

## Welcome!

The last May bank holiday has given us a promising taste of the months ahead and here in Edinburgh's Grassmarket we're looking forward to summer and a [royal visit to Dance Base this week!](#)

For those of you who can't wait for the Edinburgh Festivals to start the good news is that the Grassmarket will play host to a number of pre festival events starting on 26 July, when the Jazz and Blues Festival's Mardi Gras will parade through the area.

Until then, there are countless reasons to visit us in June. Whether you're looking for an unusual Father's Day present or are hoping to rub shoulders with some of Scotland's 'style icons', it's all happening right in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town.

To find out more about our great June offers and events read on and make sure you drop by Edinburgh's Grassmarket soon.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Best wishes,

Jos Bastiaensen

**Chairman, Grassmarket Area Traders Association.**



## Beyond the Shop Front



### A look into the world of Grassmarket trader Hawick Cashmere

Hailing from the Scottish Borders is this cashmere knitwear store that combines a traditional Scottish industry with up-to-the-minute fashion and style. Hawick Cashmere's Grassmarket store is just about to finish a substantial refurbishment and store manager Derek Umpherston tells us more in June's focus feature.

[Read on](#)

## Need to Know



### Dance Base welcomes royal visitors with public dance event

Dance Base is set to welcome TRH The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay this Thursday, 5 June. HRH Prince Charles is a patron of Scotland's National Centre for Dance and will visit the Grassmarket to get an update on Dance Base's outreach, professional and community programmes. To mark the occasion, Dance Base are staging a public event right on a part of the newly refurbished Grassmarket. Members of the public can get in on the action with African dancers and drummers Samba Sene & Diwan, who will entertain the public outside and teach them some simple moves they can show off as the royal party leaves. See event section for details.

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

Tel: 0131 225 5525 Web: [www.grassmarket.net/dance\\_base.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/dance_base.asp)

### Grassmarket confirmed as venue for Mardi Gras

Hot off the press – the Grassmarket has just been announced as the venue for the Jazz & Blues Festival's traditional Mardi Gras parade. While the £6m redevelopment continues to make progress, the festival's organisers have been busy compiling a line-up of top class international artists guaranteed to bring a carnival atmosphere to the Grassmarket. For event details make sure to check the events section in next month's newsletter. The redevelopment work is scheduled to be finished in autumn, but it will be suspended temporarily during the Edinburgh Festivals to allow for the staging of various performances. The council is currently finalising plans for August and the Grassmarket is set to host a whole series of events once the redevelopment is finished. Details are still to be confirmed – keep checking the forthcoming issues of this newsletter for updates.



### Hats off to Fabhatrix

Fabhatrix is joining the HATWALK once again this year and owner Fawns Reid has created a collection of 1950s style kitsch crockery hats inspired by tea parties for the occasion. Fawns is one of ten milliners showing off her collection during the runway shows on 6 and 7 June 2008. Run in partnership with Edinburgh's Telford College, this year's theme is "Hatwalk in Wonderland" and the organisers are raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust's "Remember Zoe" appeal. For more information and tickets visit [www.hatwalk.co.uk](http://www.hatwalk.co.uk).



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

Tel: 0131 225 9222 Web: [www.grassmarket.net/fabhatrix.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/fabhatrix.asp)

### Snap up a special Scotch at Demijohn in time for Father's Day

Demijohn has discovered something truly special right in time for Father's Day – a cask of Linkwood Single Malt. Based just outside Elgin, the Linkwood Distillery has been going since 1820. From its refilled bourbon butt, this 15 year old cask strength malt has an attractive mahogany colour as well as rich, fruity aromas and a dry finish. Treat your dad to this rare Scotch, which has been filled in beautiful one litre apotheker bottles priced at £120.60 each (excluding the box pictured).



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

Tel: 0131 225 3265 Website: [www.grassmarket.net/demijohn.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/demijohn.asp) Email: [info@demijohn.co.uk](mailto:info@demijohn.co.uk)



## Style icons at Armstrongs

The nation's favourite style guru, Gok Wan (of 'How to look good naked'), has been to Armstrongs recently on the look out for the next British Style Icon. Gok was filming for a new Channel 4 programme for which he is looking to find Britain's most stylish person. And he wasn't just looking at the clothes at Armstrongs – general manager Jane Barrow entered the contest and has made it to the regional finals. Our fingers are crossed! The series is due to start in June – check TV listings for exact dates.

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

Tel: 0131 220 5557 Website [www.grassmarket.net/armstrongs\\_vintage\\_emporium.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/armstrongs_vintage_emporium.asp)



## Exhibitions galore at Victoria Gallery

Victoria Gallery is hosting three exhibitions between now and the end of July. Artists on show include two Scots and one Chinese painter and artworks range from expressive oil paintings to delicate watercolours. Entry is free! The gallery is also a great place to pick up unique jewellery and gift items.

**Visit:** Victoria Gallery, 44 Victoria Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2JW

Tel: 0131 226 6328 Website: [www.grassmarket.net/victoria\\_gallery.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/victoria_gallery.asp)

## Bag a Bargain

### Change your outlook with a free pair of Swish sunglasses

Receive a free pair of clothing store Swish's popular sunglasses worth £15 if you spend £60 or more in store. Cute, quirky or cool – there's plenty of new stock to choose from. If the 80s appeal to you, uber-trendy Australian surf label Insight will be ideal while Californian label New Breed Girl is fabulous for seriously bright and bold statement t-shirts. The store is bursting with new summer stock, and this is the time to get your hands on it!

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

Tel: 0131 220 0615 Website: [www.grassmarket.net/swish.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/swish.asp)



### Taste The Lot's new menu and get 10% off

It's all change at The Lot this month with new head chef Sam Kemmer launching his new menu and introducing new wines. Book a table anytime after 7pm on Saturday 14 June and enjoy a 10% discount on food. What's more – you'll be treated to live jazz music by Jen Craig and Ross Baird on the night. Phone 0131 225 9924 to make sure you don't miss out on this tasty offer.

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

Tel: 0131 225 9924 Web: [www.grassmarket.net/the\\_lot.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/the_lot.asp) Email: [admin@the-lot.co.uk](mailto:admin@the-lot.co.uk)



## Father's Day - Get up to £6 off at The Whisky Shop

The Whisky Shop is introducing a new range from Glasgow's Auchentoshan distillery. You'll be among the first to taste these exciting new varieties: Three Wood, 12, 18 and 21 year old single malts. The Whisky Shop is also offering £6 off Clan Denny Islay and Clan Denny Speyside as well as £3 off Bunnahabhain 12 year old and £2 off Black Bottle. Simply take along a copy of this newsletter to claim your discount.

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

Tel: 0131 225 4666 Web: [www.grassmarket.net/whisky\\_shop.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/whisky_shop.asp)



## Unmissable Events



### Brush up on your Scottish dancing skills with The Lot's Ceilidh Club

Tuesday nights are reserved for The Lot's Ceilidh Club and there's a great line-up of bands to experience this month including Sandy Brechin, Heeliegoleerie, Free Range, the Roundhouse Ceilidh Band and Breelin. Doors open at 8pm on each Tuesday and tickets can be booked by phoning 0131 225 9922.

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

Tel: 0131 225 9922 Web: [www.grassmarket.net/the\\_lot.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/the_lot.asp) Email: [admin@the-lot.co.uk](mailto:admin@the-lot.co.uk)



### Try African dance moves outdoors with Dance Base

Spend Thursday lunchtime learning African dance moves right in the Grassmarket! Part of the Grassmarket has just been finished and Dance Base are inviting the public to enjoy African drumming and learn African dance moves right in front of their premises. The event marks the end of a visit by TRH Prince Charles and The Duchess of Rothesay. To participate - or simply to enjoy the music - come along at 12pm on Thursday, 5 June. Meet in front of Dance Base.

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

Tel: 0131 225 5525 Web: [www.grassmarket.net/dance\\_base.asp](http://www.grassmarket.net/dance_base.asp)



[Edinburgh's Grassmarket](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/grassmarket)



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