



(Header by Sven)

## **September 2024**

A big welcome to our new readers.

Here is a good news newsletter.

For months now we, in Russ's social media team, have been looking forward to bringing you the news about new music. Unfortunately, we were beaten to it by Russ's German promoter, who put it out a bit earlier than we were expecting, along with news about Russ's tour in Germany next year. Still, it is all brilliant news. So, this month, Russ tells us about his new albums.

All the photography and art work for the albums and tour poster are the work of our own very talented Sven Kramer.

Thanks go to Gordon Dickson, who found a little treasure on Amazon, which I am enjoying very much. Thanks also to Markus Linten for bringing us another gem from German radio. And thank you, of course, to our own Dave, who somehow manages to conjure up interesting pieces of information.

Sue

**THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY**

*August has been a good month. I have two albums recorded and mixed...although, I planned to make some adjustments to some recordings. So, much of August was taken with 'adjusting' some recordings (deleting aspects I thought could be better, and improving certain things i.e. sounds and performance).*

*An average day in my life this past August has been the same as my past summers. I wake up 4.30 - 5.30am. I run for 20 minutes - shower, then in studio at 6.30 am. I record or write until 1.00pm, when I have lunch.....Then I step outside the door, onto a footpath (there's plenty on this farm) then I run again for half an hour. I also run on the farmland once the crops have been harvested. Then back into the Studio....I suppose it might sound boring to some, however, it's where I like to be, if not on stage.*

*I like eating out in the evenings...Indian and Italian my favourite food.  
That's it my friends xxx*

## **RUSS - LIFE STORIES**

*Welcome Friends, to the show that never ends...It's called RB NEWS. Today we're starting in May 1964. The town is Margate....I think you'll agree it seems like we were living on another planet.*

*We started another summer season at Margate Winter Gardens. It was the same show as the year before, with the same Producer, Richard Stone, and the same Director, Bunny Baron, and mostly the same girl dancers.*

*This time there was no caravan accommodation but a large, detached bungalow which was situated a few miles away in Broadstairs. We didn't drive straight to Margate from home, it was thought a good idea by the management that, because Richard Stone also had a show starting at the same time at Southend on Sea and because we were along the same coast line, we should for publicity purposes, travel not by road but voyage by ship and sail the 30/40 miles, where the first cast would be met by a brass band, who would play 'Happy Days Are Here Again' as they disembark. The other show, by the way, starred one of the biggest TV celebrities of the day, Norman Vaughan. Norman was seen every week compering the biggest TV show, 'Sunday Night at The London Palladium'. He also appeared in a well known chocolate advert 'Roses grow on you'.*

*I can still hear the voices laughing as we climbed down the steps on to the ship. Norman Vaughan and Tel greeted each other warmly. They had appeared together many times on television. Tel introduced us to the ever smiling Norman and his family - he seemed just an ordinary man, like the average uncle....Again this staged, publicity stunt was 'Old School' variety, and it seemed a million miles away from the swinging sixties, of which we were a part.*

*Well my friends, I'll continue the story of the voyage and The Margate Summer Season next month.....Have a great September...Love, Russ xxx*

## **NEW MUSIC**

*Russ: I've recorded some new songs for an album to be released in the near future. The album of new songs will be called '**SONGS FROM THE WAREHOUSE**' There are ten new songs - a few written in the Covid days and others more recently. There are some story songs from my head and others are stories that I saw on TV, heard on Radio or read in Books. I'm pleased with the album. My son, Christian, has mixed the album...On hearing a new mix yesterday, Christian agreed with me when I said..."Sounds grown up ".*



*I've also finished another project - An album of songs I wrote that artists turned into hits ...for example... 'Since You Been Gone' - 'I Surrender' - 'God Gave R&R To You' - 'So You Win Again' (I first recorded the demo of SYWA in 1976).*

*Others mixed...*

*New York Groove - Ace Frehley*

*Winning - Santana*

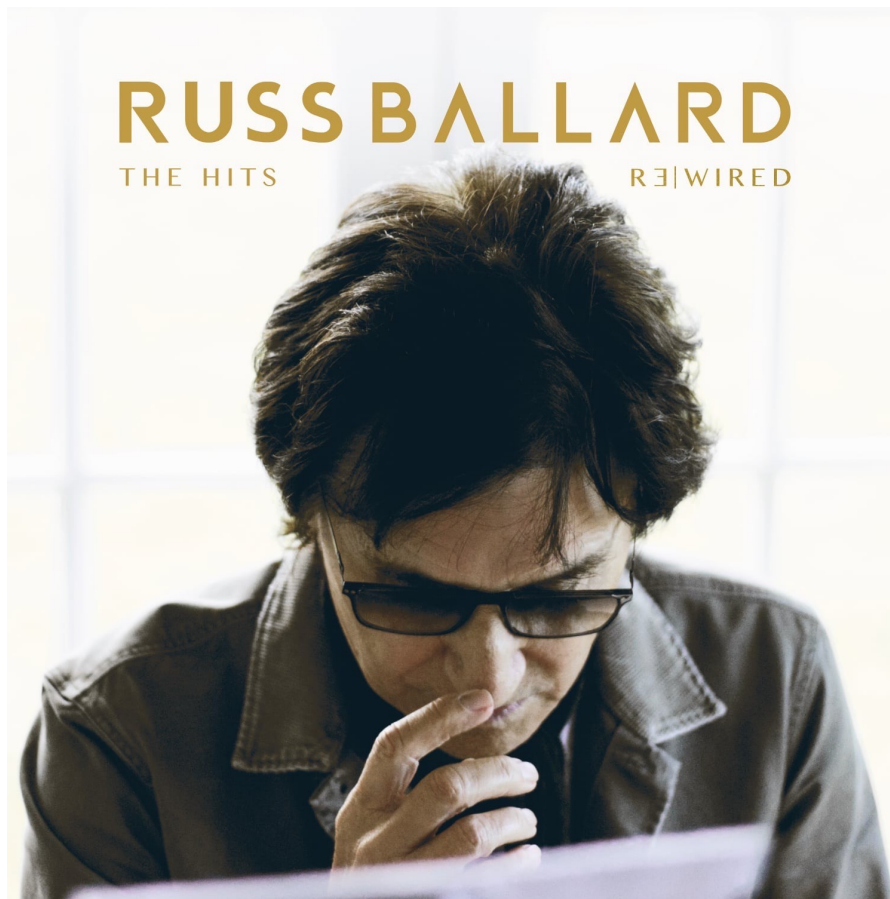
*Something Going On - Frida*

*No More The Fool - Elkie*

*You Can Do Magic - America*

*Liar - Three Dog Night*

*Free Me - Roger Daltrey*



*I'm looking forward to getting on stage and playing the songs.*

*Lots of love,*

*Russ xx*

## BACK TO GERMANY

Yes, for our lucky readers in Germany, Russ will be back next April/May and he will also visit Switzerland. Can't say we are not envious here in the UK.



**RUSS BALLARD**  
Songs from the Warehouse  
On **TOUR** 2025

**28/4** HAMBURG Gruenspan  
**30/4** NÜRNBERG Hirsch  
**01/5** MÜNCHEN Muffatwerk  
**02/5** LUDWIGSBURG Scala  
**04/5** KARLSRUHE Tollhaus  
**05/5** AUGSBURG Spectrum  
**06/5** FREIBURG Jazzhaus  
**08/5** CH-RUBIGEN Mühle Hunziken

[RUSSBALLARDMUSIC.COM](http://RUSSBALLARDMUSIC.COM)

**Rock** **GTIMES** **SLAM**

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2025 RELEASES



## ZOMBIES TRIBUTE SHOW

From the Zombies Facebook page....

After Rod's difficult decision to retire from touring this year, we decided to celebrate his legacy by putting on a show in his honour! With this we are thrilled to announce The Zombies & Friends: a Tribute to Rod Argent!

Join Colin Blunstone, Steve Rodford, Tom Toomey, Søren Koch and Danny Mattin on keys with special guests Russ Ballard,

[Tanita Tikaram](#) and [Milly Riquelme](#) at the Eric Morecambe Centre in Harpenden 9 November for a night of timeless music dedicated to Rod Argent, blending both iconic hits and nostalgic vibes.

The first five rows are only available for the [Begin Here Festival](#) Badge Holders.

Available at [thezombiesmusic.com/beginherefestival2024](https://thezombiesmusic.com/beginherefestival2024)



Russ: "*I'm appearing at Rod's Celebration and looking forward to seeing everyone. I'm doing something with Colin and a short solo spot - see you there!*  
*Love,*  
*Russ xxx*"

## **NEW ARGENT CD**

A couple of weeks ago I received this email from Gordon Dickson...

Hi Sue ,  
Just bought this cd from Amazon . First time I have seen it in cd/ vinyl format .  
Sound quality pretty good and 2 tracks , The Fakir & Eastern Jam not released  
before as far as I know . Good liner notes within as well .

Another part of Russ's past to appreciate! Does Russ have any recollection of this  
gig at the Palace Theatre, New York ?

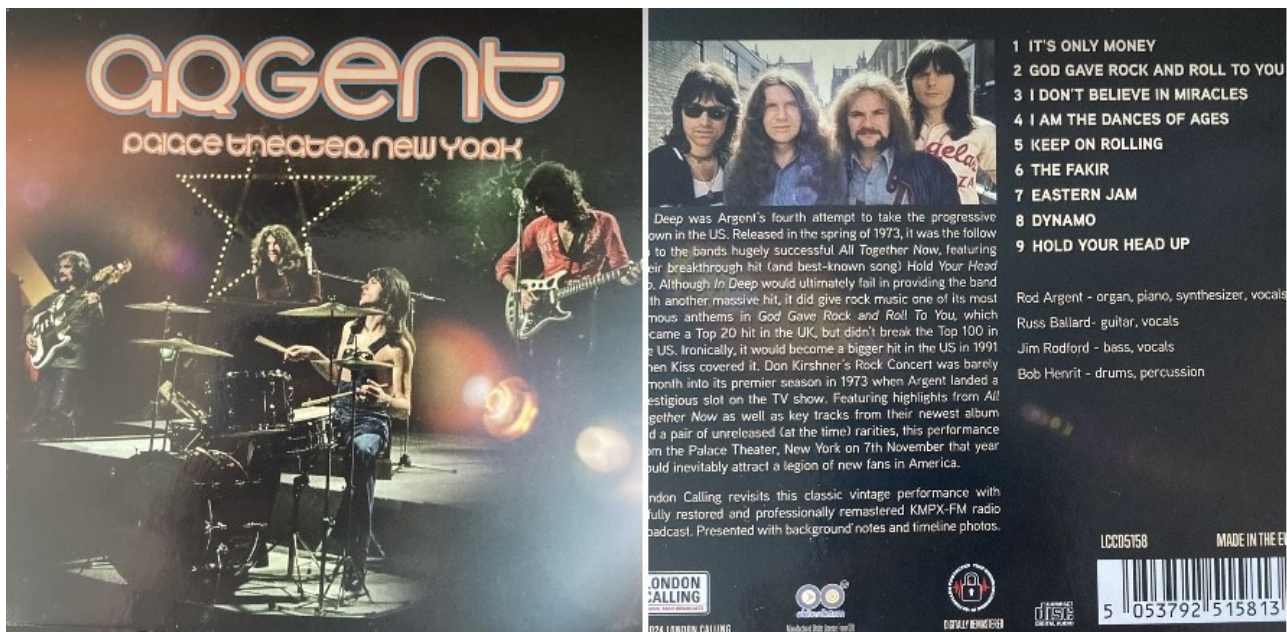
Trust of some interest .

Regards

Gordon

Russ's response... *I remember doing 'Rock Concert, it was late at night. A  
strange time, we were going from three chord rock into the Fakir...  
I don't remember anything called Eastern Jam - it's probably an improvised solo  
part of Fakir.*

The CD in question is a newly released live recording of Argent's gig at the Palace  
Theatre, New York in 1973. This is available from Amazon, although, I found it a  
little cheaper (I am originally a Yorkshire girl 😊) in a shop on Ebay. I love it!  
Thank you, Gordon.



## FROM DAVE

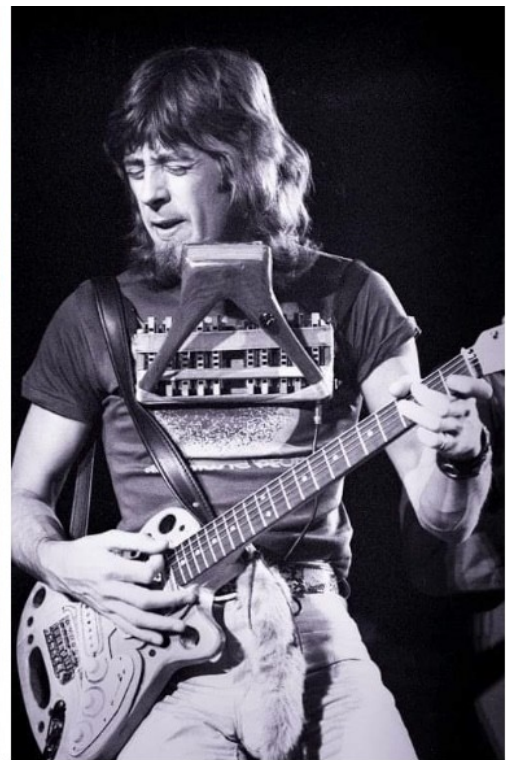
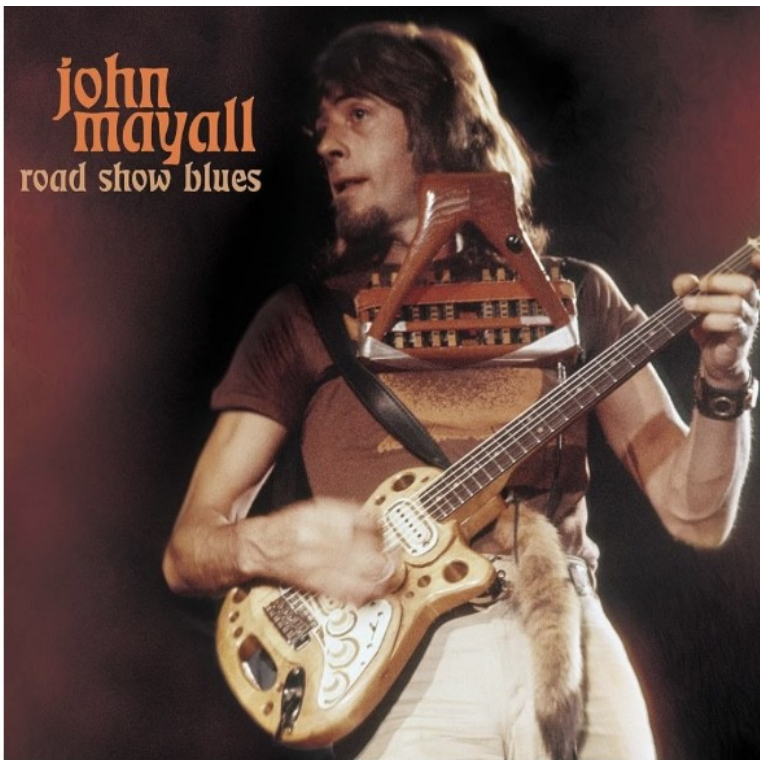
### HOLEY MOLY – Not another one?

Earlier this Summer, 22nd July to be precise, the Music World lost John Mayall, the “Godfather of the British Blues”, and an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), as appointed in the Queen’s 2005 Birthday Honours List.

Mayall formed The Bluesbreakers in 1963, and the number of famous musicians that passed through the lifespan of that band would fill this newsletter on its own, but most notably they include guitarists Eric Clapton, Peter Green and Mick Taylor, bass players John McVie, Andy Fraser and Jack Bruce, drummers Mick Fleetwood, Jon Hiseman and Aynsley Dunbar. Admittedly, some of these names passed through the band that quickly, they probably got away with using a Short Stay Car Park.

The point of this piece is that John featured on keyboards and guitar, and over the years he owned a huge number of guitars, which by his own admission, he liked to knock about and decorate. He was once quoted in an interview (Guitarist magazine, October 2014) as saying, “I cut out the parts I don’t need, tear out everything except one pickup and volume control, then whatever shape is left, I decorate it.” He also claimed he only used one pick, It was therefore very interesting that around 1979 / 1980, photographs appeared with him playing his very own “holey guitar”. Now, I wonder where the inspiration for that design came from.





Unfortunately, Mayall's guitar collection was consumed in a house fire in 1979, so whether or not his holey guitar was reduced to ashes, we'll probably never know.

## THE MAKING OF THE FIRE STILL BURNS

From Markus Linten

Markus manages to get Russ radio play in his part of Germany and also picks up on items about Russ that appear without his help. He sent me a recording of The Making Of The Fire Still Burns, which is a classic. I am sure many of you will have heard it but, especially if you haven't, click on the attachment (the only way I could add it to the newsletter). The radio announcer is speaking German, obviously, but the interview is in English.

## DAVE'S COVER QUEST

Born on March 17, 1964, in Helsinki, Finland, **Leena Vanamo** started her career in the early 1980s and released her only album in 1984. **Me ainoastaan**, which I believe translates to **Only Us**, as you will hear, is a cover version of Russ Ballard's **I Wish Tonight Could Last Forever**, as originally recorded and released by Sweden's Agnetha Fältskog, the blonde chanteur from ABBA.

**No.73**



### **Me ainoastaan** by Leena Vanamo

Taking an interest in music at a young age, **Leena Vanamo** learned to play piano and flute, attending the Sibelius Academy. At 12 years old, she made the brave move of approaching a record company, telling them she wanted to be a singer. Her audition was well received, but she was advised to wait a few years. Five years later she approached the same label and achieved the recording contract she had longed for.

Her initial recordings failed to achieve success, and Leena became a backing singer on the live circuit before entering a TV talent competition. Despite not winning, she was signed to CBS Records and released **Sua Kaipaani**, an album of cover versions performed in Finnish. These included the **Toni Basil** hit **Micky** and **Only You**, previously a hit for Yazoo. Described as a gem by one reviewer, it was a cover version of Russ Ballard's **I Wish Tonight Could Last Forever**. A follow-up album was planned but never released, and Leena would continue to perform through to 1995, when she gave up performing to raise her three children. In 2020 she became very ill and was admitted to a hospice. She died on September 7th, 2020.

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



### [Leena Vanamo - Me ainoastaan](#)

Kappale A3 albumilta Sua kaipaani (1984)

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

