



30 October 2018 – Edinburgh mobility team

Welcome to the autumn/winter local update.

Important information

- The Edinburgh office and Forfar Training School will close for the Christmas break on Friday 21 December, re-opening on 27, 28 and 31 December. We will then be closed on 1 and 2 January and re-opening on 3 January.
- For any guide dog or guide dog puppy emergencies, the out of hours phone number is 0345 143 3333.

Service User Representative events

This year we trialled three Meet Your Service User events. These were intended to be informal get togethers where people could meet Debbie Clark, as well as each other. We planned them in Edinburgh, Forfar and Aberdeen to try to make them as accessible as possible. We also provided refreshments and invited people to book their place so we could cater accordingly. Five people attended the events in Edinburgh and Forfar, and we had to cancel the Aberdeen event as only one person had let us know they were able to attend. We are currently trying to think of better ways for our service users to get to meet Debbie and would be grateful if you have any ideas. Debbie is keen to hear from guide dog owners and My Guide customers if they would like a chat or some advice. You can contact Debbie by emailing debbie.clark@guidedogs.org.uk or calling 07900705104.

Fireworks season

We have put together some advice to help keep your guide dogs and puppies safe during fireworks season:

- Make sure your dog has a good walk before dark so they are tired and relaxed for the evening.
- Feed your dog earlier than usual so they can relieve themselves before the fireworks start.
- Make sure your dog is wearing their collar and their ID tag is up-to-date, just in case they escape when the fireworks are going off.
- Prepare an area for your dog to go if it becomes scared. If they already have a crate, cover it with a blanket to make a quiet, dark den. You



- could also use a table or a cupboard under the stairs with an open door.
- Put a TV or radio on to help hide the noise of fireworks.
- Make sure you have everything you need for the evening so you can stay at home with your dog.

If you are having difficulties with your guide dog or puppy because of fireworks, please contact the team.

Pavement parking campaign

Thank you to everyone who joined our online action to express their support of the Transport (Scotland) Bill, which contains measures to tackle irresponsible parking on pavements. We recently attended the SNP party conference to chat to MSPs about the bill.

Guide Dogs Week

Thank you to everyone who joined in with Guide Dogs Week 2018! Over 800 people signed up to Donate an Hour throughout the UK. Whether you gave an hour of your time, volunteered at multiple events or organised your own fundraiser - you are amazing.

Fundraising

A charity golf day organised by puppy walker Danny Rooney raised over £16,000. Thank you to everyone who supported the annual event, and to Drumoig Golf Hotel and Golf Course for once again hosting the event.

A pop-up shop in Broughty Ferry, run by fundraising volunteers Pamela Stewart and Hazel Reid, brought in a total of £10,500. Thank you to everyone who supported this venture by donating items, volunteering or shopping. Hazel and Pamela both plan to name a puppy with the proceeds.

Ride the North, a two-day cycle through Aberdeenshire and Moray, has raised more than £11,000. It was undeniably the toughest weather conditions since Ride the North began so a huge thank you to all our amazing cyclists for pedalling through!

Meet-ups



Come along to one of our groups for a cuppa and chat:

Our Cupar craft group meet on the last Thursday of the month at Caulders Garden Centre coffee shop at 10.30am. New crafters welcome!

Our Alloa supporter group meet at Coopers Bistro in the Claremont Hotel at 1pm on the first Thursday of the month to discuss new ideas for fundraising.

Our Livingston group meet with puppy walkers, guide dogs owners and friends of Guide Dogs at the Paraffin Lamp in Almondvale Centre on the first Thursday of the month at 11am.

Christmas events

We will be hosting a Christmas market at the Forfar Training School on 1 December from 11am to 3pm. There will be stalls with gifts, food, refreshments and more, as well as a chance to meet Santa Claus in his magical grotto.

Our tour guide volunteers are holding their annual coffee morning and Christmas card sale on Saturday 3 November in the Guide Hall at The Myre in Forfar, from 10am to 12pm.

Contact us

You can contact the team by emailing edinburgh@guidedogs.org.uk or calling 0345 143 0203. You can also follow Guide Dogs Scotland on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Please note that the content of this email can also be heard via a recorded message on the following phone number 0118 337 3805.

If you no longer wish to receive emails from Guide Dogs, email: unsubscribe@guidedogs.org.uk.