



Newsletter

# August 2017: Edinburgh Allotments Throw Open Their Gates

WEST MAINS ALLOTMENTS

## OPEN DAY

Sunday 30 July 1-4pm



Allotment grown produce | baking | childrens craft | photographs

Entry Free

blackford avenue edinburgh eh9  
disabled access along watertoun rd

[www.westmainsallotments.org.uk](http://www.westmainsallotments.org.uk)

Summer is here. We're regretting that Rain Dance at the end of April. Nevertheless, we will keep our fingers crossed for good weather for the Open Days arranged for allotment sites across the city.

First up, A Taste and Tour of **Bridgend** between 11am and 2pm on Sunday 30th July (details below) followed closely by **West Mains** later that same day (see above). The photographs that are promised along with the other enticing attractions will comprise a selection of allotment portraits taken 20 years ago. (If you miss it, the Bridgend event is repeated on Sunday 27th August.)



**Bridgend Growing Communities**

Our next 'Taste and Tour' takes place on **Sunday 30 July** between **11am and 2pm**.

Lots of fun activities for all the family -including treasure hunt, face painting, cooking, music.



The chance to taste our fruit and vegetables and ....pizza on the plot.



**Coming up: Sunday 27 August**  
**'Taste and Tour' at 11:00**

Bridgend Growing Communities is a Scottish company registered by number SC085200 and a registered charity SC042108

The following Sunday (6th August) is the **Craigentiny Telferton** Open Day (details below). You will see that there is a charge for entry as this event is a charity fund-raiser. Amongst the attractions not to be missed is Mrs. Mash, the Storytelling Cook!



Charity No: SC01337

**SCOTLAND'S  
GARDENS**  
GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY

for The Craigentenny Telferton Allotments  
& SG Beneficiaries

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**SUNDAY 6 AUGUST**  
2:00pm-5:00pm

**CRAIGENTINNY AND  
TELFERTON ALLOTMENTS**

TELFERTON ROAD (OFF PORTOBELLO  
ROAD), EDINBURGH EH7 6XG

HOMEMADE TEAS  
PLANTS FOR SALE

ORGANISED WORKSHOPS

ADMISSION: £3.00  
ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FREE

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**WWW.SCOTLANDSGARDENS.ORG**

**Midmar** celebrates its Centenary with a special Open Day marking 100 years of digging on Saturday 19th August from 2 to 5pm. The following day sees the **Caley Demonstration Allotment Open Day** (details below).

A little later, on Sunday 24th September, is the **Inverleith** Open Day, with a tour of the site, a produce stall and cafe. Inverleith is also celebrating 100 years and interesting archived material will be unearthed for visitors.



Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society

## Demonstration Allotment Open Day

on Sunday 20 August 2pm–4pm  
at Bridgend Allotments<sup>†</sup>, Edinburgh

*Teas — Produce*  
**All very welcome**



**Workshop on Summer pruning of fruit taken  
by George Anderson, 'Beechgrove' presenter**

Numbers are limited – booking advised

email: [rchsallotment@gmail.com](mailto:rchsallotment@gmail.com)

***†Bridgend Allotments are on the Old Dalkeith Road, a  
short distance south of the Cameron Toll roundabout***

[www.rchs.co.uk](http://www.rchs.co.uk)

SC006522

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# Are You Ready For The Edinburgh Allotment Show?

If you're growing radishes for the Children's Competition, get them germinated now! This is the very last call for growing these easy entries. Prizes will be awarded for the best. (Contact your site representative for the special seed pack.)

This year there will be representatives from SRUC (Scotland's Rural College) who will be on hand to help with advice on how to combat pests and disease and SASA (Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture) who will tell all about the successful growing of potatoes.

All ploholders in Edinburgh are invited to get involved. Everyone can enter something from their plot. The most common comment is always - "I wish I'd entered something. I must do so next year". Well, **now's your chance!**

## THE EDINBURGH ALLOTMENT SHOW



Saturday 2nd  
September 2017  
Central Methodist Hall  
Nicolson Square

Submit Entries 9 to 12  
Open to Public 2pm  
Prizes 3.30pm



THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

FREE ENTRY - flowers - fruit -  
vegetables - children's section  
homecrafts - expert panel - cafe

[www.fedaga.org.uk/allotment-show](http://www.fedaga.org.uk/allotment-show)

The venue is central and has a small number of car parking spaces to make it easier to drop off exhibits in the morning. There is a Fair Trade cafe. We have asked the judges to stay on after the doors are opened at 2pm and the results are known so that exhibitors can discuss their produce. All you need to know can be found [here](#).

We are bringing the Homecrafts section back, concentrating on Kitchencrafts using allotment produce: **From Plot To Plate**.

As well as the regular displays, this year you are invited to demonstrate **novel solutions to challenges on the plot**. If you have come up with a method of enhancing your growing space - perhaps defending your crops from assault by bird or slug, a lazy irrigation system, or a cheap and resource-light compost production device perhaps - maybe you could share it with the rest of us. Rather than conveying the actual mechanism or structure to the Methodist Hall, a photograph or two might suffice. This would create an interesting display. Please contribute.

Potato Club members have been asked to bring examples of the "heritage" tubers they have grown this year to display at the Show. Expect to see some varieties lost to the mists of time. It will be great to see you on Saturday 2nd September.

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## Items Of Interest



*A Midmar plotholder writes:*

I needed a bale of straw recently and I went to a farm outside Rosslyn. The farm is P McCluskey and Son and he supplies **excellent barley straw**. It cost £10 a bale or £12 if wrapped which means it keeps longer and is not messy in the car. Mr. McCluskey informed me that he would deliver straw and I thought that there may be some demand at Midmar and other places through FEDAGA for it.

He can be contacted at 07831 527357 or at

[enquiries@rosslynfeed.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rosslynfeed.co.uk)

More information [here](#).

Also, we noticed a pretty unbeatable offer at Screwfix for a **battery powered strimmer**. This is worth serious investigation. Click [here](#) for details.

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## Glut Solution/Charity Aid



*Kendra Walsh writes:*

## **Do you find yourself wondering what to do with everything you grow on the allotment?**

If you have a glut of something then let us help. We want to make sure that everything you grow gets used.

We are trained chefs and we want to transform waste into something wonderful.

By cooking/pickling/chutneying your excess fruit & veg, then selling them locally, we're raising money for Edinburgh based charities that help educate children on healthy living and eating.

If this is something you'd be interested in, please let us know and we'll arrange collection boxes for your allotment.

Contact [kendrawalsh@outlook.com](mailto:kendrawalsh@outlook.com)

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# **Any Allotment Bloggers Out There?**

Finally, an appeal. Last year we set up a blog page on the FEDAGA website. It's fair to say that it hasn't set the asparagus alight. We thought it would be a good forum for people to share tips, make observations or moan about Blackleg on their Lady Christl. But after the initial flurry of enthusiasm there was only 1 post, and that was from the Secretary (who might have felt obliged to stir the pot). Responses to postings were zilch. This enterprise has not been one of unalloyed success, to say the least. So, is it time to draw a veil?

If anyone is interested in posting their thoughts, feelings, complaints or compliments (allotment-related and likely to be of interest) please [contact FEDAGA](#). If not, then we'll bury it under some old bricks and broken glass at the bottom of the plot.