

## September 2017 Extra Issue: Autumn Special Edition



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### Free "Zoo Poo" Offer



FEDAGA is pleased to announce that Edinburgh Zoo is offering free "Zoo Poo" to members.

If you'd like to avail yourself of this you will need to make an appointment and be able to make the pick-up yourself, so a vehicle will be required. Please contact Robert Harden, Head of Gardens at the Zoo, to make arrangements. He can be contacted [here](#).

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Due to the location of the manure on site a staff member will need to be present and there is a no driving policy on site during core hours.

- Collections points can be discussed with Robert – location may vary depending on the amount.
  - The manure is completely organic hoofstock waste, so there should be no issues with contaminants.
  - The manure has already been composted and is ready for use.  
From past experience you will be required to turn up before the zoo is open to the general public. They are set up to deliver a scoop of manure to the designated spot from a tractor. The ideal arrangement would be to find a friend with a trailer or flatbed. It may well be viable to hire this as there will probably be enough available to supply a large allotment site. This could definitely be one for site committees to engage with. If you are going as an individual wanting to fill bags, you will have to bring a shovel and bags and do the filling yourself.
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## **Rod (or Rat) For My Own Back**

### **A Sequel Of Sorts To The "(Not So) Magic Carpet"**



Trying to get compost faster, I accidentally built a 5 star Rat Hotel. After my previous blunder (which also involved this same heap of carpet), I managed to compound matters with a mess all of my own devising.

There's not much new in gardening. If you come up with something but you can't find reference to it anywhere it may indeed be brilliant and new - or it may be the case that it doesn't work/isn't worth the effort... Read the rest of the story [here](#).

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# The Edinburgh Allotment Show Strikes A Chord With Members



*The 2017 All-Conquering Veggie Monster*

The 2017 Show was a great success, going by the number of participants, the standard of exhibits and the large number of visitors. This year there were 66 exhibitors and 354 exhibits - more than double the figures for 2016.

The show succeeded in its aim of bringing together the Edinburgh allotment community.

In addition to the regular fare there was horticultural advice from plant disease specialist Dr. Mark Hocart (of SRUC), a fine display of Heritage Potatoes supplied by FEDAGA Potato Club members [see story below], and posters prepared by SASA detailing potato pathogens in all their gory detail.

The Transport and Environment Convenor Lesley Macinnes (who has responsibility for Council allotments) presented the prizes.

Special thanks go to our "Giant Carrot" who promenaded around the Nicolson Square area on the day trying to encourage passers-by into the Show. With varying degrees of success. A couple of citizens

responded along the lines of: "Naw, hen. Why would ah want to go in there? Ah dinnae eat vegetables or fruit."

It can now be revealed that the RHS rules were bent considerably in that a shiitake mushroom display was permitted. Of course, mushrooms are not members of the plant kingdom. Can you spot them, along with the "Giant Carrot" [here](#)?

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## Bags of Cash



### **Need up to £4000 funding for your project that benefits the community?**

Tesco Bags of Help has already funded 780 projects in Scotland - sharing over £4 million pounds between them. As the nights get shorter it's time submit your application for projects you'd like to happen in Spring 2018 and beyond. Tesco fund a huge variety of projects that bring benefits to the community and every two months in Scotland they award 225 projects a share of over half a million pounds.

Single use carrier bags are no longer available in Tesco but the good news is that **Bags of Help** will continue with funding from the sale of the new 10p Bag for Life. Apply online [here](#).

Apply anytime for projects that bring benefits to the community.

Apply for capital and revenue funding between £1000 and £4000.

Community groups, schools, charities, local authorities and not for profits can all apply

Get help to apply from one of Tesco's team of Community Enablers by clicking [here](#).

Tesco Bags of Help is administered by Groundwork, working in Scotland with greenspace scotland.

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## Purple Spud Stories





*Here's some preliminary feedback from the SASA Heritage Potato Club Trials. The variety is "Black Kidney" (so you know what to avoid).*

The skins are black and the flesh is lilac.

I'm sorry to report that I found them disappointing in a number of ways.

They were slow to get started, and when I went to dig some the other day, there were very few potatoes produced. Because of their colour, and the fact that soil stuck to them - not the case for the other potatoes

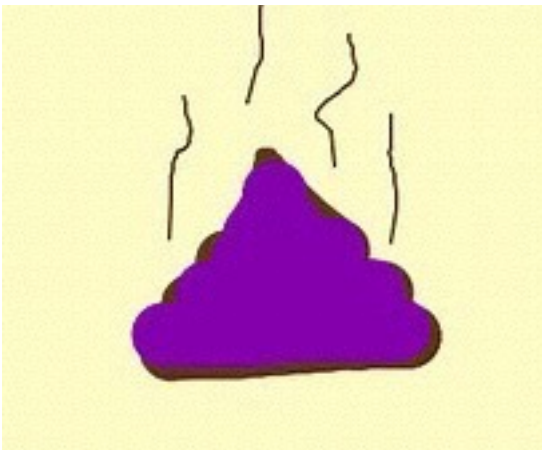
I sowed - they were extremely difficult to spot in the ground, and I ended up squatting down to try and see them, and then digging them up with a trowel. Very labour-intensive.

When I got them home and cleaned them up - and they do scrub up beautifully - I found that nearly all of them had a sort of scaly texture, and almost half had been seriously eaten by something. One was eaten right into the centre and was full of tiny ants. None of the other varieties

I grew this year (or indeed in previous years) had either of these problems.

Cooking: I boiled them, and before they were fully ready to eat, the skins had burst off, and the flesh inside was fluffy, mealy and insipid.

Would I grow them again? Absolutely not! But I enjoyed trying something new.



*There is an addendum:*

I thought you'd like to hear more about those purple potatoes. My neighbours across the road have two enchanting little girls, aged 3 and 5. Because they wear almost exclusively pink and purple, I thought they might enjoy the potatoes, so when I saw them this afternoon, I brought them the potatoes in a transparent bag and explained about them to their mum. The 3-year old came bounding up with a delighted look on her face and asked 'have you brought us a bag of poos?' And seemed disappointed when her Mum explained that I hadn't.

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## **Potato and Onion Trading Scheme Heads Up**

FEDAGA's Trading Secretary is poised with this year's Seed Potato and Onion Set order forms. They will be issued to site secretaries and representatives next week. Be sure to get sight of them and take advantage.

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## **Inverleith Open Day: 24th September**

A reminder that the Inverleith Festival Of Walking and Cycling will include guided tours of Inverleith allotments from 1.30pm on Sunday the 24th. It is unlikely you will be able to cycle around the allotments. Health and safety, etc. etc.

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## **The Apple Press Is Ready For Action**



So far only Midmar and Lady Road have expressed interest. We know for a fact that this year is another good one for apples. We also know that a great many go to waste as windfalls.

FEDAGA's Apple Press is available to sites that wish to organise an Apple Day of their own. Get in touch [here](#). There's no restrictions. Feel free to gather up apples from elsewhere and bring them in. The more the merrier. Especially if it's cider you're after.

Also: There is an Apple Day at the Botanic on 1st October. More information [here](#). And while at the Botanic you may be interested in a [Harvest Festival](#) there on 16th and 17th September.

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## FEDAGA Welcomes Dean Gallery



FEDAGA welcomes the allotment holders of Dean Gallery as a newly-affiliated site association. These lucky ploholders have the good fortune to tend the most prestigious site in the city formed out of old orphanage gardens. Each and every plot is a work of Modern Art in itself.

The allotments are the first exhibit visitors to Modern Art Two see on entering the grounds. You can read more about them in [this](#) old Daily Telegraph clipping from 2015.

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THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation will be held in **South Side Community Centre, 117 Nicholson Street, Edinburgh**, on

## Tuesday 24th October 2017

commencing at **7:15pm**, to deal with the following business :-

### DRAFT AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Guest Speaker - Cllr. Lesley Macinnes
3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM.
4. President's Review of the year 2016–17.
5. Financial Report by Treasurer.
6. Election of Management Committee
7. Motions to the Meeting
8. Forward Plans for coming year
9. Any Other Competent Business
10. Date of next Annual General Meeting

Our Guest Speaker Cllr. Lesley Macinnes is the new Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee so is responsible for the city's Council-managed allotment sites. I am sure you will wish to hear of plans for the forthcoming year and beyond and will welcome this opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

Ernie Watt (FEDAGA Secretary)

***(For publication on Site Association Notice Boards)***

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# Fancy A Day Out?



FEDAGA is wondering if there is sufficient demand to organise a social event. In days gone by (see picture, left) we would hire a charabanc and take a trip to the [Ayr](#) or [Dundee](#) Flower Shows. Should we revive this idea?

There are plans for next year's Dundee show already underway.

Alternative or additional suggestions are:

[Green Yonder Royal Mile Garden Tour.](#)

[Paxton House](#) and [Chain Bridge Honey Farm.](#)

[Humbie Dean](#) and [MacPlants.](#)

A trip to see some [Glasgow](#) allotments, perhaps stopping off [en route.](#)

A final thought: it would be good to have someone who might want to help organise this. Any social secretaries out there? Get in [touch.](#)