



Hi Everyone,

These days Russ spends most of his time in the studio working on his own music, writing for other people, collaborating with his son Christian, producing, mixing etc. There is not much time for performing but there is

the charity gig coming up, of course, on 2nd June (see April newsletter). The MC for this gig will now be Peter Ross, who did the in-depth radio interview with Russ back in December. There will also be a Russ Ballard Band gig later in the year for those of you who live in Portugal. More details about that later.

There are still tickets available for the charity gig. This could possibly be your last chance ever to see Argent live. Tickets for sale at...

<http://www.atgtickets.com/shows/johnnys-rock-and-roll-show/aylesbury-waterside-theatre/>

Please send in your questions for Russ and your memories and stories. We have already had some good ones but we always need more! Please give this email address to anyone whom you think would be interested in receiving the newsletter and please, if you can, share the email address on your FB page.

## NEWS

Recently, Russ has been working with Skindred, a band from the South West of the UK - Bristol and Wales, who are working on their 5th album. *"Benji and Dan came to my house where we discussed their songs and we went in to my studio and finished three songs in three and a half hours - It worked well, so, they asked me if I would do the same with them in Leeds, where they're recording....we finished six altogether."*

Here is a link to Skindred's website. You might be surprised! (These are not the songs Russ worked on with them!).

<http://www.skindred.net/videos>

## YOUR QUESTIONS

Will Russ do a new album or a little tour?

Russ: *"I would like to do another album/CD...Then tour....etc...."*  
*"I would like to do more shows, it is something I always enjoy and I do miss it.*  
*I do have quite a few new songs that I could put on record."*

## YOUR STORIES

If I rave of Russ Ballard, most people think ... Russ who? They then wrinkle the face and look a bit clueless, often still garnished with a shy smile. My standard response is then: Everyone of us knows at least one Russ Ballard song. I close it even made a bet that I win almost always.

But who the hell is that Russ Ballard? He is a reserved Englishman who has given us some of the greatest rock classics: Since you've been gone (Rainbow), I know there's something going on (Frida), God gave rock and roll to you (Kiss ) or So you win again (Hot Chocolate) - just to name a few that have sprung from his pen. Since you've been gone I've found 1993 on Brian May's Live at the Brixton Academy album. My curiosity brought me then unceremoniously on a recommendation his 'The Fire still burns' album of 1985 in my record shelf, the rest of his albums followed. 1984 saw his simply called Russ Ballard record the light of day. One of the most underrated records of all time but maybe the most homogeneously rock-record of the 80s and with 'Voices' there's a song on it, which was the perfect soundtrack for Miami Vice. And since we're already talking about Voices!

Voices in Villabacho, as I now call it, was my first Russ Ballard concert. In 2003 I found on eBay tickets for a concert by Russ Ballard. At € 18 per card I have not waited a long time and just bought, even though I did not know if it's the right Russ Ballard and more importantly - where the hell is Villabacho. I knew so far only from the advertising ... It should be mentioned that it is in southern Germany.

With confirmation of the sale, I then embarked on a good 750 kilometers per route, which I had no idea at the time. At the day

of the concert we went in the morning on the great journey that took us almost throughout Germany. A little delay in the schedule, it was due that Russ has played 10 minutes, as we entered the place. So I quickly made my way to the front row, with the motto "Let me through - i had the longest journey after Russ Ballard". What can I say, we would have hurried times ... after about 1.5 hours of playing time it was already over then, because after many years Russ gave the first time a concert. He politely apologized as it is suitable for an English gentleman and then left the stage. Meanwhile, a reporter had heard of our long journey, and a few days later i came into the enjoyment, to be mentioned in the concert review. Then it went right back on the track with the realization - It was worth it! I would have loved to get an autograph, but that should not work at the time. Nevertheless, I was able to talk a short time later to his German manager, who offered to make up for when I would send him something to sign. The result today is well cared in my home.

In 2006, 13 years after his last album (The Seer), Russ Ballard published the 'Book of Love' album. To the joy of the fans he went on tour and this time performed at the venerable Music Hall Worpswede. Of course I immediately bought tickets for this event and was looking forward for weeks until the big day was finally there. An exceptional artist in top form and I was directly in front of the stage. From old 'Unit 4+2' times Bob Henrit was on the drum kit, who gave the band again a very special touch. In about 2 hours of the concert Russ took us on a journey through his musical work and rocked like crazy! He presented his classics partially in a new look and he was a very good-humored and charming host on that evening. Perfectly happy we stayed after the concert a little, which should be worth it ...

Behind the small bar in the left corner Russ came to the fore. A few other guests went to him and he signed cards, sheets and pictures. When it was my turn, I had the outrageous fortune to speak a few words with him. In such an instand come first, of course, the classics like "Thanks for a great concert" etc. But then I asked him why he was gone so long and that I would find it great

to see him back on stage again. Then something happened, for which there is unfortunately no photo evidence, but I was very impressed by. Russ looked at me, patted me gently with his hand on the cheek and said, ... I wanted to see my kids grow up - that is unique and winked at me.

That was the last time i saw Russ live on stage, but in my mind i'm still there in front of him and i'm very, very happy!

To unsubscribe from these email newsletters, please reply to this email and ask me to remove your name.