

News and Views

Well, it's getting to be a habit, but welcome to August's *GigList* - yet another bumper 12-page issue featuring what I think is the longest gig listing I've ever produced. I'm not sure if that says more about my diligence and persistence in seeking out those elusive gig details than it does about the current state of the live music scene in Swansea, but it's encouraging.

Developments continue on the venue front. **Whitez** are building on the success of their Open Mic nights (or M.A.D. music jam, as they would have it) by launching a series of Saturday night gigs. There's a launch party on Saturday 2nd featuring local heroes **No Obligation**. Who knows, I might even find my way to that one myself ... Sam at **The Cricketers** is also dipping a toe into the Saturday night water - only a couple of nights confirmed in August, but a full programme is scheduled for September. Unfortunately, live music at **Bar Reef** hasn't taken off as anticipated and gigs there are unlikely to continue after September, although existing bookings are being honoured. I have full listings for the **Smith's Arms** in the Hafod and the **Mason's Arms** in Rhydypanyd this month, too, whilst another new venue to look out for in future months is the **Old Barn Inn and Restaurant** at Pontlassau.

The two major events this month are the **Pontardawe Festival** (Friday 15th - Sunday 17th) and the **Uplands Music Festival** (Friday 22nd - Monday 25th). The major attractions at Pontardawe this year are the multi-national **Transglobal Underground**, trailblazing Irish warriors **Kila** and Senegalese maestro **Sekou Keita**, together with Northern Irish songwriter **Mary Kathleen Burke** and iconic Welsh language band **Ar Log**. Amongst the supporting cast, **Baggyrinkle**, **Jim Fox**, **Graham Larkbey**, **The Potboilers**, **No Obligation** and **Project 25**, amongst others, will be familiar to local gig-goers.

The **Uplands Festival** has expanded from its **Uplands Tavern** base this year to encompass **Whitez** and **Mozarts** as well. As Festival Director Chris "Magpie" Woodman puts it: "The eighth Uplands Music Festival promises to be our best one yet, with over 75 acts booked at the time of going to press. Seven Roads Music are delighted to be co-hosting with M.A.D. Promotions this year, who will be taking care of the music and fun over at Whitez and Mozarts. We truly believe that the variety of acts will please all - from Rock, Metal, Indie, Alt to Folk, Jazz and Country, we can honestly say the festival's line-up is awesome, and it's all free well, except the stuff you have to pay for!" *The GigList* concurs - the line-up really does represent the cream of the crop so far as local song writing talent goes (pity there's no Andy Morse, though). Acts confirmed so far include The DoubleO Zeroes, Ursine Princes, Ripping Cones, Mook, Evan Burgess, Harpers Ferry, Malko, The Last Republic, Kiddo 360, Bigsby, Anne-Marie Helder, Steffan Tucker, The Mudskippers, Dufraine, Temp, Andy Jones, Dyljammor, Sera Rabbett, Jason Harris, Speakeasy Jazz Band, Frame 3-13, The Magpies, Rugfire, The Good Burghers, Karma Junkie, Superczar, The Death of Chapman Baxter, Kelly's Angels, The Caves, Skylark, Jon Morgan, Boatbar to Hamburg, Quahog, Andy Jones, Ian James, Rag Foundation, MudJack, King of Despair, Ringolevio, Evan Davies, Mick Kemp, Chris Woodman and Jon Coward, Felix Subway, The Chineapple Punks and Steve Flynn.

The GigList July 2008

Swansea's Independent Live Music Guide

Friday 1st			
Bar,Co		MATT COOK	<i>("the human iPod")</i>
0.00	FREE		
Bar Reef		Live music TBC	
21.00	FREE		
Bay View Bar		GARY PHILLIPS TRIO	<i>("bluenote and jazz-funk fusion")</i>
21.00	FREE		
Buck Inn, Pontlliw		BLACK VELVET	<i>("silky rock covers")</i>
21.00	FREE		
The Cricketers		THE MAGPIES	<i>("purveyors of top notch original melodic rock")</i> 21.07
FREE			
Ivy Bush Hotel		Valley Folk Club Open Night	<i>(singers, players, poets, listeners - all welcome)</i> 20.30
FREE			
MilkwoodJam		HEADHUNTERS	
20.00	£3.00		
Monkey Café		Mashed Up, feat. ZEJ, Dub Step + French Breaks	<i>("DnB sensations")</i>
FREE	b4 10		
Pink Geranium		THE SHAKES	
21.00	FREE		

Pontardawe Inn 21.00 FREE	SPARROW LANE (<i>return of the uncrowned kings of Alt-Jangle™</i>)	
Siro's Bar 21.00 FREE	AGGI THOMAS & MATT JOYCE (<i>"a night of original acoustica"</i>)	
The Singleton 21.00 FREE	THE NAVIGATORS	
Smith's Arms 21.00 FREE	PURE FLOYD (<i>"lime and limpid, green the sound"</i>)	
Uplands Tavern 21.00 FREE	CAKEHOLE PRESLEY (<i>"acoustic, experimental folk/rock"</i>)	
Saturday 2nd		
Buck Inn, Pontlliw 21.00 FREE	FINCHEY & FRIENDS (<i>Blind Lemon's not up there, boys!</i>)	
MilkwoodJam £4.00	BABAR LUCK, The Guffries, Office Down, Midriff + others (<i>"slightly off kilter"</i>)	19.00
Pink Geranium 21.00 FREE	HOT DOGZ	
Pontardawe Inn 21.00 FREE	TBC	
Sin City 19.30 £10 + BF	ELLIOT MINOR + The Days (<i>"strange hybrid of emo, pop-punk and indie"</i>)	
The Singleton 21.00 FREE	BIG CAR LITTLE CAR	
Siro's Bar 18.00 FREE	Summer Beach Ball (Acts TBC)	
Smith's Arms 21.00 FREE	THE DOPEYS	
Southgate Club, Southgate 21.00 £TBC	JOE SCHMO (<i>"music for the living"</i>)	
Speed Music 14.00 FREE	The First Saturday Club: TBC	
Uplands Tavern 21.00 FREE	21 AGAINST (<i>highly-touted Llanelli rockers</i>)	
West End, Gorseinon 21.00 FREE	PURE FLOYD (<i>"remember a day before today"</i>)	
Whitez 21.00 £TBC	NO OBLIGATION + White Dice (<i>Garage launch party</i>)	
Sunday 3rd		
The Adelphi 16.00 FREE	BIG CAR LITTLE CAR (<i>Racing Cars moonlighters</i>)	
Bar,Co 20.00 £1.00	THE ATOMS, Jovern, Tom van Hamer + Chris Stringer	
The Brunswick 13.00 FREE	IAN JAMES (<i>mellow pickings with your Sunday lunch</i>)	
The Brunswick 20.30 FREE	STRING WHISTLE (<i>"acoustic folk duo"</i>)	
Buck Inn, Pontlliw 20.00 FREE	IAN JAMES TRIO (<i>Swansea's favourite troubadour</i>)	
Coyote Bar 21.00 FREE	THE SOMETHINGS (<i>"melodic pop aficianados"</i>)	
The Cricketers FREE	Open Mic Night (<i>"come all ye rolling minstrels"</i>)	20.00
Masons Arms TBC FREE	THIS RIVER (<i>"four-piece melodic rock band from the Swansea valley"</i>)	
Monkey Café 18.00 £TBC	LEVIANTH, The Ruined, Red - The Resistance + Legacy of Brutality	
No Sign Bar 20.30 FREE	AMBER AVENUE (<i>female-fronted acoustic outfit</i>)	
Strand Bar 18.00 FREE	GROUNDLED	
Strand Bar 21.00 FREE	ANDY & GOSS	
Uplands Tavern 21.00 FREE	AL DAVEY JNR. (<i>"returns for another stint in the Tav"</i>)	
Monday 4th		
Bar,Co	Slim's Blues Jam, feat. HIDEAWAY	

21.00 FREE	The New York	Blues Jam/Open Mic	Featuring house band the BLUES CRUISE	20.30
FREE	Sin City	EVAN DANDO + Frank Turner	<i>(former Lemonheads main man)</i>	
19.30 £10.00				
Tuesday 5th				
21.00 FREE	The Brunswick	TICH	<i>(all his ways are known to you)</i>	
21.00 FREE	The Salisbury	THE JON AMOR BAND	<i>("former Hoax front man")</i>	
20.00 £TBC				
Wednesday 6th				
	Bar,Co	Illegal Promotions Rock Night		
20.00 £2.00				
	MilkwoodJam	Milky Showcase	(Host: Aggi Thomas)	
20.00 FREE				
	Mozarts	Open Mic Acoustic	(Host: Ian James) <i>(Easy-going, relaxed atmosphere)</i>	
20.00 FREE				
	The Office	Open Mic Night	(Host: Richard Copp)	
20.00 FREE				
	Siro's Bar	Open Mic Night		
21.00 FREE				
	Swansea Jazzland	RHYS OWEN'S SLEIGHT OF HAND	<i>("tenor saxophonist from Cardiff")</i>	
20.30 £7.00				
Thursday 7th				
	The Adelphi	TBC		
21.00 FREE				
	Aspers Casino	THE AMIGOS	<i>("Gypsy music played with virtuosity and passion")</i>	
22.00 FREE				
	Bar,Co	MARKS SET GO + support		
21.00 £TBC				
	The Brunswick	LOWRI EVANS	<i>("talented singer/songwriter with powerful, distinctive voice")</i>	
20.30 FREE				
	Mumbles Con. Club	Swansea Jazz Society: MEMPHIS SEVEN		
20.30 £5.00				
	Sin City	KC!, Working Class Heroes, These Radio Days + Kid Keep Dancing		
19.30 £5.00				
	Uplands Tavern	TOMMY HARRIS QUARTET	<i>("great music from this debut foursome")</i>	
21.00 FREE				
	Whitez	M.A.D. Open Mic Night		
20.30 FREE				
Friday 8th				
	Bar,Co	AGGI THOMAS & MATT JOYCE	<i>("a night of rockin' acoustica")</i>	
21.30 FREE				
	Bar Reef	THE V.I.P.'S	<i>(half of the Storys playing songs you all know)</i>	
21.00 FREE				
	Bay View Bar	BACK TO THE BORDER	<i>("classic acoustic blues and edgy folk")</i>	
21.00 FREE				
	Buck Inn, Pontlliw	CIVVIES	<i>("rock in the Buck!")</i>	
21.00 FREE				
	The Cricketers	THE GOOD BURGHERS	<i>(local blues super group)</i>	
21.00 FREE				
	Masons Arms	TED CROOK & THE BLUES HIGHWAY		
21.00 FREE				
	The Mex	PURE FLOYD	<i>("bringing sounds of yesterday into my city room")</i>	
21.00 FREE				
	MilkwoodJam	THE BARRIERS + guests		
20.00 £TBC				
	Oceana	KARL MORGAN & BAND		
22.30 £TBC				
	Pink Geranium	ANDY & BEN		
21.00 FREE				
	Pontardawe Inn	AMBER AVENUE	<i>(female-fronted acoustic outfit)</i>	
21.00 FREE				
	The Singleton	SWITCHY & CO.		
21.00 FREE				

Siro's Bar	MEG & MARK	
21.00 FREE		
Smith's Arms	FAST CAR WAITING	
21.00 FREE		
Saturday 9th		
Bar,Co	THE NAVIGATORS	
20.00 FREE		
Buck Inn, Pontlliw	BACK TO THE BORDER	<i>("classic acoustic blues and edgy folk")</i>
21.00 FREE		
The Cricketers	CHANNEL HOPPERS	
21.00 FREE		
The Duke Inn, Morriston	PURE FLOYD	<i>("will you still let me join in with the game?")</i>
21.00 FREE		
The Gate House	THE AVISI	
TBC FREE		
MilkwoodJam	AGGI THOMAS & MATT JOYCE	<i>("a night of original acoustica")</i>
21.00 £3.00		
Pink Geranium	WORST CASE SCENARIO	
21.00 FREE		
Pontardawe Inn	TBC	
21.00 FREE		
Queen's Hotel	JIMMY QUICKSAND	
21.00 FREE		
The Singleton	PEGGY RELOADS	
21.00 FREE		
Uplands Tavern	THE NUMBERS RACKET	<i>("superb rock'n'roll")</i>
21.00 FREE		
Whitez	SCREAMIN' EAGLES + The Afterglow	
21.00 £TBC		
Sunday 10th		
The Adelphi	LONG WAY ROUND	<i>("superb local rock band")</i>
16.00 FREE		
Bar,Co	All New Volts Show Showcase 2008	
21.00 FREE		
The Brunswick	ANDY MORSE	<i>(welcome return of the main man)</i>
20.30 FREE		
Buck Inn, Pontlliw	LOWRI EVANS & LEE MASON	<i>("a voice to be wooed by")</i>
20.00 FREE		
Coyote Bar	TBC	
21.00 FREE		
The Cricketers	Open Mic Night	<i>(with your host MC Woodman)</i>
20.00 FREE		
Masons Arms	SILVER	<i>("melodic rock covers band")</i>
TBC FREE		
The New York	TOTAL CHAOS, The Medusa Theory, Sidekick, The Symptoms + In Flight Movie	19.30
£4.00		
No Sign Bar	THE SHAKES	
20.30 FREE		
Strand Bar	THE LOST BOYS	
18.00 FREE		
Strand Bar	BIG CAR LITTLE CAR	<i>(Simon & Morty from Racing Cars)</i>
21.00 FREE		
Uplands Tavern	CAL NEWMAN	<i>("smokey-voiced blues man")</i>
21.00 FREE		
Monday 11th		
Bar,Co	BUTTERFLIES WITH BEARDS, Dave Thomas + Cartoon Elvis	
21.00 £1.00		
Monkey Café	SPECIAL ED & THE SHORTBUS	<i>("bluegrass mayhem from Richmond VA")</i>
19.00 £5.00		
The New York	The New York Blues Jam/Open Mic	Featuring house band the BLUES CRUISE 20.30
FREE		
Tuesday 12th		
The Brunswick	GYPSY JAZZ	<i>("sophisticated café jazz")</i>
21.00 FREE		
The Salisbury	J44 feat. Ayesha Jenkins	

20.00 £TBC

Wednesday 13th

Bar,Co

20.00 £TBC

MilkwoodJam

20.00 FREE

Mozarts

20.00 FREE

The Office

20.00 FREE

Samlet Club, Llansamlet

20.30 £4.00

Siro's Bar

21.00 FREE

Swansea Jazzland

20.30 £8.00

Uplands Tavern

21.00 FREE

Squid Promotions Night

Milky Showcase (Host: Aggi Thomas)

Open Mic Acoustic (Host: Ian James) (*Easy-going, relaxed atmosphere*)

Open Mic Night (Host: Richard Copp)

Swansea Country Music Club: TRAVIS LOGAN (01792 297936/418002)

Open Mic Night

JULIE EDWARDS & KEVIN DEARDEN + James Duggan

New Bands Night: MORNING STAR

Thursday 14th

Aspers Casino

22.00 FREE

The Adelphi

21.00 FREE

Bar,Co

20.00 £3.00

The Brunswick

21.00 FREE

Mumbles Con. Club

20.30 £5.00

Pontardawe Inn

20.30 FREE

Uplands Tavern

21.00 FREE

Whitez

20.30 FREE

A.J.

IDGE (*solo set from This River front man*)

HIGH VOLTAGE + supports (*AC/DC tribute*)

MARIA OWEN (*singer/songwriter with incredibly pure and powerful voice*)

Swansea Jazz Society: SIMON BANKS & KEVIN GRENFELL

DAWN SANDELLS & THE TOMMY HARRIS QUARTET (*jazz*)

UP THE CREEK (*covering the 'grass*)

M.A.D. Open Mic Night

Friday 15th

Bar,Co

20.00 FREE

Bar Reef

21.00 FREE

Bay View Bar

21.00 FREE

Buck Inn, Pontlliw

21.00 FREE

The Colliers, Skewen

21.00 FREE

The Cricketers

21.00 FREE

Masons Arms

FREE

MilkwoodJam

19.30 £3.00

Pink Geranium

21.00 FREE

PONTARDAWE FESTIVAL

Pontardawe Inn

21.00 FREE

The Singleton

21.00 FREE

Smith's Arms

21.00 FREE

Uplands Tavern

21.00 FREE

ROB WESTALL (*"acoustic classics"*)

Live music TBC

THE LEWIS CLEMENT BAND

ITCHY FEET (*"our most popular group"*)

PURE FLOYD (*"something stares and something tries"*)

THE SOMETHINGS (*"melodic pop aficianados"*)

THE AMIGOS (*"guitar wizardry with strains of calypso, jazz & musical genius"*) 21.00

ADAM AVIT, The Barriers + The Showt

THIS RIVER (*"four-piece melodic rock band from the Swansea valley"*)

See brochure for details

THE BLUES BANDITS

BIG CAR LITTLE CAR (*Racing Cars moonlighters*)

FUSION

RIDING HOOD (*"female-fronted rock"*)

Saturday 16th

Bar,Co

HUMAN BREED + support

21.00	£TBC		
Buck Inn, Pontlliw		FINCHEY & FRIENDS	<i>("doing your favourite rock covers")</i>
21.00	FREE		
The Cricketers		TEMP	
21.00	FREE		
MilkwoodJam		Hex Nights presents Dead of Night	<i>(wear black)</i>
21.00	£3.00		
The Mill House, Morriston		PURE FLOYD	<i>("racing around to come up behind you again")</i>
21.00	FREE		
Monkey Café		SWISS FX	<i>("local jam band")</i>
Free b4 10			
Pink Geranium		R & B	
14.00	FREE		
Pink Geranium		BANJAXED	
16.30	FREE		
Pink Geranium		BIG CAR LITTLE CAR	<i>(Racing Cars moonlighters)</i>
19.00	FREE		
Pink Geranium		ORANGE FALL	<i>(still practising sanity)</i>
21.30	FREE		
PONTARDAWE FESTIVAL		See brochure for details	
Pontardawe Inn		LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD	
19.00	FREE		
Pontardawe Inn		BREAKDOWN	
21.00	FREE		
Queen's Hotel		MIKE JAPP	
21.00	FREE		
Sin City (main room)		VOODOO GLOW SKULLS, JB Conspiracy + The Groundnuts	<i>("punk/ska/hardcore")</i>
19.30	£8 + BF		
Sin City (upstairs)		PARTYSHANK, Glamour 4 Better, Friends Electric + Dreamer	
19.30	£TBC		
The Singleton		URSINE PRINCES	<i>("10 out of every 2 people are dyslexic")</i> 21.00
FREE			
Siro's Bar		DUBWISE	
21.00	FREE		
Smith's Arms		HOT DOGZ	
21.00	FREE		
Uplands Tavern		ORANGE FALL	<i>(heard it through the grape vine - great rock)</i>
21.00	FREE		
Whitez		LETHARGY + support	
21.00	FREE		
Sunday 17th			
The Adelphi		ROLLERCOASTER	
16.00	FREE		
Bar,Co		AVISI, The Showt + Starsci	
21.00	£1.00		
The Brunswick		PAUL ROGERS	<i>(more mellow pickings with your Sunday lunch)</i>
13.00	FREE		
The Brunswick		TONY WEBB	<i>(the Mystic Man emerges from behind his Castle Wall)</i>
20.30	FREE		
Buck Inn, Pontlliw		UP THE CREEK	<i>('grassing up the covers)</i>
20.00	FREE		
Coyote Bar		THIS RIVER	
21.00	FREE		
The Cricketers		Open Mic Night	<i>(with Chris Woodman and Ian James)</i>
20.00	FREE		
Masons Arms		THE JOURNEYMEN	<i>("great covers band with an amazing lead vocalist")</i>
21.00	FREE		
No Sign Bar		GINGER NUTS	
20.30	FREE		
Pink Geranium		PANIC STATION	<i>("solid, gut-wrenching blues")</i>
14.00	FREE		
Pink Geranium		HIDDEN AGENDA	
16.30	FREE		
Pink Geranium		UP THE CREEK	<i>('grassing up the covers)</i>
19.00	FREE		
Pink Geranium		THE V.I.P.'S	<i>(half of the Storys playing songs you all know)</i>
21.30	FREE		
PONTARDAWE FESTIVAL		See brochure for details	
Pontardawe Inn		TBC	

Strand Bar		GENE GAMBLER & THE SHUFFLERS	<i>(rockabilly)</i>
	18.00 FREE		
Strand Bar		PUNCHLINE	
	21.00 FREE		
Uplands Tavern		NEW DRUIDS	<i>(good looks and great music - what more do you want?)</i>
	21.00 FREE		
Monday 18th			
Bar,Co		Slim's Blues Jam, feat. HIDEAWAY	
	21.00 FREE		
The New York		The New York Blues Jam/Open Mic	Featuring house band the BLUES CRUISE 20.30
	FREE		
Uplands Tavern		GARY PHILLIPS TRIO	<i>("bluenote and jazz-funk fusion")</i>
	21.00 FREE		
Tuesday 19th			
Bar,Co		DAVE THOMAS + Ceri James	<i>(Cyrenians' Cymru charity night)</i>
	20.00 £2.00		
The Brunswick		AL DAVEY	<i>(singer/guitarist with a nice line in Neil Young covers)</i>
	21.00 FREE		
MilkwoodJam		THE SHORTCUTS, The Abortions, Sinister Rouge + The City That Day	
	20.00 £3.00		
The Salisbury		THE WORRIED MEN	<i>("so good they could be Welsh!")</i>
	20.00 £TBC		
Wednesday 20th			
Bar,Co		Illegal Promotions Rock Night	
	20.00 £2.00		
MilkwoodJam		Milky Showcase	<i>(Host: Aggi Thomas)</i>
	20.00 FREE		
Mozarts		Open Mic Acoustic	<i>(Host: Ian James) (Easy-going, relaxed atmosphere)</i>
	20.00 FREE		
The Office		Open Mic Night	<i>(Host: Richard Copp)</i>
	20.00 FREE		
Siro's Bar		Open Mic Night	
	21.00 FREE		
Swansea Jazzland		DOMINIC NORCROSS QUARTET	<i>("playing a range of exciting numbers")</i>
	20.30 £7.00		
Uplands Tavern		New Bands Night: THE HUSH	
	21.00 FREE		
Thursday 21st			
The Adelphi		TBC	
	21.00 FREE		
Aspers Casino		THE AMIGOS	<i>("Swansea's favourite gypsy jazz virtuosos")</i>
	22.00 FREE		
Bar,Co		LITTLE DEVIL	<i>(Cult tribute)</i>
	21.00 £TBC		
The Brunswick		ROOTS & GALOOTS	<i>(bluegrass played the old-time way)</i>
	21.00 FREE		
Mumbles Con. Club		Swansea Jazz Society: LIBERTY STREET JAZZ BAND	
	20.30 £5.00		
No Sign Bar		LONG WAY ROUND	<i>("superb local rock band")</i>
	21.00 FREE		
Uplands Tavern		MARTIN ACE (TBC)	<i>("top trumps stuff, ma-a-a-n")</i>
	21.00 FREE		
Whitez		M.A.D. Open Mic Night	
	20.30 FREE		
Friday 22nd			
Bar,Co		MATT COOK	<i>("the one and only")</i>
	20.00 FREE		
Bar Reef		Live music TBC	
	21.00 FREE		
Bay View Bar		THE GOOD BURGHERS	<i>("unique and outstanding Blues covers")</i>
	21.00 FREE		
Buck Inn, Pontlliw		SATURDAY KNIGHTS	<i>("back again to rock you")</i>
	21.00 FREE		
The Cricketers		PURE FLOYD	<i>("remember when you were young")</i>

21.00	FREE		
Joiner's Arms		DAI REES	
TBC	FREE		
Masons Arms		LEWIS	
21.00	FREE		
Mozarts		FELIX SUBWAY, Death of Chapman Baxter, Superczar, The Feever + Meg & Mark	
21.00	FREE		
Pink Geranium		BULLITT	<i>("exciting rock/blues band")</i>
21.00	FREE		
Pontardawe Inn		THE V.I.P.'S	<i>(half of the Storys playing songs you all know)</i>
21.00	FREE		
Siro's Bar		HALFLIGHT	<i>(may be only Sarah and Rich; no matter - just go!)</i>
21.00	FREE		
The Singleton		SILVER	<i>("melodic rock covers band")</i>
21.00	FREE		
Smith's Arms		THE SOMETHINGS	<i>("melodic pop afficianados")</i>
21.00	FREE		
Uplands Tavern		DOUBLE O ZEROES, Ursine Princes, Ripping Cones, Skylark + Evan Burgess	
18.30	FREE		
Whitez		THE CAVES, The Last Republic + Sera & The Elements	
20.00	FREE		

Saturday 23rd

Bar,Co		MATT COOK	<i>("acoustic covers")</i>
20.00	FREE		
Buck Inn, Pontlliw		PURE FLOYD	<i>("get out of the road if you want to grow old")</i>
21.00	FREE		
Joiner's Arms		JOE SCHMO	<i>("music for the living")</i>
20.00	FREE		
Nat. Waterfront Museum		10th Anniversary MAS Carnival, feat. HARARE DREAD	
From 14.00	FREE		
Mozarts		KELLY'S ANGELS, Lazarus & the Lambs, Aggi Thomas + Robyn Griffiths	
21.00	FREE		
The New York		ORANGE FALL	
21.00	£TBC		
Pink Geranium		THE BARROW BOYS	<i>(veteran rockers)</i>
21.00	FREE		
Pontardawe Inn		FAST CAR WAITING	
21.00	FREE		
Queen's Hotel		OFF THE RECORD	<i>("great local rock duo")</i>
21.00	FREE		
The Singleton		THE JOURNEYMEN	<i>("great covers band with an amazing lead vocalist")</i>
21.00	FREE		
Siro's Bar		NIKI STITCH	
21.00	FREE		
Smith's Arms		SWITCHY & CO.	
21.00	FREE		
Uplands Tavern (Inside)		HARPERS FERRY, Bigsby, Anne-Marie Helder, Steffan Tucker + others	
From 14.30	FREE		
Uplands Tavern (Outside)		ANDY JONES, Dyljammor, Sera, Jason Harris + Speakeasy Jazz Band	
From 13.00	FREE		
Whitez		TBC	
20.00	FREE		
Worms Head Hotel, Rhossili		THE AMIGOS	<i>("Swansea's favourite gypsy jazz virtuosos")</i>
15.00	FREE		

Sunday 24th

The Adelphi		THE BLUES BROTHER	
16.00	FREE		
The Brunswick		BUTTONSVILLE	<i>("superb musicianship and rewarding choice of songs")</i>
20.30	FREE		
Buck Inn, Pontlliw		CAL NEWMAN	<i>("blues, ragtime, slide and originals")</i>
20.00	FREE		
Coyote Bar		SUNSHINE CAB COMPANY	
21.00	FREE		
The Cricketers		Open Mic Night	<i>(with Chris "how many Roads must a man walk down" Woodman)</i>
20.00	FREE		
Joiner's Arms		LEWIS CLEMENT	
TBC	FREE		
Nat. Waterfront Museum		City Streets - Summer Beats, feat. SAMBA TAWE + guests	

From 13.00 FREE	No Sign Bar	THIS RIVER (<i>"four-piece melodic rock band from the Swansea valley"</i>)
20.30 FREE	Pontardawe Inn	THE JACK VELVET BAND (<i>Gwachel regulars might recognise the banjo player!</i>)
20.30 FREE	Ship Inn, St. Thomas	PURE FLOYD (<i>"your lips move, but I can't hear what you're saying"</i>)
21.00 FREE	Strand Bar	ITCHY FEET
18.00 FREE	Strand Bar	BIG CAR LITTLE CAR (<i>Racing Cars moonlighters</i>)
21.00 FREE	Uplands Tavern (Inside)	FRAME 3-13, The Magpies, Rugfire, The Good Burghers, Karma Junkie + others
14.00 FREE	Uplands Tavern (Outside)	MEG & MARK, Jon Morgan, Boatbar to Hamburg, Quahog + Ian James
From 13.00 FREE	Whitez	KIDDO 360, Felix Subway, The Barriers + Edessa
From 18.00 FREE		

Monday 25th

16.00 FREE	The Adelphi	CALYPSO
21.00 £1.00	Bar,Co	AVISI, Tom van Hamer, Sonny Day + Cartoon Elvis
FREE	Joiner's Arms	THE AMIGOS (<i>"guitar wizardry with strains of calypso, jazz & musical genius"</i>) 15.30
FREE	The New York	The New York Blues Jam/Open Mic Featuring house band the BLUES CRUISE 20.30
11.30 FREE	The Old Barn Inn	LONG WAY ROUND, The Lost Boys, Big Car Little Car + The Somethings From
18.00 FREE	Strand Bar	THE SOMETHINGS (<i>"melodic pop afficianados"</i>)
14.00 FREE	Uplands Tavern (Inside)	RAG FOUNDATION, Mudjack, King of Despair, Ringolevio, Prisoners Cinema +
From 13.00 FREE	Uplands Tavern (Outside)	KIERAN DANIELS, Jonnie Owen, Cheese Bap, Mick Kemp + Steve Flynn
18.00 FREE	Whitez	MOOK, The Committed + Chineapple Punks

Tuesday 26th

20.00 £TBC	Bar,Co	Love Music, Hate Racism
21.00 FREE	The Brunswick	GUTBUCKET BAND (<i>earthy blues / rock</i>)
£17.50	Grand Theatre	CHAS & DAVE (<i>they've got more rabbit than Sainsbury's, apparently...</i>) 19.30

Wednesday 27th

20.00 £TBC	Bar,Co	EL UFO
20.00 FREE	MilkwoodJam	Milky Showcase (Host: Aggi Thomas)
20.00 FREE	Mozarts	Open Mic Acoustic (Host: Ian James) (<i>Easy-going, relaxed atmosphere</i>)
20.00 FREE	The Office	Open Mic Night (Host: Richard Copp)
20.30 £4.00	Samlet Club, Llansamlet	Swansea Country Music Club: RICHARD PALMER (01792 297936/418002)
19.30 £TBC	Sin City	HEAVY ON THE RIDE, M.M.S.F. + Kasino
21.00 FREE	Siro's Bar	Open Mic Night
20.30 £8.00	Swansea Jazzland	BERRY RAY'S GUEST NIGHT (<i>"the man from the door takes centre stage!"</i>)
21.00 FREE	Uplands Tavern	The Original SLIM's BLUES JAM, feat. HIDEAWAY

Thursday 28th

21.00 FREE	The Adelphi	TBC
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Aspers Casino	MIKE GREGORY
22.00 FREE	
Bar,Co	DEAD AGAINST THE REST
21.00 FREE	
The Brunswick	IAN JAMES BAND (<i>Swansea's favourite troubadours</i>)
21.00 FREE	
Monkey Café	BUZZ Live Music Night
TBC £TBC	
Mumbles Con. Club	Swansea Jazz Society: SPEAKEASY JAZZ BAND
20.30 £5.00	
Whitez	M.A.D. Open Mic Night
20.30 FREE	
Friday 29th	
Bar,Co	ROB WESTALL (<i>"acoustic classics"</i>)
20.00 FREE	
Bar Reef	THE GOOD BURGHERS (<i>"unique and outstanding Blues covers"</i>)
21.00 FREE	
Bay View Bar	THE BEAR
21.00 FREE	
Buck Inn, Pontlliw	OFF THE RECORD (<i>"great local rock duo"</i>)
21.00 FREE	
The Cricketers	FELIX SUBWAY
21.00 FREE	
Grand Theatre	JIVE TALKING: The Bee Gees Story (<i>"just a photograph of someone that I knew"</i>)
19.30 £16.50	
Masons Arms	LEWIS
21.00 FREE	
Monkey Café	Mashed Up, feat. ANALOG (<i>"live Drum'n'Bass/Jungle"</i>)
Free b4 10	
Pink Geranium	BIG CAR LITTLE CAR (<i>Racing Cars moonlighters</i>)
21.00 FREE	
Pontardawe Inn	THIS RIVER (<i>"four-piece melodic rock band from the Swansea valley"</i>)
21.00 FREE	
Siro's Bar	RACHEL BOWEN (<i>"a stranger to herself?" - oddly appropriate, methinks</i>)
21.00 FREE	
The Singleton	VEGAS
21.00 FREE	
Smith's Arms	HERE & NOW
21.00 FREE	
Uplands Tavern	THE ENORMOUS SIZES (<i>Rob Lear, ex, erm ... Lear</i>)
21.00 FREE	
Woodfield Club, Morriston	PURE FLOYD (<i>"got to get on with the show"</i>)
21.00 FREE	
Saturday 30th	
Buck Inn, Pontlliw	LIKE A LION (<i>"Gary and Taff play their stuff"</i>)
21.00 FREE	
The Cricketers	HEAD HUNTERS
21.00 FREE	
The Ivorites, Plas Marllwng	PURE FLOYD (<i>"everything under the sun is in tune, but ..."</i>)
21.00 FREE	
MilkwoodJam	MUDJACK + guests
20.00 FREE	
Pink Geranium	TILT
21.00 FREE	
Pontardawe Inn	DUFF (<i>acoustic-based rock band</i>)
21.00 FREE	
Queen's Hotel	CALYPSO
21.00 FREE	
The Singleton	BIG CAR LITTLE CAR (<i>Racing Cars moonlighters</i>)
21.00 FREE	
Uplands Tavern	THE GOOD BURGHERS (<i>"funky blues"</i>)
21.00 FREE	
Whitez	DAVE THOMAS (ex-A.o.V.)
21.00 £TBC	
Sunday 31st	
The Adelphi	PUNCHLINE
16.00 FREE	

Bar,Co	21.00 FREE	BUTTERFLIES WITH BEARDS, Avan Rijs + Rob Lomax
The Brunswick	20.30 FREE	MARIA OWEN (<i>singer/songwriter with incredibly pure and powerful voice</i>)
Buck Inn, Pontlliw	20.00 FREE	IAN JAMES TRIO (<i>Swansea's favourite troubadour playing folk and covers</i>)
The Cricketers	20.00 FREE	Open Mic Night (<i>with Chris "how many Roads must a man walk down" Woodman</i>)
Masons Arms	TBC FREE	R & B
No Sign Bar	20.30 FREE	THE AMIGOS (<i>more guitar wizardry</i>)
Strand Bar	18.00 FREE	BASKING IGUANAS (<i>a different set of Racing Cars moonlighters</i>)
Strand Bar	21.00 FREE	THIS RIVER (<i>"four-piece melodic rock band from the Swansea valley"</i>)
Uplands Tavern	21.00 FREE	KATE BINNINGSLEY (<i>"acoustic folk/jazz"</i>)

Press Date for September issue - Friday 15th August

Because I'm on holiday for the last week of August, the press date for September's *GigList* will be earlier than usual, on Friday 15th August. Will all venues, bands and advertisers please note that, contrary to my usual practice, it will **not** be possible to guarantee publication if listings, etc. have not been received by that date.

Caught Live

Halflight at Bar Inc, Bridgend, Thursday 3rd July

Halflight can be a perverse lot. As their Myspace blog says, they can "write emotionally charged acoustic pop songs about small towns and big cities, lost love and enduring friendship", but they're also still prone to play second-fiddle at half-arsed club gigs to headlining acts who aren't fit to polish their shoes. This was a classic case in point - in fact, at this remove I can't even remember who the headlining act was, but second-on-the-bill Halflight fizzed and glowed with a short, 45-minute set of virtually brand-new material. More perversity, or simply a charmingly unpretentious demonstration of the fecundity of Sarah Howells' song writing talent? If there's one thing this band does not do, it's pander to audience expectations - of tonight's eight song set, not one was "previously released" in the traditional sense, whilst even devotees of the band's Myspace page had to be content with two songs only ("Lifelight" and "Sing It") out of those currently featured there. Gone too is the mildly endearing eccentricity of the band's early bass and drummer-less line-up and whilst some might mourn the absence of Emma Bryden's cello from the current incarnation, it must be said that all of a sudden this "proper" four-piece Halflight has the wherewithal to demand the attention that the songs' delicate structure and content always deserved. This is a band with definite possibilities. Even so, it's immediately obvious just whose band it is - from her commanding position centre stage to a quip at guitarist Rich Llewellyn's expense when asking for the monitor levels to be adjusted ("much less of him!"), Halflight is unquestionably Sarah Howells' vehicle. For a slight girl, she sure packs a lot of stage presence. And yet on another level, Halflight is a partnership in the classic Smiths and Sundays mould - not only do Sarah and Rich share song writing credits these days, but it's impossible to imagine the Halflight sound without Rich's immaculate guitar work. One of the most unassuming and talented musicians I know, he's the perfect foil not only for Sarah's fragile lyricism but also her undeniable tendency to claim the limelight. And lest that sound overcritical, I'm not suggesting for one minute that she doesn't deserve to be in it. And that applies to the rest of the band, as well. Some of us have known for years just how good they are. It's been our secret, but it's high time the rest of the world caught up.

Rugfire at the Uplands Tavern, Friday 18th July

There are not too many bands that would have the balls (or the ability) to put out a 21 song set of all original material (10 of which were absolutely new) on what was billed as only their second formal gig (although I'm sure there was a third one that's escaped Willis's memory), even at a venue like the Uplands Tavern, and get away with it, but then the individual members of Rugfire are not exactly novices at this game. The core trio of Willis (ex-Peski), Steve McElroy (ex-Bigelow, Boys from the Hill and sometime member of King of Despair) and Jamie (who's rapidly assuming Huw Rees's discarded mantle of being in every band of worth

in Swansea simultaneously) were joined tonight by second guitarist Pete Hutchins, who played on the *Blamvania Sessions* album (reviewed in June's *GigList*) and whose evident familiarity with the material enabled the four-piece line-up to replicate to an impressive degree the sound of the album, all eleven songs from which were given an airing, kicking off with the clarion call of "All Around Me". Short of live gig experience they might be, but under-rehearsed they certainly were not. Despite Willis's self-professed lack of stagecraft, a nice touch was his explanation of the subject matter of some of the songs, which cast Malcolm Jones's inscrutable lyrics in a completely new light, for one listener at least (although I still don't understand precisely why Russian submariners *et al.* should be in particularly urgent need of "four chunky strings and a long guitar" ... still, it's a great song, so who cares?) Like all the best bands, Rugfire are neither two-dimensional nor one-paced. Moody, atmospheric numbers like "Road Safety", "Bass Player" and "Matches" alternate with energetic rockers like "All Around Me", "My Dad" and "Ionosphere/Christine", while the new songs, although obviously unfamiliar, maintain the flow of quality material. With this one performance Rugfire not only laid out their credentials, but also staked their claim to be considered one of the very best all-original bands on the local circuit. A special word of praise too for sound man Chris Meek, who conjured the most crystal clear sound I have ever heard out of the Tavern's sometimes temperamental PA. The doubters amongst you can catch Rugfire at the Tavern again on Saturday night of the Uplands Festival, where I reckon The Magpies and Frame 3-13 are going to have to pull out all the stops to follow them. That promises to be some bill!

Live reviews by Nigel Wassell

Venue Details

- Adam & Eve, 207 High Street, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 646529 *Live music every Saturday @ 17.30 and 21.00*
- The Adelphi, 18 Wind Street, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 641430 *Cabaret/solo artists Thursdays, bands Sundays*
- Aspers Casino, Wind Street, Swansea.** Tel. 0845 450 7779 *Jazz and cabaret entertainment Thursdays to Saturdays*
- Bar.Co, 8/9 Wind Street, Swansea.** Tel. 07793 318017 *Live music most nights - see listings for details*
- Bar Reef, Walter Road, Swansea.** *Live music on Friday night - see News and Views*
- Bar Sigma, 2-4 The Kingsway, Swansea.** Website: www.barsigma.co.uk *Student bar, most (all?) events geared towards students*
- Bay View Bar, 400 Oystermouth Road, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 652610 Website: www.bayviewbar.co.uk *Jazz, Blues, Soul Fridays*
- The Brunswick, 3 Duke Street, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 465676 Website: <http://thebrunswick.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk> *"The home of Swansea acoustica" on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays*
- Buck Inn, Swansea Road, Pontlliw.** Tel. 01792 892294 *Live music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights*
- The Chatterry, 59 Uplands Crescent.** Tel. 01792 473276 Email: thechatterry@hotmail.com Website: <http://homepage.nflworld.com/thechatterry> *Noted "Americana" venue - see listings for details*
- Coyote Bar, Green Dragon Lane, Swansea.** Tel. 07929 494780 *Live bands Sunday nights*
- The Cricketers, 83 King Edward Road, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 422160 *Live bands Fridays/Saturdays, Open Mic Sundays*
- Gower Heritage Centre, The Mill, Parkmill.** Tel. 01792 371206 *Folk, Rock and Bluegrass festivals, June, July and September*
- The Gate House, 360 Carmarthen Road, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 476662 *Live bands Saturdays or Sundays*
- Grand Theatre, Singleton Street, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 475715 Website: www.swanseagrand.co.uk *See listings for events*
- Ivy Bush Hotel, Pontardawe.** *Hosts Valley Folk Club monthly (phone 01558 823736 for details)*
- Joiner's Arms, 50 Bishopston Road, Bishopston, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 232658 *Beer festival and music at Bank Holiday weekends*
- Masons Arms, Rhydypany, Morriston.** Tel. 01792 842535 *Live bands most Sundays*
- MilkwoodJam, 50 Plymouth Street, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 477577 Website: www.milkwoodjam.com *See listings*
- Monkey Café, 13-14 Castle Street, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 480822 Website: www.monkeycafe.co.uk *A mixture of live bands and Club nights - live music events only listed here, see website/posters for other events*
- Mozart's, 76b Walter Road, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 655351 *Acoustic Open Mic nights every Wednesday*
- Mumbles Conservative Club, 672 Mumbles Road, Southend.** Tel. 01792 366026 *Hosts Swansea Jazz Society every Thursday*
- National Waterfront Museum, Maritime Quarter.** Tel. 01792 638950 *Occasional live music events as advertised*
- The New York, 6 Princess Way, Swansea.** Tel. 01792 475587 *Blues Jam on Mondays + other gigs as*

advertised

No Sign Bar, 56 Wind Street, Swansea. Tel. 01792 465300 Fax: 01792 463350 *Live music, Sundays*
The Office, Castle Square, Swansea. Tel. 01792 645063 *Open Mic Wednesdays, gigs Fridays & Saturdays*

The Old Barn Inn, Cefn Felindre Farm, Pontlassau, Morriston. Tel. 01792 774411 *See listings for details*

NEW VENUE

Pink Geranium, 31 Herbert Street, Pontardawe. Tel. 01792 862255 *Live bands, Friday / Saturday nights*

Plough & Harrow, Murton, Swansea. Tel. 01792 234459 *Occasional gigs as advertised*

Pontardawe Arts Centre, Herbert Street, Pontardawe. Tel. 01792 863722 **Website:** www.npt.gov.uk/theatres *See listings for events*

Pontardawe Inn, Pontardawe. Tel. 01792 830791 *Hosts Pontardawe Acoustic Music Club and bands*
Fridays/Saturdays

Queen's Hotel, Gloucester Place, Swansea. Tel. 01792 521531 *Live music most Saturdays*

The Salisbury Club, Walter Road, Swansea. Tel. 01792 540669 *Hosts the Blues & Rock Club most Tuesdays*

Sin City, Dillwyn Street, Swansea. Tel. 07976 136194 **Website:** www.myspace.com/sincityclub *See listings for events*

Siro's Bar & Bistro, 136a St. Helen's Road, Swansea. Tel. 01792 410903 *Open Mic Wednesdays, gigs Fridays & Saturdays*

The Singleton Hotel, 1-2 Dillwyn St., Swansea. Tel. 01792 472122 *Live music Fridays and Saturdays*

Smith's Arms, Neath Road, Hafod, Swansea. Tel. 01792 652154 *Live music Fridays and Saturdays*

The Strand Bar, 8 The Strand, Swansea. Tel. 01792 463638 *Two bands every Sunday, at 18.00 and 21.00*

Swansea Jazzland, St James' Club, St. James Crescent, Swansea. Tel. 01792 466535 *Every Wednesday, 20.30-23.00*

Taliesin Arts Centre, University Campus, Swansea. Tel. 01792 602060 **Website:** www.taliesinartscentre.co.uk
See listings

Uplands Tavern, 42 Uplands Crescent, Swansea. Tel. 01792 458242 **Website:** www.uplandstavern.co.uk *Live music most evenings*

Whitez, 47 Uplands Crescent, Swansea. Tel. 01792 475147 *Open Mic Night every Thursday, gigs Saturdays*

Zac's Place, George Street, Swansea. *Exousia Trust church - Gigs as advertised*

Other stockists, promoters, retailers and sites of interest

Derricks Music, 221 Oxford Street, Swansea. Tel. 01792 654226 (Mail Order & Tickets) **Website:**

www.derricksmusic.co.uk

More Music: www.moremusic.co.uk *Second-hand record retailer (mail-order only)*

The Music Station, Phoenix Way, Swansea Enterprise Park. Tel. 01792 775751 **Website:** www.music-station.co.uk

Rowlands Music, 31 St. Helens Road, Swansea. Tel. 01792 522020/600269 **Website:** www.rowlandsmusic.co.uk
Instruments, PA

Speed Music, Lion Way, Swansea Enterprise Park. Tel. 01792 772299 **Website:** www.speedmusic.co.uk
Instruments, PA, etc.

Splinter's Studio, 207 Oxford Street, Swansea. Tel: 07811 371 267 **Email:** splintersstudio@aol.com *Rehearsal and tuition space*

Sullivan's Record Centre, 59 High Street, Gorseinon. Tel. 01792 893602 **Website:** www.sullivansrecordcentre.co.uk

The Viper Room, Dillwyn Street, Swansea. Tel. 01792 301999 **Website:** www.myspace.com/theviperroomswansea

The Volts Show: www.thevoltsshow.com *Internet radio show on Radio Freeway/Celtica Radio, feat. unsigned music twice a week*

Welsh Gig Forum: www.welshgigs.com *Comprehensive forum and resource site for bands gigging in Wales*

All details subject to change. Information is correct to the best of my knowledge at the time of going to press, and is given in good faith, but no responsibility can be accepted for errors in published material or changes made after publication. Please check with venues for the latest information (contact details given above, or for "one-off" gigs within the listings), particularly if intending to travel any distance. The GigList is completely independent and has no official connection with any of the bands or venues listed. Comments in *italics* are intended to be informative or tongue-in-cheek, should not be taken too seriously by bands and are my personal opinion, unless they're in quotes, in which case they're from other sources. For inclusion in future editions email nigelw@notheolgwili.fsnet.co.uk, phone or text 07866 781026, or press bits of paper into my hand at gigs and I'll try not to lose them. Press date for next issue - Friday 15th August.

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