

Welcome!

May is traditionally one of the sunniest months in the calendar, so what better time to explore the Grassmarket in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town. We have spotted some visitors wearing shorts already - always a sure sign that summer is just around the corner.

All in all, an action-packed summer awaits with the Grassmarket due to take centre stage during the Edinburgh Festivals. Once the redevelopment is finished, plans are currently being discussed to fund a 14 month events programme to re-launch this beautiful part of Edinburgh.

Until then, there are countless reasons to visit in May. Selected traders will still pick up your parking fees and we have also extended last month's fabulous fashion offer. To coincide with National Coeliac Awareness Week, Mamma's American Pizza (www.grassmarket.net/mammas.asp) have a mouth-watering offer for coeliac sufferers this month.

To find out more about our great May offers, read on and make sure you pay us a visit in Edinburgh's Grassmarket soon.

We look forward to seeing you!

Best wishes,

Jos Bastiaensen

Chairman, Grassmarket Area Traders Association.



Beyond the Shop Front



A look into the world of Grassmarket trader Armstrongs

Armstrongs started out over 150 years ago selling rags to poor people in the Cowgate. Little did the original owners know that their shop would become THE place to shop for celebrities visiting Edinburgh. In May's focus feature, general manager Jane Barrow spills the beans on Kate Moss' recent visit and why the Brits are best at buying vintage.

Read on >> www.grassmarket.net/traderfeature_may08a.asp

Need to Know

Still on - Free Parking until the End of May

Enjoy a visit to the Grassmarket and let the traders pick up the cost of your parking. Until the end of May, selected Grassmarket retailers, pubs and restaurants will pay for two hours parking in Castle Terrace Car Park ...



or on the Grassmarket if you spend £10 per head in a pub or restaurant or £40 in a shop. Simply show your car keys in these outlets to claim your discount:

Participating traders include:

- [The Beehive](#)
- [Café Jacques](#)
- [Made in Italy](#)
- [Mamma's American Pizza](#)
- [Petit Paris](#)

- [The Lot](#)
- [Anta](#)
- [Mr Wood's Fossils](#)
- [Walker Slater](#)

- [Demiohn](#)
- [Fabhatrix](#)
- [Gerry's](#)
- [Hawick Cashmere](#)
- [Helios Fountain](#)



Grassmarket Centre Stage during Edinburgh Festivals

With the £6million redevelopment still in full swing, you may need a bit of imagination to picture it – the Grassmarket is set to become a major venue during this year's Edinburgh Festivals. Plans include covering the area temporarily and staging various performances still to be confirmed. The council is currently finalising plans for August and we will keep you updated in this newsletter. But the Grassmarket may host an even bigger series of events once the redevelopment is finished. Scottish Enterprise are currently discussing plans to fund a 14 month programme to re-launch the area with a more European café culture feel. We're excited about these prospects and will certainly do our bit to make the most of the new-look Grassmarket.

New Trees to Take Root

As part of the current stage of redevelopment some of the trees in the Grassmarket are being replaced. Four new trees have already gone in and the poplars in the centre are being considered for replacement. This is partly due to their age and partly because they have suffered from being in such an urban environment. According to the city of Edinburgh council, they will have to be replaced within the next ten years in any case. With the ongoing transformation of the Grassmarket, this seems to be the ideal time to tackle the issue and ensure the next generation can enjoy healthy trees in the area. Following advice from the City Council's tree specialist, the replacement species will be oak and lime trees from Germany. Why did they have to be sourced abroad? Simply because the tree specialists were looking for mature trees that would have an instant impact and couldn't find ones that were big enough in the UK. While we are sad to see the old trees go, we are happy to know that the new trees will fit perfectly into the new-look Grassmarket due to be finished later this year!



Exciting Finds at Mr Wood's Fossils

Mr Wood's Fossils is newly stocked up with exciting fossils bought in the US earlier this year. The shipment has now arrived containing beautiful new Green River fish, rare Moroccan and Russian trilobites and a great new range of minerals. Also available are North American dinosaur teeth, spiders and insects in amber and new meteorite pieces. Our pick of the bunch is a breathtaking Uruguayan amethyst geode, which is well worth seeing. Drop in soon to make sure you don't miss out on these exciting pieces!

Visit: Mr Wood's Fossils, 5 Cowgatehead, Edinburgh, EH1 1JY Tel: 0131 2201344 Web:

www.grassmarket.net/woods_fossils.asp



Weddings Officer "Appointed" at Demijohn

This year's wedding season is only just getting underway in Scotland, but Demijohn has already seen a flurry of activity from brides, grooms, best men and mothers of the bride from across Europe. Since the introduction of smaller bottle sizes into their stock, Demijohn's specialty spirits have been bought as wedding favours and presents for ushers, bridesmaids and many more. Alastair Simpson, general manager of the Victoria Street store, has been "promoted" to weddings officer. Alastair says: "Our products appeal because they can be as bespoke as you need them. Because of their popularity, we have now tailored some of our gift ideas to fit the wedding market." The latest addition to Demijohn's stock has been Organic Rhubarb Vodka Liqueur created in Inverness – bound to become a crowd pleaser.

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

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

Grassmarket Links up with Capital Websites

The Grassmarket website, www.grassmarket.net, has recently been linked up with some of the best-known websites providing information on Edinburgh. Links to our website can now be found in several locations on the recently launched Edinburgh city and region website aimed at residents and visitors to the city www.edinburgh-inspiringcapital.com and tourism website www.edinburgh.org highlighting the vast range of pubs, restaurants and shops available. Make sure you pay them a visit next time you need to find out what's going on in the city.



Bag a Bargain

Coeliac Sufferers Eat Free

Two weeks only - hurry to make the most of this delicious offer at Mamma's American Pizza this month. The pizzeria offers gluten-free versions of over 90% of the dishes on its menu, including nachos, pizza and ice cream. With over 40 toppings to choose from, it's easy to see why Mamma's is such a firm favourite. The gluten-free meal is free with every fully priced regular meal. Offer valid between 12 and 25 May 2008.

Visit: Mamma's American Pizza, 30 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2JU

Tel: 0131 225 6464 Website: www.grassmarket.net/mammas.asp



Short Breaks Galore at the Apex International Hotel

To start the short break season in style Apex is offering accommodation from £52 per person. What's more - up to two kids under 16 can stay for free when sharing with two paying adults. If you a romantic getaway and some great food sound like what you need look no further than the hotel's Heights Restaurant, which has been awarded two AA rosettes and enjoys beautiful views of Edinburgh castle.

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

Tel: 0845 3650002 Web: www.grassmarket.net/heights.asp



Double Dress Discount at Bill Baber

Dresses will be at the centre of Bill Baber's collection this season, and this layered style is tipped to become a favourite. Made from silk and linen it feels light on the skin and is perfect for the warmer weather. What's even better, like all of Bill Baber's clothing, it is machine washable. They stock a wide range of colours, so you're guaranteed to find one that's perfect for you. The dresses can be worn as separates and cost £69 each or £129 if you buy two.

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

Tel: 0131 225 3249 Web: www.grassmarket.net/bill_baber.asp Email: billbaber@msn.com



Update your Spring Wardrobe and Get 10% Off

Extended until the end of May - six of the Grassmarket's fashion retailers have joined forces to offer fashionistas even more reasons to shop in the Grassmarket. [Totty Rocks](#), [Swish](#), [Fabhatrix](#), [Armstrongs](#), [Big Ideas](#) and [Joyce Forsyth Scottish Designer Knitwear](#) will all offer a special 10% discount on selected lines throughout the month of May. There has never been a better excuse to get rid of those thick winter coats and sport something new! Quote MAY OFFER to claim your discount.

Offer ends on 31 May 08.



Unmissable Events



The Hunger Project – Charity Evening at The Lot

This entertaining evening on 9 May at The Lot is an ideal opportunity to get to know The Hunger Project – a charity working with some of the poorest communities on the planet. A presentation and slide show will be followed by live music from Stairheid Gossip and guests will have an opportunity to talk to the charity workers. Tickets cost £6 (£4 for concessions) on the door and the money raised will go to The Hunger Project. Email louie.gardiner@potent6.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



Soulful Jazz Music – Free while you Eat

The Lot is hosting jazz musicians Jen Craig and Ross Baird in their bistro on 17 May. The gig starts at 7.45pm and is free while you enjoy your dinner. Call 0131 225 9924 for table reservations. And don't forget, The Lot is hosting regular ceilidhs on Tuesday nights. More information can be found on their website.

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



[Edinburgh's Grassmarket](#)

