



(Header by Sven)

August 2025

Welcome to our new readers. Please contribute if you would like to.

We have a variety of things for you this time....old gig, new gigs, something to buy, more music from the Warehouse, a naughty story from Russ! , a podcast (one of the many Russ did before the Germany tour), a radio programme for UK Bank Holiday and a "little" article that Dave just pulled out of the air.

This newsletter is going out later than I would have liked because I have been waiting for news from Portugal. Sadly it hasn't come yet so, those who can, keep an eye on Russ's Facebook page for the next few days.

Many thanks to our contributors, Markus (with a great quote from a German radio presenter) , Kristen and our incredibly talented writer, Dave.
Sue

THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY

I had an invitation for a SODS barbecue which I did attend in London. SODS is the Society of Distinguished Songwriters and I've been a member for years. It was fun and I met up with some old friends.

A couple of weeks ago I had my good friend, Cecilia Le Poor Power, here. Cecilia is a great singer and we've been friends for many years.

I have mentioned my grandson, Emi, before. For two years he has been playing football with Wolverhampton Wanderers Academy. On his 17th birthday last week he signed his first pro football contract with Wolves and I went up to Molineux with the family to watch him sign it and to celebrate that and his birthday.

Other than that, my month has been working with David and Julie of Space Elevator plus visits to Indian and Italian restaurants...

RUSS - LIFE STORIES

I'm Continuing my biog from my time with Unit Four Plus Two - Summer of 1968....The venue, Storyville Club Cologne, Germany.

We were into the second night of a fourteen night stay playing at The Storyville and, as I mentioned, we were on stage performing for two hours each night without a day off for voices to recover. We asked a young man, his name was 'Ziggy' how groups get through fourteen consecutive days without losing voices - Ziggy, with hesitation, said, "Go to The Apotek" [Pharmacy] and ask for Anine pills. We did wonder, what could these A.N. One pills contain to be so special? However, we were asked by the woman behind the counter...."Would you like 25, 50 or 100" - We thought, well six in the group, 14 nights...It must be at least 100....Then Buster said, he didn't want any drugs, then Pete Moules said, "I don't need them" that meant we only needed 50 pills...We decided to get 100 anyway!! Ziggy did say take them with beer [for full effect]...We did and they turned out to be very effective - However, amazing the way the stimulants could allow us to sing higher than we ever could sing before and also give us the most fantastic feeling of being 'High' in the end. When the drug started wear off, we felt a terrible 'Low'...Anyway, we stayed with our new agenda, pill taken each evening followed by a beer. It didn't take long to realise we'd need to add a pill and an extra pill and beer each night for the original feeling [This, by the way is something I don't recommend...now, I'm older and wiser}

After completing two nights, having sung 100 songs and consuming 32 Anine Pills and 40 beers, we decided to go to The Scotsmans Club, which was a short cab ride from The Storyville. We decided to do this after each performance, mainly because we'd only lay wide awake in bed feeling a bit miserable, from the residue of pills and beer.

Earlier this particular evening at The Storyville, a waiter stood in front of the stage as we played....he held a tray, on the tray was a whisky and a bottle of

coke. I could see he was trying to attract my attention. When we finished the song, he held the tray up to the stage and said...."Zer lady at Zer Bar". Half an hour earlier, I noticed a good looking young lady smiling in my direction while on the stage. I took the whisky and held it up and looked her way, she did the sameit was very James Bond... Now....back to the Scotsmans Club....as we sat [That's with Lem, Bob and Tom] drinking more beer....a waiter appeared next to me with a tray and Yes, a whisky and a coke. He gestured to a lady sitting at the bar....Indeed it was the lady who sent me the drinks earlier at the Storyville. I did attempt my 007 impression again, however, she just nodded and gave a look like...."You either invite me to your table, or, you're history, baby". Then our new Friend appeared at the table....his name was Willie - He told us the night before he had ladies working for him and this young lady was one. "She wants you man", Willie said. "She don't speak English". "Anyway" he went on...."She wants you to f..k her man and she'll pay you 500 marks, which then was 50 pounds. Remember, we were only earning 35 pounds each a week in Cologne.....Continued next month....That's enough excitement for now, haha....Lots of Love - Russ

COMING UP - BARNOLDSWICK

Well, by now you know that, in January 2026, Russ is playing over two days at the Barnoldswick Music and Arts Center in Barnoldswick, Lancashire. Tickets for Saturday sold out very quickly, followed by Sunday so Russ and Peter Barton, the owner of the Arts Centre, decided to put on an extra show on the Sunday afternoon. The tickets for this show are available only to you, readers of the newsletter and subscribers to Russ's Facebook page, until the end of this month, when they will go on sale to the public. Here is the link to buy tickets for that show. There are seated and standing tickets. <https://www.barnoldswickmusicandartscentre.com/russ-ballard-matinee>

MATINEE ADDED
due to demand!

PETER BARTON
MANAGEMENT



RUSS BALLARD

THE MAN THAT
GAVE ROCK
AND ROLL TO YA

THE LEGENDARY
SINGER/GUITARIST AND
MULTI-HIT SONGWRITER
WITH HIS AMAZING BAND
TAKES YOU ON A JOURNEY
THROUGH SONGS AND
STORIES FROM THE EARLY
DAYS TO NOW

You can expect all the
stadium anthems that he has
written over the years
including *Since You Been
Gone* (Rainbow), *God Gave
Rock'n'Roll To You* (Argent
and Kiss), *So You Win Again*
(Hot Chocolate), *New York
Groove* (Hello and Ace
Frehley) - to name just a few.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON
MATINEE
18 JANUARY 2026**

**TICKETS £40
DOORS 12.30PM**

BARNOLDSWICK
**music
& arts**
CENTRE

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M'CULLOUGH'S 18-22 RAINHALL ROAD BARNOLDSWICK LANCS BB18 5AF



DESIGN BY NATHAN DPA 6 360183

COMING UP - MR X

There is a little radio station on Merseyside, UK, called Merseyland Alternative Radio. On high days and holidays, they often have a guest presenter called Mr X. Mr X (someone you might know) is a big rock fan and a big Russ fan and always plays a few Russ tracks. His next show is on Monday 25th August, which is a public holiday (Bank holiday) in the UK, except for Scotland. If you fancy a couple of hours of good rock between noon and 2pm on Monday, tune in. <https://merseyland.uk/>

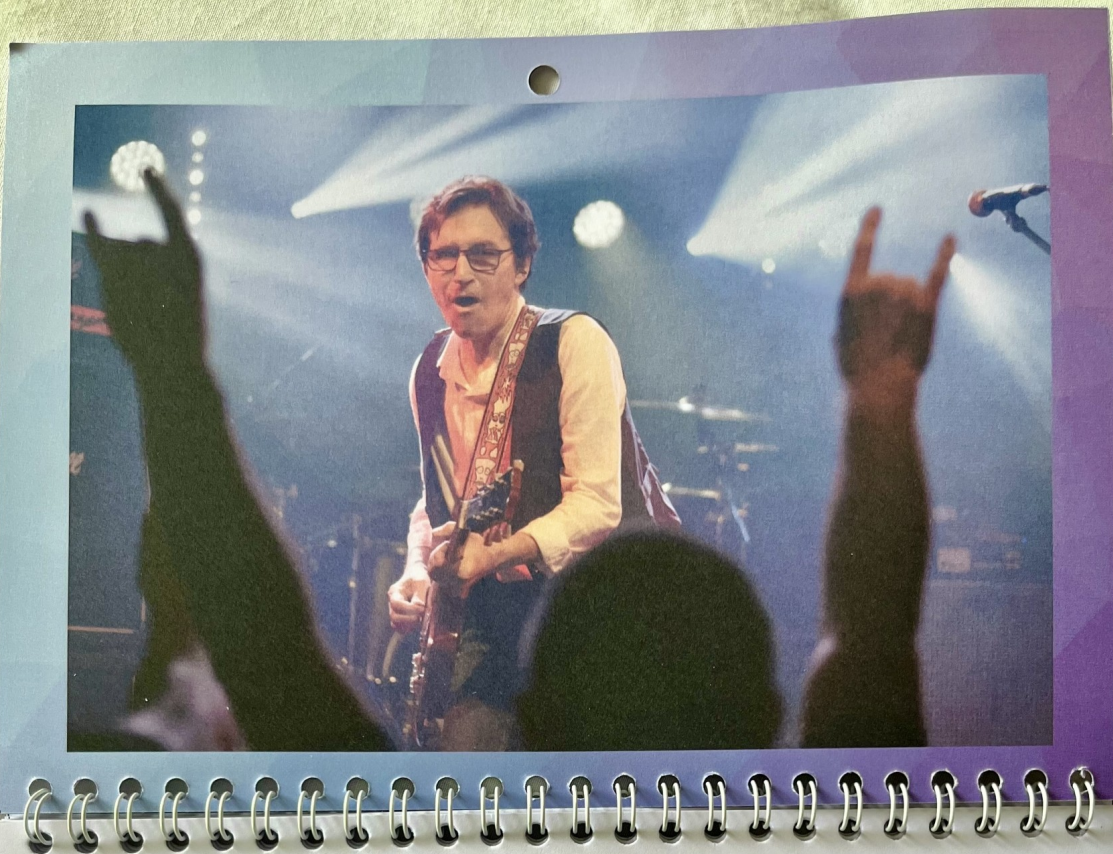
MOSBACH FESTIVAL

I sent out Ian's blog about Russ's appearance at the festival separately but I didn't put in any videos. The weather was so bad, there weren't many videos but here is Voices and you can see the rain coming down.
<https://youtu.be/HBykN3aoJRQ?si=8bhkC0zzc48z8VaC>



CALENDAR

Would anyone be interested in buying a Russ calendar for 2026? We have been looking into this and I have put one together to try it out. It would look something like this...



February 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

The size is A4 when it is opened out like this. It looks like we could offer it to you for around £10 plus postage. A perfect Christmas present for a Russ fan. We would take orders first and only order that number. They would have to be

ordered by the end of September. If you are interested, please let me know asap and I will start a list. I need an idea of the level of interest. The order will go in at the beginning of October to give time to get them printed and posted out to you. I would need your address and the payment, by PayPal, by the end of September. Further details to come.

FROM MARKUS

Hello Sue,

just a radio snippet from Tuesday evening on Bayern 1. The interpreter Tom Glass used a wonderful German idiom: *"And what would a classic rock show be without Russ Ballard: possible, but pointless."*

The man is right 😊.

Sunny weekend and wishes from Germany
Markus

Sue: Markus's link is in the attachment.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

From new fan Kristen in the US.

I have wondered, why the audience for "Hold Your Head Up" on the Midnight Special was so sedate? It was like they were at Church. Was that typical of the times/show? I was watching "Set of Six" last night and Rod Argent and Russ were encouraging the audience to participate.

Russ: *I remember doing 'Midnight Special'. It was recorded at a studio in Burbank. (I don't know how but Adam F. came to see us there that night). I don't remember them being particularly quiet - I think the song is quite passive and thoughtful - that might be the reason they appeared quiet 😂xxx*

PODCAST OF THE MONTH

This is one of the many podcasts Russ did around the time of his album release and before the Germany tour but it only went up on YouTube on 7th August. It is just over an hour long. It is a podcast of Metal Mayhem ROC and titled, Inside The Mind Of A Hitmaker

https://youtu.be/-RrL05U_Cfk?si=hbe83CzdUph937dp

LYRIC OF THE MONTH

Staying with Songs From The Warehouse.....

It's brief but if you have listened to the album you will know it. If you haven't listened scroll to the bottom of the newsletter where you will find the link.

The power and the glory, that's another story.

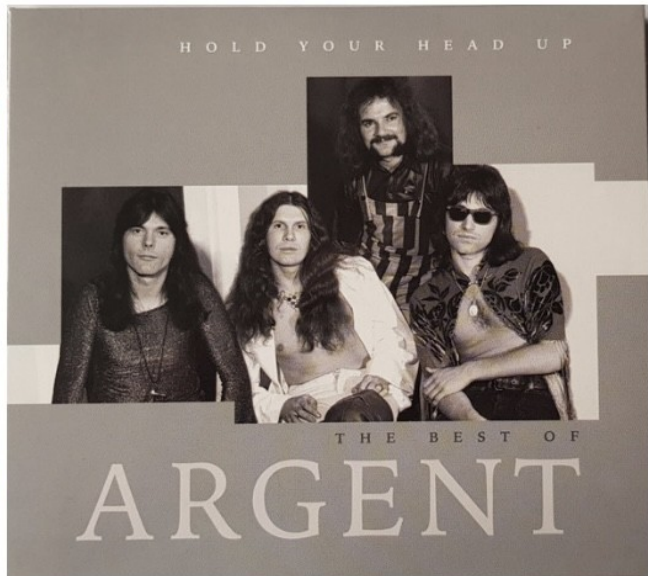
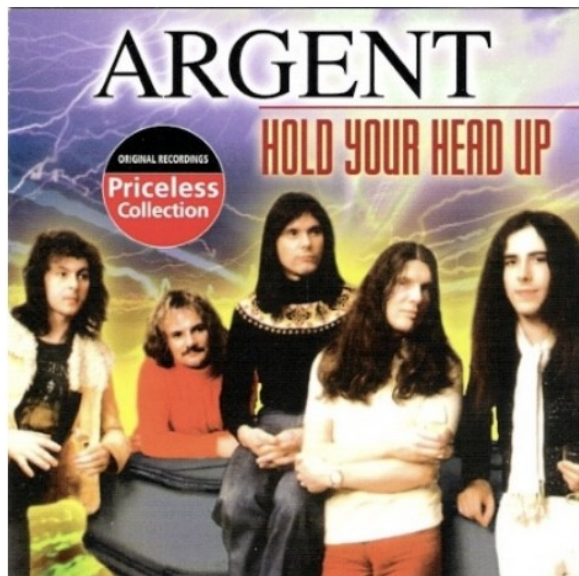
FROM DAVE

RIGHTS AND WRONGS

I've been seeing a lot of artists recently putting out anniversary albums and box sets celebrating their earlier works. I say "artists putting out", rather than "artists cashing in" because I think we all know that the original artists rarely receive any financial reward, and in some cases probably don't even get a say on what is released. A lot of these anniversary albums or box sets benefit from the addition of unreleased tracks, previously unheard live tracks, outtakes or album remixes. Those that take it seriously, Deep Purple being one, go the extra mile by providing extended sleeve notes, full replica of the original sleeve design, lyric sheet and even use the original vinyl record label design on the CD. As I write this, pre-orders are being taken for the forthcoming 50th anniversary re-issue of their Made in Japan live album. Fans still buy them, I still buy them, hoping to hear something I missed on earlier versions.

Argent fans have been treated to various compilations over the years, at least 15. Most of these have consisted of singles and fan favourites, some packaged with care and attention, others very badly. I cringe every time I see one in particular, Hold Your Head Up, a Sony release branded as being a Priceless Collection. The front cover boasts a photo of the Argent MkII line-Up, with John Grimaldi and John Verity, yet there isn't a single song on the CD that features this line-up. All the tracks feature the original line-up and Russ Ballard, who wrote 5 of the 10 songs, is nowhere to be seen. How could a company of Sony's standing be so negligent? (Note: I just had an embarrassing thought. My niece used to work for Sony in their promotions department. I hope she wasn't responsible). Seriously though, it isn't difficult to check these things. Henrit spelt with two T's is another error we often see. Fortunately, a later 2022 compilation under the

same title, was a much more professional job with quality photos and sleeve notes, but then I spotted that 4 of the tracks feature the MKII line up with John Verity and John Grimaldi getting only a cursory mention, and their 2nd album **Counterpoints** referred to as **Consequences**.



Two Argent compilations called Hold Your Head Up. The left one released in 2000, the one on the right in 2022.

I often wish they'd seek expert help before releasing these compilations. Nobody knows better than the fans, and if I can spot a howler, think how many howlers can be picked up by sharper, more knowledgeable fans such as Roland Herzog, Steve Rossi and Eddy Bonte.

The best package of re-issues, for me at least, is the Original Album Classics, from CBS. This series featured a number of CBS / Epic artists, including Colin Blunstone as well as Argent, treating their fans to a pack of 3 or 5 classic LPs, each parcelled as a CD inside a CD sized replica of the original LP sleeve. So, in Argent's case, the LPs are Argent, Ring of Hands, All Together Now, In Deep and Nexus.

OK, no additional tracks, not even the previously released Closer to Heaven and Kingdom. Nevertheless, a nice compilation to have, except, you guessed it, the band on the front cover is the MkII line-up with the two Johns in the photograph but missing the guy in shades. And who was behind this release? Right again, Sony Music. Hard to believe. To go to all the trouble of re-creating all the original album sleeves, then box it into a package that has a photo of the wrong line-up.



Original Album Classics, the first 5 Argent LPs in one package, released in 2003. Shame about the front cover photo

However, I now discover that there is a second version of this package in circulation, and they, whoever 'they' are, has made amends by correcting the line-up on front cover.



Original Album Classics with correct photo. Maybe The Duke had a word?

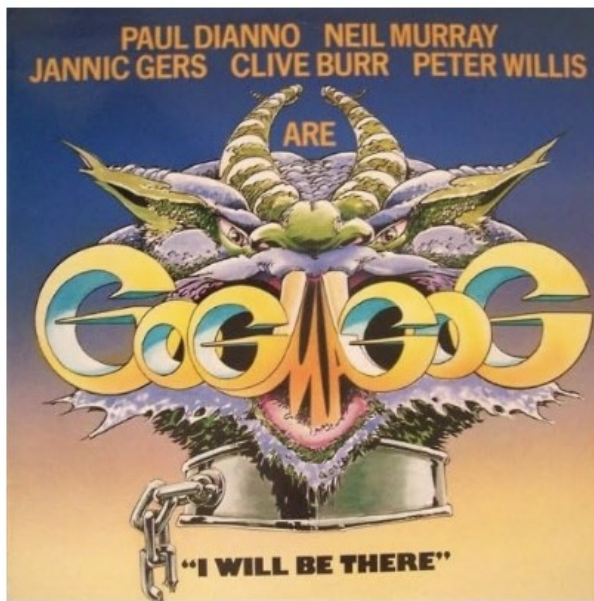
The corrected sleeve version was apparently re-issued in 2023, manufactured in The Netherlands, so for anyone wishing to fill in any gaps in their Argent collection, you might still find this.

Both releases feature the US Nexus sleeve, rather than the UK, Europe and Japan design. I wonder why they chose two designs. Another story for another day!

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

Last month it was glam rock, this month its heavy rock, with a song by **Gogmagog**, named after a legendary giant inhabitant of Cornwall, who was thrown off a cliff during a wrestling match with Corineus, the legendary namesake of Cornwall. Wow, its all about legends this month, the 'real' one being the composer of this song, **Russ Ballard** of course.

No.84



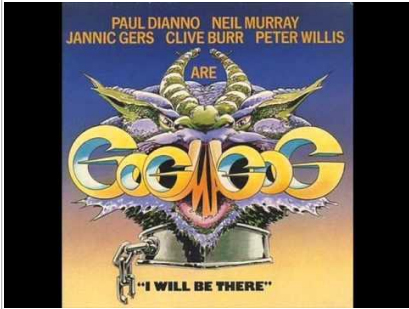
I Will be There by Gogmagog

Gogmagog was a short lived English heavy metal supergroup put together by record producer **Jonathan King** and made up of former members of **Iron Maiden**, **Gillan**, **Def Leppard** and **Whitesnake**. Released in 1985, this 3-song EP featured a cover of Russ Ballard's **I Will Be There**, originally featured on Russ's 1981 **Into the Fire** album, and a song that many newsletter readers count as one of their favourite Ballard songs, me included. We won't talk about the other two songs tucked away on the other side. Both Jonathan King compositions, their titles speak for themselves.

King originally planned to base the group around ex **Deep Purple** singer **David Coverdale**, **Who** bass guitarist **John Entwistle** and ex **Rainbow** drummer **Cozy Powell**. Cozy said he thought the Russ Ballard song was "the best he's ever written", amazing considering he was not very enthusiastic about Rainbow recording **Since You Been Gone**. Entwistle was excited about being involved, but things didn't work out, and a new line-up was formed featuring **Paul Di'Anno** (lead vocals), **Janick Gers** and **Pete Willis** (guitars), **Neil Murray** (bass) and **Clive Burr** (drums). They only recorded this one EP.

Burr later developed MS from which he died in 2013. Di'Anno passed away in October 2024 aged 66.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwvicneV1mw&list=RDNwvicneV1mw&start_radio=1



[Gogmagog - I Will Be There - YouTube](#)

Fantastic song by British supergroup Gogmagog, from their EP "I Will Be There", released in 1985. Lyrics: When you're hurt Scared Feel you can't go on With thi...

www.youtube.com

LYRIC OF THE MONTH - ANSWER

Did you get it? **The Last Amen.**

Have a listen here...

https://youtu.be/U8HmTyfHWnU?si=f7z_x9DS379Xxio9