

EGTG Committee Meeting

Wednesday 16th July

Present: Adelle Ansara, Alexander Cook, Hannah Bradley Croall, James Gray, Claire Morand, Kate Stephenson, Claire Wood

Apologies: Martin Foreman

- 1. Apologies and Approval of June Minutes**
- 2. Suddenly Last Summer**
- 3. Fringe Productions**
- 4. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**
- 5. 2026 Proposals**
- 6. Membership Report**
- 7. SCIO/OSCR Report**
- 8. Treasury Report**
- 9. Comms Report**
- 10. Home Street**
- 11. Any Other Business**
- 12. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

1. Apologies and Approval of June Minutes

Martin sent his apologies. Last month's minutes were approved by Hannah and seconded by Claire M.

2. Suddenly Last Summer

The production went well, with 153 tickets sold. This was slightly better than the equivalent show last year, although the production still made a slight loss estimated to have been £121.22. Claire M will contact the Roxy for the settlement, and the only outstanding commitment are some props, lent by EPT, which are still in Home Street and need to be returned.

Disappointment was expressed that some of the creative team responded negatively on social media to the review during the run. In general EGTG encourages everyone involved in a production to speak positively about a show in similar public settings. Public support from all involved would be appreciated.

3. Fringe Productions

Both productions for this year's Fringe, *The Virtuous Burglar* and *The Children*, were reported to be well in hand. Rehearsals are going well, and sets, costumes, and props are all or nearly all sourced. Rhona Sampson has reported extra cables may be needed for rigging lamps/phones. Hannah will look at the budget to see if they can be afforded – a figure of £30 was suggested as being about right.

One principal issue raised was the logistics of the get-in and get-outs, scheduled for respectively August 3rd and August 10th. The usual “men with a van” are not available and alternative options are limited. Hannah will ask Alastair Smith if he could drive a van but extra hands will be needed to help move props and sets. It was noted that the *Virtuous Burglar* cast can help but that it was unfair to put all the burden onto them. Alex will put a call-out in the members’ newsletter due to be sent in the week of this meeting.

One other subject to be resolved is that several props being used in the productions, namely a couple of lamps, a kettle, and a laptop, will need to be PAT-tested before the performances. There was then an extended discussion on PAT testing in general, which will be covered in these minutes under **10. Home Street**.

The principal leads for Front of House for each night are now covered by committee members, bar one performance when Jac Wheble will be stepping in, but extra people are still needed, especially for Saturday 9th August 6-8pm. Alex will put a call-out in the members’ newsletter, and Hannah will approach EGTG members directly who might be available.

4. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

The table read for this took place yesterday, Tuesday 15th July, and was attended by 16 people, a mixture of familiar and new faces. This was judged to be an excellent number. Of the preceding two workshops, held on 14th June and 28th June, 2 people attended the first and 7-9 the second, with attendees evidently greatly enjoying and benefitting from them. Auditions will take place next week on 25th and 29th July, and Jac has them well in hand. It was noted that their format will be a little different to the usual EGTG auditions, with a workshop element, and that this should be mentioned in the members’ email.

With regard to backstage crew, Jac has a sound technician in place and is still looking for lighting – Claire M will approach Rhona Sampson to see if she is free. Janet ??? has been approached to be Production Manager and it will be arranged to see if she can attend one of the auditions, while Jac is possibly going to approach Helen Ballantyne (SPELLING?) to be her Stage Manager. The venue is booked and tickets are on sale, with the members’ discount code being WELLINGTON.

5. 2026 Proposals

The proposal form on the website is now live, and has been shared across social media, the website, and in the general newsletter. It was noted that this year there was a shortage of people who wanted to direct for the Fringe and possible contingency plans for next year were discussed if this occurs again. It was proposed a sample list of shows could be assembled to offer to prospective directors, and/or an evening of short excerpts from rights-free productions could be arranged to test which seems the most viable. Hannah noted there was a lengthy if incomplete list of shows that EGTG has performed in the past; this will be shared with the group and looked at to see if there are any obvious options that have never been produced under EGTG auspices.

6. Membership Report

There are currently 62 members and all cast members for both shows are fully paid up.

7. SCIO/OSCR

Since the last meeting EGTG has received permission to wrap up the old charitable organisation. The membership have been informed of the group's new charitable status and the new SCIO number is on socials and the website and will be on all comms going forward.

The next phase required is to transfer assets. The two major assets that need to be considered are the title of Home Street and the bank account. With regard to the bank account, it was judged to be wise to wait until the end of the Fringe to begin winding the old one up, given the needs from those productions and the fact EGTG's financial year ends in December.

With regard to the title deeds for Home Street, the prime need is to contact those members whose names are still attached. Hannah has contact details for Gordon Hughes and Pat Young, and Claire M may have them for Brenda Taylor and will pass these on to Martin. Martin will be engaging a solicitor to handle matters, and believes it should be a simple process given that all involved are entirely amenable to the change. Several solicitors have already been sounded out, and all are quoting similar fees in the £900-1000 range plus land fees.

The aim is to have all the above completed by the end of the year.

8. Treasury Report

Two tickets were sold via the Canal Festival's promo code for *Suddenly Last Summer*, and one for the Fringe productions. This covered half the costs of EGTG's attendance at the Festival, but it was judged that it was worth doing as it brought in new audiences. One Fringe show is selling better than the other. Claire M will send the draft budget around when it is done.

Given recent expenses, including the PAT testing and the solicitors fees as noted in **7.**, and the fact there is a danger of the group's regular rehearsal space in Buccleuch Place being lost, concern was raised that EGTG might not be able to afford a full run of productions next year. It was determined that the group will be able to but that it may need to tighten its belt: it is possible that rights-free works may need to be a priority and that only one spring show, as opposed to two, may be affordable.

9. Comms Report

Adelle reported she had been to a *Virtuous Burglar* rehearsal and has a good amount of material for social media. She will be attending rehearsal for *The Children* tomorrow to gather some ideas for that production's publicity. In general, social media numbers are going up, and she noted that posts such as "Meet the Cast" are excellent for engagement. It was

noted that *The Children* was voted by the *Guardian* as the third best play of the twenty-first century which could be a nice publicity angle; as a contemporary play with a smaller cast it needs a bit more of a push to increase potential audience awareness as opposed to a play by Dario Fo.

10. Home Street

As noted in **3.**, a number of props in the Fringe productions need PAT testing and this led to a wider discussion of this issue. Kate has compiled a list of Home Street's contents that need and will continue to need PAT testing: 20-odd tools such as various saws, leads in regular use and so on, and 15-odd props such as lamps that will need testing when next used on stage.

Michael Mulligan of Arkle has reported that Jane Purvis has a PAT testing kit but her availability at present is uncertain. Kate is certified to carry out the testing so one possibility is to borrow Jane's kit if she were amenable to that.

With other companies showing little interest in joint-sharing a kit, discussion turned to EGTG investing in its own kit. Kate reported two options on Amazon, one for £240, one for £275. The more expensive kit is easier to use and thus would make training someone else in its use easier. Despite the group's current mild financial concerns, it is judged imperative something is actioned with regard to this issue, given it is a Health and Safety matter. A deadline was set for the beginning of next week to hear back if Jane's kit may be available for the Fringe props, and if not Claire M will provide a report on the finances.

The next visit to Home Street was set at 7th September at 11am.

11. Any Other Business

There was continuing concern raised regarding the future of EGTG's access to Buccleuch Place. The Graduate Association is being wound up. They are having an EGM on 31st July which it was judged committee members should attend if possible. If the resolution to wind up the Association is passed, the President will have a meeting with the university and it was noted it would be a good idea to have a representative there. The university almost certainly does not understand how much the group use the room.

For the immediate future, a date of October is a possible time when Buccleuch may no longer be available. This would be in the middle of the rehearsal period for *Curious Incident*. Contingency plans for this were proposed, including making a block-booking of the university's community rooms, although this was noted as not ideal given the rooms are only available until 9pm. It was proposed Claire M contact the university's community room team and ask if they have alternative spaces that might be available. James will also try and see if he can find any useful contacts for possible help.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 28th August at 7pm.

