



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

Once again we have had a big influx of new readers, with thanks to Facebook this time. A big welcome to you all.

We have lots to read this month. Big thanks to our contributors.

We have good news about the Facebook page at last.

We know many of you go back as far as The Roulettes. We have news about a new magazine article about them.

Do have a listen to the track in Dave's Covers article. I had never heard this until Dave found it but it is a lovely track, which I suspect will be new to most of you.
Sue

THIS MONTH

Russ: *"Welcome.....I hope Autumn is good to you all - It's a sad Newsletter time, as I'm sure you know, our dear friend Chas Hodges passed away a week ago. Chas is best known as one half of Cockney Duo, Chas and Dave, however, there was so much to Chas. I first met him in 1961, at The Kings Head pub....it was situated at Edmonton Green - it was a Friday night and our group, Buster Meikle and The Daybreakers were booked to play in the hall situated at the back of the pub. When we arrived, the place was packed...There were, I think, three groups appearing that night - The group I remember, vividly, was called Eddie Sheldon and The Prowlers....I remember that because the name was emblazoned on the drummers bass drum head, and they had a great bass player, who was playing a blonde Hofner bass guitar...I stood close to the stage and watched....when they finished their first set, I got in to conversation with the cool, charismatic scruff, who told me his name was Charlie - and from that day, we became best of friends. A few months later we were playing together,*

masquerading as The Outlaws. Chas told me, that on that night at The Kings Head, he was 'sitting in' with The Prowlers, and that his real group were The Stormers.....who later became The Outlaws.....They consisted of Chas, Billy Kye on guitar, drummer, Bobby Graham and Reg Hawkins on rhythm guitar. The members of The Outlaws became the house band for Producer, Joe Meek, and together they produced some great records. Chas was bass player on "Johnny Remember Me" and "Wild Wind", by John Leyton - "Tribute To Buddy Holly" with Mike Berry and others great tracks....The group eventually teamed up with Mike and they were known as Mike Berry and The Outlaws. Sometimes, because Bill Kye, Reg and Bobbie had day jobs, Bob Henrit, my brother Roy and I used to play as The Outlaws, along with Chas...They were great days. When Bob and I joined Adam Faith, we asked Chas to become bass player with us....he said he couldn't do it, because he'd been offered a tour backing his idol, Jerry Lee Lewis. When the Outlaws split, he joined 'Cliff Bennett and The Rebel Rousers' a fab r and b group, then 'Heads, Hands and Feet', with Albert Lee, then, he team up with Dave Peacock and they became Chas and Dave.

Charlie was a great musician, not only on bass and piano, but also an amazing violin player and string arranger.....Oh, I'll miss him, he was wonderful company....I know our thoughts are with his lovely family.

I want to congratulate Christian on his achievement, number one and number three in the Traxsource Chart this past week and it's on the label he has with Lavvy L. - 'Friday Fox' - What a man!!"

FACEBOOK

You might have seen that Russ's official FB page has been revived. Pop over, or click below, and have a look if you haven't yet. Please like, comment or post. The page is run by admin but Russ can access it through an admin account. If a comment or reply to a private message is from Russ himself, it will have his name at the end, otherwise it will be admin. Note that Russ does not have a FB account himself, so any other profiles or pages in his name are not actually him.

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

[Russ Ballard - Home | Facebook](#)

www.facebook.com

Russ Ballard. 3.9K likes. This is the Official Russ Ballard page! Admins are friends and family of Russ Ballard. If anyone has any correspondence that...



ARGENT VIDEO

This is an episode of Old Grey Whistle Test. There is an interview with Russ and Rod, starting around 12:25, with Russ talking about his decision to leave Argent. That is followed by Music From The Spheres, lasting until the end of the programme.

<https://youtu.be/fG48J0erPLk>



QUESTION

I was playing the 2001 original Anthology : The Classics Collection by Russ on my iPod in the car the other day. Always wondered about two of the tracks , Living Without You and Hold On which don't appear on any of his albums (unless I am mistaken) . There is next to no information on the inlay card . The CD I have is the original issued on Pilot 104 and features on Amazon now selling at over £200 ! It has been re- released by Store For Music in April 2012 with the title The Anthology (dropped The Classics Collection) and I don't know if that version had any more information about the tracks. If I am correct in my assumption would it be possible to ask Russ for some background information about the two tracks in question .

Russ: "*‘Living Without You’ & ‘Hold On’ - I recorded both as ‘B’ sides....I might be wrong, however, I believe, ‘Living Without You’, was B side of ‘Voices’, and ‘Hold On’, B side of ‘Fire Still Burns’.*

Just a side word on ‘Living Without You’. - The big sax solo was played by Raf Ravenscroft who played that great theme on ‘Baker Street’."

LETTER

From Gianmaria Framarin

By gosh... that festival in Rome... Italy was the main place to go in Europe for thousands of British bands back then... they were ignored in the UK, they were already successful over here... Genesis, for instance, they first came here in 1972 and immediately became favourites of the Italian public, they were virtually no-one back in the UK...

I remember heavily politicised music venues back then, everyone knows it would become impossible for bands to play in Italy later on in the '70s because people didn't want to pay for the gigs, they would threaten the rest of the crowd and sometimes also the musicians, police was always alerted and many gigs were cancelled. Italy was tremendously politicised in those days, they had left-wing organised terrorism creeping through the youth at University, every single day there was fire in the streets in the heart of Rome or Milan because militant students used to throw inflatable bottles to the police, it was very bad... they would also use guns at times, and that's where organised terrorism had already crept through... it was bedlam.

They also had right-wing terrorism, but these ones didn't fight the police in the middle of the big cities... they'd rather put bombs on trains, in public stations, near banks and other institutions... right-wing terrorism surely made more victims this way, all of Italy's major bomb-blasting acts of terror were organised and claimed by the far right. But right-wing militants didn't turn up at gigs (they thought rock was = communism), it was the left who did so and caused major troubles.

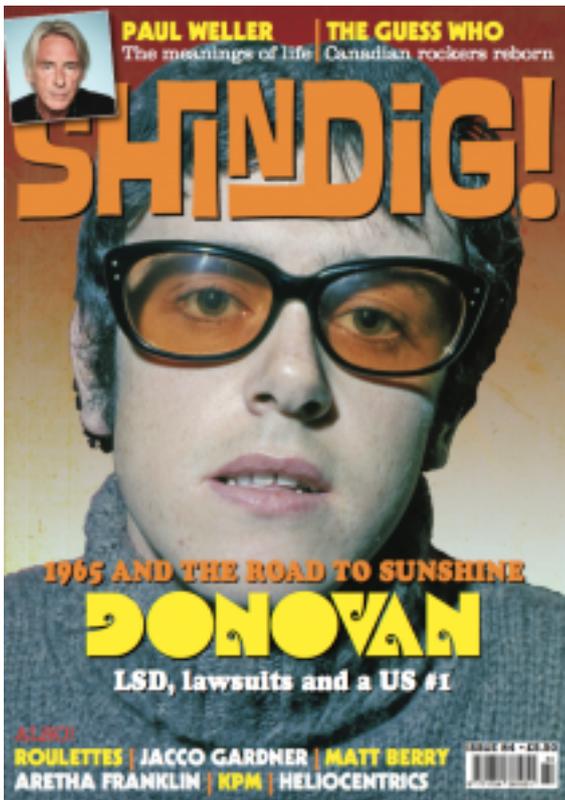
Some major Italian singer songwriters were also stopped in the middle of gigs and they even had to reply to people's questions, because these folks thought it was normal to stop an entire gig and start discussing on how bad it was to have people pay for artists who were thought as very left-wing... Lou Reed and Santana had such bad times at their last gigs in Rome in 1975 and 1977 respectively.

As soon as the '70s were over, Bob Marley came to Milan (one of his last concerts, unfortunately) and that's when live gigs started over again in this country.

Such a shame, I love the '70s and the music that was going on back then, all my favourite artists and musicians were the main names in that decade...

ROULETTES ARTICLE

In the next issue of Shindig magazine, #84, available in the shops from the end of September, there will be a lavishly illustrated article about The Roulettes, written by our very own reader, Eddy Bonte, a media man from Belgium. The article was two years in the writing and has been edited to 3000 words over 8 pages. Eddy has much more, which he might put on his website at a later date. www.eddybonte.be You will be able to order the magazine here... <https://www.shindig-magazine.com/>



RUSS'S MUSIC HISTORY

By Dave Williams

Having reignited his solo career in 1984 by joining EMI America and achieving considerable attention with the single **Voices**, lifted from his first album for the new label, it would not be long before a second album followed. A year later the aptly titled **The Fire Still Burns** hit the record shops. Its predecessor was very focused in style and targeted at the AOR market. What could we expect from this next release?



Russ Ballard – The Fire Still Burns (1985) EMI America EJ 2403671

Arriving on July 18th 1985, the sleeve has Russ credited as playing keyboards, guitar, bass and electronic drums, although, unlike that very first solo album from 1975, this is by no means a case of nobody else being involved. The services of **Mo Foster**, who played bass on the previous album, were retained once again, but drummer Simon Phillips and keyboard player Greg Sanders were not present this time around. Instead, percussion duties were shared between **Stuart Elliott**, **Mike Richardson** and **Peter Van Hooke**. Stuart first sprung to fame with **Cockney Rebel**, later going on to work with such notables as **Kate Bush**, **Alan Parsons** and **Colin Blunstone**, and became a prominent session musician at Abbey Road studio. Similarly, Peter has had a varied career, having played with **Mike and the Mechanics** and **Van Morrison** as well as some production work, notably with **Rod Argent**. Embracing electronic drums and percussion, Peter can be heard playing the syndrums on Marshall Hain's hit **Dancing in the City**. Whilst discussing the sleeve, it follows the simplistic design of the previous album but stands out far better through use of colour.

Incidentally, there was a slight technical hitch with the album title when Russ contributed a song for **Roger Daltrey's** forthcoming album. The song is called **Breaking Down Paradise**, and it was around this time that Roger revealed his new album was going to be called **The Fire Still Burns**. Fortunately, the duplication was discovered in time and Roger obligingly renamed his album **Under a Raging Moon**.

Onto the all-important music. The eight songs are all written by Russ himself, and once again co-produced by Russ and **John Stanley**. Side One opens with **Once a Rebel**. Straightaway the electronic percussion is evident. The song begins with an unaccompanied atmospheric synthesizer, before a programmed rock drum pattern comes into play. It's powerful, especially once joined by bass and rhythm guitars. Man and machine working in harmony and providing the perfect backdrop for Russ to sing his lyrics, punctuated with power chords and harmonised lead guitar. The chorus includes some vocal chanting in the background, the result being that the song embeds itself into your subconscious, a gift that Russ has mastered to perfection over the years. The next song, **The Omen**, begins with a programmed drum pattern consisting of bass drum and snare. Once again it lays a solid foundation allowing Russ to build the song

through use of a two-chord organ riff and use of more power chords. Lyrically the song deals with the signs that precede a relationship break-up, and Russ's voice comes across clear and strong. He also lavishes the song with some excellent lead guitar and already it's very clear that this album really rocks!

After opening with two rockers it's not unusual to slow things down in order to provide a bit of contrast. **Hey Bernadette** offers just that. It's by no means a quiet number though, and the lyrics draw you in. Just who is Bernadette and why is she treading this lonely road that leads nowhere? The song has a lot of commercial appeal. Side One ends with a song **Searching**. I don't know if it was inspired by Voices, the song that gained a lot of attention on his previous album, but it is not dissimilar, and that's no bad thing.

Side Two opens to the sound of a ticking clock, soon accompanied by an acoustic guitar and synth wind instrument. The song is called **Time** and points out that "time waits for no man", before fading away within two minutes to leave the clock ticking away. This serves as an introduction to the second song **Your Time is Gonna Come**, which is one of my personal favourites. Awarding the album four stars in her music paper review, **Sylvie Simmons** described the song as having "nice Thwuck Thwuck synthesiser noises like a didgeridoo being sucked up a Quantas boeing jet". Hmmm, she's right! Featured in an episode of the TV series **Miami Vice**, it's reminiscent of one of his previous hits **New York Groove**; anthemic, with a powerful rock beat and multi-layered vocals.

Two tracks remain and, talk about saving the best till last, they close the record in style. The first of these is **Dream On**. This is a real stand out song with a great lyric. It was an obvious choice for release as a single and it comes over particularly well when performed live. The same can also be said for the final 'title' track **The Fire Still Burns**, which also came out as a single.



There is an interesting video on You Tube that describes the recording process for this track. Here is the link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSQvBxHQCmk>

[Russ Ballard - \(The Story Of\) The Fire Still Burns \(Making Of\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSQvBxHQCmk)
www.youtube.com
Geniales Making Of von Russ Ballards "The Fire Still Burns"



Also available on You Tube is the promotion video for the song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E7NbxkVb-4>

[RUSS BALLARD : The Fire Still Burns \(official video 1985\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E7NbxkVb-4)
www.youtube.com
RUSS BALLARD : The Fire Still Burns (official video 1985)
<https://www.facebook.com/RussBallardMusicOfficial/>
<http://www.facebook.com/jelle.jansen2> [http://www ...](http://www...)



plus a bit of an oddity that is new to me and may have been a European television appearance, as its clearly mimed with a bunch of unfamiliar band members <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce8ukm3rjpc>

[Russ Ballard - The Fire still burns 1985](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce8ukm3rjpc)

[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce8ukm3rjpc)

Russ Ballard - The Fire still burns 1985
The fire still burns
The world it keeps turning
Eyes don't see
Hearts that keep yearning
The flames still grows
The heat it ...



It would be remiss of me not to include a mention of other artists who've covered some of these songs. For once I struggled and only managed to find one cover. **Dream On** was covered in 1986 by **King Kobra**, the short-lived American rock band formed by the legendary drummer Carmine Appice. It featured on their **Thrill of a Lifetime** album. Here is a link. <https://www.youtube.com/>

[watch?v=TiPPmgQ-plU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiPPmgQ-plU) As covers go, I quite like it! I thought there might be a link between Your Time is Gonna Come and Roger Daltrey's My Time is Gonna Come, which Russ provided for the McVicar soundtrack, but on listening to the two songs they appear to be unrelated.

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

From Dave Williams

Whilst writing my articles I've discovered scores of versions of songs written by Russ, some well-known, others less so. It started to become something of a quest to discover as many songs as possible. There's lots of material out there and I thought it might be nice to share some of these discoveries with readers. Here's this month's offering:

No.3



What Might Have Been by Jimmy Nail

Following Stephanie de Sykes, this month we feature another actor / musician, **Jimmy Nail**. Adopting his surname from a nickname he acquired after standing on a six-inch spike that went right through his foot, "Nail" first found fame playing the role of loveable rogue Oz in the hit TV show **Auf Wiedersehen, Pet**. Further acting success followed when he co-wrote and played the title role of **Spender**, a detective series, and he later created and starred in **Crocodile Shoes** playing the musician Jed Shepherd. Favouring music over acting, these roles helped him achieve his dreams of chart success with songs including **Crocodile Shoes**, **Love Don't Live Here Anymore**, **Cowboy Dreams**, **Big River** and the 1992 chart topper **Ain't No Doubt**.

In 1998 Jimmy starred as vocalist Les Wickes in the music-comedy film **Still Crazy**. A fictional band Strange Fruit decide to reform for a re-union concert, having disbanded 20 years earlier. The film, which also stars Bill Nighy, Billy Connolly and Timothy Spall, focuses on the personal lives of the various band members. The soundtrack album features 14 impressive tracks, many in collaboration with **Chris Difford** of the band **Squeeze**. His lyrical contribution resulted in him picking up an Ivor Novello award. **What Might Have Been** is one of the songs featured on the soundtrack and saw the pairing of two legendary songwriters. There are a number of songwriting partnerships that role off the tongue; **Lennon/McCartney**, **Jagger/Richards**, **Goffin/King** and the Motown hitmakers **Holland/Dozier/Holland** being prime examples. The creative team behind Squeeze, **Difford/Tillbrook** certainly fit into this bracket. It seems peculiar to see Chris paired with a different name, particularly when that name happens to be the equally prolific **Russ Ballard**. The result is rather pleasing on the ears. A slow and thoughtful ballad beautifully sung and exclusively played by Mr Nail. Presumably Chris wrote the lyrics as the melody definitely has Russ's stamp on it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVJzJIMTdgY>

[Jimmy Nail - What
Might Have Been](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVJzJIMTdgY)

[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVJzJIMTdgY)

What Might Have Been JIMMY
NAIL Still Crazy OST Lyrics by
Ballard / Difford Release year:
1998 Property of LONDON
RECORDS 90 LTD All rights
reserved. I had friends ...

