



# newsletter

November 2016

of the Edinburgh Festival Voluntary Guides Association

## HELLO EVERYONE

First of all, a big thank you from the Committee to everyone who led tours on the Royal Mile, the Grassmarket, Greyfriars and the New Town both during August and throughout the year.

While our customer numbers during the Fringe increased only by the tiniest of margins, our ratings with TripAdvisor increased considerably and we continue to receive five star comments from our customers. This is because we are giving our customers great tours. Well done and keep it up.

We have now had the first 'scrape the ice off the car' morning and Christmas will soon be upon us, yet again. I have my '*Santa, please stop here*' notice ready.

I hope you can come along to our Christmas Soirée but if you can't may I wish you

*A Happy and Healthy Christmas and a Prosperous 2017*

with the hope that Santa brings you everything you wish for.

Compliments of the Season

George



Santa and Rudolph have grown a bit since last year.

## CHRISTMAS SOIRÉE

You and your partner are cordially invited to attend our Christmas Soirée in the Story Telling Centre on Friday 16 December, 6.30 to 8.30 .

Entry and toilets are both on the ground floor.

If you are able to come along please advise

Kate Dick, 31 Durham Road, EH15 1PB

0131 669 3365

[katedick51@gmail.com](mailto:katedick51@gmail.com)

**Please wear you name badge**

The will be a nominal charge of £2.50 payable on the night (correct money, please)

The usual gastronomical feast of quiches, pizzas, sandwiches, Christmas pies, crisps and nibbles all to be washed down by soft drinks and wine specially chosen by Kate

## GUIDE NEWS

<b>New Guide</b>	Darrin Green
<b>New Honorary Guide</b>	Anne Runnalls
<b>Resignation</b>	Sydney Caplan

This has been a good year for recruitment. We have four new guides, all of whom have a Fringe season under their belts. The Lord Provost will be a busy man at the 2017 AGM when he presents badges to our new guides

Betty Milton has recently been awarded a "Get Up and Go" Community Award by the Council. Well done Betty. Keep getting up and going !!

## GUIDE TRAINING

We currently have around 10 trainees at various stages but again not the same group as at the last newsletter.

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.

0131 33 3846

seonaid2@blueyonder.co.uk

As always, 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.

## 2016 SEASON

### THE TABLE

The outside table appears to have been a success although it was not without problems. On occasions we were blocked from view by other tour groups and sometimes members of the public (who had every right) were occupying the area. We had to grit our teeth and politely request them to move away. It worked!

### EVERY LITTLE HELPS

Our customer numbers showed an increase of 0.14%, represented by one (yes one) more customer than last year.

### MOVING UP IN THE TOWN

Trip Advisor listed 27 comments from our customers. 26 were 'excellent' and 1 was 'very good'. If any knows who gave only 'very good' please let Gladys know so that she can deal with him/'her'. As a result of this good press we are now ranked 82 out of 190 for Edinburgh tours.

### SNIPPET

Supplied by Kate  
The George Hotel had been renamed the "Principal Hotel".

**A DATE  
FOR YOUR DIARY  
Friday 26 May 2017**

2017 will be the 70th anniversary of the establishment of our Association and to mark the occasion we are organising a dinner at the Royal Overseas League.

You and your partner are cordially invited.  
There is disabled access to ROL

Further details will be issued  
in due course

**EFVGA WEBSITE**

George has passed the development and maintenance of our website to Mike Lewis.

Mike's first job will be to adapt the website for mobile phone and tablet access.

If you are having problems using the website, please contact Mike who will be delighted to help.

Is there anything else you would like to see on our website? If there is, please contact Mike.

0131 623 4198

mlewis@ml-consult.co.uk

**BESPOKE TOURS**

For the first time ever we have had to decline a Bespoke Tour (of the New Town) due to lack of volunteer guides.

To try to remedy this for 2017 we will be organising, in the Spring of 2017, sample tours of the New Town and Grassmarket/Greyfriars.

If you would like to lead tours in these area please watch out for future announcements.

**FLYER DESIGN PRIZES**

Despite Eric's and Mike's best efforts it was not possible to organise an event at which we could present the prizes to the Napier students.

Eric has therefore passed the prizes to Peter Buwert who is the graphic design lecturer at Napier University and who will present the prizes to the appropriate students.

**ANOTHER SNIPPET**

Again supplied by Kate

There will not be a Christmas lights show in the Royal Mile this year. It's being moved to the west end of George Street.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS

A visit to the National Library of Scotland has been arranged for Monday 23 January 2017 at 2p.m. NLS has imposed a maximum of 20 visitors. If you would like to attend please contact Kate

A second visit to the Masonic Lodge Canongate Kilwinning in St.John's Pend is being investigated.

Gilmerton Caves, Drum House Gilmer-ton, Arniston House and Craiglockhart Campus are on Kate's list for future visits.

## 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 who will be delighted to publish them in future newsletters.

## 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.

## A BLAST FROM THE PAST



Evening News

4 September 1957

Edinburgh

Lord Provost Johnson Gilbert shakes hands with Stanley Cavaye

George Laing  
Secretary