



(Header by Sven)

February 2024

Welcome to our new readers.

As I have mentioned previously I have had ever increasing problems getting the newsletter out to everyone. Sometimes I get an undeliverable notice with a reason but I know some are not delivered without notification to me. I got the advice of an IT expert, who explained that the problem is a tightening up of security by the big companies like Google and Microsoft in order to crack down on scam emails, hacking and other criminal activity. Unfortunately, as I send out a large number of emails at a time, the newsletter is caught up in the fallout. He suggested using a domain name instead of Outlook. So following his advice and suggestions I handed over to Sven, who has already registered a domain name for the website, and he has set up a new newsletter email address. We will be changing (at some point when I have got my head round all this) to news@russballardmusic.com. It is, of course, not straightforward for someone who has no clue tech-wise, but I will get there eventually. Please add the new email address to your contact/safe list so you will be ready when it happens.

This month we have a new video from Fugitive , a reminder about Russ's upcoming tour in Germany and a couple of podcasts. Thank you to Markus Linten, Michael Angel and, of course, Dave for their contributions.

Sue

THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY

My Diary for last month is very much the usual affair - Studio most days, over dubbing on three recent recordings....also writing lyrics to two, then recording vocals. I still get a big kick from writing. As the years go by, one's subject matter changes. Obviously, when you're younger lyrics usually have an emotional, relationship flavour..."Love Me" "Leave Me" "Come To Me" "Go Away" 🤔 When we get older I believe we look for other inspiration - Other aspects of life - which I enjoy. 😊 A couple of times, mid week evenings, I go out to eat with friends. I had a cool lunch time at the dentist - I realize when you have those moments when you feel really relaxed, being in the dentist chair can be really a different experience ...I recommend next time you're in the chair...focus your attention on your breathing and try to slow it down 😞😬😂 Like anything, practice makes perfect. 😘

Speaking of songwriting, going back a year or so ago, I became friendly with a group called 'Fugitive'. They wrote and recorded a song called "Raised on Rock". When I saw the title, I said to the guys, I could have written that but would have been a different tune and wordsanyway, I ended up writing my version of the song and called it "Raised On Rock 2.0". Michael Angel and Fugitive recorded it, I produced it. Mike has put together a great video for it, which has just been released - I hope you like it - Here it is!!

<https://youtu.be/kdCEvCjOJ3E>

Lots of Love - More next month. xxx

RUSS - LIFE STORIES

Hi friends, I'm continuing my biog from summer of 1963, July to be exact, and we're in Bridlington Yorkshire, half way through a three month summer season at The Grand Theatre.

On looking back, all summers seem to be sunny and wonderful. I suppose there were horrible moments and grey days but I don't remember any.

Our friends started to turn up for a free holiday. There was Nic Kinsey, he was preparing to go to Manchester University, Michael Wood - we called him 'Mood' [M. Wood] We went to Kings Road Primary School, although he was two years older.... Then there was Jim Wilkinson, the same Jim Wilkinson who lived in the next street to me in Waltham Cross and was tea chest bass player in my first group. The problem was, they all stayed at our 'two up - two down'.....Then there was Roger Nelhams, Tel's brother. Where was he going to stay? Not with Tel but on our floor along with Nic, Mood, Jim and dancers Sandra, Yvonne, Regina and the rest. Suddenly my brother turned up with his girlfriend, Jean. They didn't stay in Brid very long. Then guys unknown to me turned up, there was Wilbur - he was a friend of Jim's. I saw new faces everyday as I walked into the house, someone I didn't know was coming out....I don't know how we squeezed them in.

One morning, about 8.30am, there was knock at the door. As I was in the bed closest to the door, I jumped out to open it. To my surprise, standing there smiling was my Mum. Dad was still in the car, which was parked outside..."Hello Love" she said, as she walked straight past me and, because the door was open, straight into the bedroom. She must have had the fright of her life when she saw two pairs of eyes looking at her from above the bed clothes....Thorpy said "Hello missus Ballard "....Sandra, who was occupying the bed with him said, "ere, good morning".

Just a snapshot of daily life in Chez Roulettes....More next month

XXX

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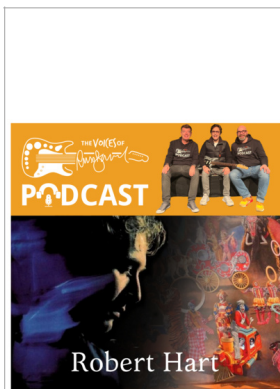
Coming up in April! Not long now. I know some of you already have tickets for one of these shows. Markus Linten, who lives in Germany, has sent a bit of radio promotion for this tour. The only way I could get it into the newsletter was by using an attachment, so click on the attachment to hear it. You will need a good knowledge of German though! You will notice that, also on this tour is Robert Hart, who features in the latest Voices podcast.

In June, Russ will be back in Germany for the "Bridges To Classics" concert, which marks the end of the Handel Festival in Halle. Markus has also sent an article about that. Look out for it in a future newsletter.

VOICES OF RUSS BALLARD PODCAST

And here is the latest of Sven and Ian's podcasts. This one is with Robert Hart, who has written and worked with Russ in past years. Click on the link to listen to it here or you can find it wherever you usually listen to podcasts.

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/russballardmusic/episodes/ROBERT-HART---The-Voices-Of-Russ-Ballard-Podcast--Episode-28-e2fbe2o>



[ROBERT HART - The Voices Of Russ Ballard Podcast, Episode 28 by The Voices Of Russ Ballard Podcast](#)

Ian and Sven start 2024 with a very special guest who has one of the most versatile and powerful voices in rock, Robert Hart. He has worked with or alongside, the likes of Whoopi Goldberg, Sly Stone, The Jacksons, Bad Company, Zak Starkey, Vince Gill, Chic, Kenney Jones, Manfred Mann, Russ Ballard, and Lee on? Have a listen to Robert

VOICES PODCASTS - BAND INTERVIEWS

This month we have a little more than three minutes interview with PJ Phillips talking with Sven.

<https://youtu.be/f3sfJntRDQg?si=gm54aHJmoZjNpUY9>



LYRIC OF THE MONTH

This month's lyric is straight from Russ's heart. Which song is this and from which album?

There's a peace that's coming and it's not so far away
Letting go of love has been the price I pay
I've been clinging to the bars for
The glimpse of light outside
When, if I'd only turn around, the door is open wide.

Scroll to the end of the newsletter to see if you are right and to listen to the track.

FROM DAVE

GOODNIGHT LA AND GOODBYE TONY



After we announced the loss Of American rockers Kiss in the last issue, due to retirement, this month it looks like the end of the road has been reached by the UK's **Magnum**. This follows the sad news that founder member **Tony Clarkin** has

passed away. His daughter Dionne made the announcement that Tony died peacefully on 7th January following a short illness.

Tony sprung to fame as the guitarist and songwriter in Birmingham rockers Magnum. Together with singer **Bob Catley**, they recorded and released 23 albums since they came together in 1972. Their repertoire to date consists of 23 albums, the latest of which, **Here Comes the Rain**, was officially released only days after his death. The pair also released two side project albums under the guise **Hard Rain**.

In an attempt to break Magnum into the American market, Polydor, their label at the time, suggested that Tony Clarkin should try working with some co-writers. **Russ Ballard** co-wrote four songs with Tony, three of which, were included on the 1990 release **Goodnight LA**. One of these, **Rockin' Chair**, was issued as a single and achieved success in the UK, peaking at No.27 in the Singles Chart, with the band appearing on Top of the Pops on 22nd June 1990, to support it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MmAOL13aiw>

Also included on the 1990 album were two more **Clarkin / Ballard** songs, **Matter of Survival** and **No Way Out**. Allegedly a 4th song was written and recorded called **Dancing with the Devil**, that never made it onto the album.

Whether or not Bob Catley will keep Magnum going isn't clear yet. I hope he does, but I expect it would be a tough ask, given that Tony was the creative force.

Tony was known for his love of animals, and in lieu of cards and flowers, Tony's family has stated that they intend to set up a charitable fund to reflect this.

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

This month's cover features another heavy rock band from the 1980s and their version of a popular track from the Barnet Dogs era.

No.66



Tonight by Tokyo Blade

Having heard of them in the early to mid-80s, I'd always assumed Tokyo Blade were a Japanese rock band, and never really paid them any attention, not that I have anything whatsoever against Japanese bands, its just that there were so many rock bands around at that time, all falling under the genre of NWOBHM. In fact, **Tokyo Blade** are British, hailing from Salisbury. They were originally called White Diamond in the late 70s, then became Killer in 1981 and subsequently Genghis Khan. They finally changed their name to Tokyo Blade, and the line-up that recorded their self-titled debut LP consisted of Alan Marsh (vocals), Andy

Boulton and John Wiggins (guitars), Andy Robbins (Bass), and Steve Pierce (drums). Guitarist Ray Dismore left before the album was completed and appears on three tracks, before his place was taken by Wiggins. Despite lots of personnel changes, splits and reformations, the band is still playing today, with the same line-up apart from Andy Wrighton on bass in place of Andy Robbins. Their latest release featuring this line up, is the album **Fury**, recorded in 2022.

Going back to their debut album, this features a cover version of Russ Ballard's song **Tonight**, which originally features on his **Into the Fire** album by **Russ Ballard and The Barnet Dogs**. Interestingly the LP also carries tracks titled Liar and Break the Chains, but these are not to be confused with similarly titled songs written by Russ.

Here is a link to listen to Tokyo Blade's version of Tonight. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNthVVD2btQ>

LYRIC OF THE MONTH - ANSWER

From "The Book Of Love" - "Into The Light". Sven mentioned this track in the Robert Hart interview. This is Russ through and through. Try listening loud through headphones. That's the way I like to do it!

<https://youtu.be/eUIW-qRdIIA?si=MkxJn4Ze0OZwcpIL>