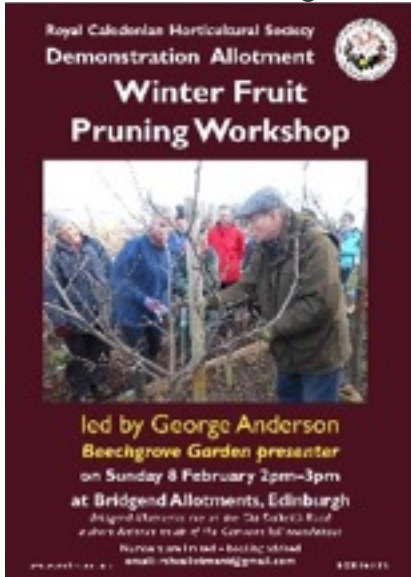


## January 2015



Feedback from members who have attended George Anderson's Winter Fruit Pruning Workshops has consistently been positive. Book now to avoid disappointment!

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## Trading News



Thanks to all who ordered fruit trees: over £400-worth was ordered, which represents an enormous saving to all who participated. We anticipate the order will be delivered at the end of January and FEDAGA will be in touch with applicants to arrange for delivery and payment.

Potatoes, onions, shallots and garlic will be delivered to Inverleith allotments on 21st February. Details will be issued to site reps nearer the time.

It is likely that the FEDAGA Shop will be open on Sundays 22nd February and 1st March this year. Again, details are yet to be finalised and will be issued nearer the time.

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## Telferton threatened again



FEDAGA has learned that there is a renewed threat to the independent Telferton allotment site. This site has fought off an attempt in 1999 by previous owners to build houses on the land. Since 2010 it has been protected by being designated as open land on the Local Development Plan. However, the current owners, Gladedale Enterprises - who own Bett Homes - are trying again. This time they are trying to divide opposition by consenting to a small piece of land being retained as allotments. The Telferton site association is, not surprisingly, opposed to the proposal.

Gladedale's proposal suggests the land should be rezoned for housing. "It has the capacity for around 30 houses and can be developed contributing to the acknowledged shortfall in effective housing land."

They state: "The current policy allocation, and the proposed allocation in the new LDP, reflects the current use of the site as allotments.

However, this use of the site for allotments is unauthorised, and the occupation of the site has not been sanctioned by the site owners.

"It would appear that the effective squatting on the site is taking place as it is perceived by the allotment holders that this use is approved and sanctioned by the Council due to the current, and now proposed

development plan allocation. This perception is misinformed, and the Council's allocation of the site as allotments cannot continue.

"There is now, however, an opportunity through the new LDP, to review this allocation and seek an appropriate long term solution to this site which reflects its private ownership, but also helps to meet the needs of the local community.



"The site is an effective, viable and appropriate "infill" housing site, and could be developed to provide around 30 new houses and the provision of formal allotment plots and associated facilities.

"In addition to providing security of tenure for allotment holders, this approach to the redevelopment of the site would also make provision for new affordable housing in line with current policy requirements.

"On behalf of Gladedale Estates, we would therefore request the allocation of this site at Telferton, for new residential development for approximately 30 units. The allocation of this site in the LDP would help the Council meet its housing land requirements on a well-located, accessible, infill site. This is particularly significant at a time when the proposed housing-led regeneration at Leith is being reconsidered and requires a fundamental reappraisal of the housing land supply in the City.

Last year the Planning Committee responded: "There is no justification to remove the open space designation from these sites. Any future planning applications for housing on these sites would be assessed against the relevant LDP policies and Open Space Strategy. If supported, a financial contribution could be negotiated and secured through a legal agreement to offset any loss of open space".

David Jamieson, the Head of Parks and Greenspace, writes:

"Representations have been made to that version of the Plan. Those are

due to be reported to Planning Committee on 26 February this year, then submitted to examination for an independent consideration of all representations. That examination can make changes to the Plan before it is adopted, which is due to be in early 2016. The Committee report will be available the usual five working days before the meeting date." It should go without saying that FEDAGA will strongly oppose any move to amend the current zoning for open space that may result in the destruction of Telferton allotments. It is to be hoped that the Planning Committee will do likewise.

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## Heritage Potatoes



Thanks to the 40+ members who responded to last month's offer to share heritage potatoes from SASA. You will be contacted soon with arrangements to get hold of the tubers and what feedback is required. You could help bring back into production a long lost potato variety.

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## New dates for Management Committee meetings

FEDAGA has changed the day that it holds its monthly meetings. Due to increased activity more representatives have been attending and the capacity of the room has been challenged. From February, meetings will take place on the second Tuesday of the month in the larger room regularly used for Annual General Meetings. The next meeting is at 7.15 on the 10th in the Southside Community Centre. All members are welcome to attend.

It is particularly important that sites that do not have an elected representative send someone along from time to time to ensure that their interests are relayed to the Committee. Of current concern is the annual exercise to identify Spending Priorities for each site.