



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

I hope everyone is having a good summer!!! Did you catch the sun that day?

Welcome to yet more new readers. Please feel free to make any contribution you like to the newsletter, especially questions (either a long question about something you really want to know or the fun quick questions) and stories involving Russ. Many of our long standing readers have sent in their stories and it would be good to hear from some of our newer readers.

This newsletter uses an Hotmail email address but Hotmail is now run by Outlook. Outlook has recently changed and I am hoping the change will sort out some of the formatting problems we have had. If your copy looks strange in any way, would you please let me know.

Sue

## THIS MONTH

Russ: *"I had a call the first week of July, from my new Promoter friend, Hartwig - He said he would be in England the from 4th July and asked if I'd be*

available to have lunch. I booked a table at my local Italian Restaurant - Over pizza we discussed perhaps touring Belgium, Holland & Germany...I'm still trying to work out whether, Steve, Bob, Chris & Stuart will be available - I'll let you know.

July was quite an intense time, trying to finish three new tracks for my new CD, 'IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE'. Peter Ross at UMU Music asked me for a deadline & I suggested the last day of July...UMU now have the tracks and you be able to hear them in a few days. I'm really buzzing with ideas right now and have three new tunes that I'm looking forward to recording.

Bob Henrit and I made another trip to the House of Lords to have lunch with our friends Lord Nigel Jones and David Morris MP for Morcambe. It turns out that David was a Musician/Songwriter. He is also mad about collecting guitars - he showed us a photograph on his mobile...It shows about fifty guitars, on stands outside the Houses of Parliament. It turned out to be David's guitar collection...he said he has a room at home where he stores them...It makes my collection of 6 guitars look pale...Oh well!

Another good friend, Sada Vidoo came over from Denmark to work with Christian and myself. She was quite excited about life and career and hopefully, next Month I can give you the develops in her career.

Oh Well! That's my July- Enjoy the rest of your August- Love Russ"

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"I'm just back from Portugal and while I was there, a Friend of Karis's invited us to lunch at their house. It was an enjoyable afternoon, great [Vegan] food in a great setting, with uplifting conversation - One of the subjects we touched on was the Teacher/Pupil relationship....One thing that was agreed by everyone was Teaching is one of the most important things we do and we don't have to be a professional, we just need to care and teach with Love. I know when I was young, slogans registered with me and they still do, actually....I've heard it said that's why Jesus Christ spoke in Parables, it was because the brain finds them easier to remember than obscure sentences. 'Embrace The Unknown', [that's where the growth is]....'Life Develops What it Demands' - There are many....It was Mahatma Gandhi who famously said "You must be the change that you want to see in the World" - many people can quote that and attribute it to Gandhi, so, slogans are powerful...We often hear people say "What difference can I make?" - Well, I say, Napoleon made a difference - Einstein made a difference, as did Steve Jobs.....I heard somebody say, "If you think you're too small to make a difference, you've never slept with a Mosquito"....that did

*make me laugh - Anyway, we can teach by example, which is probably the best way of all, and we can be a small wave in the ocean and who knows, the wave might become a Tsunami."*

## "IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE"

The hard copy CD should be available very soon. Keep an eye on Russ's Facebook page for an announcement.

<https://www.facebook.com/RussBallardMusicOfficial/>



## QUICK QUESTIONS

What is the worst job you have ever done?

Russ: *"Putting rubber bands around bundles of kindling wood. You end the day with blisters and splinters in the hands."*

Describe the best night of your life.

Russ: *"A recent one was when we played Lisbon and four and a half thousand people were singing along with every song - magic."*

What has been your biggest achievement?

Russ: *"I guess was having five Songs on the Billboard Chart, all by different artists."*

Is there an app you can't live without?

Russ: *"No, I could live very well without Apps. I like French Golden Delicious."*

## RECORDED BY OTHERS

Russ recorded this track for his album, 'At The Third Stroke'. After America's success with Russ's 'You Can Do Magic', he worked with them on their album, 'Your Move', which was released in 1983. Russ produced the album and wrote seven of the eleven songs on it, including 'Cast The Spirit'.

<https://youtu.be/zpxiaj7AXu8>

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