



Newsletter

October 2018: Going Dutch



No water supply problems on this allotment. Canals run through it! (See item below.)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held in **South Side Community Centre, 117 Nicholson Street, Edinburgh on**

Tuesday 23rd October 2018 at 7:00pm

Guest speakers:

Tom Forster on Living Walls and Vertical Allotments at Summerhall

Ian Woolard, Edinburgh Allotments Officer

Followed by our AGM:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM
3. President's Review of the year 2017-18
4. Financial Report by Treasurer
5. Annual show report
6. Election of Management Committee
7. Motions to the Meeting
- None received
8. Any Other Competent Business
9. Date of next Annual General Meeting 22nd October 2019

Please put this date in your diary and come along to support FEDAGA. Learn about what has been going on and what might be about to

happen and use the opportunity to make constructive suggestions. Even better, consider stepping forward to join the committee and help make allotments in Edinburgh better for all.

This year we have two guest speakers **Tom Forster** will talk about the vertical growing space planned for the cultural village walls of Summerhall, and the Council's Allotment Officer **Ian Woolard** will take the floor to explain his role and take questions.

A Trip To See Windmills Took Us Somewhere More Interesting



The latest in an occasional series: Dutch allotments.

Your Newsletter Editor was on holiday earlier this month in the Netherlands. Part of any trip there must be to cycle along a canal and gaze at windmills. The largest collection of these can be found near Rotterdam in Kinderdijk, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Roving around, our eyes quickly settled on the allotments of Alderblusserdam.

Unlike urban allotments commonly seen on the Continent these seem more familiar to Edinburgh plotters. There are no orchards, flower beds, lawns or large cottage style living quarters with all mod cons, just greenhouses, sheds and lots of fruit and vegetable growing. One feature that no other allotment I have ever seen was the extension of the canal system within the site - see photos. No wrangling with local authorities here for a reliable water supply.



The Log Cabin.

It seems that Dutch allotments, or *volkstuinten*, are operated autonomously in line with local authority regulations, some of which allow overnight stays in the fancy accommodation seen in cities. The site we visited had a handsome communal shed, De Blokhut. As this translates to "log cabin" there can be no lazy accusations of sexism. Dutch allotments date from the 17th century and there are now nearly a quarter of a million plots. Given the population is 17m then they are way ahead of Scotland in terms of provision. The summer climate is warmer and the soil is famously fertile. We could do worse than emulate these folk.

Ernie Watt.



Dutch allotment complete with distant 1740s windmill.

Details of the FEDAGA Seed Potato/Onion Set Scheme

The closing date for this year's orders is **30th November**.

How the scheme works: Each site puts in an order comprising all requests and payments from members. Participating sites require a volunteer order co-ordinator. If you don't know who this is ask your site rep or a committee member. (If you are on a site with no representation, why not step forward to be the change you'd like to see?) The price contains a rebate of 50p per bag of potatoes and 25p per bag of onions or shallots which goes back to site funds, so this is a way of saving yourself some money and helping your site for the benefit of all. Some sites forego the rebate and further reduce the cost to members. There might be one or two varieties that will be unavailable when the order goes in so please mention what substitution you'd like.



Red Duke of York

All bags of potatoes are 2.5kg except where noted. All are £3

First Earlies:

Casablanca. White skin. High yield. Good boiler and for steaming. Good resistance to potato leafroll virus and blackleg.

Duke of York. Excellent flavour and good all-rounder.

Pentland Javelin. Good flavour for boiling and general use. Good resistance to potato golden cyst eelworm.

Lady Christl. Use as a 1st or 2nd crop. Good boiler. Good resistance to golden cyst eelworm.

Organic Colleen. All-rounder. Resistant to blight and scab.

Red Duke of York. Vigorous deep red. Great for chips.

Second Earlies:

Vivaldi. Pale yellow flesh. Good for boiling, mashing and baking. Great flavour. **(2 kg bag.)**

Kestrel. Good flavour, excellent chipper. Good resistance to potato golden cyst eelworm.

Wilja. High yields. Floury. General purpose.

Nadine. Good yields and resistant to cyst eelworm. Boiling and general use.

Main Crop:

Cara. High yield. General purpose. Good resistance to golden cyst eelworm and blight.

King Edward. Excellent taste. General purpose. Floury texture. Good resistance to scab and slugs.

Pink Gypsy. Early, with pink/white patches. Good taste, all-rounder. Good disease resistance.

Picasso. High yield. General purpose. Good resistance to potato golden cyst eelworm.

Rooster. Good all-rounder with red oval tubers and yellow flesh. **(2kg bag.)**

Setanta. Very blight resistant. High yield. Smooth red skin. Good for roasting and mashing. New variety.

Maris Piper. High yield, the ultimate all-rounder. Good resistance to potato golden cyst eelworm.

Salad:

Jazzy. Large oval tubers, high in flavour. **(2kg bag.)**

Charlotte. Reliable. High yield and waxy. Boiling and salad. Good blight and scab resistance.

Pink Fir Apple. Knobbly. Cook in skin. Hot or cold.



Sturon.

The onions and shallots come in 500g bags and cost £2.

Onions:

Red Karmen. Plant at the start of May. Sweet salad.

Sturon. Good for storing.

Stuttgart. Semi-flat, with firm texture.

Shallots:

Golden Gourmet. High yield. Bolt resistant.

Red Sun. Ideal for pickling.

Full details on how to order have been distributed to affiliated sites. If you think you should have received this but nothing's arrived yet - please get in [touch](#).

Citizen Science Time Again



Do you want to develop your knowledge and skills on soil and growing for food, while taking practical steps to preserve the soil for future generations?

Maybe you'd like to learn how to understand your soil and explore global environmental soil issues by becoming a citizen scientist.

The GROW Observatory (GROW) is a European-wide project engaging thousands of growers, scientists and others passionate about the land. Participants will discover together, using simple tools to better manage soil and grow food, while contributing to vital scientific environmental monitoring.

There are 2 projects you can sign up for:

In the Changing Climate mission GROW is deploying a large number of soil sensors. It is focused on a limited number of areas, one of which is Central Scotland, because a high density of measurements is the most valuable.

The Living Soils mission also involves data collection, but does not use the sensor. It involves experiments to test regenerative growing techniques.

Interested? Find out more [here](#).

(Thanks to West Mains for tipping us off about this.)

Small Ad: Free Greenhouse



Would anyone like a greenhouse? It is offered free to anyone that can visit Glenrothes to see how it all fits together and dismantle it. The current owner has a trailer and could deliver to Edinburgh once taken down.

Details are: Length - 3.8 metres, width 1.9metres. The greenhouse is actually two bolted together. Glass already removed and being kept safe. Two roof vents, one is automatic. Two staging units; one fits lengthways, the other widthways.

Email stuart@stulu.co.uk who can put you in touch.

Your attention is drawn to the **tool sharpening** opportunity at this event:

Portobello Timebank

it's your time

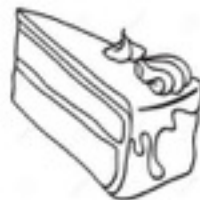


AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING

The Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street
Saturday 20th October 2018 10:00 - 12:00



Tea, fresh coffee, delicious cake, jams and preserves and chutney.



Face Painting



Tombola

KEEP
CALM
AND BUY
TOMBOLA
TICKETS

Allotment Fruit & Veg swap



Free sharpening Garden tools, scissors, knives, chisels etc



A lovely place to pop in on Saturday morning!

Portobello Timebank is a
Scottish Charity - No. SC047130

RockDust Offer - On Again



Jennifer Brodie of [REMIN](#) has kindly confirmed she will repeat her offer to FEDAGA of cut price volcanic rock dust. The 'normal' price online is between £16 and £26 a bag including delivery.

The price to you? Just £6 a 20kg bag.

For the uninitiated, there are plenty of details and testimonials on the [REMIN website](#). For reference - the minimum annual application rate works out at four 20kg bags for a full allotment plot.

HOWEVER, we can only order whole pallet loads of 49 bags for delivery to sites.

If your site can co-ordinate a pallet (minimum order: 49x20kg bags) then contact FEDAGA [here](#) - before Sunday 18th November. Payment on delivery please.

Get remineralising - economically.

The Edinburgh Allotment Show

...was a huge success and continues to go from strength to strength. Many thanks to all who participated and exhibited. Special thanks to Show Secretary John Grace for pulling it all together with such apparent ease. A master at making the difficult look simple. A full report will be included in next month's edition.