



# Newsletter

## September 2017: Time For...

### THE EDINBURGH ALLOTMENT SHOW



Saturday 2nd  
September 2017  
Central Methodist Hall  
Nicolson Square

Submit Entries 9 to 12  
Open to Public 2pm  
Prizes 3.30pm



THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

FREE ENTRY - flowers - fruit -  
vegetables - children's section  
homecrafts - expert panel - cafe

[www.fedaga.org.uk/allotment-show](http://www.fedaga.org.uk/allotment-show)

The highlight of the Edinburgh allotment year is almost upon us. Just time to survey what you've grown, spiff it up for show and bring it in on Saturday morning. Full details above and [here](#).

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# Is This Sort Of Thing Of Interest To You?



A new paid opportunity is available for people who are interested in supporting issues relating to malnutrition and loneliness. The Soil Association are looking for people who want to share their views, and those of their peers, to feed into the development of products and services through Better Care. For more information, click [here](#).

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## (Not So) Magic Carpet



When you take on an Allotment, you're exposed to advice and lore of varying quality. The trick is learning what's useful and what's not or what isn't applicable anymore.

Since "they" say that the cheapest experience is that which you obtain second hand here's a story for anyone starting out...

Read more [here](#).

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# Design 2030 Now... and How It Relates To Allotment Excess



## Global Goals Jam

### Design 2030 Now!

Last month we carried an appeal from chef Kendra Walsh calling for contributions of unwanted excess veg. This would be prepared into delicious food and any profit would go to charity. (See News story [here](#)).

Now comes a United Nations/Amsterdam University initiative, [Global Goals Jam](#), which includes a project to try to connect up excess with want to eliminate waste. Basically, the challenge is to see if it's possible to provide information on seasonal gluts and find a process for contacting and working with food banks, so that this food could be used. It is expected that the upcoming 15-17 September event in Edinburgh will include an attempt to start wondering how best to approach this. If you're interested [contact](#) FEDAGA.

Reducing waste is obviously worthwhile. FEDAGA will be discussing any outcome from this at our October meeting.

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## Apple Press



The apple tree boughs are groaning again as they prepare to drop this year's windfall. Don't let it rot on the ground. Arrange for your site to borrow the FEDAGA Apple Press to mash and press the juice for immediate drinking or maybe brewing some cider. If your site is interested, get in [touch](#). Whatever you do, don't leave apples lying around encouraging wasps!

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation will be held in **South Side Community Centre, 117 Nicholson Street, Edinburgh**, on

### **Tuesday 24th October 2017**

commencing at **7:15pm**, to deal with the following business :-

#### **DRAFT AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Guest Speaker - Cllr. Lesley Macinnes
3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM.
4. President's Review of the year 2016–17.
5. Financial Report by Treasurer.
6. Election of Management Committee
7. Motions to the Meeting
8. Forward Plans for coming year
9. Any Other Competent Business
10. Date of next Annual General Meeting

Our Guest Speaker Cllr. Lesley Macinnes is the new Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee so is responsible for the city's Council-managed allotment sites. I am sure you will wish to hear of plans for the forthcoming year and beyond and will welcome this opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

Ernie Watt (FEDAGA Secretary)

***(For publication on Site Association Notice Boards)***

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# Prickly Protection



A "hillfarmer" (aka Midmar plotholder) writes:

In response to your "invitation to demonstrate novel solutions to challenges on the plot", attached is a picture of gorse protection of my broad bean seedlings. It worked in that no mouse attack was made. This could be of course that a) there were no mice about b) they had better things to eat.

Re. "a supply of excellent barley straw": that is good to know. May I recommend to your readers a book

**"The One-Straw Revolution: An Introduction to Natural Farming"** - by Masanobu Fukuoka.

A fascinating and thought provoking book which a no dig, no weed, no pesticide and no chemicals plotholder will find supportive. Also an excellent case for eating local and seasonal foods. You can buy it on line for about £8.

Here's a [link](#) to an article about Masanobu Fukuoka. If you're wanting a link to Amazon, look it up yourself. (You should be supporting the last independent bookshop before it disappears. - Ed.)

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# Gardening Education Courses



If you're new to gardening and have just started running an allotment plot you may be wondering if there's any hands-on help out there. There is. Bridgend Growing Communities run regular organic gardening courses. You can find out more and register your interest [here](#).

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## And Finally, Astonishing Carrot News From Canada



Did you see this incredible story carried on many news media?  
"A Canadian woman got an extra carrot with her diamond ring when it was found in her vegetable patch 13 years after she lost it." Read more, courtesy of the BBC, [here](#).

And if that's not exciting enough or you just prefer your carrot stories to be a bit more Swedish, try [this](#).