



(Header by Sven)

August 2023

A big welcome to our new readers since the last newsletter.

Outlook again!!! Since I paid for their premium service, there have been problems. Now I am not receiving some emails. Fortunately, some whose emails I haven't seen have been able to contact me in other ways. I will respond to an email so, if you don't get a response, please keep trying. It might come through on a different day. If you are on Russ's Facebook page, you can contact me, if necessary, via the page Messenger. Start your message with "for Sue".

We have lots for you to read, watch and listen to this month. Thanks, as always, to Dave and also to Diane for their contributions. Let's have a few more people sending in their favourite lyrics.

Sue

THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY

Weather wise, this summer has been a bit disappointing...dull and rainy, however, when I look at how other nations are suffering record breaking temperatures and fires, ours isn't too bad. Anyway, we need the rain and that's why we have a green and pleasant land. This past month I've travelled to Wolverhampton three times to see my grandson Emilio play for Wolves Academy

under 16's. People who know me well know I love football and I try to catch the games shown on TV. My daughter, Karis, and Sam, Emi's Mum & Dad have recently learned that Emi has been chosen to be a member of the England U16 squad to play Italy in Florence in this coming week, so, I'll keep you updated on that in the next newsletter.

I'm still working with David and The Duchess for the new Space Elevator album, and it's sounding brilliant...we've recorded ten songs, now we need to finish overdubs. The group have just completed a short tour. David emailed to say the audiences are loving the new songs.

Well, that's been my month (where does it go?) I hope your holidays have been a success...See you in September.

Love, Russ xxx

RUSS - LIFE STORIES

Hello again my friends.....I'm continuing my biog with the beginning of the summer season at Bridlington.....I begin at end of two weeks rehearsals in Hampstead....

We rehearsed Monday to Friday for the next two weeks, and to my surprise we weren't bad dancers. We were also used as feeds for the comics - Mod and Bob would walk on as the other comic, Tom Mennard was singing 'Road to Mandalay' - Separately, they would walk on, Bob without his jacket, would interrupt Tom in mid song and say, "You've got my jacket" - Tom would take off the jacket and hand it over. Then Mod walked on without trousers and asked for Tom's...then Pete asked for his shirt, which meant Tom was stripped down to his underpants. In 1963 this was considered top comedy. We were told that the final five days' rehearsal would be held at The Grand Theatre in Bridlington. Adam's brother, Dennis, said he'd found accommodation for Tel and us. Tel's was to be a Manor House outside Brid - Ours was to be two caravans on a commercial site quite close to the theatre. We didn't like the sound of this, although we said we'd reserve judgement until we saw the caravans. Who knows, we thought they might be 'state of the art' - Super Dooper. We left for Yorkshire, mid May, 1963. I drove my Renault Dauphine with Mod and Bob and our cases....Pete Thorp was to make his own way there. I'd never driven so far. It seemed to take forever. We arrived at Bridlington before midday and found the caravan site. After some time, we found what was to be our home for the next three months - two

medium caravans, the kind you see being pulled behind cars, and it isn't my idea of home, and to make things worse, they were both water logged. We drove into town and found an estate agency, which suggested a little terraced house , just around the corner from the Grand Theatre. We rehearsed for three days in a small church hall, before transferring to The Grand Theatre for the final dress rehearsals. In between, we commented on what we might do on our days in Bridlington, after all the show wouldn't begin until 7.30pm. Tel said he'd decided to take golf lessons from a pro at the local golf club. It seemed the other guys liked the idea, so, I thought I'd give it a try, however, we wouldn't start lessons until we settled into the show....

In the next exciting instalment, I'll describe our day to day, evening to evening in Summer season, I'LL BET YOU CAN'T WAIT...Lots of Love... Russ xx

VIDEOS

We have a couple of special videos for you this month. If you are on Russ's social media you will probably have already seen them, but I know we have many readers who are not connected there, so here are a couple of treats for you. The first one Russ made in his studio, with quite a lot of encouragement from Carole, for his Facebook page.

<https://fb.watch/m7uNjtlcd6/>

Have a read of Dave's article below. Do you think this one would fit the bill?

The second of the videos is very special. In 1988 several bands got together to do a charity gig for a Leukaemia charity. The Roulettes performed and they were joined by Adam Faith. This was the first time they had all performed together for over 20 years. John (Mod) Rogan has had a video of this performance since then, which he wanted to preserve and share. Thanks to the technical efforts and ability of our Carole and Sven we now have this for us all to see on YouTube. Remember this is old footage. Sven has made it the best quality possible. You can see in the video how much they all enjoyed playing together again.

<https://youtu.be/lchYmvdAQsI>

MERCHANDISE

We have a number of items of merchandise for sale and I am going to try selling them via the newsletter. We don't have a shop; this is just me posting them out. I will be sending out a separate email with photos and

details or it will fill the newsletter, so watch out for that soon. We have "vintage" t-shirts (small sizes), a special edition of Russ's live 2007 CD, lanyards from last year's Germany tour, and signed lyric sheets.

LYRIC OF THE MONTH

>From Diane Lear.

Di: "Favourite lyrics. This song means a lot to me."

Where's the love, do we buy or do they give it away?

Somewhere so it seems, there's a million dreams and they're for free.

Where's the sign, is it far away, is there a place?

And where's the joy and the devotion?

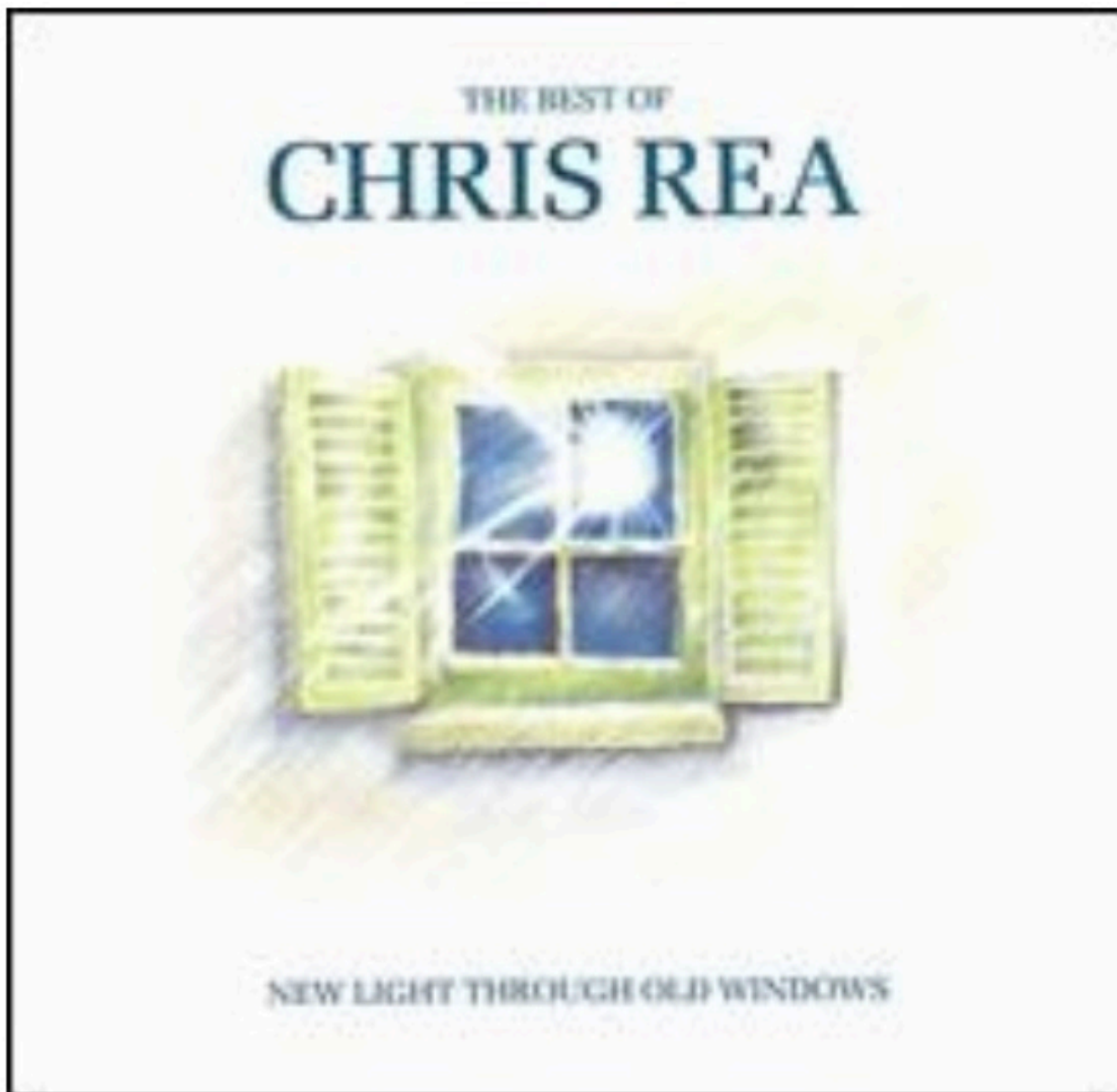
Russ is a lyrics genius, isn't he? So, who knows which song this is? Scroll down to the end of the newsletter to see if you are right. Or, if you didn't know it, to find out what it is.

TOP 10 ARGENT SONGS

I pinched this from the Argent Facebook page so, thanks, Steve. An article from Classic Rock History. Do you agree? There would be a few more of Russ's songs in my list. I would maybe need more than 10.

<http://www.classicrockhistory.com/top-10-argent-songs/>

DAVE'S ARTICLE



Does anyone remember the album **New Light Through Old Windows** by **Chris Rea**? This was a 1988 release consisting of his greatest hits, but re-recorded. Comments at the time suggested that some of the songs carried more energy, whilst others were almost indistinguishable from the original. I own a copy and I have to say I've always liked it.

Back in April, Russ announced that he had signed with a new publisher, Primary Wave. One of the benefits of doing so was that it will be easier for him to get new music out. I also seem to think that there was mention of Russ working on an album of re-workings of a selection of songs he'd previously written either for himself or for others. I can't remember where I read this, maybe I only dreamt it. Nevertheless, it would make for an interesting project.

I'm sure every songwriter looks back on songs they'd written and thinks they might have done it differently, a changed arrangement, a different tempo, maybe even a few alterations to the lyrics. If the project was to go ahead, and let's face it, many fans have expressed an interest, I wonder what songs would be chosen? The thing is, like most of us, I like the songs as they are, so any re-recording would have to be very special.

I quite like the idea of Russ recording one of the Roulettes' songs. There are a few to choose from, but of course, we're probably talking about Chris Andrew's songs. Would Russ be looking at his own songs or would it include songs he'd recorded that were written by others? If the latter is true, then I'd be curious to know if there are any Rod Argent and Chris White songs that he sung with Argent that he'd like to re-record in his own style? Obviously, I'm referring to the early days of Argent, particularly the first two albums.

Personally, I'd like to hear Fly Away re-recorded. I mentioned this to Russ a couple of years ago and he responded, "I'd do it differently now Dave", so I say bring it on! It was the first single he released as a solo artist, and it sounded very classy on the radio at the time. Danger Zone (Pt 1) and Kicks, from the same album, might sound interesting with a heavier, rockier feel. Winning and At the Third Stroke are sacred albums to me, both pretty perfect in terms of songs and production, so I'd probably not like to see those songs played with, although Russ already gave us a slow rendition of Since You Been Gone of course.

There are a few songs that have been featured in Cover Quest that I'd probably like to hear for the first time by the writer himself. Of course, it will be Russ's choice as to what songs he uses, but I'd love to hear what other readers think. And, I wonder whether anyone could come up with a suitable album title as good as Chris Rea's?

PODCAST

The second part of Ian and Sven's podcast with Mike Moran has gone live since the last newsletter. You can listen to it wherever you usually listen to podcasts or via Russ's website here. <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/russballardmusic/episodes/MIKE-MORAN--Part-2--The-Voices-Of-Russ-Ballard-Podcast--Episode-25-e27ctio>



[MIKE MORAN -Part 2- The Voices Of Russ Episode 25 by The Voices Of Russ Ballard](#)

Welcome to the landmark edition of The Voices of Russ Ballard edition since we launched in the summer of 2020. Part Two with Mike Moran concentrates on his collaboration with the and there are some legendary stories to hear. Discover how Garden Centre, Freddie tells Mike to keep playing that "Flash becomes the only non Queen member to co write a song on Mike and Freddie create a new musical genre.....all this and could have given Rami a smaller set of false teeth" Mike Moran of Freddie Mercury in the Bohemian Rhapsody movie podcasters.spotify.com

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

Three Dog Night gave Russ Ballard's career a major boost when they recorded a cover version of **Liar**. Their version achieved chart success in their homeland reaching No.7 in the Billboard Top 100, and went even higher in Canada, peaking at No.4. Of course, the success provided benefits both ways and it was not surprising to learn that Three Dog Night chose to cover another of Russ's songs.

No.60



Chained by Three Dog Night

As most of us will know, **Chained** is featured on Argent's second album **Ring of Hands**, which **Rod Argent** has frequently been heard to profess is his favourite Argent LP. Following the success of **Liar**, Three Dog Night again dipped their hand into the Argent lucky bag and selected another Russ Ballard song, **Chained**. Their version is pretty true to the original, and as did Argent, the band were able to showcase their vocal harmonies.

Chained is featured on the 1972 **Seven Separate Fools** album, placed as the final track on Side 1.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkGzcf6fRG8>



Three Dog Night "Chained"

> From the LP 'Seven Separate Fools' comes this tune. For musical enjoyment only. No copyright
www.youtube.com

LYRIC OF THE MONTH - ANSWER

From Russ's excellent "Winning" album.....Just A Dream Away.

https://youtu.be/9NK1hsvt_ac