



(Header by Sven)

March 2022

Welcome to our new subscribers.

I have said before that we have newsletter subscribers all over the world. Most people don't tell me where they are from but I know we have two, at least, Ukrainian subscribers. Many of you will know Liam Wilson. He has written in the newsletter and he often posts on Facebook. Some of you might remember Liam's wife, Natasha, from the 2018 Ware party. Natasha is Ukrainian. She is safe and living in Ireland but her parents were living in Ukraine. Happily, Natasha and Liam managed to get them out and, on the 8th March, they arrived safely in Ireland after a long and challenging journey.

Alyona joined us on the newsletter in 2017. She is from Kharkiv. I have been able to have an email exchange with her. She and her family have now managed to get out of Kharkiv and they are moving further west but still in Ukraine.

We like to think we are a community here at the newsletter. I am sure you would all like to join me in sending love and strength to Natasha, Alyona

and any other newsletter friends who are being directly affected by this horrible war.

Russ's UK tour went down a storm! There were some excellent reviews and many brilliant photos and videos. I have included a couple of reviews and a video taken at the 100 Club by Philip Jolly here, along with a letter from Elizabeth in Kinross, who had the kind of experience we would all like!! The last date at KKs in Wolverhampton was postponed until later in the year. Many of the photos and videos can be seen on Russ's Facebook page and watch out for some coming up on his website.
Sue

THIS MONTH FROM RUSS

Hello, My Friends,

As I write this, [10th march, 17.55] it's been a beautiful day, sunny a little chilly but it's felt like spring, also the blossoms are out as are the daffodils. It all adds up to being the best time of the year for me.

It was brilliant seeing so many of you at the shows in February....100 CLUB, - THE GREEN HOTEL IN KINROSS - THE STABLES AT WAVENDEN AND THE BEAVERWOOD AT CHISELHURST..it was good for my soul playing live again and, in many cases, putting faces to names. I was surprised that the dreaded Covid didn't hit us until Chislehurst, so, only one show was postponed - Thanks again.

What a difference a few weeks makes, The World has to suffer the invasion of Ukraine. However, we watch the news and feel with them and for them but they are the ones that do the suffering.

I'm amazed while watching the Ukraine people being interviewed, how similar they are to us - it appears, most speak English very well and don't want to be dictated to [just like us] - they appear to enjoy the things that we enjoyiphones, nice clothes....Marks and Spencer, oh, and Mcdonalds....[Actually, Mcdonalds isn't my scene] however, The Russians love all these things too - there was an item on BBC News playing a

recording of the opening of the first Mcdonalds in Moscow 1990....there were thousands of people desperate to taste a burger....Oh dear, as people aren't we very similar?

We watch Ukrainian Mothers escaping the war with their children...while the men stay and fight, just like the other wars....When it came to decide, 'What shall I write about, tonight?' - I thought, instead of "What divides us?", I'll write about how similar we are and when we suddenly see it, maybe we'll make a change. We have some Newsletter readers from Ukraine and Sue corresponded with them -.[Alyona and Liam & Natasha] - It gave me the thought to write in this newsletter the words to a song from my album, 'BOOK OF LOVE' - Liam and Natasha mentioned two songs, both describe the feelings of people in Ukraine at the moment....This is

"JUST LIKE ME"

I MET A GIRL FROM CHINA, SHE BECAME A FRIEND
WHEN I LEARNED TO UNDERSTAND HER
THERE WAS MUCH TO COMPREHEND
I SYMPATHISED WITH HER STORIES
SHE LAUGHED AT MY JOKES
SO MANY THINGS ABOUT THAT TIME
HER MEMORY EVOKES

SHE SAID - JUST LIKE ME YOU GET ANGRY, LIKE ME YOU GET MAD
JUST LIKE ME YOU'RE HAPPY THEN YOU'RE A LITTLE SAD
WE CAN BLOW SMOKE RINGS FROM THE SAME CIGARETTE
WE COULD WRITE A SONG, MAYBE A LITTLE DUET
SHE SAID, EYES THAT ARE SHUT THEY WILL NEVER SEE
IF YOU WANT THE FRUIT YOU GOTTA SHAKE THE TREE
EVERY ONE IN THE WORLD'S PLAYING BLIND MAN'S BUFF
JUST LIKE ME, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR LOVE

THEN I MET A MAN FROM AFRICA, DAKAR, SENEGAL,
APART FROM THE COLOUR OF HIS SKIN,
HE WAS LIKE A MAN I KNEW FROM MONTREAL
I SAID,- DO YOU GET SCARED? - SO DO I,

THINK THERE'S NOTHING THERE?
SO DO I

AND THEN HE SAID
HAVE YOU EVER FAKED LOVE? ME TOO
GIVE NOT ENOUGH - I DO
DO YOU STATE YOUR CASE? - WELL... SO DO I,
THEN CLOSE YOUR MIND TO THE REPLY
HAVE YOU SAID THERE'S NO GOD, THEN PRAYED AT NIGHT
I HAVE, I DO, AND AGAIN I MIGHT
DO YOU GET SO ANGRY YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND
YOU DO, I DO, SO DOES EVERY OTHER MAN,
IN FRANCE OR SPAIN OR TIMBUKTU
WHAT'S INSIDE OF HIM IS INSIDE OF YOU
AND INSIDE OF ME IS IN EVERY OTHER
WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE MY MOTHER,
MY FATHER, MY SISTER AND MY BROTHER

JUST LIKE ME YOU GET ANGRY, LIKE ME YOU GET MAD.....ETC....

Let's pray for those in UkraineLots of Love to you, all RBNews readers.

<https://youtu.be/VPPaTzwQcko>



[Russ Ballard - Just Like Me](https://youtu.be/VPPaTzwQcko)

From Russ's Book Of Love album

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/VPPaTzwQcko)

RUSS - LIFE STORIES

I ended last month's biog explaining how my dear friend Norman Jago came to become the ex-singer of The Imperials - The fact was we had a falling out over a young lady...[I don't think we fell out for more than a month, however, in that month, we changed our lead singer and the name of the group.....] We were now, Buster Meikle and The Daybreakers.

People liked Buster, he'd built a reputation as a good singer and everyone appeared to like his extrovert personality. He was a little lazy with certain things, like not bothering to learn lyrics. [He often read the words from a piece of paper on stage] but actually, it seemed to add to his charm. He was also unpunctual and turned up for rehearsals hours late, however, when he walked in the room he would say "Sorry I'm late", then joke and all was forgiven. With Buster's fans from the Parker Royal Five and ours, we became the most popular band locally and sold out everywhere.

I went into hospital for the cataract operation and missed some gigs but our friend, Billy Kye, played in my place. Bill was a very good guitar player who lived in Enfield. He was a very experienced musician and I'd watched him play in his group, The Mavericks, before I'd started on electric guitar and, to me, he was on a par with Brian Parker. Bill was actually playing lead for 'The Stormers'. The band contained some amazing players....Chas Hodges was on bass guitar [Years later Chas became one half of the duo Chas and Dave], the drummer was Bobby Graham, who was to become, along with Clem Cattini, the most popular session drummer in the U.K., playing on many classic records, Reg Hawkins played rhythm guitar and Billy Grey became their singer. He was also a very good 'Front Man'.

I had the cataract operation and again woke up with both eyes covered which gave me a claustrophobic feeling and reminded me of when I first went in, two years before. After a couple of days the surgeon looked at the eye and suggested another operation, because the 'Needling' [Which is what they called the operation] didn't remove the cataract. I went to the theatre again. When I woke up, relieved it was all over, the nurse told me they hadn't performed the operation because they'd had an emergency and that they would perform it again in two days....which they did. Again


my eyes were covered for three days. My Mum and Dad came to see me every night. When I recall all the times I went into Moorfield's, my parents only missed two evenings' visiting time. The journey was horrendous. They walked a mile to Waltham Cross, the journey to Liverpool Street station was fifty minutes, they then caught the tube to Holborn, which was another twenty minutes, and they did that trek all for twenty minutes visiting time.

NEW GIG

In the UK? Watch out for this one. Russ is Rick Wakeman's guest on Wednesday 30th March at the Shepherd's Bush Empire in London. Please note, Russ is appearing **only** at the London show. I know some of you have tickets for this already. Please feel free to write about it for us.

ACADEMY EVENTS by arrangement with UNITED STAGE INTERNATIONAL presents

RICK WAKEMAN & THE ENGLISH ROCK ENSEMBLE



PLUS VERY SPECIAL GUESTS

RUSS BAILLARD (LONDON) **CARL PALMER'S ELP LEGACY** (BIRMINGHAM) **EDGAR BROUGHTON** (GLASGOW & NEWCASTLE)


WEDNESDAY 30 th MARCH 2022 LONDON O ₂ SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE	FRIDAY 1 st APRIL 2022 GLASGOW O ₂ ACADEMY
THURSDAY 31 st MARCH 2022 BIRMINGHAM O ₂ ACADEMY	SUNDAY 3 rd APRIL 2022 NEWCASTLE O ₂ CITY HALL

TICKETMASTER.CO.UK | RWCC.COM

NEW TRACK TASTERS

The last of the tasters of the tracks Russ has been writing over the last couple of years. he has given us a little more of this one, **Come Out**.

<https://youtu.be/bYw9w4xH5XE>

	<p>Russ Ballard - Come Out</p> <p>A taste of a new album © 2022 Russell Ballard Ltd. Pictures/Video footage © Sven Kramer</p> <p>youtu.be</p>
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UK TOUR - IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE - REVIEW

[https://www.getreadytorock.me.uk/blog/2022/02/gig-review-russ-ballard-100-club-london-10-february-2022?](https://www.getreadytorock.me.uk/blog/2022/02/gig-review-russ-ballard-100-club-london-10-february-2022?fbclid=IwAR045cMWpqn_MXbXnz8aPsn1Tqm3UYbKBvVhiTFqnUZqUYgybKxkEbdtuJY)

[fbclid=IwAR045cMWpqn_MXbXnz8aPsn1Tqm3UYbKBvVhiTFqnUZqUYgybKxkEbdtuJY](https://www.getreadytorock.me.uk/blog/2022/02/gig-review-russ-ballard-100-club-london-10-february-2022?fbclid=IwAR045cMWpqn_MXbXnz8aPsn1Tqm3UYbKBvVhiTFqnUZqUYgybKxkEbdtuJY)

<p>--Gig review: RUSS BALLARD- 100 Club, London, 10 February 2022--Get Ready to ROCK!--News Reviews Interviews Radio--Get Ready to ROCK!</p> <p>The over used word 'legendary' applies in Russ Ballard's case, as one of the very best and most prolific songwriters for a wide range of pop and rock artists, not to mention a distinguished and long career as singer and guitarist.</p>
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DAVE ON THE 100 CLUB

Energy Crisis? Not at London's 100 Club!

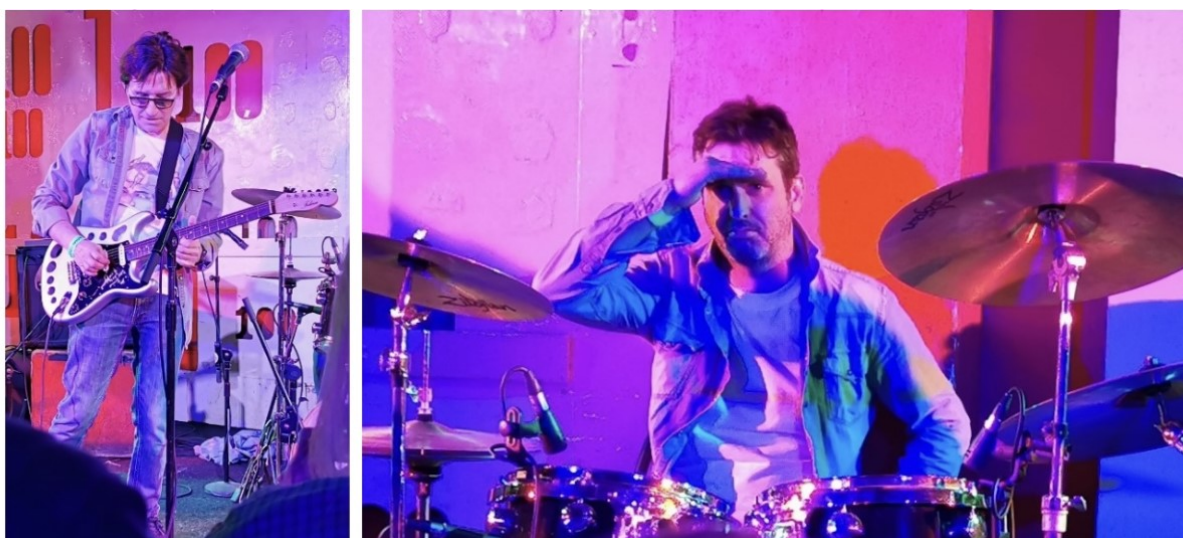
It was a long time coming, but Russ Ballard and his band at last made it to London's 100 Club on Oxford Street for the first gig of a 5-date mini tour.

Originally scheduled for May 2020, the date was twice shifted because of the Covid word, and when the Omicron variant found its way into the UK, it seemed the tour was again likely to be pushed back, but thankfully this was not to be the case. Having said that, the virus did impact the band when, just as final

rehearsals were taking place, Bob Henrit phoned Russ to break the news that he had gone down with covid and wouldn't be available, at least for the first few dates. As panic set in, Bob assured Russ that his son Jos was more than up to the job, and could fill in, and a crash course rehearsal was quickly arranged.

With no support band, the assembling audience started to take up position, many enthusiasts scanning the stage for a tell-tale sighting of a "holey" guitar. I was one of them, if only to reassure myself that Russ Ballard was really in the building, and it wasn't all a dream.

At 9pm, Roly Jones, PJ Phillips and Marc Rapson were joined on stage by Jos Henrit, final guitar tuning having taken place.



Left: Hold Your Head Up – “Anyone got a 2p piece?”, Right: Jos looks into the audience as he prepares to step into his dad’s shoes

A cheer broke out as Russ appeared stage right and took pole position, right in front of an inconveniently placed pillar. After greeting the audience with the words “I’ve just realised, this is better than working”, the band launched into **Rene Didn’t Do It**. It was quickly evident that the band seemed to have a rockier edge than previous line-ups, and I was particularly impressed with the sound coming from Roly and PJ, not just the precision of their guitar and bass playing, but also, along with Marc, their contributions on vocals.



Russ in full flight (left) and chatting to the audience (right)

Meanwhile lots of activity was happening on the opposite side of the stage, with keyboard player Marc Rapson providing Jos with cues to make up for this lack of rehearsal time. To his credit, Jos was completely on the ball and quick to pick up the signals, and I enjoyed the way he kept things together, taking no risks and providing a great sounding bass and snare drum played at a rock-solid tempo that the other members had no problems playing to. As the night progressed, the smiles from Jos suggested he was growing into the role. Russ was quick to show his approval giving a thumbs up on several numbers. I particularly enjoyed his playing on **Liar**, which I felt made it sound more like the original Argent recording.

This line-up sounded tight and energetic. Marc pulled some great sounds from his keyboards, particularly on the 80s songs, **Voices** in particular. The setlist was made up of songs taken from most of Russ's albums, with a great medley of 'songs recorded by others', plus a nice rock and roll medley. The show ended with Russ performing a solo piano version of **I Don't Believe in Miracles**, and a rousing full band rendition of **It's Too Late**. All in all, a great evening in the capital, and definitely worth the two years wait. It goes without saying that all Russ Ballard gigs are special, but I walked away at the end with the opinion that this was quite possibly the best Russ Ballard show I've attended.

READERS' VIDEO OF THE MONTH

From Philip Jolly

God Gave Rock and Roll To You at the 100 Club

A really good video with thanks to Philip. This will take you to the Facebook post with the video.

<https://www.facebook.com/100058002222353/posts/357879879488750/>

LETTER OF THE MONTH

From Elizabeth Palmieri

I'm writing because I just HAD to tell you about my "Meeting with Russ Ballard" last weekend! He was playing in Kinross and as I knew the band's driver Paul, I had mentioned to him it would be great, if they had time, to pop into me for tea and cakes. (We have a wee village Inn just five miles from Kinross). Well, would you believe it happened!!! They came out for a visit and what a lovely bunch of guys! Great fun meeting and talking with them. I could not believe I was actually chatting with Russ Ballard in the flesh who I had idolised from back in the 70's (complete with the posters on the bedroom wall!) Here I was 50 years later bombarding him with a million questions and yapping nineteen to the dozen as if I'd known him for years! Thing is, he was just so easy to talk with, I could have chatted for hours! Such a nice man. Thinking back, I still can't believe I actually asked the band to leave him behind with me as I had so much more to ask him and they said "okay just put him on the train " haha. I felt so chuffed he had made the time to stop and visit as I know they had a really long drive home.

The gig was truly amazing. Two hours of non stop music and the band were all brilliant. It's a favourite venue of mine as it's small and you are really close to them. I loved it and didn't want it to end!! Russ's new cd is a must and his book is a fun read with tons of interesting tales. So Russ, THANK YOU lots!!! You rock!! You made my weekend and I'm STILL on a high!!
With very best wishes from Elizabeth.

COVER ALBUM

Don't get too excited...this is not Russ.

Thanks to Markus Linten for letting us know about this album from Rainbow singer, Ronnie Romero. One of the songs on the album is Russ's Voices. This link takes you to an article about the album.

<https://www.blabbermouth.net/news/rainbow-singer-ronnie-romero-covers-led-zeppelin-foreigner-queen-uriah-heep-others-on-raised-on-radio-solo-album/>

[Rainbow Singer Ronnie Romero Covers Led Zeppelin, Foreigner, Queen, Uriah Heep, Others On 'Raised On Radio' Solo Album - Blabbermouth.net](#)

One of the great up-and-coming hard rock singers of our time, Ronnie Romero (RAINBOW, LORDS OF BLACK SUNSTORM, THE FERPYMEN) has

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

It certainly wasn't composed with this situation in mind, but this month's cover quest song selection surely represents those poor Ukrainian people fleeing from their country as they desperately risk their lives to cross the borders in the hope of finding peace and love, whether it be with friends or relatives or neighbouring countries who are prepared to provide them with, at the very least, food, comfort and a roof over their heads. What we have witnessed in recent days is deplorable and beyond comprehension. We do not know what lies ahead, but whatever the outcome, history books will record what we are witnessing right now, as some of the darkest days this planet has ever had to endure.

No. 42



The Border by America

One of several songs that Russ wrote for America's album '**Your Move**', released in 1983. The song was co-written with band member, Dewey Bunnell and became the last Top 40 hit for the band, reaching No.33 in the US Billboard chart and a higher No.22 in the Netherlands. UK fans will recall that Jonathan King plugged the song very heavily on his weekly BBC2 TV show No Limits, where it featured most weeks in a head-to-head with Russ's own 'Voices' single, which was released at the same time. Here is a link to the official video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWNG0aL6Gys>