



(Header by Sven)

June 2025

A big welcome to our new readers. Terry Lampard joined us a few months ago and he has written his "Reader Profile" for us this month. Scroll down. Russ has been a thread through his life. Many people who have been with us for years have written their profiles long ago but, if any of our more recent friends would like to do one, we would love to have it. Tell us a bit about yourself and your connection to Russ. It could be just a paragraph or a bit longer.

We have had some feedback to Dave's Six Of The Best articles. Thank you. I have put some in this month, in the order in which they reached me, and there will be more next month from Liam, Paul and Mark plus any more that come in.

It was lovely to meet some of you at the Dunmow gigs. Ian has done a Dunmow blog, which I will send out to you very soon. There are still a few gigs coming up.

Thank you to Terry, Greg, Jerry, Markus and Dave for their contributions this month.

Sue

THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY

This period of my life has been very busy, with shows...in May, the band and myself had two festivals to play, one in Sweden and another in Italy, Milan to be exact in the space of a few days....although we had a couple of weeks of hard rehearsing, mainly because the Sweden promoter requested a particular set of songs he liked of mine - As soon as the promoter in Portugal heard of the new songs he asked would I perform them at the Casino in Estoril, Portugal. on May 8th.

Recently, I played two days in the town of Dunmow, Essex....it was an acoustic set with my great mate Robert Hart. Mick Wilson, singer from 10cc, runs the venue and it was a great place, almost like a big village hall...It was sold out both nights and advertised as "Songs and Stories", which we produced. They were a very good audience and it gave me a nice chance to play piano on some songs.

I thought it would be good to take a holiday and I asked my family if they'd like to come - the reaction was a unanimous 'YES'. It was decided we should go to iKOS in Porto Pedro, Mallorca and it was a week of absolute heaven. I thought, I should do this more.

RUSS - LIFE STORIES

March 1970 - American Tour... Argent, after playing five shows at New Yorks Fillmore East, continue on their tour.

It was plain to see after playing The Fillmore East the audience wanted a show... they responded to action on the stage, it wasn't enough to play well. The crowd wanted the musicians on stage to be seen to 'work'. Many of the bands that were making 'waves' in the states did move around or, at least, they looked as though they were into the music [by physical movement, there was a lot of head nodding and jumping up and down].

We played the east coast, taking in Philadelphia, Boston then we played Detroit. In the mid west the gig was called East Town. We arrived at the venue for a sound check. There was already a band playing theirs. When we entered the huge ballroom, on stage, we could see familiar faces. In fact it was The Small Faces, Ronnie Lane, Kenney Jones and Ian Maclagan [Steve Marriott had left the band]. Singing for the group was a another familiar face, Rod Stewart. Rod had

toured the states many times, primarily with The Jeff Beck Group, and he'd built a big reputation in the U.S. and as a great performer. However he hadn't had a hit single. This show appeared to be the first tour together. They were billed as 'The Small Face' featuring Rod Stewart. We went down well and the audience were warm, however, Rod and the Faces went on after us and I must say I was impressed....they were pure Rock and Roll, not particularly brilliant musically but the show was exciting and they put on a good one, also the crowd loved them. The Faces were the best band I saw on that tour. While all the others were stretching out solos, being very progressive, Rod and the lads were playing just good simple rock and soul. Also they wore flash jackets, trousers and loud coloured shoes, while most of the groups at the time were wearing jeans and sneakers....I'd seen Rod six years before at The Flamingo in London and it surprised me that it took so long for him to become a star.

COMING UP... NEXT

Next up is Trading Boundaries in East Sussex on 7th August. Back with PJ, Marc, Paul and John for a band gig. You can choose dining tickets or standing tickets. It appears that the standing tickets are limited.

Tickets: <https://www.tradingboundaries.com/russ-ballard.html>



COMING UP....IN SEPTEMBER

Russ and Robert are doing their songs and stories gig again for those of you "up north". Saturday 19th September in the evening and Sunday 20th September in the afternoon. Saturday evening is now sold out but there are still some standing tickets for the Sunday matinee, 15 as I write this. This will be a fun gig and you will know Robert's songs as well as you know Russ's. Go along and have a good sing song and a laugh.

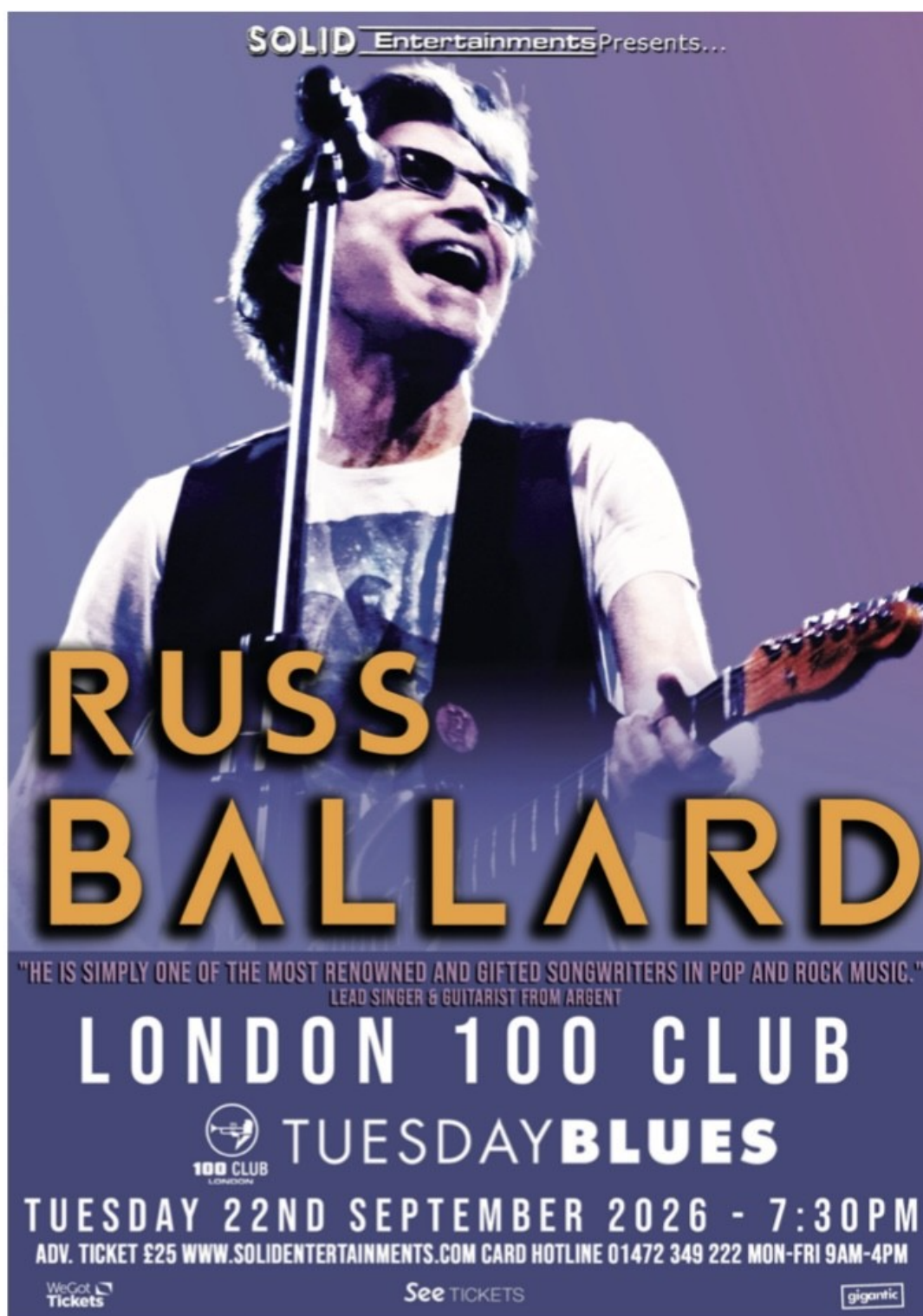
Tickets: <https://www.barnoldswickmusicandartscentre.com/russ-ballard-and-robert-hart>

A poster for a musical performance. At the top, a yellow diagonal banner says 'MATINEE'. Below it, 'PETER MARTON MANAGEMENT PRESENTS' in small white text. The main title 'RUSS BALLARD AND ROBERT HART' is in large, bold, yellow serif font. To the right of 'RUSS BALLARD' is 'ARGENT' and to the right of 'ROBERT HART' is 'BAD COMPANY' in smaller yellow text. Below the names, 'An acoustic Songs & Stories September Special' is written in a cursive script. The center features a photograph of the two performers: Russ Ballard on the left, wearing glasses and a blue vest over a white t-shirt, playing an acoustic guitar; and Robert Hart on the right, wearing a striped blazer over a white shirt, singing into a microphone. The background of the photo is dark blue. At the bottom left, 'SUNDAY MATINEE 20 SEPTEMBER 2026' is written in bold white text. At the bottom right, 'BARNOLDSWICK MUSIC & ARTS CENTRE' is written in bold yellow text. A line of text at the bottom provides contact information: 'TICKET HOTLINE 07712 628 366', 'TICKETS £32.50 + BOOKING FEE', and 'DOORS 12.30PM'. A QR code is on the bottom left, and the website 'www.barnoldswickmusicandartscentre.com' and email 'barnoldswickmusicandartscentre@gmail.com' are in the bottom center. The address 'MCULLOUGH'S | 18-22 RAINHALL ROAD | BARNOLDSWICK | LANCS | BB18 5AF' is at the bottom right.

COMING UP - ALSO IN SEPTEMBER

Apologies, I accidentally missed this one out of the last newsletter. It will be very popular but there are still some tickets available. Russ will be back with his band at the **100 Club** in London on Tuesday 22nd September.

Here is a ticket link. <https://www.seetickets.com/event/russ-ballard/100-club/3624738> It will sell out.



SOLID Entertainments Presents...

RUSS BALLARD

"HE IS SIMPLY ONE OF THE MOST RENOWNED AND GIFTED SONGWRITERS IN POP AND ROCK MUSIC."
LEAD SINGER & GUITARIST FROM ARGENT

LONDON 100 CLUB

 TUESDAY **BLUES**

TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2026 - 7:30PM

ADV. TICKET £25 WWW.SOLIDENTERTAINMENTS.COM CARD HOTLINE 01472 349 222 MON-FRI 9AM-4PM

WeGot Tickets  gigantic

COMING UP - NEXT YEAR

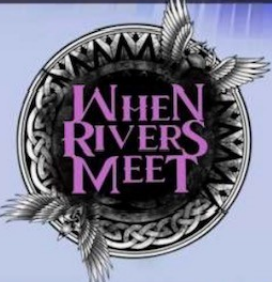
Saturday 23rd January - Wrecking Ball, Hull. Tickets <https://wreckingballstore.co.uk/event/russ-ballard/>

Sunday 24th January, Russ is headlining on Sunday evening at UK Blues, Rhythm & Rock at The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool. This is a 3 day festival and, as far as I can see, tickets are only available for all 3 days. Ticket link: <https://www.solidentertainments.com/blues/uk/tickets.html>

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3 DAYS OF LIVE MUSIC SOLID Entertainments 3 NIGHT STAY


Rhythm & Rock Festival
BLACKPOOL
THE IMPERIAL HOTEL
FRIDAY 22ND - SATURDAY 23RD - SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2027

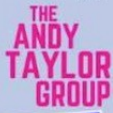
 **RUSS BALLARD**

 **CONNOR SELBY** **THE MILK MEN**

 **TRUE + STRAYS** **GREG COULSON**

 **LIGHTNING THREADS** 

'THE WINNERS OF INTRODUCING STAGE 2026'

INTRODUCING STAGE REILLO . PAT FULGONI BLUES EXPERIENCE . THE PAUL FARR BLUES BAND . THE VIOLET HOURS
TOM DAVIES & THE BLUEBIRDS . THR3E . PAUL COOK BLUES BAND . THE WHISKY FLOWERS
FANGSLINGER . KASPAR & LUCY . KATIE AND THE BAD SIGN . DAVID SINCLAIR 4

MANY MANY MORE ACTS TO BE ANNOUNCED OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS
EARLY BIRD 3 DAY FESTIVAL TICKET (INC 3 NIGHTS IMPERIAL HOTEL ACCOMMODATION WITH BREAKFAST) FROM ONLY £295 PER PERSON*
*BASED ON 2 PEOPLE SHARING BOOK NOW WWW.SOLIDENTERTAINMENTS.COM

SOLID ENTERTAINMENTS Presents... UK BLUES FESTIVAL

RUSS AND ROBERT - DUNMOW

I was lucky enough to go to both these gigs on 22nd and 23rd May at The Dunmow Music Club. They were a little bit different on each night (they weren't supposed to be, they had a set list 😊) but both were a lot of fun. Russ and Robert Hart have been friends for many years and are just funny together. The two of them were joined on stage by Mick Wilson who organised the gig and who has played with Robert before in the band Frontm3n. Robert has been in the band, Bad Company and is currently the vocalist with Manfred Mann's Earth Band. They played Russ's best known songs and some from Robert's bands....Davy's On The Road Again, Feel Like Making Love, Blinded By The Light and more. Everyone sang along. Between the songs we had banter and some stories from Russ's amazing story bank. Very entertaining!

CLASSIC ROCK MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Our own Dave Williams was browsing the music magazines in his local shop and found a three page article on Russ in the July issue of Classic Rock Magazine. Russ is talking about people he has met and worked with during his career. There is a full page photo taken by our own Sven Kramer. This is the edition you need with Sven's photo in the corner....



MINI VOICES PODCAST

The Voices podcast with Russ and Rod has already gone out in two parts. If you missed it, you can find it on Russ's website, <https://russballardmusic.com/>, YouTube or anywhere else you watch or listen to podcasts. Ian has now taken the parts which are about God Gave Rock 'n' Roll To You and made a mini podcast about the song and the comparison between the Argent and Kiss versions. There is a link to the full part 1 at the end of this five minute video. Here you go.

https://youtu.be/uj1AKfq9-mA?si=NB3Fmv4Q_A5YKODW



FROM DAVE

SIX OF THE BEST PART THREE (SONGS WRITTEN FOR OTHER ARTISTS)

Part Three of Six of the Best picks out six of the best songs that are originals, rather than covers. By that I mean that these songs were not widely covered by other artists, or Russ himself. Again, in keeping with the first two articles, I've avoided the well-known hits by Frida, Hot Chocolate, Rainbow etc, and sought lesser-known songs that slipped under the radar. Here goes:

Ridin' on the Wind by Robert Hart

Robert Hart is a familiar name to Russ Ballard fans. Many will remember the video in which he doubled over with laughter while watching Russ demonstrate his old Roulettes dance moves. The two have recently shared the stage in a few live performances.

Currently the lead singer of Manfred Mann's Earth Band and Bad Co Legacy, Hart has also enjoyed a successful solo career and worked with bands including Diesel, Bad Company, Company of Snakes and The Jones Gang. After his debut album in 1989, he teamed up with Russ Ballard on *Running Man*, an album on which Russ played a major role as songwriter, producer and musician. *Ridin' on the Wind* is one of seven songs co-written by the pair, highlighting a partnership that produced some excellent material.

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

The Actress by Sada Vidoo

Can it really be 12 years since this song was released? How time flies! *The Actress* was one of the standout tracks from Sada Vidoo's debut album *A Story With No End*, a project created in collaboration with Russ Ballard and producer Chris Ballard. The song combines atmospheric electronic production with Sada's distinctive vocals and theatrical style.

Lyrically, *The Actress* explores the masks people wear in everyday life, questioning how much of what we show to the world is genuine and how much is performance. At the time, Sada was developing the striking "living doll" persona that later brought her wider attention through *The X Factor UK*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpN8GTJzgvo>

Juvenile Offender by Little Angels

Juvenile Offender was one of two Russ Ballard co-writes that appeared on Little Angels' 1991 album *Young Gods*, alongside *Love Is a Gun*. Written by Russ Ballard, Toby Jepson and Andy Paul, the song perfectly suited the band's blend of hard rock power and melodic hooks. What begins relatively quietly soon explodes into a driving rock track packed with energy, showcasing the strength that made Little Angels one of the most exciting British rock bands of the early 1990s. Although never released as a single, *Juvenile Offender* remains a hidden gem and another fine example of Russ's ability to adapt his songwriting to different artists while retaining his unmistakable style.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEAfUarc6Vg>

Livin' in Suspicion by Graham Bonnet

Livin' in Suspicion reunited Graham Bonnet with Russ Ballard, Graham having sang Rainbow's classic *Since You Been Gone*. Released on the Graham Bonnet Band's 2018 album *Meanwhile, Back in the Garage*, the song combines Bonnet's powerful, unmistakable vocals with the kind of strong melodic hook that has always been a Ballard trademark. Bonnet himself felt the track had the same instantly memorable quality that helped make *Since You Been Gone* such a

success, describing it as a song that listeners could immediately connect with. With its driving energy and classic hard rock feel, *Living in Suspicion* stands, who can argue.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZ9gC8QUL3I>

Panic Attack by Bert Heerink

Panic Attack was recorded by Dutch vocalist Bert Heerink for his 2009 solo album *Better Yet* and provided another showcase for Russ's enduring songwriting talent. Best known as the former voice of *Vandenberg*, Heerink brought a powerful melodic rock edge to the track, combining strong vocals with an anthemic chorus.

Released as a single, *Panic Attack* proved particularly successful in the Netherlands, reaching the Top 10 and remaining in the charts for several weeks. The song opened the *Better Yet* album and demonstrates how Russ's knack for writing memorable rock songs continue to connect with artists and audiences, decades after his earliest hits.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45Fm42YHoi8>

Do You Wanna Make Love by Francie Conway

Do You Wanna Make Love? was released by Irish singer *Francie Conway* in 1981 and stands as one of the more obscure entries in the Russ Ballard catalogue.

Produced by former *Zombies* and *Argent* member *Chris White*, the recording also featured an impressive backing line-up that included *Russ Ballard* and guitarist *Tim Renwick*. The song combines a strong melodic hook with the polished pop-rock sound that characterised much of Ballard's songwriting during the period. Although it never achieved major commercial success, the track remains an interesting hidden gem. Francie actually re-recorded the song years later with *Russ Ballard*, *John Verity*, *Jim Rodford* and *Bob Henrit*, bringing together several past musicians from *Argent*.

The song has also featured in *The Chris White Experience*, a series of CDs featuring recordings from Chris' archives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTDGQ7oEjL0>

So, there we have it. Part Three. Six earworms, all stamped with Russ Ballard's gift for a memorable hook.

Part Four will come with a twist.

SUE'S CHOICE

Dave featured this one in his Cover Quest in the January 2025 newsletter. Dave's choices this month are originals that haven't been recorded by anyone else and, as far as I know, this was only recorded by The Gaff so fits here. They

were a band local to Russ and this came out of a project on bullying between Russ, Christian, Andrew Murray and the Gaff vocalist, Matt Scales. If you would like to know more about this recording, the band and, in particular, Matt Scales, go to Russ's website, <https://russballardmusic.com/>, click on news, where you will find an archive of newsletters. Find January 2025 and scroll down to Dave's Covers.

<https://youtu.be/B1QJSU8uea8?si=f9lCfnfxJcO3UYXM>

YOUR CHOICES

From Greg Zimmermann

Hi Sue

Some of my favourite and lesser known RB tunes:

LOOSE WOMEN

I always loved the hilarious lyrics and indeed Russ's loose singing. Comedy rock!

WEEKEND

A good chorus, catchy and uplifting. Should have been a hit.

DANCER

I have always loved how acoustic and electric guitars come together here.

BAD BOY

What a transition from the reggae-flavoured verse to the all-out rock chorus. Dave and Bob shine here, as does Russ with high-drama vocals and a very mean guitar.

DON'T GO TO SOHO

Another example of powerful playing and singing and mildly amusing lyrics.

Best wishes

Greg

From Jerry Clark

Thanks once again for a great newsletter, and the mention of some tracks that I suspect never get played live, but hopefully Russ will consider in upcoming gigs.

I've always liked **Fly Away, Treat her Right, Winning, Just a Dream Away & You Can Count on Me.**

Russ has written some fabulous ballads (sorry 😊) but plays few live, in favour of the more hard edged rockers.

I hope that when he comes down to East Sussex in August he will consider a more varied setlist.

For those Russ fans that have never been to Trading Boundaries, I hope as many of you will be able to come to our superb local venue, that has an atmosphere like no other. You won't be disappointed. And the food is good too!

Kind Regards
Jerry Clark

READER'S PROFILE

From Terry Lampard

I was born in Enfield, Middlesex in 1940. When the skiffle craze started in 1955/6 I got a cheap guitar and learned a few basic chords from one of my friends. My father was manager of a shoe shop in Waltham Cross and I got an apprenticeship at a local printers there when I left school.

Cliff Richard was a local lad and, at that time, had just released his first record, *Move It*, and there were quite a few up and coming bands in the area. One of the best groups in the area was *The Brian Parker Royal Five*, who later became *The Hunters*, they later went on to play with Cliff when The Shadows did a tour of America and had a few instrumental hits of their own.

After playing in a band with Brian Martin, one of my workmates, I joined *Steve Douglas & The Challengers*, an Enfield group, and we had gigs in N London, Herts, Essex and Bedfordshire. One of the venues we played at was Cheshunt Boys' Club and that was where we first saw Russ Ballard, who was in a group called *Norman Jago & The Jaguars*. Russ must have been about 15 years old at that time and I was amazed at how good his guitar playing was for someone of that age. Our band members were all in our early 20s.

About a year later, my band was booked to play at the Imperial Hall in Waltham Cross during the Christmas break. Unfortunately, our lead guitarist, Malcolm Paton, was beaten up in Liverpool Street Tavern on his way back from work in Fleet Street. He was kicked in the head and had his hand stamped on, breaking

some fingers. *The Daybreakers* were on the same bill that night and Russ offered to play with us, which was gladly accepted. His brother, Roy, also came on stage to play Hammond Organ. We were so thankful that, what could have been a disaster, turned out to be a brilliant night thanks to the Ballard Brothers.

A few years later I was on holiday with a friend. *Adam Faith & The Roulettes* were appearing at the Pier Theatre. As my mate and I went to book our tickets for the evening concert, Russ and Bobby Henrit were coming out and stopped to chat to us. It was good to see them again.

I left *The Challengers* in 1964/5 to get married and sold my guitar to Phil Cordell, who took my place in the band. I didn't play for a few years after that, but the band went on and released some records, also changed their name and their members a few times. They did go to Germany at one time and I am not sure if Steve Douglas (aka Pete Macintyre) ever returned. Two of the original members have since died. Phil Cordell went solo eventually and had a no. 7 instrumental hit under the name *Springwater - (I Will Return)*. He also had quite a following on the continent under the name, *Don The Banjo Man*. Sadly, Phil died in 2007, aged just 59.

When I was commuting from Leighton Buzzard to London in the 1980s, I read an article in the Entertainment page of the Daily Mail about Russ, saying he was a prolific songwriter and had had a huge hit with a song that was given to *Hot Chocolate* and another to *Three Dog Night*. I thought to myself, "Why can't I try writing songs?" By then I had bought myself a cheap guitar and started to play a bit again at home, so, during my train journeys I started writing lyrics in a notebook and accompanying myself at home but I was never brave enough to try to get any published.

After I retired I volunteered for a few years as a "Stablemate" at The Stables Theatre in Wavendon, Milton Keynes, which was run by Cleo Lane and Johnny Dankworth. It was great getting to catch up with Russ when he did a concert there this year and at the previous concert he did there.

At the moment I do occasional "open mike" appearances locally and also play in a band supporting a Rock 'n' Roll Choir here.

Regards to all Russ Ballard fans,
Terry Lampard

FROM MARKUS

Last week this rarity was played on Bayern1 (Classic Rock) - this was really great.

Bayern 1
Gehört ins Leben.

BR1

20:00 - 21:00

^

21:04	Thunder	Dirty Love
21:09	Rolling Stones	Brown Sugar
21:14	Russ Ballard	The Story Of The Making Of The Fire Still Burns

Sue: I wish we could get this sort of radio coverage here in the UK.

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

Here's another rock band hailing from the 1980s, and still rocking today, this time from the USA.

No.94



I Did It for Love by Night Ranger

Night Ranger is an American hard rock band formed in 1982 in San Francisco that rose to prominence in the 1980s with multi-platinum albums and hit singles. Known especially for “**Sister Christian**,” which reached number five on the Billboard Hot 100, they sold over 17 million albums worldwide. Guitarist **Brad**

Gillis and drummer **Kelly Keagy** have remained constant members, with bassist **Jack Blades** appearing on nearly all releases. After their popularity declined, the band split in 1989 but reunited in the mid-1990s and continues to record and tour despite lineup changes.

The band's 1988 LP **Man in Motion** featured this Russ Ballard composition **I Did It for Love**, which was chosen as a single with a video that featured a cameo appearance by American actress **Morgan Fairchild**.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFIgogC7L9A&list=RDKFIgogC7L9A&start_radio=1