



December Newsletter

Issue One

Greetings!

Welcome to this, the first of Edinburgh's Grassmarket monthly newsletters.

2007 has been a busy year for the Grassmarket traders. The area continues to undergo some exciting changes and we've seen the publication of our latest brochure, not to mention the launch of our new website, www.grassmarket.net.

Included in this first edition is the latest [news](#), [events](#) and [special offers](#) available over the festive period. Whether it be shopping, dining or simply soaking up the festive atmosphere - there's something for everyone!

So, with the Christmas lights on we are all set to welcome you and your family for this sparkling festive period. On behalf of all the traders we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Happy Holidays!

Jos Bastiaensen

Chairman, Grassmarket Area Traders Association.



Latest News



FREE parking in Edinburgh's Grassmarket area from 1st December

There is a saying that all good things come to those who wait and in this case we're thinking of Edinburgh's car drivers... The good news is that Edinburgh Council is offering free parking in the Grassmarket area over the festive period! From 1st December until 4th January there will be free parking after 5:30pm (it was 6:30pm), on Saturdays after 1pm and on Sundays all day.



Christmas singing with Leith Community Concert Band

On Saturday 8th December the Leith Community Concert Band will put on a Christmas shoppers' concert in the Grassmarket over lunchtime and into early afternoon. What better way to get into the Christmas mood than singing festive carols and songs amid the hustle and bustle of Edinburgh's historic and intriguing old town!



Grassmarket launches Christmas Crèche

Come and shop in the Grassmarket on Saturday 8th December and make use of the area's exclusive free crèche! The Grassmarket will have its own supervised children's play area in the Amsterdam Suite at the Apex International Hotel, running from 1-4pm. Drop your little loved ones off and spend an entire afternoon child-free, shopping, listening to the Leith Community Concert Band playing Christmas carols in the open air or enjoying a late lunch in the warmth and comfort of the Apex International Hotel. Crèche places are first come first serve so you'll need to be quick to take advantage of this fabulous free offer!

Laugh your way to Christmas with Aha Ha Ha

Have yourself a very Merry Christmas with a helping hand from joke shop 'Aha Ha Ha'. With everything you could possibly want from Secret Santa goodies for adults to stocking fillers for children, funny hats and masks. There's a vast array of games and tricks guaranteed to make any party go with a bang! If you're going down the fancy dress route this Christmas, deck yourself out in the finest of elf hats, Santa hats or reindeer horns (fancy yourself in a pair of gold horns with a flashy red nose and bow tie?) and for those braving the cold weather, even special Santa boots!

Visit: Ah Ha Ha, 99 West Bow , Edinburgh EH1 2JP

Tel: 0131 220 5252 Website: www.novelty.org



The Grain Store 'games' up for Christmas

Are you game for good food? If you are, the The Grain Store is right up your street this Christmas. With a mouth-watering game menu ranging from hare to pheasant and guinea fowl, there's something for everyone! Alongside all the delicious fresh seafood, poultry and vegetarian dishes, this is a venue well worth visiting!

Visit: The Grain Store, 30 Victoria Street (1st floor), Edinburgh EH1 2JW

Tel: 0131 225 7635 Website: www.grainstore-restaurant.co.uk Email: contact@grainstore-restaurant.co.uk



'Wear a Hat Day' with Fabhatrix

'Wear a Hat Day' takes place this year on 7th December so for all hat lovers out there, make sure you don your favourite headwear on this special day. All proceeds raised on the day will go to Age Concern and this year Fabhatrix is generously donating 10% of the shop's takings of hat sales during the week leading up the 7th December to the charity. On the day itself, Fabhatrix will be giving out free Santa hats to anyone who makes a donation to Age Concern. (If you're planning on dressing up as Santa Claus this Christmas, I hope you're listening!)

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

Tel: 0131 225 9222 Website: www.fabhatrix.com





Swish launches new website

Swank your way into Christmas and New Year with help from Swish's brand new website, www.swishonthe.com, just launched on the 1st December! You can check out Swish's fabulous and unique collection of men's, women's and children's clothing online – go on, there's something there for everyone!

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

Tel: 0131 220 0615 Website: www.swishonthe.com



Presents for everyone at Totty Rocks

Totty Rocks is looking forward to a busy Christmas season! The shop has just had a new delivery of limited edition winter military coats, all made in Scotland of course. They're beautifully cut, 100% lambswool, with hand-finished antique brass buttons. If you're in search of a special handbag, Totty Rocks is the place to go as it's one of the few shops in Scotland that stocks the stunning 'Rocio' hand-carved wooden handbags. And if you need something for the children, there's the 'Totty Totts' new baby wear range, perfect for the little rockers!

Visit: Totty Rocks, 40 Victoria Street, Edinburgh EH1 3JW

Tel: 0131 226 3232 Website: www.tottyrocks.com Email: mail@tottyrocks.co.uk



Christmas at The Old Town Bookshop

For a unique and original Christmas present, head to the Old Town Bookshop and feast your eyes on the many marvellous antiquarian treasures of this shop. For the children there's plenty to choose, from different editions of Charles Dickens' classic stories to antique children's Christmas scrap books. For the adults the choice is plentiful and includes a wide array of assorted photography books, early Scottish maps and beautiful, botanical prints dating from the 16th century.

Visit: The Old Town Bookshop, 8 Victoria Street, Edinburgh EH1 2HG

Tel: 0131 225 9237 Website: www.oldtownbookshop.co.uk



Dress to impress at Bill Baber

The new season styles and patterns have been arriving just in time for Christmas and Hogmanay with beautiful layered shapes and bell jackets leading the way. The windows are eye-catchingly dazzling with turquoise, purple and cerise on one side and gold, nutmeg and coffee on the other – delicious! Larger sizes are also in stock following many requests so there is plenty for the more curvaceous figure as well. One of the new styles, the Brora jacket, fits everyone from size 8 up to size 20! Intrigued? Come and see for yourself!

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

Tel: 0131 225 3249 Website: www.billbaber.com Email: billbaber@msn.com

Special Offers

Hilary's Bazaar launches sale on 27th December

Hilary's Bazaar is set to launch its winter sale on 27th December with a selection of fantastic reductions; 10% off all musical instruments, 50% off selected CDs and 10% off kilim and leather. No time to dilly dally though, the sale ends on 31st January. Don't miss out!

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

Tel: 0131 556 7976 Website: www.hilarysbazaar.com Email: hilary@hilarysbazaar.com



Hogmanay dinner at Heights Restaurant

This Hogmanay Heights Restaurant has created a very special evening for its guests with a magnificent six course meal including coffee and tablet. Starting with bucks fizz and canapés at 8pm and followed by live entertainment, the evening will cumulate with a performance by a piper at midnight to watch the spectacular fireworks. With a modest £99 price tag this is a night not to be missed, so snap it up before it goes!

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

Tel: 0845 365 0001 Website: www.apexhotels.co.uk Email:

edinburgh.events@apexhotels.co.uk



Find your Christmas 'spirit' at The Whisky Shop

The Whisky Shop is getting into the festive spirit this year with some fabulous offers. It will be continuing the successful Glenkeir Treasures range where customers can have whiskies hand-bottled in-store, as well as the added incentive of a 'festive season only' £10 off every standard bottle of Glenkeir Treasure Macallan 18 years old. There will also be the chance to sign up to the Glenkeir Whisky Club which offers members access to the shop's members-only website, special discounted purchases in-store or on-line and exclusive invitations to whisky tastings. The Shop will also be hosting several in-store tasting events before Christmas, dates yet to be confirmed!

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

Tel: 0131 225 4666 Website: www.whiskyshop.com



Demijohn has a new box of delights

Not only has the bad weather turned cold, but Christmas Day is rushing towards us at the speed of a racing horse! If you are starting to wonder what present to buy for someone with everything, why not consider Demijohn's new 7 bottle Box of Delights? £38.60 buys not only 7 of its best selling liqueurs and spirits, but also a beautiful wooden presentation box to put your pencils in after the big day. Choose it in the Gift Ideas Section of Demijohn's online shop (website included below) or call the Glasgow shop on 0141 337 3600 to make up your own personal selection of delights from our extensive range.

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

Tel: 0131 225 3265 Website: www.demijohn.co.uk Email: info@demijohn.co.uk



Christmas Events



Festive fun at The White Hart Inn

The White Hart Inn is open seven days a week over the festive period and into the New Year with live bands playing every single night; a fun-fuelled atmosphere for a great night out! On Hogmanay the doors will stay open throughout the day, closing in the wee early hours at 3am on New Year's Day.

Visit: White Hart Inn, 34 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2HS

Tel: 0131 226 2806



Get ghostly for Christmas with The Cadies & Witchery Tours

For a ghoulish treat this Christmas why not take a trip to the city's darker side and meet the ghosts of Edinburgh past? Join the special 4pm Murder & Mystery Tour on Hogmanay and get your night off to a spine-shivering start! Or how about the 5pm and/or 7pm Murder & Mystery Tours on New Year's Day to sharpen up those post-party nerves? Be quick though, places are limited and booking is essential. Tours depart from outside the Witchery Restaurant on Castlehill, The Royal Mile and last approximately 75 minutes.

Visit: The Cadies & Witchery Tours, 84 West Bow, Edinburgh EH1 2HH

Tel: 0131 225 6745 Website: www.witcherytours.com / www.adamlyal.com Email: lyal@witcherytours.demon.co.uk



Christmas ceilidhs at The Lot

What better way to get into the Scottish spirit of Christmas than taking part in a good hearty ceilidh! The Lot has the answer in the shape of its Ceilidh Club, taking place on Tuesday the 4th and 11th December. Dancing begins at 8pm and costs £6 per person or £5 for group bookings of over 15 people. If dancing the New Year in is more up your street, The Lot is holding two special Hogmanay ceilidhs, with popular Edinburgh ceilidh band, Heeliegoleerie, on 29th and 30th December at 8pm. Tickets are £10 each.

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

Tel: 0131 225 9922 Website: www.the-lot.co.uk Email: info@the-lot.co.uk

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