



Happy New Year

It's good to get back to 'normal' and start planning, digging and maintaining ready for the new season. Time spent now in preparing will save a lot of effort later on.

All Federation members qualify for discounted seeds from Kings Seeds, so now's the time to get your order in so both you and the site benefit from reduced prices. All you need to know is on the [FEDAGA website](#).

The high winds of late do quite a bit of damage about the site and move things about. There's a compost bin in pieces beside the main path for example. Please pop down to make sure all is well and accounted for on your plot.

The path from East Fettes Avenue continues to be a muddy mess. Ian Woolard has tried unsuccessfully several times to get a delivery of woodchip from the Forestry section of the Parks Department. Apparently they use it all as a mulch around bushes to suppress weeds. The pressure will be kept up to supply.

Gilbert Clark

Some of our older plotheolders may have known Gilbert Clark who has sadly passed away. Gilbert started on his first Edinburgh plot in 1956 at Liberton Brae. He was moved to Midmar when the site closed and has been on the committees of both our Federation and Scottish Allotments (SAGS) for 40 years. He attended meetings throughout that time and was awarded an MBE for services to the allotment community in 2001. Gilbert finally decided to resign from the Federation committee last year aged 96.

If you would like to pay your respects, his funeral will be held on Friday 24th January at 2 pm at St Columba's by the Castle, Johnstone Terrace, Edinburgh.



Birds, Butterflies and Bees on Allotment Sites

As you're possibly aware, there is no better place for biodiversity than an allotment site. Allotments provide a largely undisturbed place to shelter, find food and breed. FEDAGA have been asked by a plothead at Lady Road allotments to find representatives from all sites to monitor their bird, butterfly and bee populations. We hope this will further prove the value of allotments to maintaining healthy populations of creatures, great and small.

Stewart Henderson on plot 62 already keeps a record of bird sightings. During three months last year he spotted 30 species of birds on the site. The highlight recently was a goldcrest right beside him on his plot. Stewart has kindly volunteered to report findings back to FEDAGA but he needs your help. If you see anything interesting do please let him know by either dropping a note in the Committee drop box or emailing him at stewartahenderson@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, would someone like to volunteer to major on our butterflies and bees? Let me know please.

Stewart's current list is:-

- Mallard
- Heron
- Kestrel
- Buzzard
- Curlew
- Swift
- Swallow
- House Martin
- Wren
- Robin



A Goldcrest - keep looking!

- Mallard
- Heron
- Kestrel
- Buzzard
- Curlew
- Swift
- Swallow
- House Martin
- Wren
- Robin
- Blackbird
- Redwing
- Thrush
- Starling
- House Sparrow
- Great Tit
- Coal Tit
- Blue Tit
- Long Tailed Tit
- Dunnock
- Goldfinch
- Chaffinch
- Greenfinch

- Magpie
- Jackdaw
- Carrion Crow
- Rook
- Woodpigeon
- Feral pigeon
- Lesser black-backed Gull
- Black headed Gull

Spare Neeps and Carrots?

A message just received from Will Bain of Scran Academy...
Hi Inverleith allotmenters!

I'm the catering manager of Scran Academy, a social enterprise supporting disadvantaged young people in North Edinburgh with cooking and employability skills and positive experiences. We're based at the Fetlor youth centre on Crewe road south, not far away, and we're hosting a community Burns get-together on Friday the 24th January.

I'm just wondering if any allotment holders have a surfeit of neeps and/or carrots on their hands that they'd be happy to donate for the event? We're receiving 100 bagels from bross bagels (haggis bagels!) in Leith and some haggis from Campbell's prime meats, and will be sharing all our supporters over social media.

Also, ongoing, if anyone wants to get rid of gluts, please consider us a possible outlet!

If you can help, please contact Will at will@scranacademy.com

Opportunity Knocks...from the FEDAGA postbox

Any volunteers? Good luck to you! The 'brand' is B and Q by the way.

My name is Katie, and I head up the TV casting team at Raw Research. We are currently looking for real families from every part of the UK to feature in a lovely ad campaign ... so are getting in touch with organisations, groups and clubs from Land's End to John o' Groats (and all over Northern Ireland too) and everywhere in-between! We want to really reflect the amazing mix of people found in the UK, and include families from every nook and cranny with a mix of ages, generations and accents. We're really keen to include some greenfingered folk and their lovely gardens/allotments.

For this project, our friends at a well-known DIY company will mark their 50th year in business with a moving tribute to the last 50 Years of UK life in and around the home and garden. They have asked us to find families from all over the UK who have loads of family photos and home videos from this time who might like to be in their next TV ad.

Are you from a family that always had a camera to hand? Is your attic filled with photo albums and home videos? We want to hear from you - please fill out this questionnaire and a member of our team will be in touch! <https://forms.gle/a3QhjUpMwnPxPvUL9>

We are looking for about 70 families in total - and about 10 or so of these will be featured more heavily in the campaign (TV adverts plus some short online films). Of these 10, some may be invited to do some filming too, in their home or garden.

We want to include all the big family moments and moments that show time is passing - weddings, christenings, birthdays, first days at school, anniversaries, BBQs, picnics, parties and time in the garden. There's no such thing as too many pictures or videos! We want families where you can see fashion and wallpaper change as you flip through the albums - we want to see flares, perms and wheelie shoes!

Fee information:

Hero Families (prominently featured) will be paid £5,000 per family, plus a £1,500 voucher from the brand. These fees will cover use of family photos / home videos in the campaign, plus potentially filming at home.

Please note - some families may be invited for filming in South

Best wishes from Stuart McKenzie and the Inverleith
Committee

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