

Welcome

Well, the New Year is fully underway and the January sales will soon be a distant memory.

February is the month for love and romance and we have everything you need to woo your loved one this Valentine's Day – from a romantic gourmet dinner at [Heights Restaurant](#) to picking up an unusual gift (at a bargain price if you visit [Hilary's Bazaar](#) or [Helios Fountain!](#)).

If you're not romantically inclined this month how about simply whiling away an hour or two over a hot cup of exotic tea – there's over 80 to choose from at [Chai Adventures in Tea](#) in Merchant Street and indulge in a good book whilst the world passes by outside.

We hope to see you soon and you can always be assured of a warm welcome here in the Grassmarket!

Best wishes,

Jos

Bastiaensen

Chairman, Grassmarket Area Traders Association.



Beyond the Shop Front



A Look into the World of a Grassmarket Trader

Considered to be the source for fantasy and science fiction in Scotland, [Transreal Fiction](#), situated in the east end of the Grassmarket area on Cowgatehead, has been a treasure trove for enthusiasts for nearly 11 years. In this focus feature, proprietor Mike Calder tells us why his small shop looms large for collectors and enthusiasts worldwide. [Read more.](#)

Need to know



Evidence of Prehistoric Settlements in the Grassmarket?

The Grassmarket is known to have been a vibrant, thriving market since as far back as the late 15th century. But is it possible that the Grassmarket was home to pre-medieval or even pre-historic settlements? A recent discovery of four pits containing detritus such as burnt animal bones and cereal grains suggest this could be an exciting possibility. Recent finds from Headland Archaeology have been sent away for radio carbon dating. Waiting for the results has us all on the edge of our seats – it's almost too much to bear! Read more about the recent finds [here](#)



Reaching New Heights at the Apex

John Paul Persighetti, Head Chef of Heights Restaurant at the Apex International Hotel was awarded the 'Promoting Sustainable Food' award at the Considerate Hotelier of the Year Awards 2007 in January. Leading the way in good food practices this award is based on implementing sustainable policies such as: using local produce wherever possible; supporting Scottish produce; using and promoting fair-trade, free range and organically certified, farm assured produce.



This month's a bit *Sloe* at Demijohn

Demijohn has announced that its long awaited Sloe Gin 20% is now back in stock following record sales in December. So if you want to impress your dinner party chums or indeed treat yourself, why not indulge in this quintessentially British hand-made liqueur. However stocks are seriously limited, so do not delay!

Unmissable Events

'Reach Out' photography exhibition at Dance Base

Dance Base is set to host a photography exhibition by recent Edinburgh College of Art graduate, Sandra George, from Monday, 4th February to Saturday, 23rd February. Since May 2007, photographer Sandra has been photographing dancing children and adults in schools and community groups throughout Edinburgh, as part of The Dance Base Outreach Programme. This exhibition, in three parts, is the culmination of this work. The exhibition is open from 9.00 until 21.30 daily and entrance is free. For further information please call 0131 225 5535 or look on the website, www.dancebase.co.uk

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

Tel: 0131 225 5525 Web [\(Click Here\)](#) Email: dance@dancebase.co.uk



Fairtrade Fortnight at The Lot

On Monday, 4th February The Lot is hosting an Art for Mercy Art Auction, a collection of artworks by professional artists and Edinburgh College of Art students. The auction has been organised to raise money for Tearfund, the Christian relief and development agency (www.tearfund.org) and tickets will cost £3 on the door. The Art auction also marks the launch night of The Lot's programme of events for Fairtrade Fortnight, running from the 25th February to the 9th March. These two weeks are set to include a wide array of events including a Fairtrade Gig (1st March) with appearances from Manchester-based comedian Tony Vino and Edinburgh band The Vain Songs with Fairtrade singer Gareth Davies Jones headlining, a Fairtrade craft fair and a Fairtrade wine tasting evening. For further information please contact The Lot on 0131 225 9922 or [click here](#)

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

Tel: 0131 225 9922 Web: [\(Click Here\)](#) Email: info@the-lot.co.uk



Dance Base hosts half-term funky workshop

Dance Base workshop, 'Freshest Moves', is the first of two funky week-long workshops during the school holidays. Volume one, the first workshop, will take place during the February half-term from Monday 11th to Friday 15th February 2008 and will see young dancers being taught cool new moves including poppin', lockin' and breakin'. Classes are organised into two groups, 7-10 years and 11-13 years, and both cost £14 for the week. Volume two will take place during the Easter holiday from 31 March to 4 April. For further information please call 0131 225 5535 or look on the website ([click here](#))

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

Tel: 0131 225 5525 Web: ([Click Here](#)) Email: dance@dancebase.co.uk



Bag a Bargain



Howies' fantastic lunch offer returns!

Howies' fantastic lunch offer returns! Due to popular demand, Howies has decided to bring back its fabulous lunch offer of two courses for the bargain price of £6.95! Remember to pick up a voucher next time you dine in a Howies restaurant or download it from the website - howies.uk.com - and redeem it at any Howies in Scotland!

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

Tel: 0131 225 1721 Web: ([Click Here](#))



Hilary's Bazaar Valentine's Special!

Hilary's Bazaar Valentine's Special! Hilary's Bazaar is the place to go to buy that special Valentine's present this year, with 10% off all products specially chosen as Valentine's Day gifts! Including its bestselling silks, jewellery and favourite belly dance DVDs, the offer is set to run from Friday, 1st February to Thursday, 14th February.

Visit: Hilary's Bazaar, 27 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EN

Tel: 0131 556 7976 Web: ([Click Here](#)) Email: hilary@hilarysbazaar.com



Lemon jacket leads Bill Baber's Irish fashion collection

As Bill Baber prepares to launch its spring collection into the Irish market there is already one garment standing head and shoulders above the rest – the Lemon Jacket. With pre-orders already in, Bill Baber anticipates this will be a global seller. If anyone would like to get their hands on this special Lemon Jacket they can buy it discounted from its normal price of £169 to £149 from 1st February to 29th February. Don't delay!

Visit: : Bill Baber, 66 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2JR

Tel: 0131 225 3249 Web: ([Click Here](#)) Email: billbaber@msn.com



Waterproof offer from Armstrong's

Brave the wet winter weather with a helping hand from Armstrong's Vintage Emporium this month. With a fabulous 25% off all wax jackets and coats this February, it's an absolute 'must' for the winter shopping list! The same offer is on at Armstrong's sister branch as well, The Rusty Zip, at 14 Teviot Place.

Visit: Armstrong's, 83 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2HJ

Tel: 0131 220 5557 Web: [\(Click Here\)](#)



Snappy offers at Pyramid Imaging

If you've got holiday photos to develop this month, then Pyramid Imaging is the place to go! With 20% off all canvas prints and A3 prints, as well as 40 6by4 prints from digital for only £5, these are offers not to be missed. 'Snap' them up while you can!

Visit: Pyramid Imaging, 67 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2HJ

Tel: 0131 226 2202 Web: [\(Click Here\)](#)



Saturday Sales at Helios Fountain

Helios Fountain is giving a fabulous 10% discount off all its stock including books, toys, beads, gifts and craft materials during the four Saturdays of February! Not only that, but many Indian hand-made glass beads will be on half price during the whole month of February as well. Make sure you don't miss out on this unique February-only offer!

Visit: Helios Fountain, 7 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2HY

Tel: 0131 229 7884 Web: [\(Click Here\)](#) Email: mail@helios-fountain.co.uk



Taking a view on Romance

Bring your special someone to the Valentines Day Gourmet Dinner in Heights Restaurant at the Apex International Hotel on Thursday, 14th February. With wonderful romantic views across the Grassmarket to Edinburgh Castle, treat your loved one to a five course dinner with champagne for a fantastic £34.50. But remember to book now to avoid disappointment

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

Tel: 0845 365 0002 Web: [\(Click Here\)](#) Email: edinburgh.events@apexhotels.co.uk