



Edinburgh Festival Voluntary Guides Association

Established 1947

www.edinburghfestivalguides.org

Patron: The Lord Provost
of The City of Edinburgh

MINUTES OF THE 66th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held in The City Chambers, 26 March 2014

1 WELCOME FROM THE COMMITTEE

The meeting was opened at 19.05 by Chairman, Kate Dick.
Kate welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for coming.

Kate reminded the attendees that we had moved the AGM from February to March to avoid poor weather only to find that, in March, holiday commitments were preventing some from attending.

Kate also reminded the attendees that the Lord Provost would be attending and the usual buffet would follow.

2 APOLOGIES

The meeting was attended by 36 members and 1 visitor.

Apologies were received from 19 members:-

Jack Aitken, Murray Carmichael, Gill Davidson, Herbert Dryden, Gordon Drysdale, Dorothy Ellen, Selby Graham, Sandy Macpherson, Bob McCulloch, Lyndsey Rae, Richard Richardson, Bill Richardson, Winnie Scott, Neil Shaw, Ginny Spencer, Derek Stryjski, Colin Symes, Bill Thompson, Toby Williams

3 MINUTES OF AGM 2013

There were no queries or comments.

Acceptance of the 2013 Minutes was proposed by Gordon Stewart and seconded by Betty Milton.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Below is a copy of Kate's report.

Welcome to 66th AGM of the EFVGA.

I hope that you have all enjoyed our "new office accommodation" in the City Chambers. We are greatly indebted to the Lord Provost and his staff for making the facilities as "user friendly" as possible for our use during the Festival period.

I know that the move to alternative premises further down the Royal Mile appeared daunting at first but the feedback we received from the Guides was very positive.

During the past year we have had several new guides in training and hopefully all will be ready for the Festival in August. I would like to thank Gordon Stewart, who has taken on the role of Training co-

ordinator, together with the other committee members and guides who are acting as Mentors and Examiners to these trainees.

I hope you are all enjoying our new web site (bringing us into the 21st century!) Many thanks to George Laing and Edward Bain who gave George great technical advice for all their hard work on the new site.

We are offering new walks for pre-arranged tours out-with the Festival. These include The Grassmarket, Greyfriars Kirkyard and the New Town. If any guides wish to put forward their names for these walks and have not already done so, please let George Laing know.

As you will see our finances are in a healthy state thanks to our trusty Donations Box.

Many thanks to all guides and partners and friends who attended our Christmas evening at Riddle's Court. Unfortunately, due to its closure for renovation later this year, we may have to seek an alternative venue for any future events.

May I take this opportunity to thank the committee for their sterling work over the past year.

The report was welcomed with a round of applause.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the Accounts is given at the end of this report.

There were no comments during the meeting. Treasurer Kathleen Hart reported that the accounts remained healthy and then covered some of the details. In particular 'walks and talks' income was slightly down on 2012; the SHBT contribution was a one-off towards funds for Riddle's Court preservation; the donation was to EWH to support their work, which is of particular interest to EFVGA.

To conclude her report Kathleen thanked Olive Morrison for auditing the accounts and mentioned that we had a gift for Olive to record our appreciation.

6 COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

George Laing (Secretary) was due to retire after 3 years' service but indicated that he was willing to continue for a further 3 years. There being no other nominations for the position of Secretary, George was re-elected without objection.

Bill Richardson wished to retire after 9 years as a Committee member.

There was one nomination for appointment to the Committee - Eric Melvin, proposed by Dorothy Crisp and seconded by Dee Hunter.

There were no objections and Eric was duly appointed to the Committee.

Gladys Bain, Seonaid Martin and Betty Milton were due to retire after 3 years' service but indicated that they were willing to continue for a further 3 years. There being no other nominations for appointment to the Committee, Gladys, Seonaid and Betty were re-elected without objection.

George asked the attendees to join him in thanking Bill for his work over the past 9 years and particularly for his time as Training Co-ordinator.

7 CITY CHAMBERS

Kate reported that we had been given permission, by the Lord Provost, to use the Pendolino Room in the City Chambers for our 2014 season and this was generally welcomed.

Martin McMenigall commented that when a guide on Press Gang duty and armed with flyers escorted customers to the Pendolino Room, then we were without presence on the High Street for a while.

There is little that can be done here other than direct customers to the room and hope that they don't get lost.

Kate mentioned that we will have a second pole banner for 2014.

Ann Dewar mentioned that in 2013, she had been 'accosted' by a trader who accused her of encroaching on her patch. Again there is little we can do other than apologise and move away.

8 ILLUSTRATED TALKS PROGRAMME 2014

Four illustrated talks have been organised for 2014 and these are detailed on our website edinburghfestivalguides.org. They are:

Monday 4 August	Hamish Coghill	New Town, New Country
Tuesday 12 August	Eric Melvin	Edinburgh during the time of Mary, Queen of Scots
Thursday 20 August	Dorothy I Kidd	The National Museums Social History and the Royal Mile
Monday 25 August	Brian Wilkinson	Historical Edinburgh from the Air

George reminded everyone that the talks are free and open to the public and because the speakers are giving of their own time to talk to us we should give as much support as we can by attending as many talks as possible

9 AOCB

9.1 NEW TOURS

Kate reported that we are offering and advertising (via the website), 3 new tours for 2014.

These are out-of-season **ONLY**.

They will NOT be part of our August programme of free tours from the City Chambers.

The new tours are The Grassmarket, Greyfriars Kirkyard and the New Town.

Kate asked that anyone interested in leading tours in one or more of these areas should, if they have not already done so, give his/her name to the Secretary (George).

George added that sample tours to each of these areas would be organised and interested guides would be advised of dates and times.

George Laing will lead the Grassmarket sample tour.

Margaret Marr will lead the Greyfriars Kirkyard sample tour.

Eric Melvin will lead the New Town sample tour.

9.2 ROYAL MILE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Kate reported that she and Kathleen had attended an event at Riddle's Court entitled 'Vision for the Royal Mile'. The event was chaired by Una Richards of SHBT and Councillor Frank Ross.

Topics covered were collection of trade waste, weekly markets, old town winter festival, pedestrianisation at Canongate Kirk, rebuild gate at Netherbow.

Future developments from these proposals will be brought to the attention of the guides.

Eric Melvin mentioned that he had attended a meeting concerning a Civic Action Plan and had suggested that the Royal Mile needs to provide more guidance/signage for visitors –an action missing from the plan.

9.3 NEWSLETTERS

Martin McMenigall commended the quarterly Newsletters and suggested that they be loaded to the website. George indicated that this could and will easily be done.

9.4 EFVGA PUBLICITY

Betty Milton reported that she had attended a meeting in Glasgow and had spoken about EFVGA. Unsurprisingly, no-one there had heard about us and she raised the possibility of producing some material which could be left with organisations such as the one Betty visited. A supply of Business Cards might be an easy starting point. Kate indicated that this matter be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

9.5 MEETING END

The meeting terminated at 7.30 – 45 minutes before the Lord Provost was due to attend. This raised the matter of a later starting time - which would be welcomed by a number of guides. This suggestion was made last year by Martin McMenigall but rejected because it wouldn't suit the Lord Provost. However, last year there was no suggestion of holding a shorter meeting. For 2015 then, we will consider a 7.15 or 7.30 start with an 8.00 to 8.15 finish.

On this occasion the time was passed on a number of minor topics – how the children enjoyed their Greyfriars Bobby Tour, Scots and Doric words etc.etc.

The Lord Provost arrived at 20.15 and was met by Kate who introduced him to Colin (Vice-Chairman) Kathleen (Treasurer) and George (Secretary) all of whom he had met in 2013.

In his speech from the lectern the Lord Provost said how grateful he was, on behalf of the City, for the time and effort given by our guides in promoting Edinburgh to visitors from all over the world. Our knowledge, he said, was second to none.

Colin replied, on behalf of the guides, by thanking the Lord Provost for attending and for granting us use of the room with a generous buffet. Colin also thanked the Lord Provost for providing premises in The City Chambers for our 2014 season'.

Before asking the Lord Provost to present badges to our new guides, Colin invited Kate to present him with a (boxed) guide badge. The Lord Provost was quite delighted and obviously appreciated the gesture. Colin then asked the Lord Provost to present guide badges to our new guide Jan Wallace. Regrettably, Lyndsey Rae, John Gorrie and Toby Williams were unable to attend. Congratulations were given to Jan in the usual way.

The Lord Provost then joined the guides to enjoy the wine and buffet and people left for home at various times during the evening.

George Laing

Honorary Secretary
Edinburgh Festival Voluntary Guides Association
27 March 2014

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL VOLUNTARY GUIDES ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT
For the year ending 31st December 2013

2012

RECEIPTS	£	£	£
Walks and talks	1,570	13	1,704 19
Riddles Court	00	00	190 00
Donation	00	00	15 00
	<u>1,570</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1,909 19</u>
PAYMENTS			
Rent	80	00	120 00
Postage	138	20	107 59
Stationery	54	91	70 44
Advertising	295	20	295 20
Leaflets	344	00	192 00
Signs	45	60	46 80
Book tokens	100	00	100 00
Website	43	06	67 04
scottish Heritage BT	159	00	44 99
Catering	185	10	00 00
Donation	100	00	100 00
Badges and sarves	00	00	703 44
	<u>1,545</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>1,847 50</u>
Surplus for the year	25	06	61 69

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Bank of Scotland			
as at 31st December 2012	3,201	57	3,139 88
Surplus for the year	<u>25</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>61 69</u>
Represented by balance at bank at 31st December 2013	<u>3,226</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>3,201 57</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the books and records of the association and have to report
that the Receipts and Payments Account gives a true and fair view of the
years transactions

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL VOLUNTARY GUIDES ASSOCIATION
5th March 2014


Olive Morrison
SLA