



## August 2022

Welcome to our new readers. Quite a few this month!

We have extremes this month...some sad news but also some positive news and exciting developments. Thanks to Bob Henrit and Michael Angel for their articles. Last month Russ told us about his working with Fugitive. This month Michael Angel from Fugitive gives us the story from his point of view.

I have had a few non-delivery notices and there seems to be some problem with Gmail in particular. It is not always the same people each month. I try sending the newsletter individually to those it hasn't reached. Sometimes this works and sometimes it doesn't. Some email providers don't like emails going out in bulk and will block them. The newsletter usually goes out around the middle of the month. If you haven't received it by the third week, please let me know. Adding this email address to your contact list should help. Also, if you use a work email but change your job, or just change your email, don't forget to let me have your new email address.

If you are going to the Golden Age Rock Festival in Belgium on the 20th, please let us know how much you enjoyed it!! Russ's next gig after that is Portugal at the end of September.

Best wishes

Sue

## THIS MONTH FROM RUSS

*What a beautiful girl Olivia Newton John was!! When we see pictures of Olivia taken throughout her career it's hard to believe she won't grace our screens anymore. She did record a song that I wrote in 1975, it was called, 'Heartbreaker'. It was included on an album, 'Music Makes My Day'. It was an OK tune but Olivia made it sound somehow, stylish - Probably because her voice was immediately recognizable. Thanks for coming in to my life by singing my song.*

*With Love,*

*Russ*

*Roly Jones, Jos Henrit, Pj Phillips and myself started rehearsing today for a festival we're playing in Liege, Belgium on Saturday 20th August. Rehearsal sounded great, although we didn't have Marc Rapson our dynamite keyboard player (he's on holiday) ...Really looking forward to a party and seeing friends, young and old 🤸 Hope to see you 🎵🕺 Russ*

*I read something about human beings, it was many years ago and very interesting [to me]. It was written by a philosopher. He was questioning why people suffer so much, psychologically. He was in conversation with a quantum physicist...."Why do people suffer so much?" the physicist asked the philosopher. "Thought is our biggest problem, if we didn't think we'd be fine". Ha Ha....Seems obvious, doesn't it? The philosopher was J.Krishnamurti and the physicist, David Bohm...They often chatted about life and the big questions...."What is life?" "Why are we here?" ..... "Why do we suffer?"...."What is Love?" - It's something most of us think about I'm sure. I love the fact that K. always had an answer [whether people agreed or not, that's another question]. There's a lot of talk about 'Mindfulness' and I know it's practised in schools and there are more and more people practicing meditation.....I think it's brilliant ....[Anything to help us to 'chill' and be less stressed] In one conversation K said, "the problem with humans is there's*

*nothing stable in consciousness" - So true, - Why can't I hold on to that good feeling when it breezes in to my life? It's there and then it's gone and thinking about... 'Oh, but what about those poor people in Ukraine' and the energy problem, heating or eating.....Oh dear, there's so much 'Out there'. Anyway, that's how it is in my life.....I'm sure it's similar for you! Meditation, Mindfulness, Breathing and Meditation certainly help with the thought problem. We all want to be happy - or we want the feeling of 'Wellbeing' - Here's something that works [for me]....Try to achieve something every day! - with me it's going in to the studio, picking up the guitar, playing bass, playing piano, playing /programming drums or having an idea for a song. However, I've found doing something for somebody....phoning them, if they're on their own, inviting someone for a meal....helping someone if they are trying to cross the street.....There's so many things we can do and sometimes very little means a lot.*

*Many people hear this stuff and say, "Yes, it's interesting and I know my life is miserable but it's familiar so I'll stick with it". When small changes like spending minutes just breathing, or doing something kind for someone would make the difference.*

*Have a great August.....See you September x*

## **RUSS - LIFE STORIES**

*Hello all - I hope your summer's going well. The biog. continues from Norrie Paramour suggesting we find some good songs to record for our, [That's The Daybreakers] first record.*

*In between gigs, brother Roy, Bob H. and I occasionally played with The Outlaws. The members of the group were Billy Kuy, Chas Hodges, Bobby Graham and Reg Hawkins, the same boys who, as semi pros, were The Stormers. They were offered the chance to be the backing band for producer Joe Meeks new signing, Mike Berry. Joe was the first independent producer and was not employed by one of the major labels, so I think he felt free to do things his own way. He built a studio above a handbag shop at Holloway Rd., North London, and famously used the bathroom as echo chamber. Many people who knew Joe well, say he was a genius in sound recording and when I hear the 'hits' he produced above that shop, he probably was. There are many wonderful stories about Joe...How eccentric he was, how he was forever trying*

*to find new ways to record...to make exciting sounds. He also built compressors and equalisers in the desire to make the perfect record. He wrote and produced The Tornados' 'Telstar', also John Leyton's, 'Johnny Remember Me' and 'Wild Wind', then there was 'Angela Jones', sung by Michael Cox....'Just Like Eddie' by Heinz and his latest star was Mike Berry, who sounded remarkably like Buddy Holly and his single was called 'Tribute To Buddy Holly'. The session men for most of Joe's recordings were members of The Outlaws. The group did have a small hit under their own name, it was 'Swinging Low', a rock instrumental version of the traditional song 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot'. Mike Berry was a good singer and still has a great rock voice and we all enjoyed backing him. I loved the songs we used to do. They were harder than the Daybreakers....he loved Jerry Lee Lewis and we played 'Great Balls of Fire', 'High School Confidential', 'Loving's Up a Storm' and 'Breathless'. We did most of Jerry's tunes. Ironically, Chas, not long after, backed Jerry Lee on his tours of the UK.*

*I was recruited to take Bill Kuy's place because, apparently, he started to let them down - probably because he was playing for The Daybreakers as a second lead player with me. The Outlaws used to wear thick silver suits that looked as though they were made of cardboard, so I had to wear Bill's suit, which fitted me well, if you don't mind wearing cardboard. The first time I played with them was at the 'Harlequin' club in Harlow. I remember rehearsing once and they gave me their 'Swinging Low' to learn for the gig. In the dressing room after the show the boys thanked me and Chas said, "Well done, Russ, great solo in Swinging Low you even put in the mistake". It was a funny line and everybody laughed. But they did explain, Bill had made a mistake in the original recording. I didn't realise it was a mistake and played it identically.*

*I do have more to tell you about this time in my life and I'll continue next month.....Have a great August.....Love, Russ x*

## **DAVE WINTOUR**

### **From Russ**

*Sad to hear our great friend Dave Wintour has died. He was a great man and a gifted Bass player. Dave, Bob Henrit and I played on some special recordings, including, "Giving It All Away" by Roger Daltrey and "The Show Must Go On" by Leo Sayer.*

*Bob's history with Dave was more extensive than mine but it was always good to know Dave would be on the session. Thanks for the memories, my friend,  
Love, Russ*

## **From Bob Henrit**

### **Dave Wintour rip**

There was a time when it seemed I'd played with Dave Wintour on more recording sessions than any other bass player. Considering the body of work I did with dear old Jim Rodford over the years this is quite an achievement.

I've never put the whole panoply of bassists I'd played with into perspective but Dave Wintour's sad death on July 12th in Drumnacross, Kilraine has made me think about as many as I can call to mind.

Of course, the whole thing started with Bernie Benson in the Daybreakers with RGB, closely followed firstly by John Rogers and John Rogan in The Roulettes. Then Jim Rodford in Argent, and very nearly John Paul Jones who actually auditioned for The Roulettes although the gig didn't happen. We did however record together for a girl band called She Trinity.

Dave Wintour's career began with musicians in his local area which was in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire. In the fullness of time, he moved on to London playing with an absolute who's who of the great and good of the UK music world: Cliff, Adam, Mike Berry, Chas Hodges, Ringo, Don McLean, Russ Ballard, The Pretty Things, Leo Sayer, Roger Daltrey, Neil Sedaka, Michael Fennely, Ian Mathews, Chicken Shack, Rick Wakeman, The Barnett Dogs and Demis Roussos to name but a few. I'm pretty sure our paths first crossed in Abbey Road studios although I'm not sure with whom.

But you name them and Dave played with them and he would frequently row me into sessions with guys I certainly hadn't played with before including the strangest of all; a Prima Ballerina from Canada called Lynn Seymour!

Jim Rodford joined the Kinks and immediately became less accessible so Dave stepped up to the plate for sessions and gigs to keep The Usual Suspects going

Dave was always a lot of laughs and we had some very funny times, some of which are printable. We made an album for Ian Mathews at Mike Vernon's studio in Chipping Norton where it was traditional to provide a keg of Hook Norton beer

for the artists from the brewery which was right next door. It was meant to last for the duration of the album, Needless to say it didn't!

We recorded with Dave in the mountains of Wales at Hawkwind's studio using the Fleetwood Mac mobile once again. This was at the beginning of the Simmons drums revolution and to make the E-drums sound even bigger we sent them out into the mountains and picked up the heavily reverb'd sound when it bounced back a little later. Nobody minded because they were used to jet fighters screaming overhead. So it didn't bother anybody other than us when it stopped us recording.

I could go on....

As time went by, we got on with other projects and Dave moved to Ireland so we didn't see much of him at all although there was always the odd phone call..

Before this we, (me and John Verity), played together so much with Dave- I'm surprised we didn't call ourselves the Usual Suspects. Dave seemed to specialise in music for films like "Tommy, the Musical" and "The Rocky Horror Picture Show". He also upped-sticks and spent some time in America with Eric Carmen - not forgetting of course he was in the UK's first jazz rock outfit 'If'. Otherwise he played with Stealers Wheel, Richie Havens and not forgetting of course Russ Ballard's Barnet Dogs.

He was something of a pioneer with the UK's first jazz/rock outfit 'If'. To give the Yin to that Yang though, he also played in the Wurzels!

Dave was a 'safe pair of hands' and the music world's not going to be the same without him.

It was good knowing you man.....

Sue: This is not one of Russ's videos but he is in it along with Bob. It features Dave Wintour on bass. It is from The Old Grey Whistle Test in 1973.

<https://youtu.be/gck-IFLsl1I>





[Roger daltrey - Giving it all aw](#)  
[live HD](#)  
[youtu.be](#)

## RADIO INTERVIEW

**Atlantic Tunnel** is a radio show on WFMU in New York. They celebrated their 100th show by inviting Russ to do an interview with **Edward Rogers**, who will be known to the Zombies fans out there, for his Rock 'n' Soul Show. Russ recorded the show on 4th August and it went out on Sunday 7th August. Russ enjoyed the interview, which also included lots of his music from The Roulettes onwards. You can find it in the archive here. <https://wfmua.org/playlists/AA> You might have to scroll down to Aug 7th and click on "pop up player". It lasts two hours, which go by very quickly.

## STUDIO VIDEO

Russ has honoured us all with another of his exclusive videos from his studio. Here is **Liar**. He recorded this in the morning of 8th August. I can't put a video into the email but here is a link which takes you to his Facebook page, where you can find it. Those of you on the page will probably have seen it already but you should be able to see this even if you are not signed up to Facebook.

<https://fb.watch/eN0Xn6CAy0/>



## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What has been Russ's most successful composition that he has recorded, & one of his songs that's been recorded by another artist?

**Russ:** *What has been my most successful song? I don't actually know...I can only say what I feel. Probably, 'Since You've Been Gone' because it charted in U.S. four times by four different artists. Rainbow, Head East, Clout & Cherie and Merry Currie.*

*Most successful song recorded by me? Again, I don't know - Probably 'Voices' It stayed in the Billboard 'Rock Tracks' Chart for many weeks. Could be 'So You Win Again, That charted in the U.S. but it was top five all over Europe. Number one in five countries.*

*I'd like to think there'll be more to come. 🤔😄🎵👍*



## OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN

As Russ said, Olivia Newton-John recorded one of his songs, Heartbreaker, and Dave featured this in his "Cover Quest" in the January 2019 newsletter. In tribute to her, you can hear it here.

[https://youtu.be/90s\\_9QKbYuE](https://youtu.be/90s_9QKbYuE)



[Olivia Newton-John -  
Heartbreaker  
youtu.be](https://youtu.be/90s_9QKbYuE)

## FUGITIVE & RUSS BALLARD COLLABORATION

### From Michael Angel

As a boy just in double figures in the early 1980's my first awareness of Russ's music was through hearing the music of Rainbow, reading the sleeve credits on 'The Best Of Rainbow' Double LP. I was still at school and borrowed my big brother Steve's LP's to listen to. I was a massive Quo fan back then, almost exclusively fixated on Quo, but hearing Rainbow do 'Since You've Been Gone' and 'I Surrender' blew me away. Seeing Russ's name against those Rainbow tracks intrigued me, but there was no internet back then, so... that was that! 1986 arrived and I attended my first live rock show (Quo at The Royal Court Theatre in Liverpool supported by Waysted) – I'd started a band in school by then and was totally hooked on Rock – a feeling described in the song 'All Fired Up' where I tell the tale of that day...

By the time I was cruising the rock clubs in the late 80's (at 18 honest guv), Music Videos and MTV were a big thing – and I remember hearing / seeing 'Voices' on the TV in Milo's Rock Club underneath what is now the Radio City Tower in Liverpool – (that's where I met my first wife too! – it has a lot to answer for!) - I was just sitting supping, chatting with friends early one evening before the DJ got going and it stopped us in our tracks. We loved it - I remembered the name, and

here was the man performing his own music! And what a track and cool video! That big production with the Rolls Royce and the Helicopter – like a bond movie... It must have been out a few years by then, but somehow I hadn't heard it – (No internet / limited access to rock radio stations / very little cash to buy anything... - you know how it was).

I've been a fan ever since and greatly admire Russ's writing abilities and vocal tone, AND what a musician - he's Amazing, but I guess you know / knew that already!! My RB Collection has grown from zero to 8 albums since then, with 'It's Good To Be Here' sitting proud at the top of the pile. Never did I think we would work together on new music. That was a dream... but it turns out dreams can come true if you work hard, never give up, and get that lucky break. I'm full of gratitude for a life of music and the positivity it has given me through the good and the dark days. 36 years gigging so far, 31 of those with Fugitive - The best is yet to come.



*Photo by Swilly's Photography Service.*

Yes, as a band, Fugitive have been around, and we've enjoyed some successes sitting in the online rock charts between Motley Crue and Whitesnake at #6 with 'Slave to Love' peaking in Feb 2019 at #5 just behind Bryan Adams. Bear in mind to date we are completely self-financed and the budgets those guys have to

work with... that puts our minor success into perspective. It felt HUGE! It's been really hard work, but so much fun along the way.

We've seen good positions for more of our singles from 'The Awakening' album (there was a connection there too with Russ, with his song 'My Awakening'), which to our amazement, we made the Top 10 with online in 2019. Since then, we survived the virtual closure of the music industry during lockdown, and wrote and recorded in very unusual circumstances, alone due to restrictions, but came out fighting with the release of 'Raised on Rock' that saw #6 in the Amazon Hot New Releases chart online in 2020.

Roll on some years and I get a phone call from Russ saying hi and he'd listened to our track 'Raised On Rock' and would we like to get together for a writing session...? – Erm... YES!

We talked about so many things including song writing and discussed the track. He offered some ideas that he would have added that might have suited, which he explained in such a cool way – he asked me to wait a moment and the line went quiet – then BOOM! He'd sat at his piano and was playing and singing the track to me down the phone, LIVE! I'm sure you'll agree, hearing Russ giving you a personal performance of his ideas for your song, for any musician is a dream come true. An unbelievably exciting moment that left me speechless.

Thus began THE MOST rewarding journey / experience you could ever hope to have as a musician – to work with Russ writing and producing new music. Russ has since told us he's not sure why he reached out to us, as he's so busy, he doesn't generally do that - but he felt he should, it felt like fate... and we are so appreciative of the opportunity. I wonder, if there is life beyond this mortal plane – maybe Mum gave him a gentle nudge to help us!? I'll save that story for the Podcast...

We arranged to meet and got together initially for a meal to get to know each other better and to introduce Ranko (guitar) to Russ as they hadn't yet spoken. We talked for hours and spoke about life, love, family, music – Russ was so easy to talk to, he calmed any nerves we were feeling, and was very welcoming – he's such a cool guy, it felt very special to be there. As we emptied a bottle or two we inevitably got to sharing stories – Russ's involving so much more international travel than we have experienced with our music – but we found a common comradery shared between band mates and felt that rare something click.

Russ was interested in hearing our tales, laughing with us about life on the road, shows we've attended and performed, heroes seen – (he knows most of ours personally and has worked with so many of them – very cool!) along with many lessons learned that come with life experience - and suggested 'You could turn those stories in to songs' so that's what we've been doing. Our one day's writing session expanded somewhat, and we are so very appreciative of the support and time Russ and Christian are giving us.

David (bass) joined us on a second trip down to Russ's studio, and then again to progress the tracks when we all visited together. (We are getting known at the local restaurants now – is that a bad thing?). We are seriously keeping the local hotel in business, but with that 450 mile round trip, which we did once in a day (4am start!) it's the most sensible (erm did I say sensible? – fun.... It's fun!) thing to do.... Pete is recording the drum stems at our regular studio in Wrexham (AMP Recording Studios) to keep the drum room sound continuity with the rest of the album tracks being developed - and Russ is pulling it all together with Christian into the finished tracks. We've got a visit coming up for us all to get together with Russ to sort the finished tracks. The two songs we've completed with Russ are sounding fantastic (well we are biased! – you'll get to hear them soon to make up your own minds – but note - there's a 'Russ' bonus you'll hear on them too – wait and see).

The stories within the songs are for another time, but we will say this - one is Russ's complete reworking of the concept for Raised on Rock. It's beyond comprehension. We love it! It'll join it's sibling on the album, once we work up a new remix of the 2020 track that inspired this journey.

The whole experience, 'working' (well as the man says, it's not really work is it when you love what you are doing?) on new music together has been such a laugh, who knows where the journey might take us. There are so many stories we could tell about our time with Russ, but we'll save those for the podcast. (Russ has asked if we'll record a Podcast with Ian Street and Sven Kramer for The Voices of Russ Ballard Podcast – so yes! We'd be delighted).

What are our future plans? When will we be taking this new music on the road? – ALL to be decided. – We are taking every day as it comes – and if we wake up tomorrow and it's all over – what a magnificent experience and what an amazing set of songs we'll have for the new album... AND – What an amazing friendship formed! We've got something to celebrate! If the events of the last couple of years has taught us anything – it's live life now, today – celebrate the moments... wouldn't you agree!?



Sue: Here is the video Russ first saw and which prompted him to contact Michael Angel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsNoAUclvGA>



## Fugitive 'Official Bootleg' Video single 'Raised On Rock'

Fugitive 'Official Bootleg' video for new sin  
'Raised on Rock' released on Friday 13th N  
2020. 'Official' as it comes from us, the ban  
'Bootleg' a...

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

## DAVE'S COVER QUEST

If you were asked to name Russ Ballard's solo singles, there is one that might probably not spring easily to mind. Not because it wasn't a good song, but more likely because many of the others are better known through more radio exposure or being hits by other artists. This single that I am referring to is called **Here Comes the Hurt**, released as a single in 1981 from the **Into the Fire** album. As was often the case with Russ Ballard singles, there was usually another artist willing to have a pop at getting into the charts with a version of their own, this one being no exception.

### No.47





## Here Comes the Hurt by The Rize Band

Made up of Bradley Burkhart (bass), Jeff Pardi (Guitar), Bruce Burkhart (Drums), and Kevin Malberger (Keyboards), Ohio indie band The Rize Band, previously known as just 'Rize', released three singles on the Moseka record label between 1979 and 1983. Here Comes the Hurt was the last of these. Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1gaQEbXJRI>



### [The Rize Band – Here Comes the Hurt \(1983\)](#)

From The Album: The Rize Band – Here Comes the Hurt (1983) 7"

[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1gaQEbXJRI)

Not much information on the band unfortunately, which suggests they were short-lived. An earlier line-up did release an album prior to this Russ Ballard cover. Recorded in 1981, it was called Take Me To The City, and was released under their abbreviated name.

Meanwhile, Moseka Records and Studio remain in operation under the leadership of Ron Hanson, who was the producer on all of The Rize Band's releases.