

November 2016 - Changes and Initiatives



Globe artichokes and rainbow over Blackford Hill (Midmar allotments) (pic: Valeska Andrews)

New Blog Launched



FEDAGA has started a blog - available on our website. To read it click [here](#). The first 4 entries are already up: a feature on [Valeska Andrews](#) (pictured here on her Midmar plot), communal storage solutions on no-shed site Dumbryden, a chat with newly elected FEDAGA President [Stuart McKenzie](#), and details of the [fresh approach](#) that the new committee hope to steer towards.

We want to encourage plotholders wishing to improve communications on their own sites. So FEDAGA will run a workshop for anyone interested in setting up a blog, newsletter or website for their own site -

and also for new participants who would like to contribute to the FEDAGA platforms: you will be made most welcome. It will take place from 7.15pm on Tuesday 10th of January 2017. If you'd like further information or register interest please contact FEDAGA [here](#).

Another Sting In The Tale...

FEDAGA has recently received a Repair and Maintenance Report from the Allotment Officer. It details progress made (or not) across the city's sites. It also contains a bold note in the margin against the annual spending budget of £20,000: "£5000 will be removed as a cost saving." FEDAGA is canvassing site reps for (a) previously requested but undelivered actions and (b) fresh repair and maintenance requests. We hope to meet with the Allotment Officer in the New Year to press him to deliver what is required and has been agreed and paid for.

A breakdown of where your rent money goes:

Overall budget: £38,000.

Annual standing charges for water, electricity, refuse collection: £18,700.

Repairs to vandalised gates at Dumbryden: £900.

Communal container at Dumbryden and gate repairs at Bridgend: £482.

New locks and chains (all sites): £990.

New keys and locks at Stenhouse: £200.

Roofing felt for Craigentenny communal shed: £450.

2 tons of whin dust for Cambridge Avenue: £200.

Extra security at Dumbryden: £800.

Water pump repair at Bridgend: £650.

Roof refelted at Saughton Mains chalet: £850.

Fence repair at Redhall: £150.

Fence repair at Claremont Park: £186.

Fence repair at Warriston: £198.

Fence repair at Northfield Drive: £140.

Strimming at Northfield Drive: £153.

Tool shed dividers in containers at Dumbryden: £2000.

Water charges for Drumbrae: £285.

Hedge cutting at Ferry Road and Warriston: £400.

All the above have been completed.

Orders have been issued for the following:

New gates at Lady Road: £2395.

New beech trees for burnt out hedge at Pilrig Park: £40.

Extend water supply at Warriston: £1200.

Extra security at West Mains: £175.

Also - new notice boards for Claremont Park and Leith Links (£450 each) may not be possible.

The creation of a hard standing area for waste bins at Midmar (£260) has not had an order issued - so is on hold.

30m of new fencing at Warriston (plot 98) is also on hold as the price (£3000) is too expensive.

Tree cutting at Carrick Knowe (requested years ago) is termed "ongoing" (£400).

Classified Section



IKEA are selling really excellent plastic trays which are perfect for standing pots or seed trays on. Is it a potted plant tray or a seed tray? It certainly could be. It's actually an optional extra for the Ikea self assembly shoe rack. A heavy duty plastic tray measuring 31cm by 70cm. Perfect for greenhouses and shelves.

Just £1.50. Product name is BAGGMUCK, reference is 603.297.11. Full product information [here](#).

Stuart Watson of Grierson Road (EH5) writes: "As a result of building works I have a pile of topsoil that's surplus to my needs. Please notify local allotment holders [Inverleith, Ferry Road or Warriston] to see if there are any takers. I'll need to get rid of it within about 3 weeks or so. Don't mind helping with loading and unloading." Interested? Contact Stuart [here](#).

Sandra Eden writes: "A friend of a friend is looking for a new home for this rather splendid greenhouse and I thought I would send the photos to you so that, if you see fit, you might circulate them to the troops. It is free." Interested? Then click on the [News](#) page of the FEDAGA website and scroll down to Greenhouse For Uplift for photos and contact information.

Warriston Website



Alice Bain writes: "The new Warriston website went live in April this year and includes a bumper crop of plot advice, images and news. Pest or Guest of the Month and Variety of the Month are among the sections we update regularly, with Recipe of the Month a recently added plot holder suggestion. The redeveloped site includes helpful advice on rubbish removal, recycling and more. Please contact us through the Warriston website if you would like any further information, if you would like to join our newsletter, or if you have any allotment thoughts/ideas you would like to share. It's all at: www.warristonallotments.com"

Coming Next Year: The Return of the Allotment Forum

Head of Parks and Greenspace, David Jamieson, has indicated he is keen to re-establish the Allotments Forum. This is an opportunity to bring together the Council officials (and hopefully some actual Councillors, maybe?) who are responsible for running the allotment service and you, the "Service User".

These have taken place in the past and were good opportunities to vent opinions and cut through the fog of half-truth and rumour. It is likely that a meeting will be scheduled for the springtime. Watch this space.

First New Allotment Site of the Post-CEA "New Era" On Its Way.



FEDAGA has secured agreement from the Council to kick start the planning process that will lead to the creation of a new allotment site on the grounds of the former Lismore Primary School. This site is immediately to the south of Bingham Park, on the corner of Duddingston Row and Bingham Avenue.

The Council have said they have no funds available for capital expenditure on creating new sites - but they have an obligation to meet demand under the provisions of the Community Empowerment Act. This will be achieved by contacting those in the locality who are on the Waiting List for a plot. They will be brought together to self-organise a working group to access grants and take the project on themselves. This is the way allotments will be created in Edinburgh in the future. A recent Central Scotland Greenspace Network workshop identified £1.5bn available to community groups for the creation of growing spaces (including allotments) over the next 35 years to 2050. It is notable this funding is NOT available to Councils. The figure was calculated by collating all the present funding streams and adding them together. It is not "new" money: just what is already on stream. If people can work together and successfully attract the necessary funding then the future is bright for new allotment sites in Scotland.