



(New header by Sven)

August 2026

Welcome to our new readers...more than usual this month. I love hearing from our readers all round the world about things that we have put into the newsletter. Russ writing about Argent gigs at Fillmore East prompted a correspondence from Greg in New York. See below. Thanks to everyone else who has emailed this month.

We have Russ's "He Can Do Magic" tour coming up in the new year. Some of these gigs are in relatively small venues. It helps the venues enormously if people book early so they can have some idea of their financial situation. I have known of gigs (not Russ's) being cancelled because the seats weren't selling fast enough. It seems like a long way off but it is only a few months. I know people like to wait until the last minute until they know what is happening in their lives, I have done that too, but, if you know you are intending to go to one of Russ's gigs, please consider booking now. The first lot of gigs are in January and February...what a great Christmas present for a Russ fan on your Christmas list. I noticed while booking gigs recently that more and more venues are offering insurance on the tickets for a couple of pounds extra. You can get a refund if you have a good reason for not being able to go. This does not apply to just changing your mind.

Dave has compiled a brilliant summer quiz for us. The explanation is below. Thank you so much, Dave. Also thanks to Greg and Ciaran for their contributions this month.

Sue

THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY

When I'm not playing live I'm usually home, playing music, that's guitar or piano, writing or recording.

Recently I played a venue in Sussex called, 'Trading Boundaries' with my group PJ Phillips, Marc Rapson and Paul Bond. Sadly my friend , drummer John Miller, developed a kidney stone a few days before the show and was admitted to hospital in extreme pain, so he couldn't possibly play. 'The Show Must Go On' they say, (or I said) so, we played without a drummer...and it was great.

I've heard people say, 'Embrace the Unknown' and for all of us it was fun, different but fun, and the audience were understanding and sang along with the songs....it was a different experience but brilliant. I will admit it's more exciting with our mate, John. But if you're a gigging musician and a band member can't make the gig, my advice is do it anyway - Embrace The Unknown - it's a lot of fun!

Peace & Love

Russ xx

RUSS - LIFE STORIES

I'm continuing my autobiography this month in San Francisco....it's 1970, I'm with Argent and we're in our third week of a three month tour of America. After arriving the U.S. we played our first five shows in New York, at The Fillmore East, then two concerts in Chicago - now, after a brilliant train journey from the mid west, we've found ourselves in San Francisco where we're to play four nights at the iconic venue, Fillmore West...Four shows with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers .

Actually, the Fillmore West 'stint' was quite un-eventful. It was hard to know how our group was received there...the crowd seemed too stoned. I like San Francisco a lot and if I had to live anywhere in the states, it would be there.

Our next shows were to be at 'The Whisky Agogo' in Los Angeles. We decided to drive there and take the coast road, it was longer but while we had the chance, we should take it. It's a long journey, about five hundred miles, but it meant we would be taking in that wonderful coast line. We got as far as The Santa Barbara Freeway, when Bob noticed a police car in the mirror. We stopped and the cop took Bob into his car which was parked behind - as he did so, another police car parked in front of us, presumably to stop us getting away. I'd been in the car for

many hours and I thought this would be a good time to stretch my legs...I opened the door and stepped on the hard shoulder. The officer dealing with Bob wound down his window..."Get back into the car" he bellowed. "I'm stretching my legs". "Get back into the car", he said, more forcibly, and it sounded scary, Bob did say, the cop said to him, "We can't be too careful, we had four guys killed on this freeway this month. Anyway needless to say, I got back in the car,,,"Not very friendly, are they" I said to the others.

TRADING BOUNDARIES

What an achievement by Russ, Marc, Paul and PJ! You should, by now, have received Ian's official blog for this unusual gig so you will have all the details.

COMING UP - IN SEPTEMBER

Barnoldswick Saturday 19th/Sunday 20th

Russ and Robert Hart will be doing their "Songs and Stories" show in Barnoldswick. This will be a lot of fun with a good selection of songs from both of their careers. Saturday 19th is sold out and has been for some time. As I write, there are 3 standing tickets left for the Sunday matinee.

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

MATINEE

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RUSS BALLARD ARGENT

—AND—

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*An acoustic Songs & Stories
September Special*



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20 SEPTEMBER
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TICKETS £32.50 + BOOKING FEE

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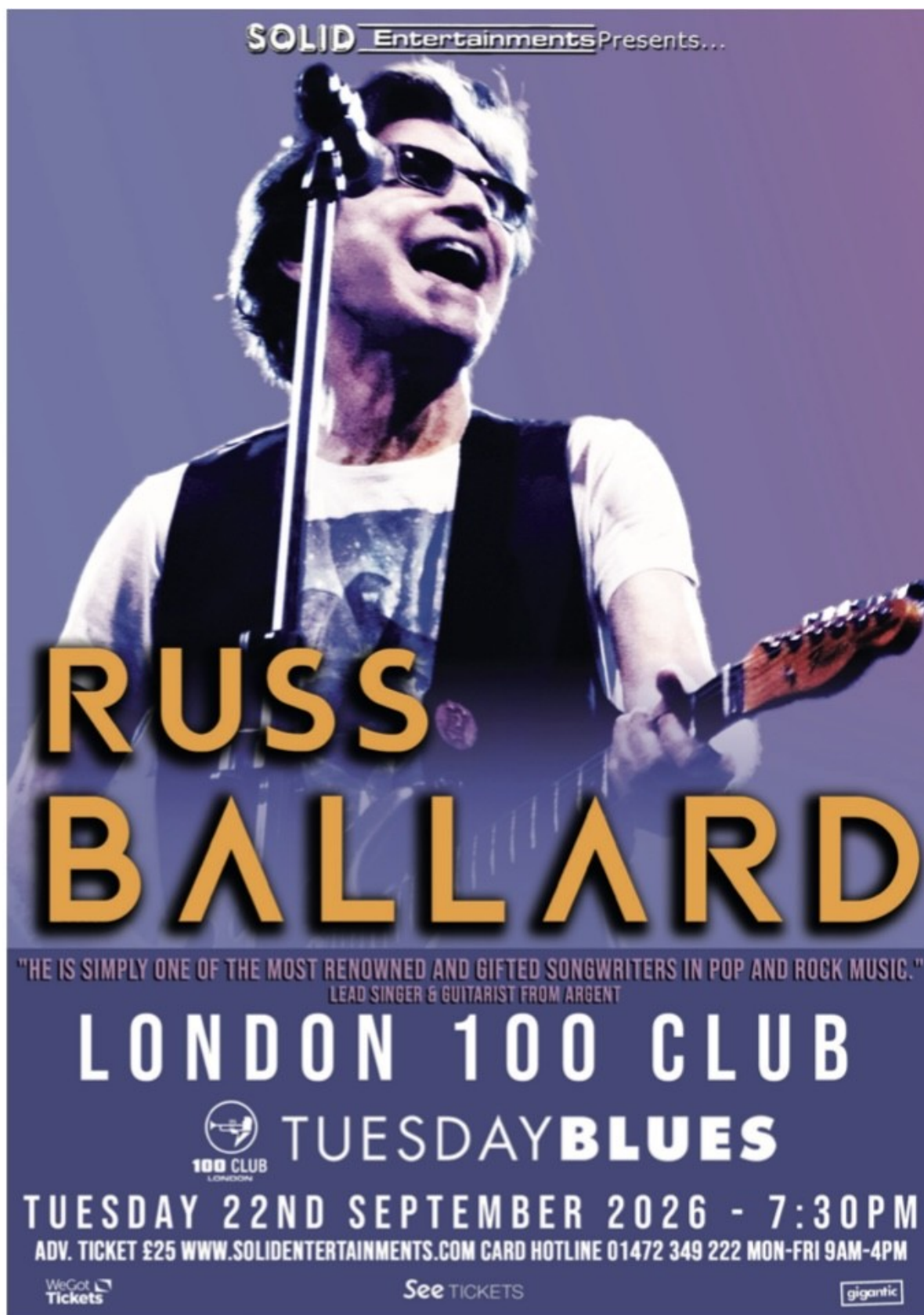
EMAIL: barnoldswickmusicandartscentre@gmail.com

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

(Poster by Sven Kramer)

100 Club Tuesday 22nd

This will be a popular one. I know we have some newsletter friends definitely going to this one. Get your tickets soon.



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WeGot Tickets  

<https://www.seetickets.com/event/russ-ballard/100-club/3624738>

COMING UP - NEXT YEAR

RUSS BALLARD AND HIS ALL STAR BAND - "HE CAN DO MAGIC TOUR"

Buy your tickets as soon as you can. We all have ours.



RUSS ballard

he can do magic tour 2027 UK

14TH January / THE ROBIN / Wolverhampton
15TH January / LONG STREET BLUES-CLUB / Devizes
17TH January / STABLES / Milton Keynes
21ST January / HUNTINGDON HALL / Worcester
23RD January / WRECKING BALL / Hull
24TH January / UK BLUES, RHYTHM ROCK FESTIVAL / Blackpool
12TH February / ACAPELA STUDIO / Cardiff
14TH February / EXETER PHOENIX / Exeter
21ST February / THE BROOK / Southampton

 www.russballardmusic.com | [@russballardmusicofficial](https://twitter.com/russballardmusicofficial)
Sven Kramer

(Poster by Sven Kramer)

Here are the ticket links.

Thursday 14th January - The Robin, Wolverhampton.

Tickets: <https://www.gigantic.com/russ-ballard-tickets/wolverhampton-the-robin/2027-01-14-19-30>

Friday 15th January - Long Street Blues Club, Devizes.

No ticket link yet but here is their website. <https://www.longstreetbluesclub.co.uk/gigs.html>

Sunday 17th January - The Stables, Milton Keynes.

No ticket link yet but here is their website. <https://stables.org/whats-on/calendar/2027/01>

Thursday 21st January - Huntingdon Hall, Worcester. Russ returns! See some of you there!

Tickets: <https://purchase.worcestertheatres.co.uk/ChooseSeats/207801>

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>

Friday 12th February - Acapela, Cardiff.

Tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/acapelastudios/2311670>

Sunday 14th February - Exeter Phoenix, Exeter.

Tickets: <https://exeterphoenix.org.uk/events/russ-ballard/>

Sunday 21st February - The Brook, Southampton.

No ticket link yet but here is their website. <https://www.the-brook.com/whats-on/>

BEGIN HERE FESTIVAL

Every year in October/November, the Zombies put on a weekend festival/"fan experience" celebrating The Zombies' legacy, in their home town, St Albans. This year it will be from 30th October - 1st November. Russ has been invited as a special guest to join Colin Blunstone at an "intimate candlelit concert" in St Albans Cathedral on 31st October (yes, his birthday - I understand there will be cake!).

<https://www.thezombiesmusic.com/eve.../begin-here-festival-1>



FUGITIVE

Last month Michael Angel of Fugitive told us about their new single, **Sweet Oblivion**, written with and produced by Russ. The official video for the single will be launched from the arena screens at Stonedead Festival on 28th August. You can hear Russ's vocals and piano on the track. It was recorded partly in Russ's studio and completed and mixed at AMP studios in Wrexham. The track is out as a single worldwide on 4th September.



PODCAST

Russ did this podcast at the beginning of July with "Bad" Brad Berkwitt of "360 Conversation. This is one he enjoyed and their chat, here, lasts for around 1hr 45mins. You might want to skip the first 3 minutes, which seem totally unconnected. Also there are a fair few ads to skip. Worth a watch though.

https://youtu.be/6pEli_4F6wo?si=PaL9b-SuPoq_kUm1

FILLMORE

In response to Russ writing about performing at Fillmore East with Argent, our newsletter friend, Greg Vignapiano in New York, got in touch and wrote...

Fillmore East. "The place closed in '72. Now it's a bank, ughh."

"I was alive but too young for concerts @ that pt. The list of performers from there is absolutely incredible. I believe there's a plaque. I'll go by & get a shot of it for you."



"This is the location of the old Fillmore East. The entrance, on 2nd. Ave, was the white, empty space in the center whose last incarnation was an Apple Bank. Not the Steve Jobs Apple, but a bank that had that name long before i anything. The Block Drugs, South across 6th. St, is almost certainly the only business remaining around there from that era."

Greg sent me three photos but we had some trouble getting the files to be small enough for here, so I am including one of them....Fillmore East as it is today.

LETTERS

>From Ciaran Walsh

Hi Sue,

I actually wanted to come back and share my love for Russ and his music.

I first encountered Russ's music from Miami Vice when Voices played in a crucial scene in the early season 1 Calderone returns finale episode. It blew me away with the guitar solo to the lyrics. That day after watching it, I had to replay that specific scene to not only admire that it would cement my all time favorite show, but I had found my all time favorite singer in the process.

Funnily enough, it took until last year upon hyping for my next Vice rewatch that his other two tracks, In The Night and Your Time Is Gonna Come also featured and playing them made me want to go through his entire discography (which I practically own every release as of now from CD and cassette tape!). There was something about the style and meaning behind every song that made me appreciate the work he puts in. From my personal standpoint, from At The Third Stroke onward, it felt like every song could not be faulted for. If I had to rank my 3 favorite albums, it would have to be The Fire Still Burns (a pure motivational journey that has helped me through tough times this year), his self titled 1984 release and Songs From The Warehouse/The Hits Rewired.

I look forward to witnessing him perform at the 100 club in London this coming September. As for the choice of songs to expect, it won't matter to me as my only hope is to enjoy his work live and knowing he still has it to pull off a spectacular and memorable couple of hours. As an early 20's young adult from Ireland who loves the rock genre, hearing Russ' music has brought it to a new perspective with desires to hear more in the near future.

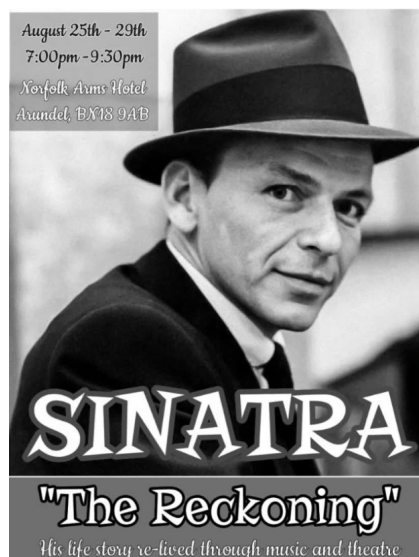
Ciaran

DAVE'S BIG FAT MUSIC QUIZ

So, last week Dave said....."as it's holiday season, why don't I do a Quiz? We've not had one for a while." I said, go for it! A couple of days later he came up with Dave's Big Fat Music Quiz. Amazing! Russ is not the only one who can do magic! It evolved into Dave's Big Holiday Quiz. It's a Russ quiz, of course. It is impressive. I played around with ways of getting it into the newsletter. I put it in. I took it out. Then we realised that the best way was to add it as an attachment. Have a look. There are quiz questions, anagrams, a wordsearch and a crossword. I wonder how many of you can get it all right. I didn't! I wonder if Russ could!! The best way would be to print it off if you can, then you will be able to fill in the grids. The answers are there at the bottom.....upside-down to make cheating a little more inconvenient. Enjoy!

FROM DAVE - RUSS BALLARD BAND ALUMNI

It's always nice to hear what former Russ Ballard Band members are up to today. Tony Lester, bass guitarist in Russ's first band after leaving Argent, is currently performing in *The Reckoning*, the life story of Frank Sinatra, and will be providing his bass skills at The Norfolk Arms Hotel in Arundel on August 27th. Tony has really spread his wings since his days in the rock band Bandit



DAVE'S COVER QUEST

We're turning the clock back to 1975 this month, the post-**Argent** days when Russ was setting off on his solo career. Rather different to the rocky 1980s songs we've featured in the last three newsletters, I don't know how you'd describe this one. A cocktail of pop, trad jazz and vaudeville maybe? I'll leave you to decide. It's catchy though.



Remember by New World

New World was an Australian pop band formed in Brisbane, Queensland in 1965. They are best known for their top 10 hit single, Tom-Tom Turnaround, which was released in 1971. Most of their biggest successes were written by Nicky Chinn and Mike Chapman, including Kara, Kara and Sister Jane. They also recorded Rose Garden at the same time as the more well-known version by country singer Lynn Anderson, and the original version of Living Next Door to Alice, which was a hit in their homeland but a flop in the UK, later made famous by Smokie, and the blue comedian Roy Chubby Brown.

After they moved from Mickie Most's RAK label to EMI, Russ had a lot of involvement with New World, both as a writer and producer. Besides Remember, the opening track on their LP Yesterday's Gone, he also wrote two of their earlier singles I'm a Clown and Do It Again. Unfortunately, by this time, their popularity had faded.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQx1uohOtdA&list=RDqQx1uohOtdA&start_radio=1