



newsletter

March 2015

of the Edinburgh Festival Voluntary Guides Association

Hello Everyone

I hope you are all in good health and have enjoyed Christmas and New Year.

Where has the time gone? Do I say that in every newsletter? It seems to be true that time DOES go faster the older you get.

Anyway, we should now be planning our summer holidays and thinking about the 2015 season.

For 2015 our first major item is the AGM.

Best Wishes
George

A.G.M.

A formal notification calling the AGM has been sent separately with an Agenda and a copy of the Minutes of the 2014 AGM.

We have again been granted a Civic Reception in the City Chambers. The Lord Provost has confirmed his attendance and, as always, will present badges to our new guides.

This is one of the few occasions, if not the only occasion, when we can all get together so, particularly for the benefit of our new guides, **please remember to wear your name badge**.

67th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2015 A.G.M.
will be held in the City Chambers
on Wednesday 25 March
Commencing 7.00pm

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 me. I will be delighted to publish them in future newsletters.

HISTORY FESTIVAL

Our participation in the History Festival was not successful. We had 18 bookings plus a few on spec. and made a profit of £32. This was very poor return for the effort put in by all concerned. The Committee would like to express its thanks and apologise for a wasted few hours to those guides who turned up to find no customers or at best two or three. We are extremely unlikely to enter again in 2015.

ERIC'S BOOKS

Our very own Eric Melvin has written and published two books both of which would be excellent additions to your guiding bookshelf.

'A Walk down Edinburgh's Royal Mile' and

'A Walk through Edinburgh's New Town'.

They are currently available from Amazon at £7.89 and £8.57 respectively

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GUIDE NEWS

New Guides

Since the last newsletter we have recruited no more guides

Training

Regrettably, we have lost three of our current batch of six trainees. 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 pass their contact details to Seonaid Martin.

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/of our trainee guides.

CHRISTMAS SOIREE

Thanks to your sterling work over the past few years our bank account was healthy and we were able to provide our Christmas Soiree buffet at no charge. Around 40 guides and partners attended the Soiree and a pleasant, chatty evening was had by all.

Regrettably that was the last one for a couple of years at Riddle's Court but fear not, we will find another venue for 2015.

SEASON 2015

Our Fringe programme entry and Fringe website entry have been submitted and should soon be available for viewing.

Our Season

In 2015 the International Festival and the Fringe are both taking place over the same period of 17 to 31 August and that will be our Guiding season.

City Chambers

The Pendolino Room has again been secured for the 2015 season.

OUT OF SEASON TOURS

As part of our Out-of-Season programme, in addition to the Royal Mile, tours of the Grassmarket, Greyfriars Kirkyard and the New Town will again be offered.

In due course, a second series of sample tours will be arranged. If you would like to join one of these tours with a view to leading, if and when the opportunity arises, watch out for the notification.

We have three tours arranged so far for 2015.

If you would like to guide out-of-season, 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.

EFVGA WEBSITE

If you are having problems opening our website, please contact the Secretary.

The Guides Only page, which is password protected, continues to be updated.

AGM information and Training material will be loaded to the website over the next couple of weeks so please watch out for it.

There is currently a technical problem with the Illustrations page in that while the illustrations look fine on the website, they are not satisfactory when downloaded.

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

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FESTIVALS 2015

www.edinburghfestivalcity.com

Festival	Start	Finish
Science	4 April	19 April
Imaginate	11 May	17 May
Film	7 June	28 June
Jazz	17 July	26 July
Art	30 July	30 August
Tattoo	7 August	29 August
International	7 August	31 August
Fringe	7 August	31 August
EFVGA	7 August	31 August
Book	15 August	31 August
Mela	29 August	30 August
Storytelling	23 October	1 November

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. Remember, please, to let me know if you change your postal or email address or your telephone number.



A BLAST FROM THE RECENT PAST

On the left, an 'Official' photo from the Educational Visit to Mary King's Close.

Can you see Colin's pants on the washing line?

George Laing

Secretary

March 2015