

August 2013: And the winners are...



The winners of FEDAGA and the City of Edinburgh Council's Edinburgh in Bloom Allotment Competition this year received their awards in a ceremony in the Royal Botanic Gardens earlier this month.

Rik Hart writes: This year's Edinburgh in Bloom Allotment Competition concentrated solely on individual plots. All contestants are to be congratulated on the high standard of their allotment plots and their willingness to participate in the event. We hope they enjoyed the experience. This year's "Top Three" have all won the competition in previous years, thus demonstrating that none are flash-in-the-pans. Our scoring categories were: quality of planting and diversity of use; imaginative layout/crop rotation; green issues; visual appearance/cleanliness - and "other notable features".

Overall, the standards in this years competition were very high and it was extremely close between the top few plots. We saw a huge range of styles, designs and concepts across the many plots city-wide: no two were the same. It felt an honour and a privilege to be invited to judge Edinburgh's finest.

FEDAGA thanks the City of Edinburgh Council and especially Ian Woolard and Lindsay Grant.

I was but one of this year's judges and here are some of my notes on the winning plots...

First



This year's winners, Andy Crofts and Kathy Parker of Inverleith.

Kathy Parker and Andy Crofts of Inverleith scored very highly throughout with full marks being awarded for the "green issues" category. This is where they pipped everyone to the post. They made great use of home-produced compost and organic fertilisers such as comfrey fermented with nettles - and seaweed that had no doubt been collected from our local beaches. As well as having a huge range of good quality heritage and unusual varieties of fruit, vegetables and herbs growing throughout their jam-packed plot, they also had so many things in place to attract, shelter and nurture beneficial wildlife: ponds, a shed roof that was covered in sedum and other well established plants, a whole nesting wall for bees, bird boxes, wildflower beds, log piles... the plot was literally buzzing, crawling and flapping with little helpers. Not only was this plot producing a very high yield of crops it was also a beautiful patchwork of biodiversity, colour, scents and total harmony. Truly inspiring.

Second



Brian and Muriel Horsburgh of Lady Road.

Brian and Muriel Horsburgh of Lady Road scored highly throughout the categories with full marks given for quality of planting and diversity of use.

They have a huge variety of crops with harvesting available all year round as well as excellent composting techniques.

Something on this plot that was rather charming as well as practical was the inclusion of a dedicated Physic Garden area upon which was grown many herbs and other plants that could be used to treat a great deal of ailments.

An extremely well tended and productive plot.

Third



Edna Monteith of Ferry Road.

Edna Monteith of Ferry Road scored well across all categories with a superb range of plants used.

This was the only plot we'd seen with a solar powered water feature.

There's a lovely big larger-than-life Peter Rabbit to scare off the pigeons and an enticing, snaking pathway leading you from one part to the next with a great and obviously well used "sit-ootery" at the end.

A truly welcoming plot.

FEDAGA thanks the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society for the loan of the shield and trophies which were presented to the winners by members of the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom judging

team. Let's hope the allotments represented help Edinburgh toward victory in the national competition - the results are to be announced in October. Fingers crossed!

Doors Open Day at Leith Links Allotments



Barbara Seel writes: On Sunday 29th September, from 12 noon to 4pm, the Leith Links allotments - a former "dig for victory" site - will be open as part of Doors Open Day in conjunction with the Greener Leith Children's Orchard. Come and see productive plots, join in the BBQ and learn what's involved in tending an allotment. Keep up to date with preparations and find out what will be happening on the day via our [facebook page](#).

An Introduction to Organic Vegetable Gardening



at Bridgend Allotments

*Interested in growing your own fruit and vegetables?
Not sure where to begin?*

*This introductory course will give you a basic understanding
in all you need to know to start growing your own food.*

On four consecutive Saturdays
930am—12 45pm
September 28th,
October 5th, 12th and 19th
For more information contact Chris
Email : chrism.hgc@gmail.com
Tel : 07510166139

Course fees are £75
This course is accredited by Scotland's Royal College



Bridgend Allotments
41 Old Dalkeith Road
Edinburgh EH16 4TE
www.bridgendcommunity.blogspot.com

Bridgend Growing Communities (BGC) Ltd is a Scottish company registered by Companies House on 12/05/2016 and is registered charity 51247288

Paint Available To Help Community Projects



A Fife based social enterprise is aiming to cut the millions of litres of paint wasted in Scotland each year. Castle Repaint Scotland is working closely with local authorities to collect unwanted paint and to supply paint for reuse at low cost to community groups and organisations across Scotland.

Alan Stewart, Site Operations Manager for RePaint, said: “We have been knocked out by the amount of paint that has been donated by householders for reuse. It’s clear that people in Scotland do not want to see paint going into landfill. We can now supply paint that has been checked for quality from as little as £1 per litre to help community groups and organisations across Scotland.”

“We have every kind and every colour of paint available. Whether your group needs to repaint the office or whether you have an entire community centre needing painted, we are here to help you save money.”

“If you or a community project near you is in need of affordable paint to carry out a well over-due makeover then Castle RePaint is the place to contact.”

This could be of interest to site committees. Get in touch with [Janet Rennie](#) or phone 01592 770400.



Charlie Miller submitted this image of Warriston allotment plotters celebrating summer with a community barbeque. (It had been bucketing all day until just before this picture was taken!)

Midmar Allotments Open Day



Liz Grace writes: Please come and look around our award-winning site, relax in Midmar Café and enjoy delicious home baking and refreshments whilst taking in the beautiful views of Edinburgh. Fresh

allotment produce, flowers, jams and preserves available. Try your luck in the tombola.

Open from 2-5pm, Saturday 24th August

Entry via two gates on Midmar Drive in South Edinburgh, EH10 6BU.

...and finally, a suggestion for what to do with all those courgettes



4 year old Elijah uses his courgettes to learn how to count. How do you use yours?

Stuart McKenzie writes: I just made a very tasty dish for tea and used up three courgettes. I know how everyone is looking for a decent way of serving them up this time of year. Have a try yourselves - if you think it will help use them up!

It went very well with a fried egg.

Go to: <http://allrecipes.co.uk/recipe/12157/briam--greek-potato-and-courgette-bake-.aspx>

©2013 Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotment and Gardens Associations | FEDAGA

