

THE
PANTILES
The Jewel in the Town

PRESS RELEASE

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The Pantiles summer events launch

Pantiles' Summer Jazz Season 2008

Today (19 June, 2008) sees the launch of the Pantiles Summer Jazz Season. Taking place every Thursday night* from 7.30pm until 10pm, the three-month programme of free events will bring some of the region's best jazz performers to the centre's bandstand. Visitors to the elegant colonnaded shopping vista, which has its roots in Georgian society, will be able to stop and listen to top name bands such as Sax Appeal, Force Ten and the Mark Lockheart Quartet – all free of charge. Or, for a relaxing evening out, they can choose from one of The Pantiles' restaurants, many of which offer alfresco dining – perfect for keeping one ear on the jazz and the other on conversation.

The Pantiles' Summer Jazz Season 2008 is the first of a series of events being organised by new owners Targetfollow. In this instance the company's management team has worked in conjunction with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Woods Restaurant & Wine Bar who are co-sponsoring the event.

Commenting on the Jazz Season, Centre Manager Andrew Gower said: "Tunbridge Wells has an excellent reputation for jazz appreciation and The Pantiles has previously been the scene of a shorter, but hugely successful summer jazz programme. It seemed sensible to extend this throughout the summer.

"It's great to be able to put this type of event on free of charge. It'll bring The Pantiles alive, create a real buzz and help us to create the rich and diverse pavement culture that this area should be known for."

- **More** -

The Jazz Season is just the start of what will prove to be an eventful summer at The Pantiles. Below is a list of events confirmed to date, with many more to be added in the coming weeks. "This is just the beginning for us. We're determined that The Pantiles will become a vibrant and exciting place to be, with regular events and performances to excite and entertain.

"We have a wonderful backdrop and an excellent choice of shops and restaurants. But people want to enjoy more than just shopping – it's all about the experience and that's what we're concentrating on."

Pantiles Players 7th – 12th July

A long standing Pantiles tradition, the Pantiles Players will this year perform Shakespeare's Two Gentlemen of Verona from 7th to 12th of July on the Bandstand. A ticketed event, this is Shakespeare with a modern twist! Set in the 50s, this lesser known play is a love triangle with a huge dash of Shakespearean humour. Fun and frivolous meets literary virtuosity; outdoor theatre right in the heart of Tunbridge Wells.

For more information and to book tickets contact 01892 533583

Party at The Pantiles

A fun day of street song and dance is planned for Saturday 19th July. Free to all Pantiles visitors, renowned British folk singer Nina Clark will be performing on the Bandstand while a group of capoeira street dancers (a blend of martial arts, game and dance, originating from Brazil) will perform further along the Upper Pantiles. Also performing will be Spanish band and dancers Flamenco Mosaico. The fun runs between Midday and 4pm.

Folk Weekend

The 26th and 27th of July will see The Pantiles swinging to the sounds of English and American Folk music. On Saturday four different groups of morris dancers will be performing to acoustic sets in front of the tourist information centre while on Sunday two folk bands singing American country and western tunes will take to the Bandstand. All activities will run between midday and 4pm.

- **More** -

Morris dancing and line dancing workshops will be running in The Corn Exchange on both dates. Please call Felicity at Adams Creative to confirm workshop times on 01622 687729.

Pantiles street performers

Street performers will take to The Pantiles on the first Saturday of every month. The season started with French juggler and bubble artiste Zanzibar and over the coming months mime artistes, jazz trios, and dance troupes are all planned to entertain those who are attending the Farmers' Market, sitting enjoying a coffee or a meal, or simply passing by enjoying the atmosphere.

Children's summer programme

A full programme of free children's workshops, story times and fun and games is currently being put together and will be announced shortly.

Local & Live

'Local & Live' is arguably Tunbridge Wells' premier free musical event. Following the success of last year's event, which drew crowds of around 3,000 people, Local & Live will again fill the Pantiles Bandstand with great music over the August bank holiday weekend (22nd-25th). This year's event is expected to attract even larger audiences and will feature 52 leading local musical acts performing their own material. This superb free festival offers unrivalled musical variety and a high standard of musicianship.

Targetfollow is supporting the event which is being organised by Tunbridge Wells based singer/songwriter Paul Dunton, with many more local businesses getting behind the festival. More details about the performers taking part will be announced shortly.

ENDS

*Except 10 July when the Pantiles Players take to the stage

For more information, please contact Amanda Goodchild or Adrienne Robins at Adams Creative on 01622 687 729 or amanda@adamscreative.co.uk or adrienne@adamscreative.co.uk.