



(Header by Sven)

March 2025

As always, a big welcome to our new readers.

Russ and his band are busy re-learning the songs from his two albums to be performed in Sweden and Portugal. If you are wondering which songs that will involve, look below.

We have another "coming up" gig to add to the list but this one is almost sold out already. Be quick if you fancy it.

Michael Angel of Fugitive has written about a day he spent with Russ recently and we have some feedback from Barnoldswick from Tom. Thank you to Mike, Tom and our Team RGB Dave for their contributions this month.

Sue x

THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY

This past month - Diary,

It's amazing how time appears to go faster as we get older - I remember my dear Mum saying "Time can't hurry, time cant stay, Twenty four hours in a day".

I'm sure it's becoming faster....however, I've had in my head that I hade plenty of time to learn songs for two shows in the future...the future being April & May 😊. Suddenly it's the middle of March. I've been asked for both shows -

(Aprils festival in Sweden and the concert in May taking place at the Casino in Estoril, Portugal) to play my two albums, made in 1984 & '85 both in their entirety. So, my great friends in the group have been kindly coming over to my house for rehearsals on Wednesdays. Even though I did write all of the songs for the shows, it's difficult to remember all of the lyrics and arrangements, as I've never played them 'live' before...Anyway, it's been worth it, as they're sounding really good.

So, we're looking forward to play these two albums - (We, being P.J., John, Marc and Paul). I'll include Ian in the group, as he's firmly entrenched now.

Looking forward to seeing you...❤️🎵.xxx Russ

RUSS - LIFE STORIES

Hi Everybody. Last month's biog had us - 'us' being 'Argent' - releasing our first album and then being offered a tour of America to promote the Album, which was to be called 'ARGENT.

We embarked for the tour in March of 1970....arriving on 1st March, St. David's day, [enthusiastically celebrated in the U.S.] We were booked into The Holiday Inn on West 57th St. in New York City.

NYC was the fastest moving city I'd experienced in my young life, also exciting.

We had an extra roadie for the tour, his name was Marc Edelstein, a native New Yorker with a heavy New York accent..

Bob and I shared a room as did Jim with Fred. Rod and Chris White chose to have singles. I put on the t.v. and couldn't believe how many channels there were...We got to bed around about midnight.

I put on the T.V and saw a black and white film. I can't remember if it was The Late Show, The Late, Late show or The Late, Late, Late Show, but I do recall the movie, 'The Seventh Veil'' starring James Mason. I saw it years before with my mum and dad. New York seemed more aggressive than anywhere I'd ever seen before, and the people seemed quite impolite. But I did and still do like the energy.

I didn't sleep very well and it seemed every twenty minutes I woke up and turned on the t.v. Twenty four hour tv was something we'd never experienced before.

In the morning it was decided we should go out for breakfast...Fred , Jim, Bob and I made a left out of the Hotel door and stopped at the first fast food place we could find....I'll let you know what happened in the diner, next month.

Have a great spring, enjoy the longer, lighter days....Lots of Love, Russ xxx

COMING UP NEXT

Russ's next gig is in Sweden at the Wings Of AOR festival over the weekend 24-25 April. With his usual band he will be playing both his albums, "Russ Ballard (1984)" and "The Fire Still Burns".

Here is the ticket link.... <https://www.tickster.com/se/sv/events/8taane97mz63u07>

The poster features a central image of Russ Ballard wearing glasses and holding a hand to his face. Above the image is the festival logo 'WINGS OF AOR FESTIVAL' with stylized wings. Below the logo is a pink banner with the text '24-25 APRIL 2026 • ARBIS, NORRKÖPING'. To the left of the main image are two album covers: 'RUSS BALLARD' and 'THE FIRE STILL BURNS'. At the bottom, the name 'RUSS BALLARD' is written in large, bold letters, followed by the text 'PERFORMING THE ENTIRE ALBUMS "RUSS BALLARD" (1984) AND "THE FIRE STILL BURNS" (1985)'. The background is dark purple with palm tree silhouettes and a starburst.

WINGS OF AOR FESTIVAL

24-25 APRIL 2026 • ARBIS, NORRKÖPING

RUSS BALLARD

PERFORMING THE ENTIRE ALBUMS "RUSS BALLARD" (1984)
AND "THE FIRE STILL BURNS" (1985)

COMING UP SOON AFTER

The next gig is in Estoril in Portugal on 8th May. Emanuel at Remember Minds requested the two album gig again. Russ will be supported by Tyketto. Emanuel tells me that there are just a few tickets left but it will be sold out. I know people are travelling from the UK to be there. Be quick if you want to go.

Ticket link here... <https://ticketline.sapo.pt/evento/russ-ballard-tyketto-live-in-estoril-2025-96795?>

Remember Minds M/18

RUSS BALLARD

PELA PRIMEIRA VEZ
OS DOIS ÁLBUNS NA ÍNTEGRA

8 MAIO 2026 CASINO ESTORIL
SALÃO PRETO E PRATA | 21:30

Tyketto

CASINO ESTORIL >>TICKETLINE ACTIONMEDIA.PT

COMING UP SOON AFTER THAT

At the end of May, Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd, Russ is joining up with his old friend, Robert Hart for an evening of songs and chat and, no doubt, hilarity. You might remember that in 2024, Russ did the Rock Meets Classic tour in Germany and Robert was also on the bill. They had a lot of fun together. The tickets for Friday sold out within 15 minutes of going on sale but, as I write, there are still a few Saturday tickets left.

RUSS BALLARD
AND
ROBERT HART
Songs & Stories

FRIDAY 22 MAY 2026 **SOLD OUT**
SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026

FOAKES HALL
DUNMOW MUSIC CLUB

rusballardmusic.com | @rusballardmusicofficial | dunmowmusicclub.com

© Sven Kramer

(Poster by Sven)

Robert is currently vocalist with Manfred Mann's Earth Band and has also been a member of Bad Company and The Jones Gang. Russ wrote **Angel** for Robert's 1992 album, Robert Hart. Chris Childs is on bass on this track and he is also supporting Russ at the Estoril gig as a member of Tyketto. Small world!

<https://youtu.be/NFgObzg3Mpo?si=eJnauEPDzu85SIX8>

A little point of interest....the Dunmow Music Club is run by Mick Wilson, who is a member of Frontm3n, the subject of Dave's Cover Quest last month.

DOUBLE ALBUM GIGS

So Russ has been asked to perform two of his early albums for the gigs in Sweden and Estoril. But which tracks are on those albums? To save you looking it up, here are the tracks that those of you lucky enough to go will hear from Russ and his band. There are some favourites here.



Russ Ballard 1984 (Also known as the Voices album)

I Can't Hear You No More

In The Night

Two Silhouettes

Voices

A Woman Like You

Day To Day

Playing With Fire

The Last Time

The Fire Still Burns 1985

Once A Rebel

The Omen

Hey Bernadette

Searching

Time

Your Time Is Gonna Come

Dream On

The Fire Still Burns

VIDEO OF THE MONTH

Have you been watching the Winter Olympics and Paralympics? The opening and closing ceremonies were held at the Arena in Verona. In 1984, Russ performed Voices there as part of Festivalbar 1984. Voices had been the summer hit in Europe that year.

<https://youtu.be/Sh5xX37X6Vg?si=fBO8ldObC8qljpw9>



LYRIC OF THE MONTH

Which song is this from? Still with Songs From The Warehouse. Scroll to the end to find the answer and have a listen to the track.

**I'm standing in a bar and there are you, holding his hand
In the panic I wake up, it's just a dream in my head
You're still in my bed**

PODCAST OF THE MONTH

Russ does many podcasts. He talks to many people but still keeps it fresh. Here is one from this month with Steve Ryan from Back Stage Pass podcasts. It is 38 minutes.

<https://youtu.be/jh7bm5OmjuY?si=9Gg8-RcWRNAoxODg>



FROM MICHAEL ANGEL OF FUGITIVE

Russ is an incredibly busy gent as you'll all know but he always makes time for his friends and I'm very honoured to be considered among that category.

I messaged him last week to say we'd finished the recording process of our new song and the mix was well underway, and we discussed Russ being part of the video for the song. Song? What song I hear you say... For the past year alongside everything else Russ has been doing and is planning, we've been working together on a new track 'Sweet Oblivion', with Russ recording his parts at 'The Warehouse' and us completing the song over at AMP Studios in Wrexham. The final mixes were agreed and sent for mastering to Christian yesterday and I'm

excited to share that it is sounding absolutely immense! The song will be Fugitive's next single, date for release tbc.

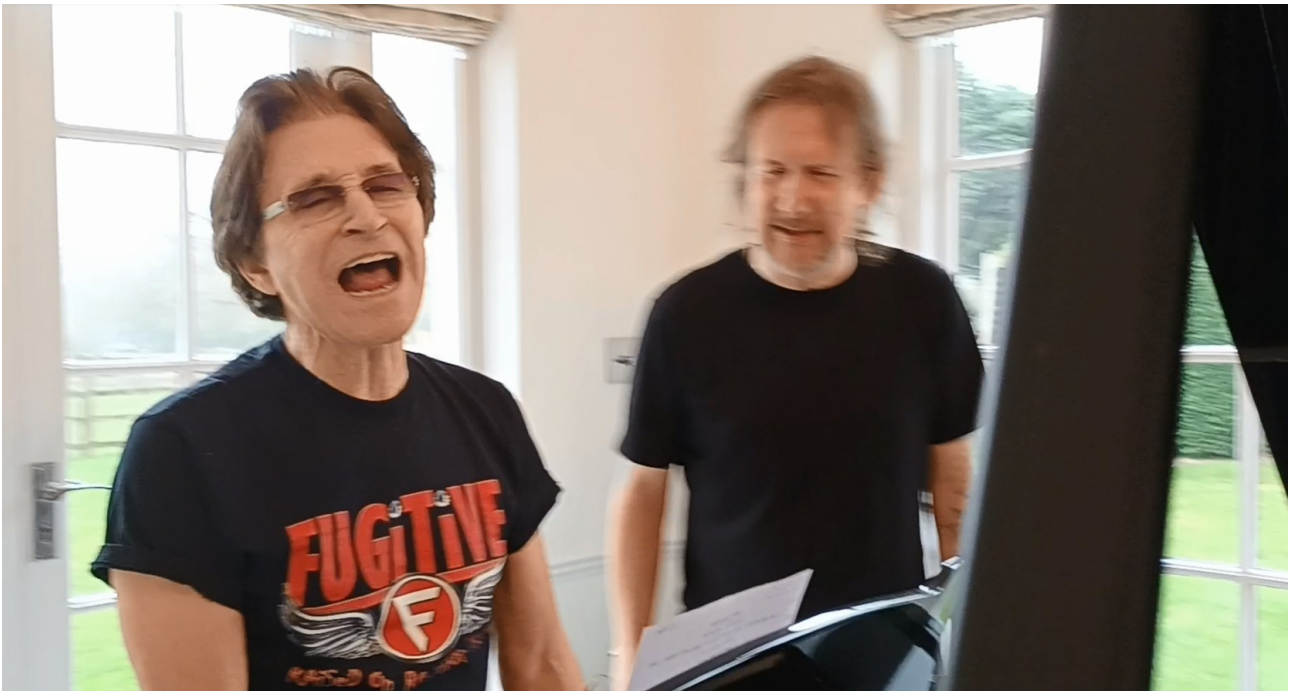
Yesterday I drove the 420 mile round trip from 'The North' to see Russ and celebrate my birthday with a curry in the evening, but on arrival at around 2.45pm I was met by a smiling Russ at his front door and invited in to sit and catch up with a cuppa. His cats came to say hi too wrapping themselves around my feet. We chatted about life, the family, music, friends, and Russ showed me his new guitar setup which he's using for his rehearsals with his boys getting ready for his two album shows coming up soon. The set list is crazy (obviously you'll know which songs are included as you know the albums inside out!) - but what a feat for a singer, to relearn all those lyrics! I don't know if you realise, but they don't just stay in the grey matter forever, you have to keep the muscle memory topped up - so those songs he's not played for years must be quite a challenge! Russ is cheerful and seems excited and happy about the prospect. Think you'll all be in for a treat, those who can make it abroad to see the shows.





I can't begin to describe how incredible it feels to be sharing a cuppa, sitting chatting with Russ like this, listening to my own private renditions of some tunes as he picks up a nearby guitar! He passes it to me to show him some ideas I'd had recently. I know how lucky I am that we've become friends. I've said it before, but growing up with Russ's music forming part of the soundtrack to my life, it feels unreal to be sitting there talking about my own music, upcoming shows and new ideas. We may just have hit on the next idea to work up together.. I hope so. Now we've finished working on 'Sweet Oblivion' there'll be a Russ shaped hole in my life!

Then we thought we'd best get on and do a bit of what I'd actually come down for, before we spend the day relaxing and enjoying ourselves! We had made plans to capture some video, working on the track at Russ's grand piano. You can hear Russ's influence and performance throughout the whole song and he takes the focus for the vocal at times, or he's backing up my vocal - the blend sounds amazing, (if it's ok for me to say so!). The photos attached show some of the fun we had creating the footage for the video.



LETTERS

From Tom Dyson



Hi Sue,

I know it's a bit late but I wanted to say how much I enjoyed Russ' gig at Barnoldswick last month. The venue was really intimate and I will certainly be going back.

His selection of songs was really well thought out and his voice is incredible. Now that I have seen him, I definitely want to see him again. A great presence on stage and great to hear a few stories along the way from his illustrious career. So thank you for helping to arrange these concerts. It was also wonderful to meet him.

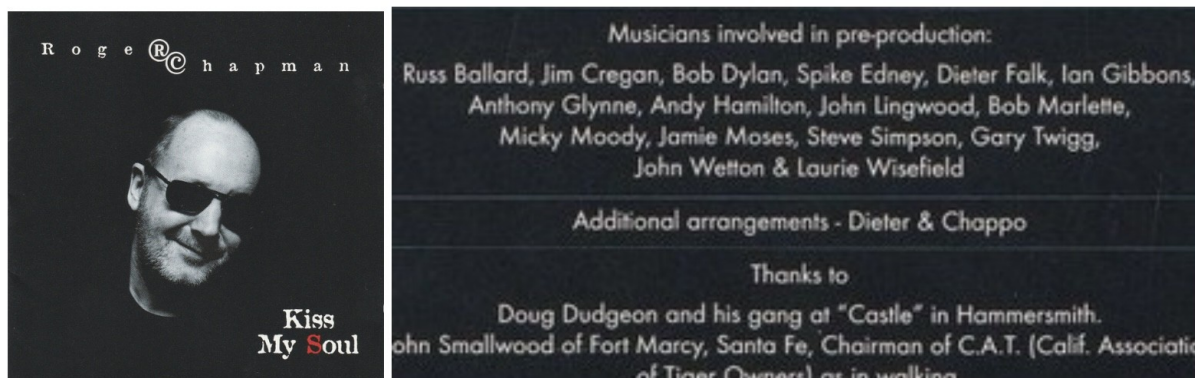
I don't know what Russ' schedule is for 2026 or indeed 2027, but I hope there are more UK gigs to come. I would like to put in a recommendation for a future concert. Selby Town Hall, North Yorkshire, is a lovely intimate venue that I know would really suit Russ and his band. The Brudenell club in Leeds is also another gem that has really good acoustics.

Thank you again,
Tom

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

This month features an album track from a British singer well known to the pop charts back in the 1970s. His recognisable voice graced **The Weaver's Answer**, **In My Own Time** and **Burlesque**, all hits for the band from a Leicester called **Family**.

No.91



Mistreated by Roger Chapman

Family split up in 1973, with the key songwriting partners, vocalist **Roger Chapman** and guitarist **John “Charlie” Whitney** forming a new band Chapman-Whitney Streetwalkers, later shortened to **Streetwalkers**. Family had been a very successful band, releasing 7 albums between 1968 and 1973, all entering the Top 40 Album Charts, besides the hit singles mentioned above. Personally, I bought two of their singles, *Burlesque* and *In My Own Time*, in spite of not being a particular fan of Roger Chapman’s unmistakable voice. Yes, I said unmistakable. If you listen carefully to **Rosalie**, by **Thin Lizzy**, his voice pops up in the background very briefly. On hearing it, I looked at the record sleeve, and sure enough, RC was named.

When Streetwalkers were appearing at my local rock club and my friends wanted to go, I didn’t. But they were good enough to join me when I wanted to go to see bands that they weren’t keen on, so I tagged along. Well, as you can guess, I was totally bowled over. What an incredible front man. The band put on a very powerful show, and one of the best gigs I ever witnessed. So, it was quite sad that when Streetwalkers broke up, and Roger upped sticks and relocated to Germany.

Now working without songwriting partner Charlie Whitney, “Chappo” went on to release around a dozen albums with his band **The Shortlist**. Wacky titles include **Hyenas only Laugh for Fun**, **A Stone Unturned** and **Walking the Cat**. In 1996 he released **Kiss My Soul**, which features a song called **Mistreated**, written by **Russ Ballard**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTZfJjMeC48>

What a gem. Resplendent with a backing brass section, it sounds like it could have been written for Roger Daltrey’s **McVicar** soundtrack album, with a sprinkle of the **Frida** song **(I Know) There’s Something Going On**. According to the sleeve notes, Russ was involved in the pre-production of the track.

Roger Chapman announced his retirement in 2010, but later changed his mind, and I’ve been fortunate to see him perform a couple of times in recent years.

LYRIC OF THE MONTH - ANSWER

Here you go....have a listen. It's worth it. **Sleepwalking**.

https://youtu.be/4Z6vRYA1uA8?si=_SpPEFdcAP5sPoXS