



Welcome!

The [Mardi Gras Parade](#) at the end of July not only kicked off the festival season but also showed the Grassmarket at its best - a lively, welcoming space to be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. Click [here](#) to see a selection of images. There are many more events in store throughout the festival season – check out the events at [The Lot](#) and [Dance Base](#) below.

August is really shaping up to be a must-visit time for Edinburgh's Grassmarket. Beside the festival activity, there are exhibitions at [Transreal Fiction](#) and [Fabhatrix](#) and new collections at [Swish](#) to name only a few.

If you visit at night, you may well encounter a ghostly presence or two – [Cameron Pirie](#) of The Cadies & Witchery Tours explains all in this month's feature.

Last but not least, what better way to finish the festival season than by enjoying a view of the fireworks and a delicious dinner at [Heights Restaurant](#) ?

Whether you're visiting the Grassmarket from out of town or 'down the road', August is set to be an eventful month.

Best wishes,

Jos Bastiaensen

Chairman, Grassmarket Area Traders Association.



Beyond the Shop Front



This month's feature showcases The Cadies & Witchery Tours

General Manager Cameron Pirie (pictured here in disguise) will reveal Edinburgh's darker side and tell us why the Grassmarket has attracted its fair share of ghostly characters over the centuries. Find out why their walking tours are one of the best ways to get a taste of Edinburgh's exciting and lurid past.

[Read on](#)

Impressions of the Jazz & Blues Festival's Mardi Gras Parade



Dance through your lunch break

This month, visitors to the Grassmarket get an impression of what the area will look like once it's finished and Dance Base are marking the occasion by holding free dance classes right outside their studio. Professional dance teachers will put you through your paces between 12 and 1pm, Monday to Friday. The programme includes Salsa, Disco, Ceilidh, Tango, Swing and Linedancing, and lessons will be held from 4 to 22 August. Call Dance Base on 0131 225 5525 for more information.

Visit: Dance Base, 14-16 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2JU

Tel: 0131 225 5525 Web: www.grassmarket.net/dance_base.asp



Discover Lebanese lobsters at Mr Wood's Fossils

The wait is finally over for fossil fans – stock from a recent buying trip to France has arrived at Mr Wood's Fossils and there are some great individual pieces. Highlights include a Solnhofen horseshoe crab, Moroccan trilobites, a giant ammonite assemblage from Schliafhausen (pictured) as well as Lebanese lobsters and meteorite examples from Russia and Oman. See those and beautiful new mineral lines at Mr Wood's Fossils this month.

Visit: Mr Wood's Fossils, 5 Cowgatehead, Edinburgh, EH1 1JY

Tel: 0131 220 1344 Web: www.grassmarket.net/woods_fossils.asp



Dress like Keira and the Scrubs cast with Swish's new lines

Swish are introducing hot new women's label Mina this month. Since it was founded in 2004, Mina has acquired celebrity fans including Keira Knightley, Kimberly Stewart and Sienna Miller. Also new is men's brand Ames Bros which is most famous for t-shirts that have featured on comedy shows including Scrubs. The company has also designed images for Linkin Park and Pearl Jam. We predict both labels will sell fast, so get to the store quickly!

Visit: Swish, 22-24 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2JW

Tel: 0131 220 0615 Website: www.grassmarket.net/swish.asp



Fruity new vinegars bring a taste of summer to Demijohn

Summer at Demijohn means a range of exclusive vinegars in the store: Elderflower Vinegar is the rarest among them and epitomises the fresh, sweet smell of early summer. Its flavour is similar to elderflower cordial but the vinegar is sharper and more exciting to taste. Use it as a salad dressing on its own or mixed with extra virgin olive oil. To create a refreshing de-stress drink mix one third vinegar with two thirds sparkling mineral water. Be quick because supplies are limited! Other summer vinegars include strawberry, raspberry and bramble versions.

Visit: Demijohn, 32 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2JW

Tel: 0131 225 3265 Website www.grassmarket.net/demijohn.asp Email: info@demijohn.co.uk



Enjoy longer hours at Howies

During August Howies has extended its opening hours and will be serving delicious food, made almost entirely from Scottish produce, every day from 11am to 11pm. Try one of their new summer cocktails or indulge in a tasty cool rosé or even sparkling rosé! Doing the Festival just isn't the same without visiting Howies.

Visit: Howies Restaurant, 10-14 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2HG

Tel: 0131 225 1721 Website: www.grassmarket.net/howies.asp

Bag a Bargain

Put crockery on its head and save up to 50% with Fabhatrix

Edinburgh milliners Fawns Reid and Rosy Naylor draw parallels between vintage ceramics and contemporary head forms in their quirky exhibition 'Crockery Capelines' this month. Think surrealist sculpture combined with a mad hatter's tea party. All visitors to the exhibition may claim a £20 gift voucher to be used towards any Fabhatrix own label hat. This fantastic offer allows you to take your pick from the autumn collection and save up to 50% on some styles. Offer only available to exhibition visitors – ask for your voucher when you visit. Vouchers have to be redeemed in September 2008 and are valid for stock only.

Visit: Fabhatrix, 13 Cowgatehead, Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 1JY

Tel: 0131 225 9222 Website: www.grassmarket.net/fabhatrix.asp



View festival fireworks and dine in style at Heights Restaurant

There is simply no better way to finish the festival season this August than to watch the Edinburgh International Festival's fireworks while enjoying fine food with a view of Edinburgh Castle at Heights Restaurant. The two AA rosette awarded restaurant serves up fresh, imaginative cuisine and has prepared a four course gourmet menu for the occasion. Dinner is followed by a fantastic view of the fireworks. £45 per person. Phone 0845 365 0001 to book now or email edinburgh.events@apexhotels.co.uk.

Visit: Heights Restaurant, 31-35 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2HS

Tel: 0845 365 0001 Web: www.grassmarket.net/heights.asp



Get 20% off ANTA's new sustainable bag this month

Offer extended until the end of August - ANTA has opened its brand new Interiors Showroom in the Grassmarket to complement the existing West Bow outlet. While the showroom will focus on interiors, furniture and ceramics the West Bow shop will continue to stock fashion and accessories including tartan silk corsets and handbags. To celebrate the new larger presence in the area ANTA is offering an exclusive **20% off** their recently introduced sustainable Utility Bag or the Boot Bag (pictured). Show a copy of this newsletter to claim your discount before the end of August.



Visit: ANTA, 93 West Bow and 73 Grassmarket, Edinburgh

Tel: 0131 225 9096 Web: www.grassmarket.net/anta.asp

Unmissable Events

Alien Surfaces on show at Transreal Fiction



Transreal Fiction is exhibiting 'Alien Surfaces' - a collection of prints by respected nexialist (a person who combines knowledge from different art forms), Madeleine Shepherd. The prints are inspired by surfaces described in classic works of science fiction and fantasy. Expect a different kind of science fiction art as Shepherd's work distorts real images to create a semi-abstract representation of the imaginary using a variety of photographic techniques to render alien planets, landscapes, buildings, skins, vegetation and artifacts from works by Aldiss, Ballard, Lovecraft and Vance. Open Monday to Friday 11am-6pm, Saturday 10am-6pm and Sunday 12-5pm.

Visit: Transreal Fiction, 7 Cowgatehead, Edinburgh, EH1 1JY

Tel: 0131 226 2822 Web: www.grassmarket.net/transreal_fiction.asp

Abundance of top Fringe shows at The Lot



The Fringe Festival is off to a flying start with a selection of different musicians and Britain's only fair-trade comedy agency, **Just Fair Laughs**, taking to the stage throughout the month. Each night will see four top comedians perform entirely clean sets to spread the cheery message of fair-trade. Musicians performing in August include **Alba Flamenca, Wendy Carle Taylor and Tony Mitchell, Dean Friedman, the Yiddish Song Project, Moishes Bagel, The Simple Touch, Yvonne Lyon** and selected **ceilidh bands**. For further information and tickets contact The Lot on 0131 225 9922, visit www.the-lot.co.uk or www.edfringe.com or call 0131 226 0000.

Visit: The Lot, 4 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2JU

Tel: 0131 225 9922 Web: www.grassmarket.net/the_lot.asp Email: admin@the-lot.co.uk