

February 2017: For The Love of Allotments



Carrot Flyless Carrots.

I have had an allotment for over 20 years and in that time I have come to the understanding (slow learner) that success is not so much down to growing the vegetables; they seem to manage that fairly easily on their own. No, the trick is to prevent some beastie or other eating the veg before you can! Plagues of unwelcome diners from pigeons to slugs and caterpillars seem to get to the plants first.

So I have found it with carrots, with the pesky carrot fly being the villain and leaving me with carrots riddled with those horrid black lines where the larvae have munched on the roots. Cutting those bits out often leave very little carrot for the pot.

The remedy that I have found to be almost completely effective, without going to the trouble of covering the row with a barrier like fleece, is what might be called the "elevated bed" As shown in the photograph above I use recycled metal bins filled with soil. The bins are about 90 cm (3 feet) high so as the fly cannot fly higher than 60 cm (2 feet) the theory is the fly cannot reach the carrots to lay their eggs. In the 4 years I have employed this method I have never had a any sort of problem with carrot fly. I have grown many varieties, early Nantes 2, maincrop Autumn King or Show quality New Red Intermediate, all as clean as you could wish.

You needn't trouble to source my barrels as an elevated bed of the necessary height can easily be built from scrap wood. I never cover the carrots, unless I want to assist the germination of early showings. So why not give the elevated bed a go as I can guarantee you will almost certainly get carrot flyless carrots.

John McKinlay

Craigentiny Allotments.

SASA Heritage Potato Trials



Our rare potato scheme goes into its third year.

Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) maintain a collection of over 700 different varieties of potato. This ensures old varieties, which could have useful characteristics for future varieties, are not lost. You'll be aware that potatoes can't simply be stored in cold conditions, they have to be regrown each year to provide fresh tubers. We are delighted that again this year, SASA will provide tubers to FEDAGA members to try on their allotments.

Over the past two years the scheme has proved to be a great success and provided ploholders with something quite special to grow and eat. They also provide SASA with some basic yield information together with comments on how their variety cooked and tasted.

Each signed up FEDAGA member will receive three tubers of a named variety you certainly won't find in the catalogues. They should be available from the beginning of April. If you have space for three potato plants and can complete a short questionnaire afterwards, then email sasatrials@fedaga.org.uk before the end of February. Arrangements will be made to distribute the tubers from Inverleith Allotments sometime in April.



Annual Potato Day

Sunday 26 February

11:00 to 14:00



We are based at Bridgend Allotments, 41 Old Dalkeith Rd, Edinburgh EH16 4TE

Refreshments, children's activities , guided tours,
mini workshops and food tasting

For more information please contact bridgendgrowingcommunities@gmail.com

Bridgend Growing Communities is a Scottish company registered by guarantee SC395200 and a registered charity SC042318

"Gardener's Question Time" in Portobello



Whatever your gardening challenges for 2017 may be, you're bound to benefit from a face-to-face session with an amazing panel.

Portobello Timebank have gathered together the cream of local gardening expertise, headed up by lifelong horticulturalist George Anderson of 'Beechgrove Garden' fame. With him are:

- garden designer Becca Duncan from Blossoming Gardens, Inveresk.
- Peter J Wright MBE, recently retired chairman of FEDAGA.
- RHS Britain in Bloom Community Champion Dr Stan da Prato from East Lothian.

The event will take place on Sunday 5th March from 2.30 to 3.30pm at the Wash House, 3 Adelphi Grove, EH15 1AP. Doors open at 2.

Ticket price £5 (accompanied children free).

Includes refreshments, free seed swap, raffle and opportunity to buy local homemade crafts, preserves and cakes.

Tickets available from Earthy, Porty Hardware and the Velvet Easel, or online [here](#).

More info [here](#).

RCHS Photography Competition



Don't forget to look at your photographs and select your entries for the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society photography competition. The images for the competition should reflect 21st Century Scottish Gardening in the following categories:

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- The Four Seasons
-
- On the Wildside
-
- Its not just Neeps and Tatties
-
- The Scottish Gardener

The competition is free and open to all.

The deadline for entries is April 10th 2017.

Winning entries will be announced and exhibited at Gardening Scotland 2017.

Entries cover all age groups: General (16+), Young photographer (11-15), Junior (under 11).

Entries, maximum of one per category, should be submitted as a jpg (sized between 1MB and 3MB) with a short description and personal details to caleyphotocomp@rchs.co.uk

The full terms of reference are available [here](#).

Recipe Ideas

Click [here](#) to salivate at the scrummy ideas that West Mains ploholders have contributed. Ever fancied Salsify or Scorzonera Gratin? Dreamed of Beetroot and White Bean Dip? Or craved some Curried Lentil and Apple Soup? They're all here, with more to be added in due "course"...

FEDAGA Seed Potato Scheme

Please note that the delivery of seed potatoes is expected on Wednesday 22nd February. If you've volunteered to help with the sorting of orders you will be contacted nearer the time. If you've placed an order expect it to be available shortly after this date. Onion sets and shallots will be available as well.

The FEDAGA Shop will be open on subsequent Sundays from 2 to 3.30pm for a couple of weeks at least to sell off the remainder. Check the [website](#) at the end of the month for details.

www.bordersorganicgardeners.org

SUNDAY
5th MARCH 2017
11am – 3pm

**POTATO
DAY**

& Green Fair
Produce Stalls, Garden Supplies, Cafe

BORDER UNION
Springwood Park
KELSO

TD5 8LS

ADMISSION £1.50 – Children free, car-parking free

Scottish Charity No SCO 26903



BUY YOUR SEED POTATOES FOR 2017

100 VARIETIES sold by the tuber **ONLY 15p EACH**

HERITAGE, ORGANIC and
BLIGHT-RESISTANT varieties

EXPERT GARDENING ADVICE

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The Edinburgh Allotment Show

This year's show is provisionally booked for Saturday 2nd September at the same location as last year's: The Methodist Hall in Nicolson Square. Watch out for further information soon - and start planning for what you can show. Please remember this is not just about the competition, but mainly for fun and to provide an opportunity for allotment holders to meet up and enjoy each others' company.

Don't Tidy Up!



Ricardo Leith writes: I just saw the latest FEDAGA bulletin and noted the piece about pollination, which reminded me I meant to send you [this article](#) by Alys Fowler I saw a few days ago, I've been specifically letting some 'crops' go to seed/flower over the last few years to try and help insect life, especially considering the especially wet summers we've had of late.

The message about not being overzealous in winter clear-ups makes a lot of sense.



CRAIGENTINNY AND TELFERTON

ALLOTMENTS POP UP CAFÉ

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT
COME AND ENJOY **FOOD** IN
EXCHANGE **FOR YOUR THOUGHTS**



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 2017**

DOORS OPEN FROM **16.30 TO 19.30**
WILSON MEMORIAL CHURCH
127 MOIRA TERRACE, PORTOBELLO RD

W

www.ctallotments.com/

E

ctallotments@gmail.com

CRAIGENTINNY AND TELFERTON

ALLOTMENTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT

THE EVENT - on **Saturday 25th February**, will provide space for **community engagement** regarding the future of the allotments. We are seeking **community ownership** for a community purpose and hope to share ideas about how the allotments can continue to grow as a valuable resource in our neighbourhood.

THE FOOD - will be made from **allotment produce** and locally sourced food which would otherwise go to waste. There will be an opportunity to 'pay as you feel' and proceeds will go to the **Basics Bank** which operates at **Wilson Memorial Church** every Tuesday, providing food to people in food crisis in our wider community.

THE PLAN - The pop-up café will be a **family friendly** drop in event, doors are open between 16.30 and 19.30. The **local community** are welcome to attend. Everyone will have an opportunity to share their thoughts on the plans in an **informal and interactive** way.

CONTACT - To help ensure minimal waste, you can confirm your attendance via social media (below) or email: **ctallotmentsegmail.com**
If you're unable to attend but want to know more, please get in touch.



/CraigentinnyTelfertonAllotments



@CraigentinnyTel