



Newsletter

December/January 2017: Let's Cancel Winter



When the frigid winter makes me chilly makes me shake, I try to picture summer so the cold I can forsake. (Jaymie Gerard)

Subscription Advice



You will notice from your invoice, due at the end of January, that this year the Council is asking all users of the allotment service to confirm their subscriptions to FEDAGA and your Allotment Associations. The cost of annual membership is minimal: £1.50 to FEDAGA and £1 to the Site Association.

I would encourage you to continue as a member by ticking the consent box which will authorise the Council to collect these sums. You will also be asked for your permission to allow your contact details to be passed on to FEDAGA and your Allotment Association. I hope that you will agree to do this for three good reasons:

1. By continuing as a member you will be supporting those volunteers who work to advance the interests of all allotment holders. You will be participating in the democratic process that has been in place for many decades to protect and promote allotments.

2. You will also be securing an opportunity to make savings by participating in the various Trading Schemes that FEDAGA and your Allotment Associations have negotiated for you. In addition, there are social events such as the Edinburgh Allotment Show, Heritage Potato Trials and site activities such as BBQs, Seed Swaps and the Apple Press that can only exist if there is a healthy, active representative body ready to make it happen.

3. FEDAGA and many Site Associations maintain a website and issue regular Newsletters via e-mail or in print to keep people in touch. Allotment communities work better for all if there are good lines of communication and everyone is involved to a level they are comfortable with.

For further information about FEDAGA go to www.fedaga.org.uk - and for information on Site Association websites click on the "Links" tab. All of those we are currently aware of are listed.

I hope you will agree to continue to be a member of FEDAGA and your Site Association. By working together we have stopped the closure of allotments and successfully argued for the creation of more sites in the future. We have also resisted unreasonable rent rises and consistently made the case for a better, more efficient allotment service.

Allotments depend on their tenants to look after them. By ticking the box on your invoice and agreeing to pay your subscription (equivalent to the price of one cup of coffee) you will be voting to ensure the continuation of the democratic bodies that are dedicated to the protection of the valuable haven that is so important to you.

Best wishes for a productive 2017.

Ernie Watt (Secretary, FEDAGA)

Repair & Maintenance, 2017



In November the Newsletter reported on the Council's spending record for allotments over the past year and revealed worrying news about a reduced budget for repairs and maintenance.

Each year FEDAGA gathers from Site Associations a list of items requiring action. This is taken to the Allotment Officer to form the basis of discussions on the spending programme for the coming year. This is currently in progress and if there's anything you'd like to bring to our attention, particularly if it relates to health and safety or site security, then ensure your site representative, or committee is informed.

The Pollinator Pledge



FEDAGA participated in a recent workshop set up to develop the Edinburgh Pollinator Pledge. We hope to work with the Council to take this forward. Research shows that allotments are a top location for pollinators - so it would make great sense to increase the number of sites. A presentation detailing research on the topic can be read [here](#).



The Caley

Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society

Winter Fruit Pruning Workshop



led by George Anderson

Beechgrove Garden presenter

on Sunday 5 February 2017, 2pm–3.30pm

at Bridgend Allotments, Edinburgh

*(On the Old Dalkeith Road, a short distance
south of the Cameron Toll roundabout)*

Numbers are limited – booking advised

email: rchsallotment@gmail.com

www.rchs.co.uk

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Duddingston Kirk Garden Club



Jenny Paterson writes about the Duddingston Kirk Garden Club:

Each August they run a flower and vegetable show and I entered for the first time last August. It is a brilliant event, but could do with more people entering and increasing the competition and interest. Anyone can enter the competition, no need to be a member of the club or the kirk.

They also run monthly talks (Tuesdays 7.15pm, at Duddingston Kirk Hall, £2 for non-members to attend the talks) and the next ones are:

Tuesday 10th January - Wildlife on your doorstep - Richard Wells

Tuesday 14th February - Allotments - Jenny Mollison

Tuesday 14th March - Kitchen Gardens - Jim Williams

Tuesday 11th April - A year in the nursery (Pencaitland Nursery) - Gavin McNaughton

May 2017 - Plant Sale

August 2017 - Flower and Veg Show

They would love new people to come along and perhaps some new members to join (£5 membership for a year).

Manure For Sale

If you're interested, Eddie Sirling (tel 07525 831417) has a yard at Wallyford and is selling manure for a nominal fee.