

May 2015



Last month we invited readers to enter Central Scotland Greenspace Network's Photography Competition. Stuart McKenzie submitted the above image of Globe Artichokes on Inverleith allotments and was shortlisted - winning a cash prize. The judges said that they were pleased someone had depicted how growing your own fruit and veg is a great way to spend time in greenspace. They also liked the glimpse in the background of people enjoying the day in a park.

Things to do in May...



Pic from Tonksy's Blog

INCH NURSERY PLANT SALES: Saturday 16th and 23rd May, 9am to 1pm.

COMPOST GIVE AWAY - Saturday 16th May.

During the first plant sale, Waste Services will be giving away 20kg (50 litres) bags of soil improver/compost to sale customers.

Waste Services staff will also be on hand to provide advice on garden waste, food waste and other recycling services.

Compost will be given away on a first come first served basis. Only one bag per customer and supplies are limited so make sure you arrive early...

On sale – a wide range of summer bedding plants, hanging baskets, herbaceous plants, shrubs, planters of various sizes, vegetables, herbs and much more.

Parking is available. Please bring your own bags (large shopper bags are ideal), boxes etc.

Payment by cash or cheques only. Sorry: no cards. Teas and coffees available.

Location:

Inch Nursery,
Inch Park,
Old Dalkeith Road,
Edinburgh,
EH16 5UF

(Within Inch Park: enter off Old Dalkeith Road into the park then follow signs from there.)

Contact - inch.nursery@edinburgh.gov.uk 0131 664 4135



HANGING BASKET & PLANTER CLASS - Saturday 30th or Sunday 31st May.

Time: 10am – 12.30pm

Location: Inch Nursery Glasshouse

Cost: £23

There is a choice of two dates this year.

During the class you will make up a hanging basket and planter. You can choose the style of basket/planter to make up on the day.

During the class you will learn:

Top tips for keeping your basket and planter flowering throughout the summer.

Money saving ideas to keep costs down.

How to use different colours, textures and heights to produce different themed baskets/planters using the Nursery's wide range of hanging and bedding plants.

For the £23 fee, you will take home the basket and planter you have made.

Refreshments will be provided.

Click [here](#) to book a place and pay on the day.

TOOL RE-USE PROJECT

At the plant sale, you can donate old, broken or unwanted hand tools.

The tools will then be taken to Saughton Prison for refurbishment in the prison workshops and then redistributed to community groups in the area. If you have any hand tools to donate, you can just drop them off at the plant sale.

Only non-powered gardening hand tools can be accepted. This includes spades, forks, trowels, hoes, etc, and can be any material.



SPRING FAIR AND PLANT SALE at the EDINBURGH STEINER SCHOOL.

There'll be lots of plants for sale, including vegetables ready to plant out in gardens and allotments. Also - music, crafts, children's activities, home made food.

Saturday 23rd May, 10.30am-1pm,

Edinburgh Steiner School, 60 Spylaw Road, EH10 5BR.

GARDENING SCOTLAND - 29th to 31st May, at the Royal Highland Showground.

The national gardening and outdoor living show will be held between 10am and 5pm on the weekend of 29th to 31st May.

This year's demonstration garden celebrates the Year of Food and Drink and will illustrate how you can grow a wide range of edibles in a small space. There will be lots of short practical workshops on gardening for biodiversity, composting and growing in a small space. Further information here: www.gardeningscotland.com

More events listed [here](#).

Edinburgh Council Allotment Officer's Report



Victoria in the Park

Ian Woolard has submitted the following report to this month's Management Committee:

1. Victoria Park allotment site now open with 16 new plots and one raised bed created.
2. A section of wall has fallen down at Pilrig Park allotments and an urgent repair is required.
3. Water supplies all back on and not too many bursts reported.
4. Many new plotholders have been introduced to plots over the winter and spring.
5. Some problems being reported with the trade waste bin uplift.
6. An increase in asbestos being reported. This has a cost and will have to be paid for from the allotment budget.
7. Northfield site beginning to take shape but a water supply has still to be sourced.

The wall collapse at Pilrig will have ramifications for expenditure elsewhere. The initial estimate for repair is nearly £1500. Also, asbestos removal may eat up resources. Craigentenny and Midmar will have around £1000 spent on each site for safe removal.

FEDAGA's Management Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Southside Community Centre. All members can attend. Sites without direct representation on the committee are particularly invited to submit reports or attend when they can. The next meeting is on the 12th at 7.15pm.

The next Allotment Strategy Working Group meeting has been postponed (twice) to the end of May. FEDAGA expects the Council to propose a consultation on rent. Also, there may be an initiative on management of the service. We will be tabling our own proposals as discussed at the AGM and described in last month's Newsletter.

Growing Spaces Survey: Put Your Site on the Map.



Members of the allotment community are being asked to complete a brief online survey to put their growing space on the map. Participants will be able to trace the boundary and entrances of their growing space as well as answer a few questions about their spaces. The map will be used to further the understanding of the size and distribution of these vital resources, and campaign for improvements so that everyone can enjoy the benefits.

You can put your site on the map [here](#).

Spring is here and life is teeming! Get on top of your pests now.



Act now and the rest of the season will be a breeze. We acknowledge the [Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens](#) for these 10 top tips for dealing with pests:

1 - Find out which creatures are friends and which are foes with this [handy game](#) from Garden Organic.

2 - Once you know what you're looking for, keep your eyes peeled. Do regular pest patrols under stones, plant pots, leaves etc. to find pests and pick off anything you can.

3 - Aphids suck sap from tender shoots, but not if a ladybird eats them first. [Encourage ladybirds](#) into your garden by creating homes for them.

4 - There are lots of [other creatures](#) to invite to your garden to help you tackle pests.

5 - [Make your own pesticides](#) using plants from the garden, whether it be nettle spray for aphids, or bracken spray for blackfly.

6 - Now is the time that mice and rats start nesting in your compost where there's lots of food and warmth for their babies. Regularly turn your compost to disturb any nests and avoid infestations later in the year.

7 - Make a simple but effective [slug trap](#).

8 - Make your own [netting cloches](#) to protect crops from birds.

9 - Most healthy seedlings and plants can withstand an element of munching, so maintaining a healthy soil will go a long way to supporting plants to be healthy and resilient to pests.

10 - People! Sometimes people can be pests! Check out this resource from the Allotment Regeneration Initiative on different ways of dealing with [vandalism](#).

Further reading...

The latest Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society [Newsletter](#).

...and a Free Gift!

FREE: 2 large plastic dalek-shaped compost bins. If you can pick them up, you can have them! The Christian Community, 21 Napier Road Edinburgh EH10 5AZ. Contact [Donna Simmons](#).

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