



newsletter

July 2016

of the Edinburgh Festival Voluntary Guides Association

HELLO EVERYONE

I hope you are all having a good summer and that no-one has dissolved in the rain.

Our 2016 August season is almost upon us and by now those of you still actively guiding will have received your blank duty rosters. We will again be based in the City Chamber's Pendolino Room and procedures will be the much the same as for 2015.

And of course it's time for kilts to be dusted down ready to charm the Japanese ladies.

Best wishes

George

CONTACT DETAILS

The use of email for correspondence is so much easier, faster and cheaper and it will allow me to keep you up to date with current events rather than having to wait until the next newsletter. If you have an email address of which I am not aware, I would be grateful if I could have a note of it. And remember, please, to let me know if you change your postal address, email address or your telephone number.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

This is **your** newsletter. If you have any articles which you would like to share with your fellow guides, please pass them to the secretary. I will be delighted to publish them in future newsletters.

70th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

2017 will be the 70th anniversary of the establishment of our Association and to mark this occasion we are considering organising a dinner. More information will be provided in due course. Page 1

ILLUSTRATED TALKS PROGRAMME 2016

Remember our talks are free and open to the public so please bring all your friends and neighbours to listen to our Guest Speakers in The City Chambers.

Friday 5 August

Robin Barnes "Making Tracks"
Edinburgh's first tram system.

Thursday 11 August

Mark Mclean "A Clearer Light"
Lord Hailes and the Enlightenment.

Monday 15 August

Hamish Coghill "It's a Dog's Life"
Dog statues, cemeteries and othertales.

Tuesday 23 August

Eric Melvin "The Royal Jaunt"
King George IV's visit to Edinburgh, 1822.

GUIDE NEWS

The following changes were made at the 2016 AGM.

Committee Office Bearers

Christine Stevenson appointed Deputy Chairman.

Richard Richardson appointed Auditor.

Committee Members

Resignations Fiona Beveridge, Ann Runnalls, Colin Young

New Members Val Baker, Sandy Cameron, Mike Lewis

Guides

Resignations , Andrew Broom, Allan Macleod.

New Guides, Caroline Castle, Brian Currie, John Robertson.

New Honorary Guides Andrew Broom

GUIDE TRAINING

We currently have around 7 trainees at various stages but again not the same group as at the last newsletter. It appears that a few trainees are finding the training rather difficult and are unable to complete the course. In a way, I have to say that this is good because it indicates the high quality of our requirements. Nevertheless, we will try to simplify the training without loss of quality.

We do need to try to increase our numbers to keep pace with retirements so if you have any friends or colleagues who might like to become guides please sell it to them and arrange to pass their contact details to Seonaid Martin.

The committee would like to record its appreciation and thanks to those guides who have willingly given up their time to be mentors and examiners to/for our trainee guides.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE (PLI).

From time to time, the subject of PLI is raised. Although we did at one time have PLI we are currently not covered. We have taken professional advice and the position is that it is not a legal requirement but is nice to have.

On the nice to have side, we sought quotations via a broker. The premium was deemed, by all committee members, to be far too high and the purchase of PLI was unanimously rejected.

Our website has been and the 'Hints to Guides' note will be amended to reinforce the safety element in our tours. We will also amend the wording of our disclaimer note which is displayed in the Pendolino Room.

2016 FESTIVALS

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival	15 - 24 July
Edinburgh Art Festival	28 July - 28 August
Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo	5 - 27 August
Just Festival	5 - 28 August
Edinburgh Fringe Festival	5 - 29 August
EDINBURGH FESTIVAL GUIDES	5 - 29 August
Edinburgh International Book Festival	13 - 29 August
Edinburgh Mela Festival	27 - 28 August
Scottish Story Telling Festival	24 October-2 November
Samhuinn Fire Festival	31 October
Edinburgh's Christmas	20 November - 4 January
Edinburgh's Hogmanay	30 December - 1 January

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

But only if you were a former pupil or primary school teacher who trained at Moray House.

One of our Educational Visits, organised by Kate, took us to Moray House and our ex-teachers dashed to sit in their former lecture theatre seats and imagine they were again 21. As in all schools, budding cabinetmakers practise their skills on the wooden desktops. 'Boring' was the predominant word. Gladys denies that any of it is her work. Margaret Marr was non committal.

For George Porteous it was even better. George is a former pupil of Moray House Primary School and apart from seeing his old school again found, on a notice board, a letter sent to the school by his father who was abroad in the Forces and also a photograph of his wee sister. Magic, was it not?

The hard-hat tour of McMorran's House in Riddle's Court was fascinating, with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity (where have I heard that before?) to see what is thought to be the fireplace of the kitchen where the banquet was prepared for James VI. A photograph is shown at the end of this newsletter.

Our third trip took us to Britannia and, as with the other two, this was thoroughly enjoyable.

BESPOKE TOURS

We have changed the description of our chargeable tours from 'Out-of-Season' to 'Bespoke' because we sometimes lead such tours 'In-Season' i.e. during the August Fringe period.

So far, in 2016, we have led tours of The Royal Mile, The New Town, Greyfriars Kirkyard and the Canongate. All of these tours have added a few pounds to our bank balance and this enables us to pay for printing, stationery, postage, flyer distribution, website hosting, book tokens for our guest speakers and general expenses.

If you would like to lead Bespoke Tours please contact the Secretary, if you have not already done so, with a note of any foreign languages in which you are fluent. A foreign language is by no means essential but can often be beneficial when we have groups from France, Germany etc.

FLYERS

The committee decided that it was time to change our flyers. Betty Milton came up with the brilliant idea of asking the graphic design students at Napier University (with which she has contact), by way of a competition, to design a new flyer for our FREE August Royal Mile tours. We had approximately 25 entries and choosing a winner was extremely difficult, so good were the entries. Eventually we produced a short list of four and from that the winner was chosen using a points system. The winner and three runners-up will be presented with Amazon gift vouchers and all students and staff have been offered a complimentary tour of the Royal Mile as a way of saying thank-you for their efforts.

FLYER DISTRIBUTION

Statistics from 2015 showed that professional distribution of our flyers was a successful venture and we decided to use it again. Last year we used Edinburgh Arts and Entertainments (EAE). This year we are using Landmark Press (LP) because Gladys discovered that they are more than £100.00 cheaper than EAE for a similar distribution.

So, on your travels around town watch out for our new flyers and let us know what you think of them.

LORD PROVOST'S MARATHON

The Lord Provost has thanked us for our donation and intimated that his time of 4 hours 56 minutes was 6 minutes better than in 2015. I have contacted his secretary and suggested that he train a bit harder and get below 4 hours. She replied that she dare not in case he insists on her joining him.

WEBSITE

Our website edinburghfestivalguides.org has been updated in the following areas:-

- 1) Home Page. 'Patron: The Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh' has been added.
- 2) Bespoke Tours Page. 'No charge for school parties, teachers and accompanying adults' has been added.
- 3) Safety Page. This is a new page emphasising the need for care and safety during tours.
- 4) Guides Only Page. This has been removed. The page was password protected and, because of that, its use was clumsy and time consuming. When a neat solution is found, the page will be re-instated.

If you would like to read the information stored on the Guides Only page, please visit edinburghfestivalguides.org/test Here the page is not password protected.

If you are having problems using the website, please contact the Secretary. Is there anything else you would like to see on our website? If there is, please contact the Secretary.

ROYAL MILE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kate and Christine visited the Royal Mile Primary School to present a cheque for £100.00 being the charges made for our 2015 Christmas Soirée. They were welcomed by the head-teacher and given a tour of the school by two pupils. The £100.00 will be used to purchase nursery equipment. We have also offered the school a complimentary tour of The Royal Mile.

George Laing
Secretary



Christine has just realised she has ben appointed Deputy Chairman



Betty practises her counting under the watchful eye of Treasurer Kathleen



The fireplace of the kitchen in which banquet is thought to have been prepared for James VI