



Newsletter

July 2018: Grow It And Show It!



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

**THE 2018
EDINBURGH
ALLOTMENT
SHOW**

Saturday 8th September
Methodist Central Hall
25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX

Submit your entries 9–12
Open to public 2pm
Prizes 3.30pm

Flowers • Fruit • Vegetables • Plot to plate
Expert advice • Heritage potato display
Tasting of apple varieties • Apple press
Children's section • Prizes
Display of things 'interesting and peculiar'



Allotments are in the news. As well as providing a source of food for the family, they are good for your health and well-being. Working in the open air, watching the crops grow, chatting to fellow growers – all these things help us. And of course they hold much more biological diversity than other food-producing systems, so they are good for the health of the planet as well.

Every year we, the Edinburgh allotment-holders, come together in the Annual Allotment Show. Here, you can view some of the production – flowers, fruit and vegetables, and then see what happens next in the special section ‘From Plot to Plate’. This year the Show is on **Saturday 8th September** in the **Methodist Central Hall** on **Nicolson Square**. It isn’t just showing. You can also put your crop disease questions to a resident expert, see some famous Heritage Potatoes, do some apple-tasting and try your hand at making apple juice with our cider press. In case that’s not enough, this year we’ve added a special section of ‘weird and wonderful things’ – not for competition but for interest and entertainment.



Do you know a family who'd like an allotment? Many of us do, but the waiting list for Edinburgh allotments is up to ten years in some parts of town. Help is at hand, in the form of the Community Empowerment Act 2015. Section 9 is all about allotments (- see item below.) According to the Act, the Scottish Government's food-growing strategy requires councils to reduce the waiting list, seek out suitable land for allotments, make sure that allotment holders are trained, and ensure that allotments are properly resourced and maintained. Can it work, and how will it be funded? This is a discussion point for FEDAGA (The Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Associations) and SAGS (Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society).

The Show is for all ages, last year our youngest attendees were infants and our oldest were over 90 and still digging. So whether you exhibit or not, do come to the Show.

John Grace

Show Convenor

Consultation Time... Again



To be sure of getting a plot make sure you apply early in life...

Those interested in the provision and governance of allotments have been spoiled in recent years. **The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** is still trundling slowly through the corridors of power and now you get to advise on the draft statutory guidance for local authorities relating to allotments.

The consultation can be accessed by clicking [here](#) and you have until Monday 20th August to do it.

The guidance covers the following sections of Part 9 of the Act, where Ministers considered that additional guidance to local authorities would be helpful:

Section 110 – Offer to lease allotment
Section 111 – Duty to maintain list
Section 112 – Duty to provide allotments
Section 114 – Access to allotment and allotment site
Sections 115 and 116 – Allotment site regulations
Section 119 – Duty to prepare food-growing strategy
Section 120 – Duty to review food-growing strategy
Section 123 – Delegation of management of allotment sites
Section 124 – Promotion and use of allotments: expenditure
SAGS has yet to publish guidance on the proposals. You can check their [website](#) to see what they will say in due course.



...or this could be you when you finally get there!

FEDAGA members calculate that the well-intentioned legislation is already so weak that it won't be effective before 2032. This is because it won't start until next year and then have an 8 year lead-in before Councils have to comply. Then there's a 5 year wait before the Council will be compelled to offer applicants a plot.

Although FEDAGA has not heard anything officially the grapevine informs us that Edinburgh Council has taken on someone to identify potential allotment land and contact those on the waiting list to suggest an asset transfer. [Lethem Park](#) off Ferry Road could be a potential site.

Elsewhere, it is believed that Murrayfield Community Council may be eyeing up the former [Balgreen](#) site which ceased to be an allotment 20 years ago while the tram project (and previous aborted iterations) utilised the land. Although slated for housing it is still designated as green space.

FEDAGA and SAGS are trying to set up a means of communication with those on the Allotment Waiting Lists across Scotland. It is hoped that a bespoke newsletter can be created that will inform people of opportunities as they arise. In the meantime, as we know that a few readers of this Newsletter are waiting to get an allotment, we draw your attention to the possibility of funds to allow aspirant allotment groups to make trips to existing self-managed allotments to see how it is done. The Scottish Community Alliance has a Community Learning Exchange which offers grants to make this feasible. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Marie Curie Hospice, Edinburgh: Summer Fete



Holly Radbourne of Marie Curie Hospice Edinburgh writes:

We are holding our annual [Summer Fete](#) on **28th July from 2 to 4pm at 45 Frogston Road West, EH10 7DR**. If any Allotment Tenants would be willing to donate produce/plants or have a stall at our Fete we would be very grateful.

Your local [Marie Curie Hospice, Edinburgh](#), actively promotes quality of life for people with life-limiting illnesses completely free of charge. Each year over 600 people use the hospice where particular attention is given to treat each patient as an individual, tailoring the care to their specific needs and to those of their families, in comfortable surroundings. This year it will cost £4.7m to run the hospice, and while one third of these

costs will be covered by the NHS the remainder is funded through the generosity of local supporters and businesses. Other patients are cared for at home across the Lothians.

If you require any further information about Marie Curie or about this fundraising then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 470 2290.

Recycling Opportunity



Lorraine Macfarlane of Balerno writes:

I was wondering if you would be interested in, or have any use for some hanging baskets, seed trays and pots which my dad has no use for anymore. We didn't want to bin them. If they are not of any use to you is there anyone you know of who might want them? E-mail me at lorrainedoig@yahoo.co.uk

Dundee Show: Your Last Chance

There are only 2 tickets left for the FEDAGA bus to the [Dundee Flower and Food Festival](#) on Saturday 1st September. Just £6 will secure a seat on the bus for FEDAGA members and their partners/spouses. What a snip! This is your last chance. E-mail: dundee@fedaga.org.uk
First come, first served.

Open Days

[West Mains](#) - 5th August.

GARDEN OPEN FOR CHARITY

Craigentinny and Telferton Allotments

Telferton Road, off Portobello Road,
Edinburgh EH7 6XG

Sunday 5 August
2pm - 5pm

£3.00, children free
for Craigentinny Telferton Allotments and SGS Beneficiaries

Homemade Teas, Plants for sale,
Children's activities



Full information at
SCOTLANDSGARDENS.ORG

Registered Scottish Charity No. 006501

Scotland's
**GARDENS
Scheme**



Midmar Allotments Open Day Saturday 11 August 2018

Come and
have a look
around your
local
allotments

Live
music

Midmar
Café teas
and home
baking



Home
grown
veggies and
produce for
sale



The Big Butterfly Count



The Big Butterfly Count (20th July to 12th August) is a nationwide survey aimed at helping to assess the health of our environment. Butterflies react very quickly to change in their environment which makes them excellent biodiversity indicators. This is the world's biggest survey of butterflies. Over 60,000 people took part in 2017 (and the results are [here](#)). More info [here](#).

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