



Patron: The Lord Provost
of The City of Edinburgh

Edinburgh Festival Voluntary Guides Association

Established 1947

www.edinburghfestivalguides.org

74th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 15th March 2023

The City Chambers 7.00pm

Note of Meeting

1. WELCOME FROM THE COMMITTEE
The Chairman, Bernard Heavie, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Before commencing the meeting, The Chairman announced the recent sad death of Kate Dick, former Chair of the Festival Guides Association and well known to many in the room. There followed a short silence.
2. APOLOGIES
Richard Richardson, Herbert Dryden, Cllr Neil Ross, John Gorrie, Steven Johnston, Ken Young, Colin Syme
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGM 2022 MINUTES
These were approved by Elspeth McLeod, Seconded by Val Baker
4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022
5. TREASURER'S REPORT 2022
The report was previously circulated to the Members. Jim Eunson, Treasurer, reiterated that the Association had a successful 2022. No questions were raised although comments included remarks on how donations are collected. The meeting was reminded that our bank details were on the back of Trip Advisor cards which could be handed out. Bernard advised that the committee is considering the use of a QR code in 2023 although we have not moved forward on that yet.
6. COMMITTEE AND OFFICE BEARERS (Please note that the current Office Bearers and Committee members have indicated their willingness to carry on. This means that there are 2 vacancies on the

Committee. If any Guide is interested in joining the Committee then please let one of the current committee members know.

John Masson has agreed to become a committee member. This was supported and welcomed.

7 FESTIVAL 2023

Frances McDevitt reported that EFVGA is now registered for Fringe 2023 and already on line. (16/02/23). Frances reminded the meeting that we will be undertaking 22 sessions, 10.30am and 2pm every day of the Fringe in August. We are free but ticketed via the Fringe Office however and will also continue our traditional street 'touting'

Frances told us that we already have around 40 bookings !

Frances was formally thanked for her work with the Fringe Office.

8 GUIDES UPDATE

Val Baker informed the meeting that we continue to attract new guides which is very encouraging. Currently there are 3 in training and this evening we are presenting 3 badges to successful trainees.

Attached with the AGM papers was a list of interesting talks that Guides are invited to attend. Following disappointing attendance at our August talks last year it was felt we needed to change our approach. Eric Melvin has linked up with the City Art Centre to jointly arrange the talks listed. Val will continue to enlist speakers / visits and interesting walks for the Guides to enjoy at other times of the year. The first of these is to be in May and the date will be circulated.

10. AOCB

a) Charging for custom tours.

Vi Aitken informed the meeting that the committee had agreed at the last meeting that it was time to increase the price of our custom tours. There is a general feeling we are too cheap. It was agreed by the AG meeting that we would increase to £6.50pp. We would honour the charge of £5 quoted to SPICE. It was also suggested and agreed that these are now titled Private tours .

b) Refresher walks will commence in the late spring, early summer for all guides. This follows discussion at committee around the fact that many guides did not walk during the pandemic years and may enjoy a refresher tour. Dates will be circulated.

c) Modifying our Walks. This was raised due to some informal requests to include an historic walk to follow the procession of the late Queen Elizabeth coffin down the Royal Mile last September. After some informal debate it was concluded at the meeting that we continue to offer Historic Tour and modify at our discretion.

For 2023 we are allowed 20 mins in St Giles if our groups wish to see where the late Queen lay in state in Scotland. Guides will be informed of this before taking tours during August.

d) Raising our profile. Eric advised the meeting of the need to continue to raise our profile. Approach has been made to the Tattoo office offering tours to performers, the Tourist information centre offering tours to staff, to local history associations and formal groups.

11. PRESENTATION OF BADGES BY THE LORD PROVOST TO NEW GUIDES

The Right Honorable Robert Aldridge , Lord Provost of Edinburgh, attended towards the latter part of the meeting. The Lord Provost gave a short but motivating speech to the AGM, thanking guides for their passion and enthusiasm, for continuing to welcome visitors during the years of the Covid Pandemic and for continuing to represent our city with a smile. The Lord Provost generously gave his time to allowing inspection of the chain of office and chatting to those present

The Lord Provost then presented badges to Olwyn Alexander, Colin McKercher and Lynn Aylward.

12. CLOSE

The chairman closed by thanking those who attended.