



(Header by Sven)

## February 2023

A big welcome to our new readers.

We have something to celebrate....apart from Russ's latest exciting Marvel(ous) news...as of this month the newsletter has been going for **10 years!** The first edition was March 2013. We just tried it out to see if it was wanted and now we haven't missed a single month. Thank you to everyone who has contributed over the last ten years, especially Dave, of course, who has been with us all that time. And thank you to all our subscribers.... a few hundred of you all over the world. We are loving the community we have here...lots of friendships made. Here is to the next ten years!!!

Keep reading for the GOTG trailer, news of Bob Henrit's new book, Elizabeth's lyric of the month, the latest podcast and Dave in a Valentine mood.

Have a good month.

Sue

## THIS MONTH FROM RUSS

*It's been a hectic few weeks - My friend, lead singer of Fugitive, Mike Angel, arranged to visit me to maybe write something and do a little performance to camera, or, in our case, iPhone.....we added some backing vocals to their new*

*single that I was involved in writing, it's called "ONE YEAR STRAIGHT ". Here is what **Mike** says about the song...*

"One Year Straight tells the story of my journey back into the light. My story saw me using alcohol to escape from some very dark times. I was never an alcoholic, I could function sober for days, weeks, but I was happiest when dulling my senses and becoming someone else through drink. Binge drinking to near unconsciousness is never a good thing. I've made some poor decisions as a younger man, hurt people and been hurt myself but stopping drinking for a year to break the cycle was the best decision in a long way. Over time I've found peace and acceptance and enjoy raising a glass occasionally to celebrate. I'm pleased to say there's a happy ending to the song, where we shout 'I'm back, I'm one year straight' ".

*We had a lot of fun and wrote a song that was the other extreme, a spiritual idea, very much a Gospel song called 'My Journeys Prayer'. I wish Fugitive the very best with their soon to be released album '**No One Gets Out Alive**'.*

*My good friends from 'Space Elevator' came over to my studio to do some writing.....David Young is Leader and guitarist and Julie [The Duchess] is their Charismatic Singer - David appears to be an ideas guy when it comes to writing and Julie is the lyricist. We've had five writing sessions and I believe we've come up with three great songs. We've arranged to write together this Friday, they're very easy going and I'm looking forward to seeing them.*

*Marc Rapson and I spent some hours writing ten days ago.....Marc has been playing on my shows this last ten months and he's an exceptional keyboard player/producer and writer. It was the first time we'd attempted writing and I found Marc's touch on the keys quite inspiring....We developed some really strong ideas....We've arranged another date in early March.*

*In case you haven't heard, the new 'Guardians of The Galaxy' film has been showcased and due to be released in May. I'm also very pleased to say my song 'Since You've Been Gone' is included in the promotion online and it's a very impressive production....Have a look at the trailer....(See below)*

*Well that's my last four weeks. Spring looks like it could be arriving early, I wish you a good one.....See you next month.*

## **RUSS - LIFE STORIES**

*Hiya, my friends.....I finished last month's autobiog where we [Adam Faith and the Roulettes] were playing Wembley Arena to 7000....I said, "A long way from Chestnut Boys Club".*

*After being with Tel [Adam Faith] for about two weeks, I did my first TV show which was a children's program called 'Crackerjack'. It was a very popular show and had been on TV for years. The presenter was a popular Irishman called Eamonn Andrews. I had watched Eamonn from my early childhood and it seemed 'surreal' now working with him. At this time [1963] there were only two channels on TV, so, it seemed everybody recognised me....next day, as I walked along the street [you must remember I was wearing dark glasses on TV as well as on the street], people were calling out, "How's Adam?". We started a series on Radio Luxembourg, it was sponsored by 'Ever Ready Batteries'. John, Pete and Bob had recorded a series before and had stressed what a lot of work it was, not so much learning the arrangements for sixty songs but finding suitable material. A typical show would be a couple of up tempo tunes and then a mid tempo, then always a tune by The Roulettes, maybe a ballad, then usually ending with a fast tune. Apart from the instrumental I had composed for The Shadows [The Lost City] I wrote another instrumental which was included in one of the shows....it was called 'Pamela'. [Don't ask me why I named it Pamela] We recorded the series in an intense 7 to 10 days at Hertford Street, Mayfair, London. The studio was very small, as was the sound it produced, although, because we were enclosed in a small space, it was easy to communicate with each other.*

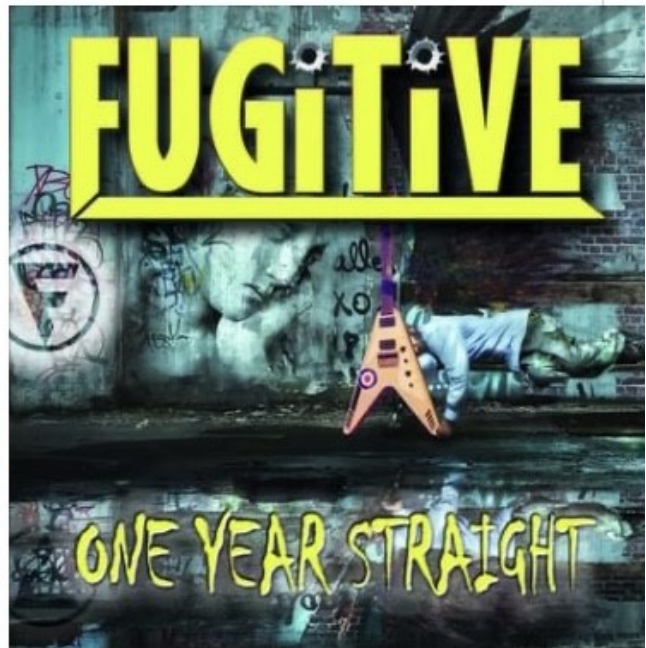
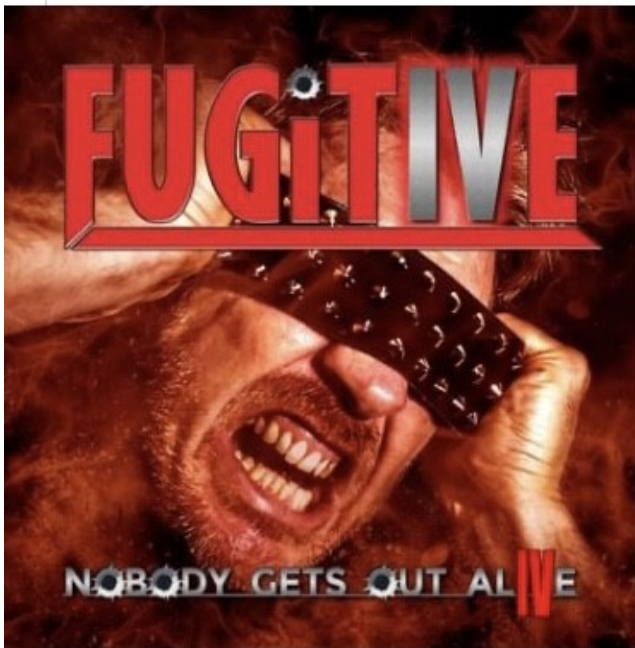
*When Tel said we would be going to Germany then Holland within the next two weeks I had to apply for a passport. I'd never been abroad and I looked forward to flying for the first time. The German show took place for the British troops [in 1963 there were still thousands of British and American troops stationed in Germany.] The flight to Hamburg was uneventful and when we landed we were greeted by four soldiers in uniform. Two were to be our drivers of the two Mercedes saloon cars that were waiting on the tarmac and the others were officers. It was quite a sight, these men standing to attention as one 22 year old pop star, 4 'yobbie' musicians and a middle aged manager, Maurice Press, climbed down the stairs. One officer stepped forward, Maurice introduced us, "this is Adam, John, Pete, Bob and Russ" The young officer smiled and said, "Cameron here". The Roulettes jumped in to one Mercedes with Cameron, Adam and Maurice in the other. Cameron told us, "Everybody is looking forward to the show", also he told us where we were staying, it was originally*

*Hitlers hunting lodge and it was, if I remember, where Cameron was living.....That's it for February, I'll send you some more next month and tell you about our episode in Hamburg and great time driving through the forest in four British army tanks.*

*Lots of love, Have a great Feb.....Stay Safe xxx*

## FUGITIVE

Fugitive's album can be pre-ordered now from [www.fugitiveweb.co.uk/shop](http://www.fugitiveweb.co.uk/shop)

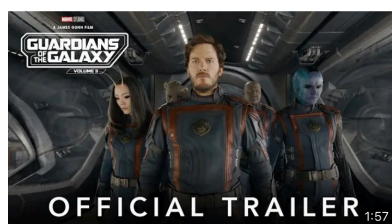


The video for One Year Straight will be released next month. Watch out for it here!

## GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

Have you seen this....just out? A quite amazing use of one of Russ's songs and it is getting the best coverage....this trailer was premiered at the Super Bowl this week.

<https://youtu.be/JqcncLPi9zw>



Here is an article from Yahoo about the trailer.

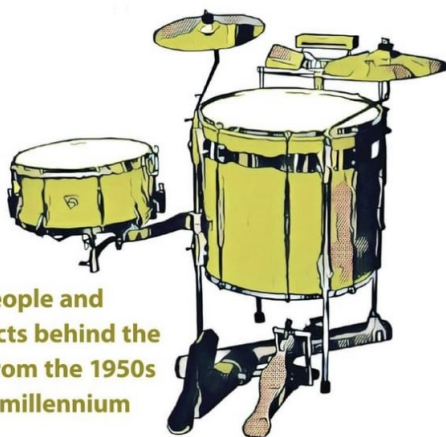
"Russ Ballard's *Since You've Been Gone* – best known for the hit version recorded by [Rainbow](#) in 1979 – may be the latest rock classic whose fortunes have been revived by a Hollywood franchise.

During today's annual Super Bowl broadcast, a new trailer for the upcoming movie *Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 3* – due for release on May 5 – was premiered. Rainbow's recording is front and centre, its opening riff precisely punctuated by firing guns, while a voiceover from Peter Quill (played by Chris Pratt) intones: "I'm Star-Lord. I formed the Guardians, met a girl, fell in love. And that girl died. But then she came back... came back a total dick.

*Since You've Been Gone* also featured on soundtrack of the action-adventure game *Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy*, released in October 2021. And it has previously been recorded by all-female South African band Clout, as a duet by former Runaways vocalist [Cherie Currie](#) and her sister Marie, plus [Brian May](#), the Graham Bonnet-fronted band Impellitteri, and crooner Michael Ball."

## CRASH, BANG, WALLOP!

# Crash, Bang, Wallop!



The people and products behind the beat from the 1950s to the millennium

including Bob's A to Z of Drums and Drum Terminology

Bob Henrit and Nigel Constable

### Crash, Bang, Wallop!



*Crash, Bang, Wallop!* focuses on the British drum scene, and the domestic drum makes, shops and players over a 40-year period. The distinctive contribution of Ivor Arbiter to the development of percussion products and markets is documented, drawing on Bob's close personal relationship with him. This book is not solely about Ivor though – it also covers the influence of the great American marques, and British and European brands with which he had little or no involvement, as well as the rise of Far Eastern drums. An A-Z of Drums and Drum Terminology is included that draws on just about everything that Bob has written about drums over his long career. If it's not here, it's probably not worth knowing about!



  
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## LYRIC OF THE MONTH

From Elizabeth Palmieri

One lyric that I like is “I feel so good tonight, who cares about tomorrow”.  
This can be so true!

Sue: So do you know which song this is from? Scroll down to the end of the newsletter to see if you are correct.

## DAVE'S ARTICLE

What's love got to do with it?



February 14th, and Sue needs an article for the February Newsletter. Russ has submitted his autobiographical piece, so now the pressure turns on me. What can I possibly come up with at the drop of a hat?

Well, today is of course St Valentine's Day, when by tradition, couples express their love for one another by the sending of cards, flowers, chocolates, surprise romantic breaks and other such gifts. Looking up the origins of St Valentine's Day, and St Valentine himself, there seems to be lots of theories but nothing definitive about either. One such theory suggests that on the evening before Valentine was to be executed, he is supposed to have written the first "valentine" card himself, addressed to the daughter of his jailer Asterius, signing it as "Your Valentine". There's no evidence to corroborate this, and I expect it's no more likely to be true than the scores of other theories put forward over the years. The only certainty is that February 14th provides a big pay day for the likes of Hallmark and Cadbury (other card shops and chocolatiers are available). Love is greatly associated with music of course. I was about 7 years old when The Beatles came to prominence, and though the association of love and music stretches back centuries, I clearly remember those early Lennon and McCartney songs all based around love; **Love Me Do, She Loves You, I Want to Hold Your Hand**, to name just three. I recently read that around 67% of music that has been released since the 1960s, features love as the subject. Whether that love is solely related to human relationships, I'm not sure. Roger Taylor wrote about his beloved Alfa Romeo in the Queen song **I'm In Love With My Car**, and Michael Jackson poured out his affections for his pet mouse, **Ben**, on his hit single of the same name. Would these be included in the 67% figure? Probably.

The truth is that love is a very powerful emotion, whether it's a noun or a verb. It can bring feelings of joy and happiness, but equally when things go wrong it can lead to hurt, anger, jealousy and in the worst cases hate and revenge. No wonder love is expressed so easily in the form of poetry and song lyrics.

Looking back at Argent's first album, most of the songs are associated with relationships. Rod Argent and Chris White's **The Feeling is Inside** is very powerful in describing a teenager finding love for the first time. **Schoolgirl** looks back at the friendship between a boy and girl and the innocent games and the love letters they exchanged. Now that the girl has grown up and blossomed into a pretty young woman, the boy can't believe that he didn't fall for her back then. Then there's **Liar**, which tells the story of being betrayed by someone you love. **Schoolgirl** and **Liar** were written by Russ of course, and true to statistics, a high percentage of his songs cover the subject of love, from the yearning in **What**

**Does It Take?** to the courting process as observed in the song **Tonight**, the challenges of keeping a relationship together in **A Woman Like You** and the despair of breaking up in **Here Comes the Hurt** and **Living Without You**. Then there's the songs about relationships that have run their course, including the disappointment of finding your ex has moved on in **Two Silhouettes** to the getting over being cheated on in **Playing with Fire**.

There are many more songs about love in the RGB catalogue, and maybe better examples than the ones I've chosen above, had I had more time. Love truly makes the World go round!

## PODCAST

Part 2 of Ian and Sven's podcast with Leo Sayer is available now. You can hear it wherever you usually listen to podcasts or via Russ's website here... <https://russballardmusic.com/podcast>





## DAVE'S COVER QUEST

As its February, the month where we celebrate St Valentine's Day, there could only be one cover song.

No.53



### Love *by Sparrow*

Sparrow was a 5-piece vocal harmony band with origins dating back to Harmony Grass and Capability Brown. Capability Brown's party piece was their excellent cover version of Russ Ballard's Liar. Whilst the "Capes" toured the college circuit quite extensively in the early to mid-1970s before evolving into Krazy Kat, Sparrow, in contrast, seemed to be quite short lived and not so active on the

road. Winners on the TV show New Faces, they were signed to the Bronze record label and set to work recording an album. A cover version of the Argent single Celebration was released in late 1975. The record company spent very little money promoting the band, and the proposed album was never released. This unreleased album also featured a cover version of Argent's **Love**, a Russ Ballard composition originally featured on the Nexus album.

The song has now been made available by Chris White, who has released the complete Sparrow album as part of his **Chris White Experience** project. The Chris White Experience CDs are well worth considering if you are a Zombies / Argent fan. Chris has managed to unearth some really good material from his personal music vault, including music from associated artists such as Colin Blunstone, John Verity and Chris himself.

Here is a link to Sparrow's version of **Love** taken from You Tube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTj-VJpaV1Y&list=OLAK5uy\\_nIRu5qVCj0jrNUTGETO4IZF\\_b6htHDVwM&index=14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTj-VJpaV1Y&list=OLAK5uy_nIRu5qVCj0jrNUTGETO4IZF_b6htHDVwM&index=14)

Incidentally, also on the album is Sparrow's cover of **Venus**, which Russ wrote and recorded in 1975.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMGggUgM7hM&list=OLAK5uy\\_nIRu5qVCj0jrNUTGETO4IZF\\_b6htHDVwM&index=8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMGggUgM7hM&list=OLAK5uy_nIRu5qVCj0jrNUTGETO4IZF_b6htHDVwM&index=8)

## **LYRIC OF THE MONTH - ANSWER**

This, of course, is from **New York Groove**, which was a hit in the UK for Hello and in the US for Ace Frehley.

This version of New York Groove is from our newsletter party in 2018 with Russ singing along with Bob Bradbury from Hello. What a fun night that was!!

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=rgaHahpe5hA&si=EnSIkaIECMiOmarE>