



(Header by Sven)

April 2026

A big welcome to our new readers.

There are a lot of gigs to wade through this month....sorry, but not sorry because it is good that Russ is getting out there. Most of you will have seen them here a few times but we are always getting new readers who might not know. However, for everyone, we do have some new UK ones...see below...and more to come. Three of these gigs are now sold out. If you see a gig you would like to attend, get your tickets as soon as you can. If you are not interested in the gigs scroll down to the podcast.

Have a read of Dave's article, Six Of The Best. If you think, yes, they are good but I would have included xxxxxx, please feel free if you would like to add a suggestion of your own with a few lines to support it. Send it to me at either of the newsletter email addresses. Remember, this month they are often overlooked Argentine tracks.

Sue

THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY

Diary.. Very soon PJ, Marc, John, Paul and I are playing a fesAval in Sweden, it's called "Wings of AOR" They've asked if I we'd play two of my albums in their enArety. The albums were popular - From 1984 we're playing 'The Voices album' - And from 1985 - 'The Fire SAll Burns'.

We already play some of the tunes, there are six I've seldom played 'live'. So, this past six weeks I've doing a great deal of homework, learning lyrics and arrangements....It seems I do tend to write a lot of words...So, this has tested me ...Paul and PJ have been great, they've been with me at my house rehearsing regularly.... And just as I thought, "Great, I've cracked it", Ron Dahlgren, the promoter, has asked if we'd also perform two songs that I wrote for Frida & Agnetha From ABBA.... They're to be sung by a Swedish arAst called ThereseI know her and she's great.

It's been a blast learning this set, and we're going to play the same set a month later at a concert in Portugal at Estoril's Casino. A fabulous Venue.

Peace and Love Russ  

RUSS - LIFE STORIES

Hello again, everybody.... I'm conAnuing the autobiography in America, it is 1970 and 'We' -Argent, are in New York....We've arrived here this day [March 1st] - it's aMer midnight and Bob Henrit and I are sharing a room at The Holiday Inn [I think was situated on West 74th street.] Bob is asleep, which is very sensible as we'd been awake since leaving London Heathrow 24 hours before. I was awake, watching T.V. — Watching T.V. in the early hours of the morning was something we'd never experienced before . Around midnight we could see 'THE LATE SHOW'. [movie one] - AMer that, 'THE LATE LATE SHOW' - AMer that movie was over, was....Yes! You've guessed it....THE LATE LATE LATE SHOW, which finished as the morning was breaking. The crazy thing is, I stayed awake through a film that I'd seen with my mum and dad when I was a boy....It was black and white and very atmospheric, starring James Mason - called 'THE SEVENTH VEIL'. I did stay awake and enjoyed the film just as much the second Ame, however, although the t.v. stayed on from midnight to daybreak, I know I did crash out a few Ames.

In the morning it was decided we should go out of the hotel for breakfast.....Fred, Bob, Jim and I made a leMturn out the front door of the hotel and stopped at the first 'fast food' place we could find, and the place was buzzing. The guys behind the counter were calling orders and each one seemed

to be trying to make himself heard over the others. We queued and I stood behind Fred..."Wud Ya Waannt?" I heard Fred reply, "Bacon, Sausage, Potato and Pancakes".

It was my turn...."Wud ya want? "Egg on toast", I replied - The man, who resembled a rough looking "Ironside" said, "How D'ya wann Dat?" What does he mean? How do I want it?..."How dya wann d'a eggs - "Over essey" "Sunny Side Up" "Sunny Side Up" - I heard myself say....I was too embarrassed to say "ON A PLATE". We were speaking the same words but it did seem to be a different language, something that was to happen a great deal in America. Now! here we are....it's onto music, venues and gigs, which begin tonight here in New York at The Fillmore East. I'll conAnue the story of our week at The Fillmore, with The Moody Blues and Bluesman John Mayall. I wish you Peace and Love, Russ xxx

COMING UP... VERY SOON

You will need to hurry if you want to go to Sweden! 24-25 April. Here is the Acket link. [hF ps://www.Ackster.com/se/sv/events/8taane97mz63u07](https://www.Ackster.com/se/sv/events/8taane97mz63u07)

SKOGSRÖJET, ROCKNYTT AND A STAR ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

WINGS OF AOR FESTIVAL

APRIL 24-25 2026 • ARBIS, NORRKÖPING

JOE LYNN TURNER
PERFORMING THE ENTIRE ALBUM "RESCUE YOU" (1985) + HITS

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

EASY ACTION brian SPENCE FIRE TRIBE ONE DESIRE

GOK PERFECT PLAN Daytona EMOTIONAL FIRE

TICKETS OUT NOW ON TICKSTER.SE

SKOGSRÖJET ROCKNYTT ASTAR Arbis Comfort

COMING UP...SOON AFTER SWEDEN

Portugal on 8th May. This show is now all but sold out. Thank you Emanuel! Here is the Acket link just in case you want to try...

<https://Acketline.sapo.pt/evento/russ-ballard-tykeF-o-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...LATER IN MAY

Both of these shows, 22nd and 23rd May, local to Russ with his old friend, Robert Hart, are now sold out.

RUSS BALLARD
AND
ROBERT HART
Songs & Stories

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

FOAKES HALL
DUNMOW MUSIC CLUB

russballardmusic.com | [@russballardmusicofficial](https://www.instagram.com/russballardmusicofficial) | dunmowmusicclub.com

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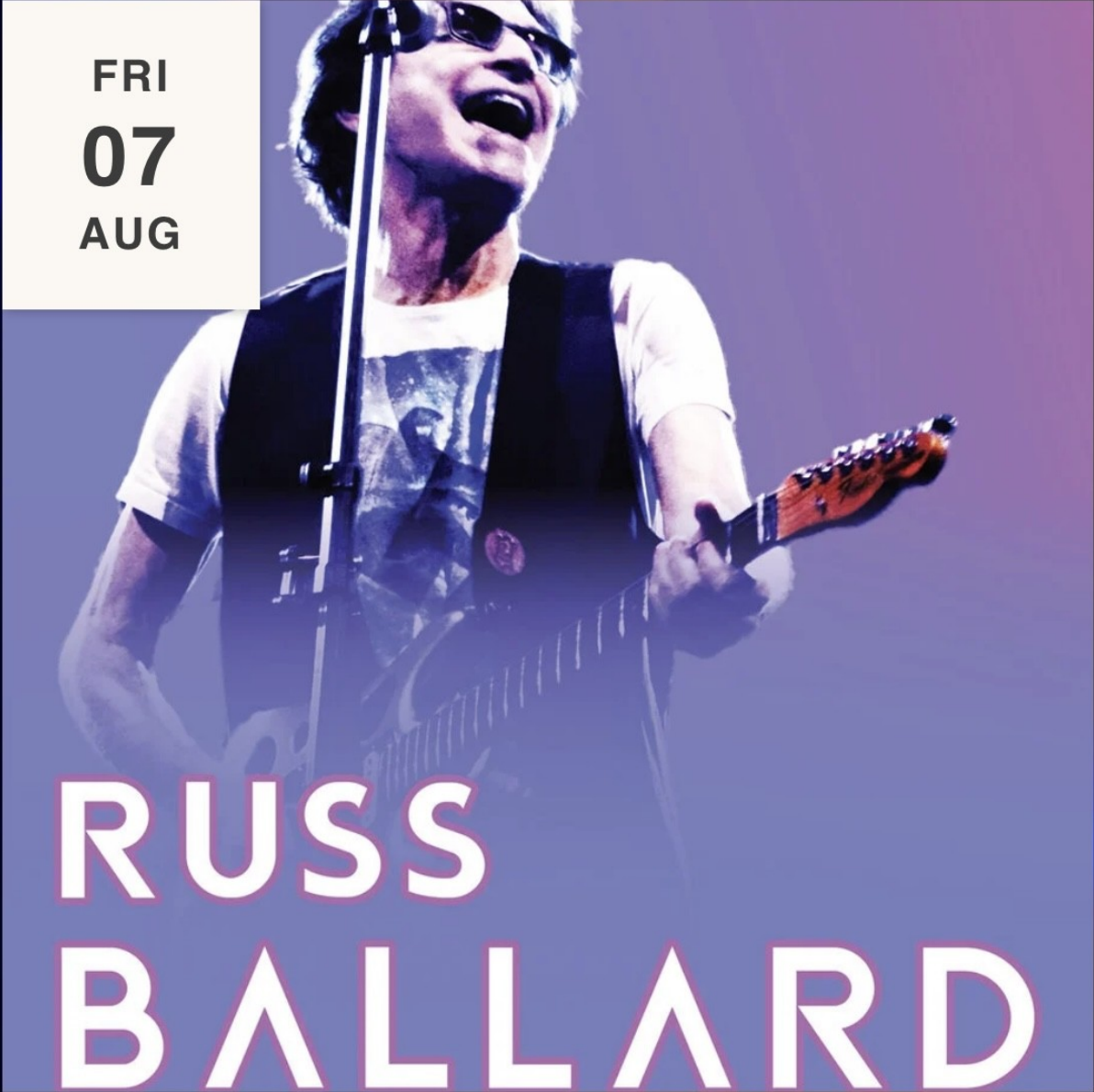
(Poster by Sven)

COMING UP...IN AUGUST

Russ is playing Trading Boundaries in East Sussex on Friday 7th August with his usual band. One for those of you on the south coast or a good place to have a few days break in the summer. Here is the Acket link. <https://www.tradingboundaries.com/russ-ballard.html>

Home / Russ Ballard

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RUSS
BALLARD

COMING UP....IN SEPTEMBER

Back to Barnoldswick on the 19th and 20th September. Saturday evening and Sunday maAnee. This is Russ and Robert again with songs and stories, it is not a full band gig. There are only 60 Acketts for each show so you will have to be quick. Ticket link
[hFps://www.barnoldswickmusicandartscentre.com/russ-ballard-and-robert-hart](https://www.barnoldswickmusicandartscentre.com/russ-ballard-and-robert-hart)

PETER BARTON
MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

RUSS BALLARD ARGENT
AND
ROBERT HART BAD COMPANY

*An acoustic Songs & Stories
September Special*

**SATURDAY
19 SEPTEMBER
2026**

TICKET HOTLINE 07712 628 366 **TICKETS £32.50 + BOOKING FEE** **DOORS 7PM**

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EMAIL: barnoldswickmusicandartscentre@gmail.com
M'CULLOUGH'S | 18-22 RAINHALL ROAD | BARNOLDSWICK | LANC'S | BB18 5AF

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PETER BARTON
MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

RUSS BALLARD ARGENT

—AND—

ROBERT HART BAD COMPANY

*An acoustic Songs & Stories
September Special*



SUNDAY MATINEE
20 SEPTEMBER
2026

BARNOLDSWICK
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TICKET HOTLINE 07712 628 366

TICKETS £32.50 + BOOKING FEE

DOORS 12.30PM



BUY TICKETS ONLINE www.barnoldswickmusicandartscentre.com

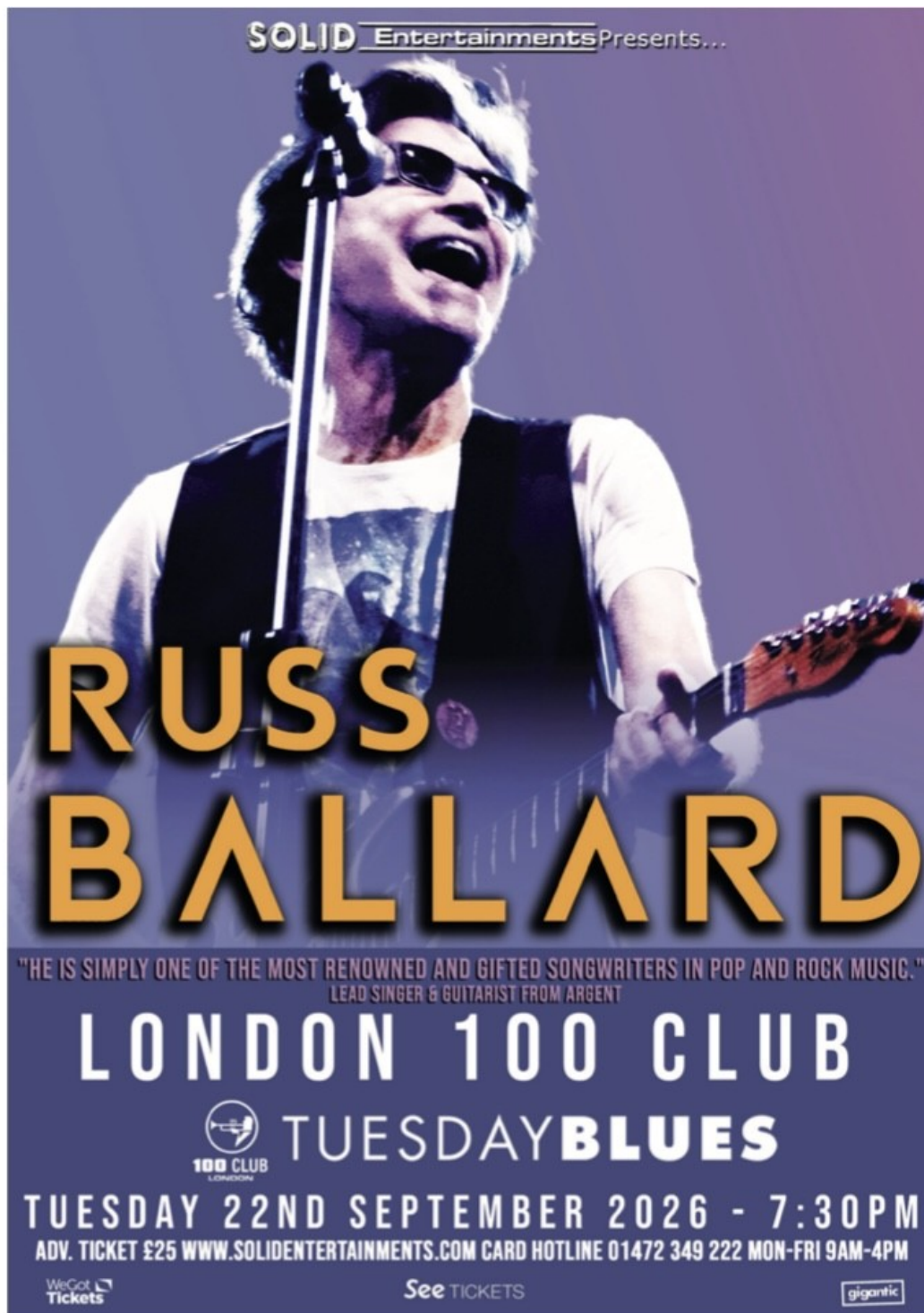
EMAIL: barnoldswickmusicandartscentre@gmail.com

MCCULLOUGH'S | 18-22 RAINHALL ROAD | BARNOLDSWICK | LANCs | BB18 5AF

(Poster adapted from Sven Kramer's original)

COMING UP...A FEW DAYS LATER

It will please many people that Russ will be back at the 100 Club in London on 22nd September. As I write, this doesn't appear on their website yet but here is a Acket link. [hF ps://www.seeAcket.com/event/russ-ballard/100-club/3624738](https://www.seeAcket.com/event/russ-ballard/100-club/3624738) It will sell out quickly. [hF ps://www.the100club.co.uk/100club-events/](https://www.the100club.co.uk/100club-events/)



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

See TICKETS

gigantic

COMING UP...NEXT YEAR!

Russ is back at The Wrecking Ball in Hull on Saturday 23rd January 2027. <https://wreckingballstore.co.uk/event/russ-ballard/>



Russ is headlining on the Sunday (24th January), of a three day fesAval the same weekend but all the acts haven't been announced yet, so more news to come.

THE VOICES OF RUSS BALLARD PODCASTS

This is Part 2 of the conversaAon with Russ and Rod together. Part 1 was in the February newsleF er but Ian has added the link to it on this video on YouTube. Well worth a watch, especially for Argent fans. <https://youtu.be/G5khdA5PyTw?si=UjFm1jK3Sw-Gi7qH>



(Poster by Sven)

LYRIC OF THE MONTH

Again from Songs From The Warehouse. This one is a special one for Russ and might be a bit more well known. Which song is this? Scroll to the end of the newsletter to find the answer and the link.

**Day and night you shine like the brightest star
In this strange world you have the power
To stand strong every minute, every hour.**

FROM DAVE

SIX OF THE BEST – PART ONE (The Argent Years)

I think it's fair to say that a large percentage of subscribers are most familiar with Russ's mid-80s work, particularly the two albums he recorded for EMI America. I say this because Russ's All performs shows dedicated to these records, showcasing *Russ Ballard (1984)* and *The Fire Still Burns* in their entirety. There's absolutely nothing wrong with that, but it may be that some fans have never fully explored much of his earlier material or back catalogue.

With that in mind, I decided to put together a three-part series of articles titled **Six of the Best**, drawing attention to some of the great—but often overlooked—songs from across his career, not just as a writer, but also as a performer. I'm well

aware that Russ's musical journey began back in the 1960s with Buster Meikle, Norman Jago, Adam Faith, and Unit 4 + 2, but I've chosen to use **Argent** as my starAng point. This also Aes in nicely with Russ discussing the band's formaAon in his biography feature.

LimiAng the selecAon to just six songs is no easy task, and this list is not intended to represent the band's "best" tracks—that would be impossible. Everyone has their own favourites, and even those can change from day to day. Instead, my aim is to highlight a few gems that are someAmes overlooked, while the conversaAon so oMen returns to *Hold Your Head Up*, *God Gave Rock and Roll to You*, and *It's Only Money*.

So, in no parAcular order, here we go:

Lothlorien

Argent's hard-to-find second LP, *Ring of Hands*, has a similar feel to the debut album, but it already shows clear signs of what was to come. By this point, the four members were clearly growing more comfortable working together as a unit. Russ contributed three songs: the magnificent *Cast Your Spell Uranus*, *Chained* (like *Liar* from the debut, later covered by Three Dog Night), and *Where Are We Going Wrong*. All are strong tracks, with Russ in parAcular showcasing his guitar skills on *Chained*.

For me, however, the standout has to be *Lothlorien*, an Argent/White composiAon. Rod's Hammond organ is dominant and cathedral-like, while Russ, Jim Rodford, and Bob Henrit all play their socks off. The vocal arrangement is stunning too, with Russ taking the lead. When Rod Argent first set out his vision for the band, he must have listened back to *Lothlorien* and felt a real sense of saAsfacAon—it seems to contain all the elements he was hoping to achieve.

<https://youtu.be/xo2G69VNzrA?si=Vt8j2Rn28tbpbR-p>

He's a Dynamo

OMen overshadowed by *Hold Your Head Up* and *I Am the Dance of Ages*, the guitar driven *He's a Dynamo*, wriF en by Russ, has always stood out for me. At the Ame, however, it may have been eclipsed by Rod's *Keep on Rolling*. The song featured regularly in the band's live set in the period leading up to the release of *In Deep* but was later dropped to make room for newer material.

<https://youtu.be/AWWbrHxOzJk?si=yrDzDwsFeVkSRq98>

Closer to Heaven

WriF en by Russ, *Closer to Heaven* originally appeared on the EP release of *Hold Your Head Up*. As the A-side began to aF ract aF enAon, it was edited to make it more radio-friendly, and *Closer to Heaven* was subsequently dropped when the single was re-issued. The track was also omiF ed from both *Ring of Hands* and *All*

Together Now, making it, for a time, almost impossible to find. With its *Jumpin' Jack Flash*-style drive, one can't help but wonder whether the record company made the wrong decision in discarding it—but we'll never know.

https://youtu.be/AvUoVTLNcWc?si=nx9_vAvHvvluiSv2

Tragedy

Russ himself has suggested that *Tragedy* may not have been the wisest choice as the follow-up single to the hit *Hold Your Head Up*. I've always argued against that view, although, in truth, he may well be right. What I love about the song is the way all four members play an equally brilliant role in bringing it to life.

While *Tragedy* became a modest hit in the UK, Argent arguably needed something more overtly commercial to avoid the dreaded "one-hit wonder" label. In any case, that fate was never going to befall them, as a year or so later they would release the classic *God Gave Rock and Roll to You*. https://youtu.be/nUcpU3_B5EQ?si=0YCC9YbdNBJcSePs

I Don't Believe in Miracles

Much has already been written about this song. Regarded by many—me included—as Russ's greatest-ever composition, it was written under particularly sad circumstances. Russ has said that he didn't initially see it as an Argent song, instead offering it to a very grateful Colin Blunstone. Ironically, the members of Argent themselves provided the backing, and the track went on to become a second major hit for the former Zombies frontman.

Having heard Argent perform the song on their live album *Encore*, I can't help but wonder whether it might have been a stronger choice as the follow-up single to *Hold Your Head Up*. As ever, we'll never know.

<https://youtu.be/dDc--7LKw4g?si=1SITiZK4VjcDOzkO>

Love

Offering some welcome relief—and I mean that with no disrespect—from the progressive, synthesizer-led direction of *Nexus*, *Love* is a rarely discussed Russ Ballard composition. It's a gentle, well-crafted ballad, enhanced by a tasteful Mellotron arrangement. Once again, the harmony vocals are a real pleasure, capped off by a fine electric guitar solo from Russ. The song ends rather abruptly, but in a way that feels both effective and deliberate. You can almost picture Russ placing his guitar back in its case for the final time, waving goodbye to the rest of the band as he prepares to fly away into a solo career.

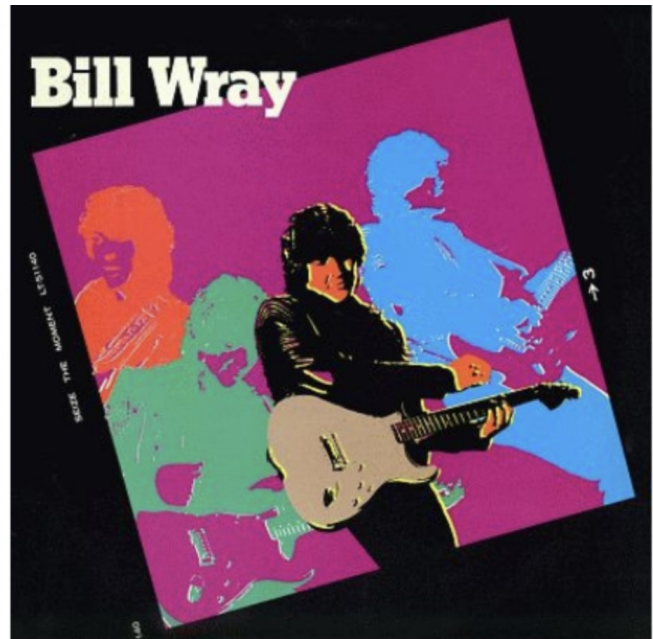
Next month I will try to choose what I consider to be six of the best less familiar songs from the solo years.

https://youtu.be/mtN9BgcqlaE?si=CihqxfnPdgr07_AC

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

This month's selection brings us back to classic 1980s AOR from an artist who usually penned his own songs, often with his brother. This time, however, he looked to Russ Ballard, presumably aiming for a hit single that could help to promote his new album.

No.92



(You're A) Heartbreaker by Bill Wray

Artist, writer, and producer **Bill Wray** is an American musician from Louisiana whose performing career spanned the mid-1970s through the early 1980s. Following his years as a recording artist, Wray went on to write and produce songs for a wide range of performers, including Diana Ross, frequently collaborating with his brother, fellow musician Jim Wray. In 1979, he scored a minor hit with the single **Pinball, That's All**, which reached No. 96 on the Billboard Hot 100. As a live performer, Wray opened for major acts such as Foreigner, Toto, The Kinks, Bachman-Turner Overdrive, and Joe Cocker. Released as a single in 1983 on Liberty Records, **(You're A) Heartbreaker** was written by Russ Ballard and produced by John Ryan. The song also served as the opening track on Wray's album **Seize the Moment**, released in the same year. The album featured an impressive lineup of top session musicians, including Nicky Hopkins on piano, Dennis Belfield on bass, Mike Baird on drums, Lenny Castro on percussion, and the Tower of Power horn section.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74rxkp8qa3I>

LYRIC OF THE MONTH - ANSWER

A special song written by Russell when he saw a television programme about a young carer. **Courageous**. You can listen here.

https://youtu.be/ace_AWNsre8?si=KmiShqUsQn_2FkAx