



Newsletter

# September 2018: Something's Showing

The poster features a background image of various colorful vegetables, including red and yellow chard stalks and green leafy vegetables. At the top left is the FEDAGA logo. To its right, the text reads 'THE FEDERATION OF EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS'. The main title 'THE 2018 EDINBURGH ALLOTMENT SHOW' is centered in a white box. Below this, the date and location are listed: 'Saturday 8th September, Methodist Central Hall, 25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX'. Further down, the entry and public opening times are given: 'Submit your entries 9-12, Open to public 2pm, Prizes 3.30pm'. At the bottom, a list of activities is provided: 'Flowers • Fruit • Vegetables • Plot to plate, Expert advice • Heritage potato display, Tasting of apple varieties • Apple press, Children's section • Prizes, Display of things 'interesting and peculiar''.

**FEDAGA** THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

**THE 2018  
EDINBURGH  
ALLOTMENT  
SHOW**

**Saturday 8th September**  
Methodist Central Hall  
25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX

Submit your entries 9–12  
Open to public 2pm  
Prizes 3.30pm

Flowers • Fruit • Vegetables • Plot to plate  
Expert advice • Heritage potato display  
Tasting of apple varieties • Apple press  
Children's section • Prizes  
Display of things 'interesting and peculiar'

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# A Plotting Good Day Out



*Photo credits: Alison Leslie and Dave Roberts*

*Alison Leslie, a Tripper from Lady Road writes:*

A merry band of FEDAGA members gathered at Waterloo Place on the morning of Saturday 1st September for our trip to the Dundee Flower and Food Festival. Shortly before departure we were issued with a fun quiz to do. One proviso, we didn't contact a friend called "Google" to help with the answers. After a comfort break at Kinross Services we arrived at Camperdown Park. Derek, our lovely driver, was press-ganged into our group photo before we all scattered in different directions for some horticultural fun.



*On entering the show, this was the first display.*

## **Floral Marquee**

On entering the Floral Marquee you could smell that there were lilies on display. These were next to an equally beautiful display of gladioli. The first display was very soothing, with water, white flowers and dry stone dykes.



*The Holmes Farm Plants stand.*

The second display that caught my eye was from Holmes Farm Plants in Ayrshire.

One of my fellow trippers had attended one of the Gardeners' Q&A sessions in the floral marquee –

### **Gardeners' Q&A with Christine Waldon, Nicola Singleton and Ian Christie**

*A well attended session with the panel providing helpful answers to many questions from the lively and enthusiastic audience.*



*Begonias the size of dinner plates.*

After the Floral Marquee came the Craft and Food Marquees. Despite having a packed-lunch in my bag I succumbed to a lovely freshly baked Cornish Pasty, with an equally delicious Apple and Custard Pasty for dessert. I wish I'd taken a note of the Dundee bakery name that made them so I can get more when I'm next in Dundee!

I missed the falconry display, but Muriel Horsburgh has provided an account –

### **Elite Falconry Flying Display**

*An interesting account of the physiology of several birds of prey and how it impacts on their flying and hunting techniques, including flying displays. We learned about the Caracara Falcon from the Falkland Islands, the British Tawny Eagle, and a British Owl.*

As a Borderer I am always interested in Kelsae Onions. The National Vegetable Society Scottish Championships did not disappoint. I remember seeing the greenhouses for the Kelsaes at what was Sinclair McGill Garden Centre as a child. Seeing such high quality vegetables in real life, as opposed to on television, was awe inspiring. The best display in the show, in my opinion was the National Vegetable Society. One of the members was wishing he could charge 50 pence per photo taken!



*A selection of scarves and stoles from the craft section.*

The flower section of this marquee was another eye opener. Special attention was paid to the gladioli. One day I hope to show them at the FEDAGA show, as my Grandad did in Dumfriesshire. I came away with a seedling and a catalogue from the chrysanthemum stall so I can plan for next season. To me nothing smells more like autumn than the chrysanthus.

Muriel's comments on this fantastic marquee-

*An impressive display of enormous vegetables grown by the Society members. This standard is achieved when the grower is willing and able to invest funds and time in the activity. Some spend many hours every day nurturing their produce, and frequently husband and wife partnerships are involved.*

As well as being a sower, I am also a knitter, sewer and baker so the next stop was the respective marquees for these crafts. Since I was scarf knitting during the bus journey special attention was paid to the scarf and stole entries.



*The National Vegetable Society (Dundee and East of Scotland District Association) stand.*

Soon it was time to head back to the bus. Only then did it dawn on me that buying a bunch of gladioli maybe wasn't the best idea when I was travelling by bus. Driver Derek came to my rescue and made sure they were safe on the luggage rack.

On the journey home the results of the quiz were announced – a 3 way tie. Muriel had sudden-death questions ready. No-one knew the patron saint of gardening, but one person did know who the longest serving presenter on Gardeners' World was. The prize was a bottle of wine. After a comfort stop at Kinross, and my first journey over the Queensferry Crossing, Derek got us back to Waterloo Place. I'm sure we were all somewhat poorer in monetary terms, but richer in ideas for future seasons of plotting. On behalf of all of the plotters on the trip, a huge

thank you to Muriel from Lady Road Allotments for organising such a successful trip, FEDAGA for subsidising the cost of the bus, and finally to Derek for getting us to Camperdown and back in comfort.

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# Duddingston Show Success



*Alex Renton with some of his trophies.*



*John McKinlay writes:*

Craigentiny plotholder and FEDAGA member Alex Renton found success with his vegetables and fruit at The Duddingston Flower Show recently. The Show is held each year at the end of August in Duddingston Church Hall. Alex got a number of first prizes and one of the trophies received was for the most points received from all the vegetable classes.

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## **Did We Say We Have Our Own Show?**



*A wee glimpse of last year's show.*

*John Grace writes:*

The Edinburgh Allotment Show is nearly upon us. This year's show will be held in the **Conference Hall in the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church in Nicolson Square on Saturday September 8th** (see poster above).

**Entries will be accepted from 9am until noon and we open to the public from 2pm until prizes are distributed at 3.30pm.** Full details can be seen [here](#) where you can view some of the production – flowers, fruit and vegetables as well as the special sections for children and ‘From Plot to Plate’.

Find the show [here](#).

Help on how to show [here](#).

Guide to the Show Classes [here](#). List of Show Classes [here](#).

Show Regulations [here](#)

and download your Entry Form [here](#).

It isn't just showing. You can also put your crop disease questions to a resident expert, see some famous Heritage Potatoes, do some apple- tasting and try your hand at making apple juice with our cider press. In case that's not enough, this year we've added a special section of 'weird and wonderful things' – not for competition but for interest and entertainment.

Remember, the Show depends entirely upon YOU. If you are a member of the FEDAGA/SASA Heritage Potato Club please bring along good examples of the heritage potatoes you have grown this year. Also, this year we are experimenting with a "weird and wonderful" or "interesting and peculiar" section where you can bring in anything, maybe a oddly shaped vegetable or piece or arcane horticultural equipment. Possibly a collection of fragments dug up on the plot. Pretty much *anything*. Let's just see what arrives.

The Show is for all ages. Last year our youngest attendees were infants and our oldest were over 90 and still digging. So whether you exhibit or not, do come to the Show.

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## **FEDAGA AGM: 23rd October**

The Annual General Meeting of FEDAGA will commence at **7pm** on Tuesday 23rd October at the **Southside Community Centre, Nicolson Street EH8 9ER**. Papers including a Draft Agenda and nomination forms have been sent to site representatives. Your site noticeboard should be displaying the official notice of the meeting.

All members are welcome to attend. Delegates from affiliated sites will have voting rights.

Active participation is essential to protect and promote our allotment community. This is for our mutual benefit and also brings savings and opportunities for individual members.

FEDAGA is a voluntary organisation and depends upon its members to operate. Each year the AGM provides a chance for members to step up and take a more active part.

Closing date for nominations: 1st October.

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## **Craigentinny Telferton's Open Day Was Knit To Be Missed...**



*Rachel Purnell writes:*

We held our annual open day on Sunday 5th August and what a great day!

The plots were looking fantastic, the sun shone and people excelled themselves with some amazing creations for the yarn bombing. We had 233 paying

visitors and around 40 children who all had a great time trying to find the knitted animals and vegetables on the Yarn Bomb

Trail. And all finished off with delicious home baking and a cup of tea - the perfect day.

This year we created a community garden with the help of a Neighbourhood Partnership grant, and the open day gave us the perfect opportunity to share this space with visitors.

Many thanks to all our visitors and to everyone who contributed in making the day such a success.

If you missed it, you can see a short video of the day on our [website](#).

