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## **Offbeat guide sells Capital's unique shops**

A GUIDEBOOK has been launched to promote some of Edinburgh's most quirky and unusual small shops.

The Edinburgh Independent Shop Guide will feature hundreds of retailers, from Anta Interiors to Zonker Organics.

Author Ewan Halley said he hoped to inspire tourists to discover some of the Capital's specialist retailers such as hatters, shoe shops, cheesemongers and kilt makers.

He said: "When you go to a new city, you want to visit the most unusual shops, but because you're a stranger you don't know where to find them. In the picturesque back streets you'll find shop owners who are dedicated to giving a specialist service and to selling goods you won't find in big name stores.

"These shops give Edinburgh its distinctive character and supporting them contributes to preserving that individuality."

He said he hoped to redress the balance in favour of independent retailers, who face increasingly tough competition from High Street chain stores and supermarkets.

This article:

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh.cfm?id=707362007>