

What's Hotter Than July?



Welcome to 100 new plotholders.

This summer is providing a much warmer welcome to new plotholders than 2012. The City of Edinburgh Council's Allotment Officer, Ian Woolard, has told FEDAGA that this year he has introduced over 100 new allotment holders to their long-desired allotment plot. FEDAGA representatives accompanied Ian on a recent inspection of sites in the south and west of the city and were most impressed with the improved

standard of the majority of plots and also the sensitive way he deals with the many problems he encounters. Plottolders are reminded that if personal circumstances that interfere with the maintenance of their plot, such as short-term illness, it is important to get in [touch](#) with Ian to let him know.

FEDAGA has recently published a Plotholder's Guide, which will be of particular interest to new plotholders. Hard copies are available and should be obtainable from Ian or your site representative, but you can download a copy [here](#).

More new sites on the way.



The new site at Inchview Court, now open for a couple of years.

The new site at Kirkliston was opened in June and Baronscourt, at Jock's Lodge, is expected to open in October. A Neighbourhood Partnership-sponsored site at South Queensferry will be ready to open later this summer. Further sites at Baird Avenue, Bonaly and Leith Links (on the former bowling greens) are in the pipeline. The portion of the former Balgreen site to be redeveloped as allotments is promised over and above the expansion scheme. To address the ongoing need for toilet facilities on sites, Nat Sol composting toilets are being considered. It is to be hoped that they will prove to be up to the task.

News on the on-line Seed Scheme.



The replacement of our paper based method of ordering seeds from Kings with an on-line equivalent has been a great success. FEDAGA members ordered seeds worth over £6,600 and enjoyed a 45% discount off most items. This resulted in a total spend of £3,600, which is a significant improvement on past years when we spent nearer £1,500.

Kings Seeds has generously passed back a further 10% refund which will be paid to individual sites based on their own member's spend in the scheme. Midmar will benefit by over £70, Bridgend by over £60. Do please use the scheme to both save you money AND benefit your own site.

The Kings Autumn catalogue is now available online. You may wish to purchase some over-wintering onion sets and also garlic - which they have eight varieties of. Full details are available on the [FEDAGA website](#).

You may also be interested to know that Kings Seeds just celebrated 125 years in business with a Gold Medal at the [Chelsea Flower Show](#).

Your chance to help develop blight-resistant tomatoes.



James Stroud of Bangor University and Sárvári Research Trust PhD Student requires your help with a research project at Bangor University into tomato late-blight.

James is collecting samples of late-blight from both tomato and potato from allotments and gardens throughout Great Britain and Ireland. If you experience a late-blight outbreak on your allotment site this year he would be grateful if you could send leaf samples from infected tomato and/or potato plants.

Sample collection is not difficult or time-consuming. If there are outdoor tomatoes (likely to get blight) on your site, and you are willing to take part, please reply to James with your postal address at:

afpe57@bangor.ac.uk.

James will send you a free pack containing sample bags, pre-paid envelopes and full instructions for sampling. Personally identifiable information will not be retained. Requesting a sample pack in no way enters you into any contract or other obligation.

The project aims to:

- Develop new tomato cultivars with greater resistance to late-blight suitable for environmentally-friendly growing by gardeners in Great Britain and Ireland.
- Learn more about the strains of late-blight that infect tomato and their relationship with potato stains.

The project, supported by the European Social Fund, is a collaboration between Bangor University and the Sárvári Research Trust, a not-for-profit company which researches late-blight, and has developed the “Sárpo” range of blight-resistant potato cultivars (including the popular varieties Mira, Axona, Una, Blue Danube, and Kifli).

Your help in this project will contribute to the understanding of one of our most serious plant diseases and the development of resistant tomato cultivars.

The Alloted Month.

Read about J Greenfingers' latest trials and tribulations [here](#).

SAGS Allotment Design Guide.

The Scottish Allotments and Gardens Allotment Design Guide was successfully launched last month at the Society's Annual Conference in Dunblane. You can download it [here](#). Our sources inform us that their next project is the Allotment Management Guide, which will be intended cover every eventuality, from constitutions and leases to working with landlords and Councils. It is hoped the document will answer as many allotment questions as can reasonably be anticipated.

Previous SAGS publications that may be of interest are the Plotholder's Guide available [here](#) and a directory of all of Scotland's allotments in 2007 - so in need of updating - available [here](#).

...and finally...



Please keep a look out for events coming up as listed on the FEDAGA website. We try to post up as many items of potential interest to the allotment community as we can find. If your site is having an Open Day or there is something else you'd like to share with the community we'd love to hear from you. Write to committee@fedaga.org.uk

This Newsletter now has well over 500 subscribers and is growing steadily. Many of you read printed copies posted up on noticeboards. To save you developing a crick in your neck or risking a headache by squinting in the sun for too long, why not get on the Mailing List to receive a regular copy in your inbox? Visit www.fedaga.org.uk/mailling_lists

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