantastic to hear from so many of you. It's amazing that people have got together and other good things have happened because of this newsletter. We are always happy to hear from you. Here's to the next year!!

Sue

NEWS

More news about the gigs in Japan. The dates have now been finalised.... 5th and 6th May at Hatsudai The Doors in Tokyo. Here is the website of the venue... <http://www.hatsudai-doors.com/> It's in Japanese, of course but there is a translate button for English.

Russ's band will be the usual line-up....Bob Henrit, Steve Smith, Chris Winter and Bob Skeat.

If anyone is thinking of going to Tokyo for the gig, this is a big holiday week in Japan so you will need to book a hotel as early as possible. (Thanks to Yumi for the information.)

YOUR QUESTIONS

You played with Wishbone Ash at ASHCON in 2010. How did that come about?

"The Wishbone Ash concert came together through Bob Skeat, who has been with that group for many years. He played on my shows the last few years...He got in touch with me and asked if "I would like to be their guest on a show?" They play a concert once a year to their fans and usually have an invited guest artist....I accepted and played the show with Steve Smith, on keys. When Steve and I arrived at the show in the north of England - [I can't remember the town, but it has a Church with a crooked spire] the guys had learned 'Hold Your Head Up' ..'Since You've Been Gone' and..'God Gave Rock and Roll to You' - it was a great night and Wishbone played my songs brilliantly...

Actually, I first met W.Ash in 1971, at The Academy of Music theatre in New York...We were on the same show, however, we never really talked, then....we made up for it when we shared the stage in the North...."

[It was in Chesterfield - Sue]

Russ with Wishbone Ash at ASHCON 2010.... God Gave Rock & Roll To You. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9rUjwfOknU>

Russ with Wishbone Ash at ASHCON 2010.... Hold Your Head Up <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4SPJPTxcTk>

FOLLOW UP

In the December newsletter, Russ answered a question about his song writing partnership with Chris Winter. Here is a follow up to that and their song for Eurovision.

" Chris Winter and I have written about twenty five songs, although, we haven't done any recently....With 'No Dream Impossible', Chris turned up at my house and said I have a great title...'No Dream Impossible'...we actually recorded the song at Chris's house near Bristol.....I don't know how it managed to get in the list for Song for Europe, but, it became the U.K. entry in 2001.... I must say, I didn't enjoy the show at all, but I did enjoy being in Copenhagen with Chris and Jenny Winter and my good friend Mod Rogan."

The Top of The Pops version of No Dream Impossible.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nygTUZNKIts>



Photo by Greg Zimmermann taken in Augsburg, April 2007.

YOUR STORIES

From Brian Gull....

I went to the same school as Russ and lived in the next street. I was with him when he had his terrible accident and lost the sight in his eye. Myself and a boy named Roy Green took him home. I don't think we spoke to each other again, although my girlfriend now my wife and myself saw him perform at the local boys club. He was brilliant even then and I am not surprised he's had a great career. I wish him all the best.

When I was very young Russ's dad had a sort of wood yard and a few of us used to play there. I think his dad's name was Les and I remember he

seemed very nice. Paul's Green was next to his mum and dad's house and we all gathered there. As we got older, girlfriends came along and we all went different ways. Could you ask Russ if he played in a group called Norman Jago and the Jaguars? I seemed to remember a sort of talent show in Waltham Cross and Russ was there. Cliff Richard's mum was the judge.

Russ: " Brian's right about my Dad - his name, it was Les, and we lived in what was called a 'Smallholding' ...and all of the kids from around the area came and played on our field.....I don't know if Brian remembers but my dad kept chickens, goats and geese there....It was a magic place for me, until the council came along in 1951 - [I think] - and compulsory purchased the land to build council houses.....I went back there a few years ago to look around, it hasn't changed much.

I was never in 'The Jaguars' - Norman Jago was my close friend from twelve years until sixteen, when I joined Adam Faith. We were together in a group for two years...it was called Norman Jago and the Imperials.....I think. Norman - [who was two years older than me] started the Jaguars when he was eighteen."

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