

(Header by Sven Kramer)

A big welcome to our new readers. Please feel free to contribute.

This month Russ has been preparing for his European tour for which the tickets are selling well. In his Book Of Love article he shows us a glimpse of his deeper side and explains his thoughts behind "This Is Not A Love Song".

Last month Bob Henrit had an unfortunate accident, which resulted in a broken hip (thankfully, he is recovering well) so Dave's article this month is about Bob's early career and the beginnings of Russ and Bob's friendship, both working and personal. As usual, Dave has given us a good read. Dave's Cover Quest is again totally unknown to me. How he uncovers these covers I don't know. All that genius just waiting to see the light!

Best wishes

Sue

THIS MONTH FROM RUSS

First of all, I want to thank all the lovely friends who sent birthday messages....It was a good day!

Hello all, Welcome to November - The days are closing in and it's getting dark earlier, however, we've had some great sunny days so far this month. Yesterday [6th. Nov.] as I began my morning run I heard a voice, "Lovely day". It belonged to Fred....Fred lives on the other side of the farm from

me and we often stop and chat...."It's like spring, Fred" - "Yeah, shortens the winter, don't it" he replied. As I started running, I thought, I don't remember November being this warm when I was young.....It always appeared to be very cold by Nov 5th as I ran the streets with my fourteen year old friends, throwing bangers at each other, I was frozen. I guess Guy Fawkes Night is safer than it used to be. There are many more Firework displays than there used to be. I can remember being in Moorfields Eye Hospital when I was thirteen and suddenly the ward was emptied..."It's November 5th" the nurse said - "We'll be full tonight" - I remember thinking, what a mad situation....The doctors and the nurses know every year the hospitals around the country will be full of firework injuries. It is a strange paradox of being human.....Would I want the Nanny State to ban fireworks? - Probably not.

October has been full of album and tour. There's a lot to take in - organise players, who'll be on the trip? - Shall I take my holey guitar? - Catering? I'm Vegan, so I'll have to organise food. - What songs? - along with the well known tunes 'Since You Been Gone', 'God Gave RnR To You' etc... What songs do I include from "It's Good To Be Here?"

We're going to be travelling in a 'Nightliner', It's one of those huge coaches that wasn't really built for UK roads but ideal for the Autobahn and comfortably houses fourteen rock and roll gypsies.....there's armchairs, toilets and beds...fourteen beds, for the musician to recover from the night before....you know, the after show drinking, drug taking..... however, the beds on our coach will definitely be for sleeping, and you can substitute drugs for cacao and lavender....Actually, one of the good things about 'post show' is sitting together, having a beer or wine, feeling relaxedSleeping! - well, that's something else. After feeling the 'Buzz' of a show, with the adrenalin flowing, it's difficult to fall asleep....I find slow, controlled breathing useful.

On the 'Good To Be Here' tour, we have a band travelling with us called 'Space Elevator' - When the promoter, Hartwig Komar offered me the March 2020 tour, he sang the praises of 'Space Elevator' and when I heard their music, I agreed, they are really good - So, it was nice to get an email

from David Young, he is the guitar player and leader of the group. He said the band would like to offer me dinner at a restaurant of my choice, rather than first meet on a bus. I thought that was a great idea, so I suggested 'Zero' [Italian in Ware] - or, 'Neelakash' [Indian, also in Ware] - David said the consensus was for Indian, so, it was there we met. The four musicians travelled in two cars....the first two arrived introducing themselves as Chas and Dave - Chas being the bass player and David guitarist, soon followed by singer, Julie and brother, drummer Brian. Spending two hours with them is all I needed to know.... they're going to be a lot of fun on the road.

EUROPEAN TOUR

Great news for Russ, not so good for anyone in Munich who hasn't bought their ticket yet. **MUNICH** is **SOLD OUT**! The promoter tells us that there are still tickets available in Augsburg, which is the nearest show to Munich now and is about an hour's drive away.

Just a reminder that, if you want to see Russ on stage, you need to buy your tickets as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.

Still on the European tour, Dave found this interesting web page. Have a look!

<https://concerty.com/artist/f0bea941-5c7e-4253-ad43-5ba3c5a5f14d>



[Russ Ballard Next Concert Setlist & tour dates 2020](https://concerty.com/artist/f0bea941-5c7e-4253-ad43-5ba3c5a5f14d)

Get ready for the next concert of Russ Ballard, discover the probable setlist before Russ Ballard takes the stage.

concerty.com

BOOK OF LOVE (cont.)

Russ: *"I'm continuing my explanation of the album I released in 2007....The album was only released in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and, as I believe the album was conceived as a lyrical idea, it must have*

been hard for many people from Germany, Austria and Switzerland to understand what the words were all about....even though many European people speak very good English. Last month I explained the idea of the search for the BOOK OF LOVE and the opening song....'LOVE WORKS IN STRANGE WAYS'. I also said much of the inspiration to write the album came from psychological and spiritual searching....I should have been the happiest man in the world when I was twenty....but I wasn't....I had music, I had friends and family....It always felt like there was something missing inside....Does this sound familiar? Oh Yes!! - In the past decades I've met so many people, who, when they 'open up,' tell me the same story. In my wondering about this crazy, mixed up, scary, wonderful and now, often blissful existence, I often read some books that enlightened me - one was 'THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED', by M.Scott Peck - There were some insights into his thoughts on LOVE...a word that, I'm sure, must be the most misrepresented in life. Some of his insights inspired this song from the BOOK OF LOVE....

'THIS IS NOT A LOVE SONG'

**HOW CAN A MAN AND A WOMAN EVER GET IT SO WRONG,
AND THEY CALL THIS MADNESS, LOVE**

**SAME THING TIME AND AGAIN WE FALL THEN BREAK UP,
AND THE WORLD CAN'T GET ENOUGH,**

**WE SAY, I LOVE YOU - BUT DO YOU LOVE ME?
- WE FALL APART COS WE DISAGREE,**

**THIS IS A SONG ABOUT YOU AND ME,
ABOUT FALLING IN LOVE THEN WE WANNA BE FREE,**

**BUT THIS IS NOT A LOVE SONG, IT'S ABOUT MANY THINGS,
THE HURT IT BRINGS,**

BUT NOT A LOVE SONG,

**ABOUT ME AND YOU, WHAT LOVE WILL DO,
BUT NOT A LOVE SONG,**

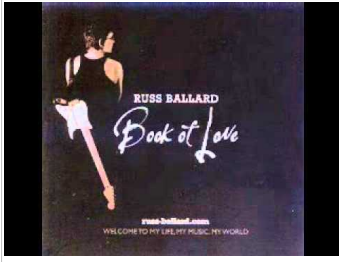
HOW WE SEEM TO HOLD ON - WHEN LOVE IS GONE,
IT'S A SONG ABOUT LOVE - BUT NOT A LOVE SONG.
I'M LOOKING FOR ANOTHER LOVE - IT'S GOT ANOTHER PERFUME
IT'S NOT WHAT WE TALK ABOUT,
BECAUSE THE WAY THAT I SEE IT - THIS DON'T MEAN TOO MUCH
IF WHEN WE CRY THEN WE JUST MOVE ON,
WE SAY, I LOVE YOU, BUT DO YOU LOVE ME?
ETC....

Copyright Russ Ballard

This story appears [in my life] to be a common way we enter in to a love affair....We have a sensation, a feeling when we meet we say...."I'm in Love. Yippee" - After a while, we have a disagreement, separate and move on. M.Scott Peck says this feeling of falling in love is nature having it's way. I don't know about you, but I think that's fantastic....Dear Mother Nature wants us to pro-create and decides to give you and me this incredible feeling we call 'LOVE.' M.Scott Peck and others call it 'CATHEXIS' [Natures way of pro creation]. But my aim with BOOK OF LOVE was to find the real meaning.

Scott-Peck's definition to me, is the best....It's always an action..... 'THE ACT OF EXTENDING ONESELF FOR THE PURPOSE OF NURTURING ONES OWN AND/OR SOMEONE ELSE'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH' That, to me, gets rid of so many other crazy definitions. Just doing a good turn when you can - Caring that little more - Being a little kinder....Have a great November.....Love, Russ x

<https://youtu.be/phcqi8b8g-E>



[Russ Ballard - This Is Not A Love Song](#)

From Russ's Book Of Love album

[youtu.be](#)

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Can Russ will tell us something about those nights in Verona back in summer 1984. He looked extremely 'superstar' in those days and he must have felt at the peak of his career...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=SlxaiaN-Exw



[Russ Ballard - Voices \(Festivalbar Italy 1984\) - YouTube](#)

Theme from Miami Vice - Esse é para os viciados na melhor Série Policial de todos os tempos!

www.youtube.com

Russ: *"That festival was, and I believe still is a mid summer televised event held annually. It was a buzz, at the famous arena in Verona ...'Voices' was number two in Italy when that was recorded - live to twenty thousand in the arena. The band were my mates - John Dalton (from The Kinks), drummer was Mike Richardson, who was just about to join Elkie Brooks and the keyboard player was an interesting character, sadly I don't remember his name, he looked great. His mother was an actress who made a film with Marlon Brando. They had a fling while making the movie apparently. Talk Talk were on that show, also, some International artist...I was told The Bee Gees were on the festival."*

RUSS'S MUSIC HISTORY

By Dave Williams

DRUM ROLE



On hearing about his recent misfortune, it set me thinking. Isn't it time we dedicated an item in the newsletter to Russ's long-term music partner and friend **Robert Henrit**? How can you not mention him when talking about Russ's history? The pair have spent six decades playing together, and fingers crossed that partnership will continue into 2020 with the recently announced European tour.

Born on 2 May 1944 to Marcelle and Harry Polson Henrit, Robert's ancestry is presented in his book **Banging On**. I'm not going to spoil things by re-writing the book, save to say that if you want to learn the significance of the sinking of the Titanic and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, **Banging On!** will provide the answers, and if you're an **Argent** or **Roulettes** fan and haven't yet bought it, you should put it at the top of your Christmas present list immediately.

After attending St Joseph's Primary School in Waltham Cross, **Robert**, or **Bob** to his friends, passed his eleven plus and transferred to St Ignatius College in Stamford Hill, North London. His best friend at St Joseph's, **Bernie Benson**, also passed his scholarship but opted to attend Cheshunt Grammar School, but their friendship continued as they lived close to each other, so they were able to spend time together at weekends and holidays. Bernie played a significant part in **Bob's** future career direction, for it was he who started a skiffle band and informed **Bob** that he was to be the washboard player. **Lonnie Donegan** was king of skiffle, but artists like **Buddy Holly** and **Elvis** were starting to create a buzz. Bernie's father had already built his son a guitar, and their neighbour Eddie Read already owned an acoustic. **Jim Wilkinson** (would this be the same Jim W that drilled holes in his holiness's' holey Strat I wonder?) became the bass player, presumably of the tea chest variety, so all they needed was a percussionist. It was decided that **Bob** would be that man.

Using his paper round earnings plus help from his parents, **Bob** purchased his first drum kit from a store in Charing Cross Road. Choosing to attend drum lessons at a time when rock and roll music was making its grand entry, he soon found that strict-tempo style was not going to be of any help, so he chose to

teach himself from that point. Around the age of 14, **Bob** was headhunted by a new group that included **Roy Ballard** on piano and his younger brother **Russell** on guitar, **Bill Brown** on electric bass, **Lennie Gypps** on rhythm guitar and **Norman Jago** as lead singer. **Russ's** father Les was particularly supportive, offering **Bob** the use of his drum kit. Les was a drummer and had his own dance band. I should also add that the Ballard's family upright piano often ended up being hauled up venue staircases when the situation required. Calling themselves **Norman Eddy and the Imperials**, they needed a place to rehearse. **Cheshunt Boys' Club** proved to be ideal. **Roy** and **Russ** already played football there, so the others joined the club for a modest annual subscription and subsequently used it for rehearsals, sharing with several other local bands. This marked the beginning of a life-long friendship between **Henrit** and the younger of the **Ballard** brothers. Later on, line-up changes would see the band re-named **Buster Meikle and the Daybreakers** following the departure of **Eddy**, **Gypps** and **Brown**. **Buster Meikle** previously fronted **Brian Parker's Parker Royal 5**.

In 1959, **The Imperials** entered the National Association of Boys' Clubs talent competition. Competing against 2000 other bands from across the country, they reached the finals, which were held at the **Royal Festival Hall** in London, where they performed their rendition of **My Babe**. As an aside, **Russ** made his first **Royal Festival Hall** appearance in 60 years this summer when he guested with **Trevor Horn**. **Bob** and **Russ** would drift in and out of different bands over subsequent years, but even when they went off to work on individual projects, the two would inevitably end up back together. Outside of music, both shared a passion for sport. **Bob** was heavily into cycling, thinking nothing of riding 80-mile round trips on Sunday. He also enjoyed cricket, rugby and football. Meanwhile **Russ** was showing great potential as a footballer and was signed up as a junior at **Tottenham Hotspur**. Sadly, he was to suffer a devastating eye injury, which put paid to any hopes of a soccer career. In between spells of treatment, **Russ** immersed himself in music and learning guitar.

Though not a member of the band, **Bob** made his first recording on a song called **The Storm** by **The Hunters**. Their line-up featured **Brian Parker** as well as future **Roulettes** bass guitarist **John Rogers**.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_cB5pV4AJ8



The Storm by The Hunters and a young Bob Henrit.

Bob's big break came when he was invited to join **The Roulettes**. **Adam Faith** had previously been backed by the **John Barry Seven**, and with the advent of beat music, **Faith** was looking for a more fashionable sound. **John Rogers**, who was engaged to Bob's sister at the time, was bass guitarist in **The Roulettes**, which proved quite handy when it was decided to replace the drummer. **Bob** was auditioned and 'got the gig'. He was immediately introduced to a world of package tours, summer seasons and pantomime.



When rhythm guitarist **Henry Stracey** left the band, **Russ Ballard** was recruited on piano. On hearing how good **Russ** was on guitar; he was gradually switched to lead guitar with **Peter Thorp** migrating to mainly rhythm. This was the start of a professional working partnership that still exists today. Sadly, in May 1963, **John Rogers** tragically lost his life in a road accident involving the group's van. The band were due to play in Sunderland. Under very difficult circumstances the show went ahead. **John** was replaced by local musician **John "Mod" Rogan**. After parting ways with **Adam Faith**, **The Roulettes** ventured out on their own. They continue to meet annually and even perform together every now and then, as witnessed by many newsletter readers who attended the two RB Experience concerts in Ware.



Here's wishing **Bob** a full and speedy recovery. His career as a drummer, session musician, writer and drum designer is far too much to cover in a single article. While I'm banging on, don't forget to put his book at the top of your Christmas present list. (Bank House Books ISBN 9780957305830). I guarantee you'll enjoy reading it.

LETTERS

As I write this I am listening to the **same Radio One In Concert programme (Russ Ballard Band 5th June 1976)** that Dave has reviewed and written about. [October newsletter] Incredibly, I also recorded this concert direct from my "Tranny" onto a dodgy cassette. The version of **It's Only Money part 2** is breathtaking, especially Russ's clean, clear guitar licks. As I was reading the piece, it all sounded very familiar and sure enough when I looked around my house, I found a treasure trove of stuff hidden (in plain sight) in my prehistoric cassette library, including of course, this concert.

Liam Wilson

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

Whilst writing my articles I've discovered scores of versions of songs written by Russ, some well-known, others less so. There's lots of little gems out there and I thought it might be nice to share some of these discoveries with readers. His music knows no bounds and can be found all around the globe. Last month we featured a song by Scottish singer Lulu. This time we hop across the North Sea to Sweden.



Woman is the Hunter by Jim Jidhed

Born on February 23, 1963, **Jim Jidhed** is a Swedish rock singer. First gaining notoriety as the lead singer of rock band **Alien** in 1986, his high-pitched voice featured on the single **Only One Woman** written by the **Bee Gees**. Originally recorded by **The Marbles**, the cover topped the Swedish charts for six weeks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ij0wSqsS1k>

Though he would later re-join **Alien** in 2010, Jidhed's initial stay with the band was relatively brief. He left to pursue a solo career, releasing his debut album **Jim** on **Virgin Records** in 1990. This was preceded by a single **Woman is the Hunter** written by **Russ Ballard**, which was recorded in Stockholm under the guidance of Producer **Svente Persson**.



Two versions exist. I've chosen a link to the extended 12" version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ct-mIFLS1Ps>

The song has a real 80s feel to it. A nice sequenced synth bassline that continually shifts through different keys accompanied by a prominent kick drum. Note there's also a vocal chant similar to the one used by **Russ** in the single he later wrote for **Lindsay Dracass**, **No Dream Impossible**.

Jim is nowadays engaged in music education work, guiding young and up-coming bands.