



Welcome!

July looks set to be an exciting time here in the Grassmarket. With the Edinburgh Festivals approaching rapidly, we look forward to getting a breather from the redevelopment works which will be suspended towards the end of the month to accommodate all kinds of festival activity.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Jazz & Blues Festival's Mardi Gras kicks it all off on Saturday, 26 July. Check the [events section](#) in this newsletter for details.

If you're spending the summer in the city and have a bit of spare time, have a look at the Belly Dancing classes offered by [Hilary's Bazaar](#) and the walk-in classes [Dance Base](#) offers. Speaking of which – it's been an exciting time at Scotland's National Centre for Dance with TRH The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay visiting the Grassmarket last month. [Read on](#) to find out more about it.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Grassmarket in July – don't miss out on the tasty special offers!

Best wishes,

Jos Bastiaensen
Chairman, Grassmarket Area Traders Association.



Beyond the Shop Front



A look into the world of Grassmarket trader Helios Fountain

In this month's focus feature we're taking a look behind the scenes at Helios Fountain, the eclectic gift shop on the west side of the Grassmarket.

Co-owner Jos Bastiaensen tells us where the shop's name comes from and what customers can find in the store.

[Read on](#)



Royal visitors in the Grassmarket

June saw TRH Prince Charles and Camilla, The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay, visiting the Grassmarket as part of a visit to Edinburgh. To mark the occasion and celebrate the refurbishment of this part of the Grassmarket just outside Dance Base, Scotland's National Centre for Dance organised a public event inviting passers-by to join in during their lunch break and learn some African dance moves from drummers Samba Sene and Diwan. HRH Prince Charles is a patron of Dance Base and visited to learn more about the progress of the centre's Outreach programme.



Get into the groove at Dance Base this summer

Dance Base has extended its timetable of drop-in classes right in time for the summer. Throughout July they are offering Hula Hoopla, Power Yoga and Salsa for Lunch. There are also drop-in classes for younger dancers such as Street & Contemporary and Urban Cool. For a full timetable, have a look at [Dance Base's](http://www.dancebase.org.uk) website. This programme of drop-in classes will lead up to the Fringe festival programme of performances, classes and workshops. Check next month's newsletter for details.

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

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



Shake your booty with Egyptian belly dancing classes

If none of the Dance Base classes take your fancy, why not try something more exotic and enrol in one of Hilary Thacker's Egyptian belly dancing classes now! Blocks of six weeks are starting on 22 and 23 July respectively and cost £30 (£27.50 for concessions). Students will need a scarf to tie round their hips, comfortable clothes and a second larger scarf to use as a veil. Visit or phone Hilary's Bazaar for more information.

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

Tel: 0131 556 7976 Web: www.grassmarket.net/hilarys_bazaar.asp



Armstrong's in "Fashion Fix"

"Gok's Fashion Fix" on Channel 4 is on its way to become a fixture in every fashionista's TV diary and it won't be long before the Grassmarket is featured in the new programme presented by style gurus Gok Wan and Alexa Chung. Armstrong's general manager Jane Barrow is entering the show's competition to become Britain's next style icon. Don't miss her competing against other stylish Scots. The show airs Thursdays at 20.00.

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

Tel: 0131 220 5557 Website: www.grassmarket.net/armstrongs_vintage_emporium.asp



Busy times ahead and a tasty new invention at Demijohn

The next few weeks are shaping up to be some of the busiest in Demijohn's history with the liquid deli being in demand for fairs and festivals around the country as well as appearing at Edinburgh's own "Foodies at the Festival". However, the team is still finding time to introduce new products and our favourite this month is this clever Apotheker Bottle Rack – ideal to stage a tasting for yourself and your friends at home! Choose your favourite products online; selections can be made up to order and prices start from £26. See the website for details.

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

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

Bag a Bargain

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

ANTA are preparing for a bigger presence in the Grassmarket with the forthcoming launch of a new shop to complement the existing Grassmarket outlet (details to follow in next month's newsletter!). The Anta team has also recently introduced a brand new sustainable utility bag. Designed by Anta's owner, Annie Stewart, and made in Scotland from pure Scottish wool the bag is available in a range of colours. To receive an exclusive **20% off** this or the Boot Bag (pictured), present a copy of this newsletter to claim your discount before the end of July.

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

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



The summer is pink at Howies with fabulous rosés

There is never a better time to enjoy a nice cold rosé wine than the summer months and Howies have just put some of the tastiest tipples on their menu this month to complement the house rosé. Sipping their Italian Pinot Grigio Rosé feels not unlike a taste of blushing silk, and their French Sparkling Rosé is simply strawberries and cream in a glass. Available by the bottle or by the glass and starting from £3.50 these two are sure to become summer favourites with both the lunch and dinner crowd at Howies.

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

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



Finish your summer outfit in style - enjoy 1/3 off at Fabhatrx

Whether you're heading to the races, a wedding or a stylish garden party a hat is bound to complete your outfit. Fabhatrx are making it a bit easier to choose from their vast selection this month by offering 1/3 off Sinamay hats by Failsworth and Maddox milliners. Based on traditional straw hats, they come in various fashionable styles and are just perfect for sunny afternoons – try them now in the Grassmarket store. Offer valid until 31 July 2008.

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

Tel: 0131 225 9222 Web: www.grassmarket.net/fabhatrx.asp



Enjoy a dram and get 10% off at The Whisky Shop

Extended until the end of July - The Whisky Shop is offering 10% off selected malts this month. It's also THE place to go and try the new Auchentoshan range, just in from the Glasgow distillery. Simply take along a copy of this newsletter to claim your discount. Offer valid until 31 July 2008.

Visit: The Whisky Shop, 28 Victoria Street, Edinburgh EH1 2JW

Tel: 0131 225 4666 Web: www.grassmarket.net/whisky_shop.asp



Unmissable Events

Jazz & Blues Festival Mardi Gras



Enjoy carnival atmosphere for free at The Jazz & Blues Festival's Mardi Gras parade on Saturday July 26. The parade marks the beginning of the festival in its 30th anniversary year and gets underway from the City Chambers at 12.30. It will move through Victoria Street to the Grassmarket. Between 13.00 and 16.00, an amazing line up of international artists will entertain the crowds. Bands include: Blue Hyenas, Lights Out By Nine, The Syncopators (from Sydney), Jim Petrie's Diplomats Of Jazz, Angie King, and The Golden Eagles Marching Band.

If you can't make the parade check out the Jazz & Blues Festival gigs at The Lot throughout August or visit www.edinburghjazzfestival.co.uk for more information.

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

Experience the Fringe at The Lot



Monday, 4 August sees the beginning of this year's Fringe Festival and it's a flying start at The Lot with a total of three events in one day: At 17.00 The Clean (As Possible) Comedy Show will present four top comedians for the bargain price of £5 (£4 concessions) – enjoy a different line up every evening throughout the Fringe. At 19.30 Alba Flamenca return to The Lot to begin another run of raw, energetic flamenco! Tickets are £12 or £10 at the door and £5 for concessions. Last but not least – at 21.00 Heeliegoleerie will be leading the first of the festival's ceilidhs. Spin around for £8 per ticket. Phone 0131 225 9922 to book tickets for Heeliegoleerie and contact the Fringe Box Office for the other two events.

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