



The Scottish National Union of Allotment Holders Amenity Trophy

September 2014 - Eyes On The Prize



FEDAGA President Peter Wright presents the First Prize to Kathy Parker, accepting on behalf of winners Lucie and Stuart McKenzie.

The winners of the 2014 Edinburgh in Bloom Allotment Competition were presented with their handsome trophies and Certificates at an informal barbeque held on the beautiful Midmar allotment site in south Edinburgh on Sunday 13th September. The sun continued to shine and our prizewinners were able to take a well-earned break from toiling on their plots to enjoy some burgers and sausages expertly served up by Rik Hart.

That is apart from the winners, Lucie and Stuart



Rosemary Munro and Neiria MacClure of Claremont Park allotments celebrate their Second Prize. McKenzie of Inverleith allotments, who were unable to attend. Just before they left town for a holiday they were reported to remark that if you manage to create the best plot in the city you can't take time off until judgement day passes. One of last year's winners, fellow Inverleith plotter Kathy Parker, was happy to accept the Scottish National Union of Allotment Holders Amenity Trophy on their behalf.

The winners of the Second and Third Prizes



Pauline Valentine of Redhall allotments was delighted to have scored Third Place.

received their silverware and certificates in person. Rosemary Munro and Neiria MacClure, as well as keeping a beautiful and innovative plot at Claremont Park, have put a lot of effort into helping to ensure their site has started to work more co-operatively for the benefit of all, restarting the site committee and organising communal events and clear-ups.

Pauline Valentine expressed surprise and delight to receive recognition for her efforts. She said that perhaps her plot had benefitted from her being able to concentrate more fully on it having recently stepped down from serving for many years both on her Redhall site committee, as well as the FEDAGA committee. Congratulations to all who entered the competition.

Inverleith Allotments Open Day

You may have noticed that the winners of the last two Edinburgh in Bloom Allotment Prizes are from Inverleith. However, there are more than two wonderful plots. Here's a chance to visit and see more. The site opens up as part of [Stockfest 2014](#) on Monday 22nd September.

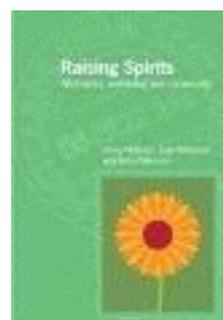
They say: The Inverleith Allotment site is one of Edinburgh's special places as a haven for wildlife, has captivating views of the Edinburgh skyline and friendly people waiting to show you around.

Come and find out more about growing your own produce, enjoy a cup of tea and take home some plants from the plant stall.

Half hour timed tours start at 2pm; the last one is at 6.30pm. Places are limited and likely to fill up fast.

» To book your free tour, click [here](#).

Raising Spirits



Last month we carried news of the launch in Glasgow of the book *Raising Spirits: Allotments, Well-being and Community*, published as part of the [Postcards from Scotland](#) series. There was a launch event in Edinburgh last week. Unfortunately we didn't get news of this in time for the August Newsletter. But the book will feature in the [18th Edinburgh International Radical Book Fair](#) in October so if you're interested in hearing more from the authors you can go along then. Check the website nearer the time: details are not available at the time of writing.

Apple Press



Fancy turning your apples into juice or cider? There will be a masher and fruit press available at the following locations in November:

Midmar, 1st and 2nd, 1 to 4pm.

Claremont Park, 8th, 1 to 4pm.

Inverleith, 9th, 1 to 4pm.

These dates are still provisional. Firm details next month. Advice will be available on the day but if you're interested in finding out more here's a [video](#) that explains all.

Asbestos Advice

FEDAGA asked the City of Edinburgh Council for advice to plotholders who find asbestos on their plot. We have published their reply on our website. It's well worth clicking [here](#) to see what guidance is suggested.

More thoughts on Brown Bins for Allotments



More on the pros and cons of Brown Bin provision for allotments. Independence isn't the only topic dividing the nation.

In the YES camp:

Hello, just writing to drop in my tuppence worth about the Brown Bin proposal. I'd just like to say I think it's a fantastic idea.

Yes, we should compost as much as we can ourselves onsite, but there's always those that can't/won't so we end up with carrier bags of weeds in the General Waste or clumps and handfuls thrown into the treeline/dumped behind the toilet block.



My plot's at Ferry Road. We've been trying to divert some of the waste that can be recycled out of the General Waste bin and carting it to Seafeld CRC.

From what I've seen, I have to say the Garden Waste is one of the more troublesome types of waste. Firstly, because there's no end to it - as soon as the bucket's cleared out another bag's been dropped in. Secondly, it's not very patient. The scrap wood, old metal, broken glass, etc - pile it up and keep it dry and it'll be fine till you've a moment to take it away. The Green stuff naturally starts decomposing. I was away with the family on holiday for a week, and by the time we got back there were a couple of bags of slimy, stinky silage lurking at the

bottom of the heap. So if we could get the excess Garden Waste taken away in an orderly way, it would be a big help.

We're hoping to set up Communal Compost heaps, but they're reliant on someone volunteering the time and energy to manage them, and there's always the question of space and materials.



And for the NO campaign:

Sorry, I think brown bins for allotment sites is a terrible idea!

The brown bins are designed for domestic garden waste, for those unlikely to have a compost heap in their small garden. When I buy brown bin compost from FRM I do not want a pile of horsetail from Craigentiny (which should be burned and the ashes added to a compost heap).

Plot holders by virtue of their supposed interest in green issues should be composting and recycling as a matter of course.

Anyone with a plot and no compost heap should be shot (smiley face).

We cannot even get our Trade Waste bin emptied every week so having 45 brown bins from Redhall emptied regularly would be impossible for the Council.

Can you imagine how impractical that would be for Inverleith - 151 brown bins?!

Your DIY site clearance initiative is the way forward.

Clippings



"I am urgently trying to source 500g of Apple Mint and was wondering if there was a way of contacting your members to ask if anyone grows this and would be willing to sell some."

If you can help - and you should be donating as many sites prohibit making a profit - please contact [Wilma Nickerson](#).

"Can you let me know of anywhere in the Edinburgh area that I can buy paraffin for my heaters at a reasonable price. B&Q sell 4 litre bottles at £6.99 and that seems to me to be rather expensive for a basic commodity which is a major product of our 'local' Grangemouth refinery."

We don't extend to market research so if anyone knows of a better deal please contact [William Henderson](#).

The FEDAGA Trading Scheme will crank into action in a week or so's time. The details of this year's seed potato and onion set offers will soon be with your Site Representative. We also intend to publicise the Bare Root Maiden Whip Fruit Tree scheme we intend to operate.

Don't forget to put the FEDAGA AGM in your diary. It's at 7.15pm on Tuesday 21st October at the Southside Community Centre.

Click [here](#) and scroll down for further details.

Rob Ford, who ran the popular allotment gardening courses at Bridgend is now writing an [Edible Greenspace](#) blog which is full of interesting advice and information. Worth a look.

Finally, an opportunity to go on a [Batwalk](#). Two dates have gone but three remain.

Oh, and don't forget to VOTE on Thursday!!