



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

You will need to put your feet up with a coffee for this one!

Many apologies to those of you who couldn't come to 'the best party of the year' on 7th April. This newsletter has a different format from usual as we had so much great feedback from Saturday that we had to share some of it. Thanks to everyone who has emailed since the weekend. It is very pleasing to know that everyone enjoyed it so much. The atmosphere was great...what a lovely lot of people you are and how fabulous it was to meet everyone. What we should maybe have mentioned is that this coincided with the 5th anniversary of this newsletter!!

Massive thanks go to Russ for agreeing to do this and for his generosity (in several ways) in providing us with a great evening. He organised all the live music and those surprise guests, the background music, which was a collection of his favourite tracks and the brilliant photos that were projected onto the screen.

Thank you to all those amazing musicians. Bear in mind that all of those who performed had never played together as the band we saw before. I won't name them all here as Russ has written about them below and Bob Henrit has given us the full story from the musicians' perspective but, as a lot of us here go back as far as the Roulettes, I just want to say a special thank you to Bob Henrit, John (Mod) Rogan and Peter Thorp, who joined Russ to celebrate the 55th anniversary

of their formation. As a 60s Roulettes fan, I just can't tell you how special that was for me. Amongst those musicians, a special mention for our newsletter readers, Brian Barry and Sue Marchant, who did on the spur of the moment performances with Russ and the band and blew everyone away!

Brian Barry - he said he couldn't quite believe it had happened. Well, here's the proof! <https://youtu.be/cGiAnWxBwgk>

[20 Flight Rock, Russ  
Ballard and friends  
youtu.be](https://youtu.be/cGiAnWxBwgk)

Ware, Hertfordshire, April 2018



Big thanks to our readers, Ian Street, who did a great job as MC even though the running order kept changing, and to Sven Kramer who provided us with those fabulous badges to keep as a reminder of the evening.

And, finally, many thanks to the venue who went above and beyond for us. The venue was offered by our reader, Darren Bender, who is part of the team there. I have included an email from Darren below. They made £138 from the donation buckets and the bar made around £1000 profit. If you are in the Ware area and need somewhere to put on an event, I can highly recommend The Southern Maltings. Why not give their Facebook page a 'like'.

Please post your photos etc on the RB Facebook page. The page is looking a bit sad at the moment but will soon be revived. It is possible to post on there and to see the visitor posts go to the page and click on 'Posts' in the list.

If events had been different, Jim Rodford would have been playing on Saturday. At the end of the newsletter we have Bob Henrit's tribute to Jim, written for the Kinks people.

Sue

## FROM RUSS

*"The past week was kind of different. On the 2nd April Bob Henrit and myself travelled to Cheltenham to celebrate the 70th birthday of Lord Nigel Jones of Cheltenham....it was a surprise party, so, we arrived early at The Spice Lodge and waited for our Man....As he walked in to our chorus of 'Happy Birthday', he looked very surprised to see Bob and myself in the throng. It was a brilliant dinner party, with Lord Jones' brother Roland strumming his Uke. We exhausted the Ukulele repertoire and I almost choked on my vegetable samosa when Roland started singing 'Liar'. A great night.*

*The rest of the week was taken up with being in the studio in the morning and planning final arrangements for The Ware Experience which took place on Saturday, at The Southern Maltings in Ware. Many of you reading this will have been there and it seems to have been a success....What a great bunch you are! The atmosphere was wonderful, with much Love in the air. I had my friends, The Roulettes to play a set and make it a double celebration, the first to celebrate the fact that many of the News Letter readers were meeting each other for the first time and secondly, we were celebrating 55 years since The Roulettes were formed to back Adam Faith.*

*Once it was decided The Roulettes were playing, I phoned our old friend Chris Andrews to ask if he would like come and play some songs, after all, Chris was responsible for many of the Adam Faith and The Roulettes songs. Although Chris now lives in Germany, he agreed to play. My friends Derik Timms, Bob Bradbury and John (Nobby) Dalton also agreed to play. My next victim was Mike Berry... Mike played quite a big part in the formative lives of Bob Henrit and myself... We used to back Mike as part of his backing group The Outlaws...I was fifteen, Bob, Sixteen....great days. Mike agreed straight away. Everything was in place. I noticed on Thursday, a tickling in my throat, "Oh dear, a virus, just in time for Saturday"....oh well! Bob recruited a friend to play bass, Mike Steed, what a great man and player, I wondered why we'd never met. I'm determined we'll play together again. Also, my great mate Steve Smith said he would play keyboards.*

*As I was playing in my hometown, I phoned some of my old friends who followed us in the sixties. They said they'd be there and they were. You newsletter Readers are a fabulous audience....I'm just sorry the pipes were not at their best...even after Vocal Zones, Lemsip and other stuff, I was suffering. It didn't matter, as Derik, Nobby, Mike B., Chris A., Bob Bradbury and The Roulettes were on form.*

*Derik TIMMS was the first artist on the show, he was great and played brilliantly. I first met Derik at an Argent show in 1996. He was mixing the sound and did a great job. I saw him again and he was playing guitar with his group, The mOOnn Dogs and that was very impressive. He also has interesting views on many aspects of life...*

*Nobby has been a friend of Bob Henrit's and myself since we were kids. He is a local man and we used to see a lot of each other when we were young. I remember seeing him playing the bass for the first time. He was in a group called 'Danny King and The Bluejacks'....Strange to think, another young man who played in that group who became one of our best friends until he died, at the age of fifty seven - his name was Fred Wilkinson. He became our Road Manager in The Roulettes, then The Unit Four, lastly Argent. Nobby joined The Kinks after Pete Quaife, and must have been a part of the group for twenty years. Another strange thing, Jim Rodford joined The Kinks and so did Bob. It's a small World music, but what a great journey it's given us....I'd like to say a special thanks to JNDalton. He was married a couple of days before The Ware Experience. He turned up and sang 'Sunny Afternoon' and 'You Really Got Me' also the day after, he had his wedding reception, where he played, in The Kast off Kinks...Oh! Music, what a drug....but a good one.*

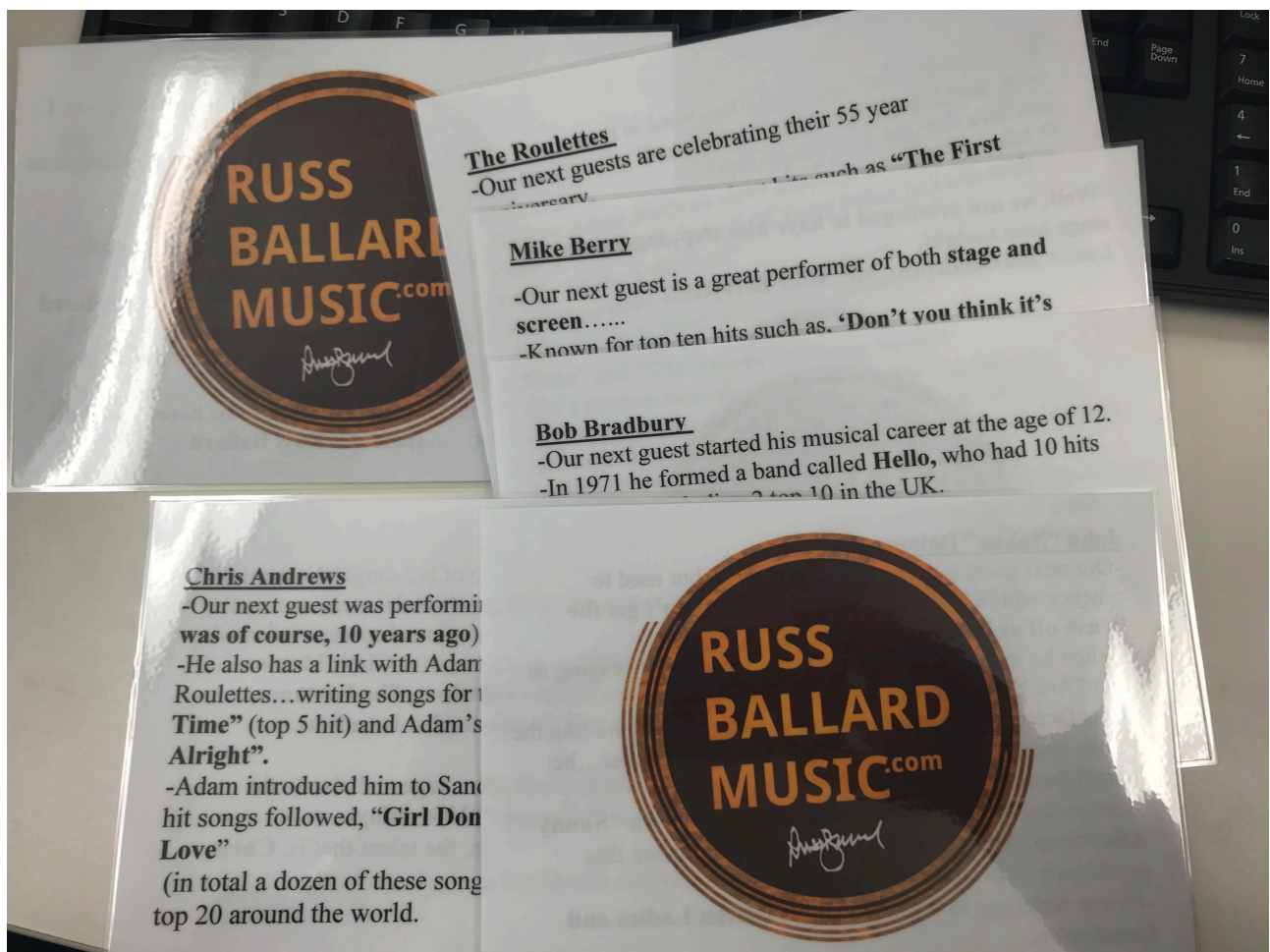
*Also a great surprise when Brian Barry - [news letter reader] took to the stage and sang Eddie Cochran's 'Twenty Flight Rock' - Fantastic - Then our special DJ friend Sue Marchant belted out "Pearl's A Singer" To great cheers from the crowd....Well done Sue!!*

*After we left the stage, we 'mingled' [I think they say] It was wonderful to hear people's musical stories....You realise how music affects people's lives. I spoke to Roland Jones, who is a good musician and thought to myself, I should have invited him up....definitely next time....and I'd like to have spent more time to speaking with everyone .*



Thanks so much everyone for a Special Experience...Let's do it again! Love, Russ  
x"

## THE RB EXPERIENCE



Thanks to Brian Barry (or maybe Jacqui), just a little bit of Bob Bradbury's New York Groove. You can see the full video of this song on the Hello FB page.

[https://youtu.be/4y-Pfup1\\_58](https://youtu.be/4y-Pfup1_58)

[New York Groove,](#)  
[performed by Bob](#)  
[Bradbury, with Russ](#)  
[Ballard and friends.](#)  
[youtu.be](#)

Hello's singer Bob Bradbury  
guests with Russ Ballard and  
friends, ware April 2018.



Just a sample of the emails I received but we had many similar comments.  
Thank you everyone for your feedback. See photos in attachments.

**From Darren Bender at the Southern Maltings.**

We made around a grand profit at the bar! A very useful chunk towards the £1 million we will need to fully convert the building. Wonderful evenings like Russ's party, ultimately allow us to provide free arts education to thousands of local kids and enables us to put on a wide range of events.

Thanks for easily the best evening I've had in the Southern Maltings so far and for contributing so much towards the conversion project.

**Darren**

I had not seen the Roulettes for approx 50 years and it was a real pleasure to see them playing together again and a little emotional.

All the Musicians gave us a fabulous night of music and created a wonderful informal atmosphere and I would like to thank them all for giving their time to entertain us all so brilliantly.

A special thank you to both Russ and yourself for organising this event and we all appreciated that Russ, although was not feeling well, gave us all 100%.

Love you guys and long may the Music Rock On..

**Lee McKenna.**

I just wanted to thank you so much for organising the event on Saturday. We both really enjoyed the experience and it really did feel like we had been invited to a private party which helped make it special. It's fantastic that Russ wanted to share his time in this way. We really were amongst Rock 'n Roll royalty and long may all these fantastic musicians continue to ply their trade. Hope there will be a chance of something similar again in the future.

**Andy Burman**

I was unable to see Russ when he played at the Leicester Square Theater in 2016 so when Sue announced there was going to be a get together/ party I wanted to make sure I didn't miss out again. The Southern Maltings in Ware was an ideal venue for a more intimate gig and it only took just over an hours drive for us to get there. The RB Experience was also I believe a celebration of the Roulettes anniversary, I have to admit the Roulettes were a little before my time as I am more of a 70s Argent girl. The Roulettes music was a new experience for me and from the moment they started playing I was hooked, they definitely gained another fan on Saturday. There were lots of guest singers and Bob Bradbury from Hello fame singing "New York Grove" took me back to the 70s and the glam rock era, it was great to hear that song again. Russ came on the

second half of the evening and gave us some of his most memorable hits and much more, "God gave Rock and Roll to you", "Hold Your Head Up" and "Since You've Been Gone" to name a few. Considering Russ was suffering from the flu he gave an amazing performance. To sum up the evening it was truly a night to remember lovely people, great venue and fantastic music. God definitely gave us Rock and Roll on Saturday night! Thanks to everyone who made it possible. Hopefully there will be another RB Experience in the not too distant future.

**Michele Turner**

Thanks To Sven Kramer for putting together this great 9 minute compilation video to take you back!  
<https://youtu.be/6Z6PTXyOY34>

**From Nigel Jones**

What a blast! Well done organising it.

I had quite a week. On Monday I was scheduled to go to Spice Lodge in Cheltenham for a 70th birthday quiet family lunch for 11 with my 90+ year old cousins and the rest of the family. Then late morning our former Swedish au-pair arrived. She now lives in Ireland and had been doing some research into my Irish grandfather so that I can get an Irish passport if the brexit nightmare happens. Funny, I thought. Nice quiet meal for 12 now.

So I showed up at Spice Lodge and brother Roland shepherded me towards the room where we were going to eat. Suddenly there were a lot more familiar faces than I had expected. People who used to run my office when I was the MP for Cheltenham; some business pals who I have been to overseas Test Matches with; and then I saw Bob Henrit and the fragrant Ricki - AND Russ Ballard. What on earth were they doing there?



Suffice it to say, a good time was had by all. Brother Roland (the former Joe Brown Bruvver) picked up his ukulele for what I understand is called in the trade a session. Russell and Bob went through a repertoire including "Liar" and some other favourites. By this time my ancient cousins had been taken home as it was past their bedtime.

A quiet family meal - and two members of Rock Royalty turn up. I have a slightly dicky heart you know. The shock could have finished me off.

Then there was Saturday. It is a long way from Cheltenham to Ware but worth it, even the traffic jam on the M25 after midnight on the way home. If this was "The First Time" I hope Russ is up for the next time. We will have to put him in quarantine a few weeks before to make sure he does not catch another cold. Peter says he will growl his way through "Settle down". I have given Mod the right words for verse 2 of "Bad Time" to which he aggressively posed the question "Are you criticising my work?". I had asked Bob if we could have "Hand me down things" as well as "Settle down". His reply was "Do you know the definition of perfect pitch? It's when the banjo you throw away lands on top of the accordion on the rubbish heap."

I liked Russ's line that I had been a fan since before they were born. A bit rich considering I have only just reached 70 whereas they were a bit ahead of me. I met new fans, old fans and middle aged fans. Lovely people all of them. But then to like Russ's music you have to be a nice, thoughtful person.

But, I ask myself, if it fair to expect Brigadier Henrit to percuss almost non-stop for three hours or more. And shouldn't Russ have played the first few bars of "The Fakir" to make Bob fall off his stool? And where on earth did Mod get that stylish bass, even if it wasn't switched on? (I inserted the word stylish so he wouldn't get aggressive again.)

Well done everyone. You made an old man very happy. But why did Sandie turn down the opportunity to record "Yesterday Man". Invite her next time so she can tell all.

All the best,  
Nigel

## From Dave Williams...

### Well.... what an experience!!

April 7th came and went just as quickly as I thought it would. Don't you sometimes wish that time could be controlled using a dimmer switch? How nice it would be to tweak it clockwise as you sit in the dentist's chair, or in the opposite direction whilst enjoying a particularly pleasing moment. Well the evening of Saturday 7th April 2018 will live long in the memory as one of the latter. I won't say too much because I guess plenty of people will want to have their say.

Firstly, I knew it was going to be well attended when my attempts to find a seat were met with "Sorry, this one's taken". Oh well, I wouldn't have been seated long anyway. Once the action started, courtesy of **Derik Timms**, it was difficult to focus on anything other than what was happening on that stage. That meant heading to the front. I enjoyed the guest musicians. Fancy **Mike Berry** wearing the same jacket he wore on Top of the Pops in the early 1960's. If only I could say the same. Didn't he look great considering half a century has passed? Same goes for **Chris Andrews**. It was good to see and hear him perform, having come across his name as a songwriter on so many 45s over the years. We were also treated to **John "Nobby" Dalton**, ex Kinks bass player, singing *Waterloo Sunset*. Earlier, **Sue Robinson** introduced me to **Peter Thorp** of **The Roulettes** and I was pleasantly surprised at how good they sounded, especially Mod's (air) bass guitar solo!! I can see why **Mod Rogan** is a bit of a legend. His finale at the end of the night was, how can I describe it? Let's just say I'd have named it the "Butcher's Tale" had **Chris White** not already used that title on The Zombies' Odessey and Oracle.

It was great to see **Bob Bradbury** reprise his lead vocal on **New York Groove**, having sung the original hit version. Russ got a chance to rest his voice and concentrated on hammering out those power chords on his Les Paul. I think I spied the iconic silver strat but it never made an appearance. The **Hello** frontman got the crowd singing and I never thought the song would end. I'm not even sure I wanted it to. It was good of Russ to invite **Brian Barry** to sing a bit of **Eddie Cochran**. Russ threw out an invite to anyone else who fancied getting up to sing a song. **Sue Marchant** seized the opportunity and deserves a special

mention for her incredible rendition of Elkie Brooks' Pearls a Singer. Quite exceptional.

Finally, how good was it to meet so many like-minded fans? Brian Barry, Jacqui Dove, Al (Sticky) Wickett, Jo, Liam, Greg Zimmerman and his wife, the ladies who were playing Pop Quiz with me at the front early on, Steve Smith, Bob Bradbury and last but definitely not least, the amazing **Sven Kramer** and **Sue Robinson**, who worked so hard in putting everything together. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone, though I bet I have. It was a pleasure to meet Russ and my only regret afterwards was forgetting to say hello to **Robert Henrit**. I've met Bob at various venues over the years and we usually say hello. I hope he wasn't offended.

I still can't get **New York Groove** out of my brain. It was amazing that Russ agreed to do this, and he looked and performed just like he did in the 1980s. Southern Maltings was an excellent choice of venue too and will be a great asset to Ware as it develops towards completion.

Dare I dream that this could happen again at some point in the future? I'd love that.

### **From Bob Henrit...**

*While we were 'stopping and starting' our way around the motorways of Britain on Russell's 2016 tour, he met a great many of the people who avidly read his newsletter. These guys were hoping that sooner, rather than later there would be another tour. In lieu of a tour it was suggested it would be great for the couple of hundred readers to get together somewhere. Russell was up for it of course and the first idea was to do it in a pub. However, when it transpired one of the Newsletter subscribers, Darren Bender, was conveniently connected with the Southern Maltings he offered to broker the idea of putting it on there in 2018. It became quickly obvious that since that year marked The Roulettes' 55th anniversary the two celebrations could be neatly combined. Lo it came to pass..*

## **Roulettes 55th year story.**

Towards the end of 2017 Russell. Thorpy,

Mod, Jim Rodford and I went to lunch at a pub in Hertingfordbury to chew the fat and officially invite Jimmy to become an honorary Roulette. We wanted him to play bass at the 55th anniversary bash we were planning for sometime in April 2018. This would mean

Mod could concentrate on entertaining the audience and making everybody on the stage laugh. But, as Robbie Burns said: “the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley” and our plans were scuppered when Jim, (who had just received an honorary Doctorate

from Hertfordshire University) and was just back from a cruise and a short American tour with the Zombies, fell down the stairs at home and died. We were dumbstruck and decided at Jim’s funeral we’d go ahead with our celebratory gig with even more urgency

after what had just happened. It took us all aback and seriously made all the musicians around us acutely aware of our own mortality.

Sadly we now needed a bass player to

replace dear old Jim. From my experience it’s normally tough finding a substitute bass player because they’re all in very great demand. However, Mickey Steed, with whom I’d played in Chip Hawkes from The Tremeloe’s band made himself available. We’d briefly

been in a proper Irish band together with fiddles, penny whistles, guitars and me and Steedy called: “The back of beyond”. To be honest I’d never played in that sort of band before and it was a welcome education. During the very first song I found I’d played

every rudiment I knew (18 beat bar anyone?) and then been forced to move on to some I certainly didn’t.

So Steedy agreed to throw his lot in

with us Roulettes and we sent him a list of the songs we had in mind to play on April 7th and got ready to rehearse. We wanted to base the gig around us and other musicians whom we had grown up with in our small pocket of North London. So we talked to Chas

and Dave, Mike Berry, Nobby Dalton and Chris Andrews. Chas Hodges and Dave Peacock had a gig that very night (at the Albert Hall, no less) so they were out of the picture, Mike Berry could make it so Russell began talking to him about what he fancied singing,

Nobby Dalton from The Kinks who I'd played with in 'The Blue jacks' when we were 15, was having his wedding reception the next day but foolishly agreed to come along and sing a couple of Kinks songs with us. Chris Andrews had written great songs for himself, us, Adam Faith and Sandie Shaw and would come along to help us out. The rest of it we Roulettes could take care of - we hoped.

There were of course lots of songs associated with us we had to fit in but this time we decided we wouldn't be playing Adam's songs. Coincidentally, Mod had somehow acquired a video of a gig we'd done for Nobby's Leukemia Charity with our erstwhile employer 30 years earlier. RGB and I sat together to see it and hear it and were knocked out - it really was a highly emotional experience to see us all in action.

We needed to do a bit of work though before we could air ourselves in public - off-colour pun intended!

Firstly though, Russell and I needed to make even more than our usual number of phone calls to one another. We managed one or two sometimes three of these each day until we decided we'd spoken about 'life and the universe' long enough, there was nothing else for it - we needed to rehearse. Contrary to what we veterans believe, some of our stuff takes quite a bit of playing and, just because we more or less mastered it many years ago doesn't mean others will take to it like ducks to water. Fortunately Steedy, aided and abetted by Steve Smith and Derik

Timms managed it admirably. Actually, the rehearsals in Russell's studio were just me, RGB, Derik and Steedy; the others just fitted neatly around us having done their rehearsing at home. Some of the songs in the repertoire were relatively easy to play like

Nobby Dalton's Kinks' offerings: "You really got me" and "Sunny afternoon" and Mike's "That'll be the day" and "I'm ready willing and able". Others though, like Mike's "Sunshine of your smile", and Argent's "God gave Rock and roll to you" were slightly more

complicated. As far as Chris Andrews' songs "To whom it concerns" and "Yesterday man" were concerned none of us had ever played them before, although obviously we were familiar with them and of course Adam's song "The First time". What fun they all were to play.



We worked away diligently at the material  
and by the time the day of the gig came around we were ready!

I'd confided in Mickey Steed that in  
time-honoured Kinks' fashion, just because we had said we wouldn't do the  
Adam Faith medley starting with "What do you want" and segueing on to "Poor  
me" and "Someone else's baby" it didn't absolutely mean we wouldn't -  
especially if Johnny 'Mod' Rogan accidentally  
slipped it in. It was the same situation with "The Sausage Song"! Steedy made a  
rod for his own back by saying he'd rather have a nodding acquaintance with  
these songs. He learned them so he wasn't caught short. Another risqué pun  
intended!

On the Wednesday before the gig I'd  
picked Russell up so we could go and check out the venue so there were no rude  
awakenings when we got there. Nigel Manders met us there to not only show us  
around but give us a history lesson about what Maltings actually did. We were  
going to be in the Southern  
Maltings and next to us was the Central Maltings where these days they worked  
on expensive motor cars, Lamborghinis and the like. The building next to that  
was, you're probably ahead of me now: The Northern Maltings. Nigel is one of  
the visionaries and driving  
forces behind the development who also turns out to be a drummer. The idea is  
to turn the place into a thriving arts centre with workshop areas for painting,  
music, ceramics, dance and so on with a gig below with a capacity for 300  
people. The big problem  
was the building was listed and things which were added a century ago like  
balustrades to keep the roof from falling-in, according to the council would need  
to be taken away with potentially disastrous results thereby making the  
restoration even more expensive.

To be honest I had no idea (a deer with no eyes?)  
what a maltings actually was, but I have an I-pad and I'm not afraid to use it. I  
discovered the following. A maltings, or if you prefer a malt house (for the  
uninitiated like me) turns out to be a building with a slanting oast house-like  
chimney which turns  
automatically to follow the wind, where grains of barley are converted into malt  
- Tigger's favourite food. They soak them in water and allow the grains to sprout

before drying them to put a stop to any further growth. The malt produced is used in brewing beer, whisky and in certain other foods. I fondly remember something called 'Vimaltol' which I assume had something to do with this process with delicious (?) Halibut liver oil added to it. We undernourished baby boomers used to have a spoonful of this everyday before we walked to school, along with some weird sort of orange juice. Both commodities were designed to keep us healthy. (Another malt-based product was Ovaltine and I'm guessing a great many of the audience that night were once members of the 'Ovaltineys Club' on Radio Luxembourg. I should have mentioned it to Johnny Mod on the stage, he would no doubt have launched into a rendition of: "we are the Ovaltineys, happy girls and boys". But I digress. Malt must have been really big business at one time because there were literally hundreds of these huge aircraft-hanger sized buildings in Ware and the malt they produced was eventually loaded onto barges and shipped up the River Lea past where Russell and I lived in Waltham Cross and on to its eventual destination somewhere in London. Here endeth the lesson.

At 4.30 pm on the 7th April 2018 we all gathered at The Southern Maltings hugging one another and setting up gear. We had a call sheet which had various times printed on it although since all of a sudden I looked up from putting drums together and there was the beginnings of an audience in the venue. I don't believe we performers took any notice of it. We managed a run through of a couple of songs to get used to the sound and then it was show time.

Derik, who came on first was someone with whom I'd last played in The Rodford Files with Jim, not long before Christmas. I started the first drum pattern without even counting myself in, as we launched ourselves into 'Big Boss Man'. We were off and running and sailed straight into 'Phone Booth', 'Hand Jive' and a couple of others.

Mike Berry came next and we went straight into: "That'll be the day". Russell and I had played with Mike from time to time with The Outlaws during the sixties so he was family. I'd made at least one album with him and done a tour when "Sunshine of your smile" came out - which turns out to be only

38 years ago! .

Nobby Dalton came next and fresh from his wedding. We couldn't think of any matrimonially-inclined Kinks songs to suit the occasion other than "Do it again" so we started with the obviously cheerful song "Sunny afternoon" and finished with the equally obvious bride and groom opus: "You really got me".

According to my list Chris Andrews came next. We first met him halfway through 1963 when he wrote "The first time" which was a hit for Tel. From there Chris produced hit after hit for Tel, us and of course Sandie Shaw who had only just decided to take off her shoes. We were around of course when "Yesterday Man" came out, although involved with "Concrete and Clay" and we were flying around France with Richard Anthony when "To whom it concerns" arrived so never got to play those songs at the time. But we made up for that in The Southern Maltings and, though I say it as shouldn't, we played them rather well I thought.

Having been announced by Ian Street, it was time for us Roulettes to do our thing and Thorpy and Mod joined us on stage. We got on with songs we'd played as recently as five years ago at the 50th anniversary bash at one of my locals; The King and Tinker. We started with something easy to get us into the show: "Bad Time", or was it "You got me running". Steedy struggled to find this track because unfortunately that's not its name. It's actually "Baby what you want me to do"! We certainly played "Long Cigarette" at some juncture but there were others we didn't play because time wasn't on our side and somehow we didn't get round to them. However we segued seamlessly into the likes of "Hold your head up", "God gave rock and roll to you", "Since you been gone", "I don't believe in Miracles" and so on.

To be honest I hadn't had a chance to talk to Russell ever since we got there in the afternoon so it wasn't until we were playing the heavier stuff that it became obvious to me he wasn't very well at all. However he soldiered on magnificently. Chapeau!

Bob Bradbury was in a band called 'Hello'

and came on to sing a song called “New York Groove” which Russell had written for them. (This song had the same Hambone beat as “Willie and the handjive” so we played Bo Diddley’s infectious rhythm twice that night.

But come here there’s more, with a few

minutes to spare RGB asked the audience if anybody would like to come up and sing.

A Scottish guy called Brian Barry, who

we had seen with his wife at every gig on the last tour came up to sing a song which didn’t need any rehearsal from us lot: Eddie

Cochran’s “20 Flight Rock”. I bent down to look for a non-existent beer lifted my head and someone was in front of me preparing

to sing “Pearl’s a singer” and within seconds we were playing it. Now I’ll let you into a secret I had never played that particular

Elkie Brook’s song before although for obvious reasons I’d certainly played “Miracles”. Steedy took over and conducted me (the

new Jim Rodford?) and halfway through the song I was vaguely aware in the back of my mind that something different happened musically,

but I couldn’t remember what it was. But not to worry he conducted me through the feel change and we managed rather well.

Now what I haven’t told you is that the girl singing “Pearl” was Sue Marchant, our broadcaster friend from BBC Radio Cambridge.

She has kindly, possibly inadvisably, had me, Russell and lots of our pals on her ‘Big Night In’ programme from time to time. The

last time I’d seen her was in an art gallery in Ely playing something like “Tiptoe through the tulips” in a ukelele orchestra!

I never really managed to talk to anybody

properly all night other than those I bumped into literally on my way to, and back from the loo. I also only got to drink half a bottle of beer all night which somehow managed to disappear itself from its usual position down by the floor tom. But there’s

a move afoot for us to do lunch very soon, while we can still remember the gig!

We were all messing around dismantling

our gear when I heard excited murmurings from the audience about repeating our triumph -

**next year!**

Frankly I was expecting to wait another 5 years to do it again when Thorpy, me, and Mod would only be

79 and Russell would be a mere stripling at 78. So perhaps we should think of doing it sooner. Not for any other reason than I might be too old to carry the drums. (Perhaps we could do it unplugged?)

On thinking about it perhaps we could  
do the gig round at my place?

And, finally, to a special absent friend...

**BOB HENRIT ON JIM RODFORD**

[http://kastoffkinks.co.uk/Jim\\_RIP.htm](http://kastoffkinks.co.uk/Jim_RIP.htm)

[Jim Rodford -](#)

[kastoffkinks.co.uk](http://kastoffkinks.co.uk)

[kastoffkinks.co.uk](http://kastoffkinks.co.uk)

The phone rang at 9am on  
Saturday, 20th January and  
when the screen showed Steve  
Rodford I immediately sensed  
something was up. If he  
wanted me to do his gig that ...





