

May 2016: Time to Grow!



It's been an unusually cold spring. At long last the green shoots of promise are evident on the allotment.

Allotment News

All Council sites have been canvassed for spending requests for 2016-17. So far there has been a decidedly patchy response. Returns have been received from Lady Road, Warriston, Ferry Road, Inverleith, Pilrig Park and Cambridge Avenue. If your site has yet to respond you might lose out. Discussions will commence this month with the Allotment Officer so please contact [FEDAGA](#) with items you'd like action on.

Work is progressing on the Council's third Allotment Strategy document, with input from FEDAGA. However, we are disappointed to report that the Council has, after consideration, rejected our proposals to provide assistance to the hard pressed Allotment Officer on site inspections. We will continue to try to press for a rigorous approach to allotment management. On a more positive note there is a proposal to

develop a new 50-plot allotment site on land at the former Lismore Primary School in Bingham Avenue.

In supporting evidence to the Telferton Planning Appeal it was stated that most allotment applicants want a half plot. This was cited in support of the smaller plots that would be created in the rump site had the housing proposal gone through. Figures from the waiting list survey show that 40% want a full plot, 50% want a half plot and 10% just want a raised bed. So, although that statement is true, it should be recognised that very nearly half of all applicants want a full sized plot. Currently only half plots or raised beds are being offered. FEDAGA will continue to press for a reasonable expectation of getting or being upgraded to a full plot for those who want one.

Urban Butterfly Project



Urban areas can be real havens for butterflies, with allotments providing some of the best spaces for them.

The Urban Butterfly Project wants you to get involved in helping them find out which species of butterfly are most at home in the towns and cities of central Scotland.

For more information including an identification chart and recorders pack [click here](#).

Greenhouse Deal



Greenhouse Stores are an online retailer of aluminium and wooden greenhouses and ship all over the UK and Europe. They also offer a national greenhouse installation service and can offer FEDAGA members a discount on the products on offer, anytime. For more information click [here](#).

Tools Shed Project



The Conservation Foundation's Tools Shed Project has been repairing broken and unwanted garden hand tools in prison workshops for more than 10 years and since 2012 there has been a workshop at HMP Edinburgh. It is very successful with up to seven prisoners working on the tools at any time and the 'new' tools being given free to local schools and community groups. As well as the obvious recycling benefits, the project gives skills and purposeful occupation to prisoners, as well as a link with the world beyond the walls, while providing schools and community groups with the tools they need but often struggle to afford.

West Lothian Council has recently started collecting tools for the project at all of its six recycling depots and there are permanent collection points at New Hopetoun Gardens and Dunbar Garden Centre. The Edinburgh Tool Library is going to start collecting soon. But they are on the lookout for more collection points and are asking if there might be the possibility of having collection bins at any of the Council's Allotment sites.

Could you help? If so, the Project's Lindsay Swan would be very glad to discuss this with you and to provide signage and publicity support. Tools Shed, as the UK's only garden tool recycling project attracts a great deal of positive media coverage. Having tool collections within the city would be a huge boost for the Saughton project and gardeners would find it a useful service too. The prison would be able to arrange collection of the tools. If you think your site could help with this worthwhile project contact Lindsay Swan [here](#).



THE 2016 EDINBURGH ALLOTMENT SHOW

Saturday 3rd September
Free Admission

Register your entries - 9am to Noon
Open to public - 2 to 4pm
City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Nicolson Square
For full details including Entry Form go to -
www.fedaga.org.uk/annual-show

Volunteer Opportunity



Are you interested in an opportunity to help deliver gardening activities for people affected by cancer? Move More Edinburgh, a partnership between Edinburgh Leisure and Macmillan Cancer Support are organising a project to take this forward. For more information about Move More Edinburgh please click [here](#) and to get in touch click [here](#).

Growth in Community Growing



You may remember last year we asked you to upload information about your allotment to a research project to record land given over to community growing. Results show there has been a significant increase in community growing activity across the central belt of Scotland between 2010 and 2015.

The study gathered data on the number of sites and area of land used for community growing. The results estimate that there are more than 300 sites spread over 230 hectares of land in central Scotland, with around 72% of the space used for allotments, 16% for community orchards and 12% for community gardens.

The average community growing space was found to be around 0.6 hectares, depending on site usage, with allotment sites tending to be the largest, averaging around 1 hectare, followed by community orchards (0.7 hectares) and community gardens being much smaller at 0.3 hectares.

The findings indicate that the number of sites and area of land used for allotments in central Scotland has grown by 7% since 2010 to approximately 6,700 individual plots across more than 160 allotment sites which equates to over half (53%) of the region's community growing sites.

More information [here](#).