

Scottish Allotment Gardens Society Newsletter Autumn 2009

News from the Regions

ABERDEEN Discussions on going between Council and plot holders. Plot holders and Council Officers came to the AAC. Associations now being set up to represent the plot holders.

ARGYLL AND BUTE Dunoon Virtual Site. A site has not yet been found.

EDINBURGH. Very positive talks with the NHS about use of land around hospitals, maybe a trial "growing area" with community and individual growing plots by Christmas 2009. Discussions ongoing with the Council about rents.

FIFE had the SAGS trophies in 2009. Rosebank Cowdenbeath best site.

GLASGOW Strategy passed June 2009, very positive. Land and Environmental Services working on action plan. All Primary schools to have a raised bed with links to local allotments.

News from Sites

We know of at least 70 new groups all over Scotland trying to set up allotments.

Cultybraggan Comrie. Site up and growing, raised beds, poly tunnel SUPER.

Carnoustie Up and growing with a waiting list.

Elgin. Three groups formed and hope to get started by early 2010

Private sites we get many requests for information about renting land from farmers, landowners etc, what rent, what services, length of lease. We are talking to the Government about a GYO working group, one of its actions will be to look at this area. A private site in Fife, Scotlandwell, provides a club hut, free tea and coffee, water to each plot, rubbish removal, very good land and compost, charges £300pa. 30 plot holders there already..

SAGS ANNUAL ALLOTMENTS CONFERENCE and AGM 2009. Held on Saturday 20th June . Roseanna Cunningham Minister of the Environment stated that the **CoSLA Guidelines** will be reviewed and a "**Grow Your Own Working Group** set up under the food and drink policy. SAGS will have a major role to play in both developments. Charles Winstanley Chairman of NHS Lothians issued a challenge about using NHS land see Edinburgh report. Why not get onto your NHS Trust???. About 100 attended. Sarah Boyack MSP gave a very interesting speech to start the afternoon session. See full details on the web site. www.sags.org

Trophies. 2010 Highland, 2011 Dundee. 2012 Suggestions?, 2013 Edinburgh

Up-coming Events

Spring: Allotment Officers Conference organized by ARI with input from SAGS and Fed

Summer: Conference and AGM 2010 18/19th June. A proposed two day conference Health

theme. Fri. Council managers + plot-holders Sat. for allotment officers and plot-holders

Autumn: Holyrood Event "Hands in the Earth" at Holyrood in Sept 2010 revised CoSLA document

Scottish Government initiatives and Questions in Parliament

Sept 3rd Roseanna Cunningham said ' Nanette Milne will be happy to know that an allotments summit is under active consideration at the moment '

Climate Challenge Fund - Comrie and Shetland have been funded.

Strategies and Campaigns

LINK ihas produced a generic paper on SOA and is contacting COSLA et.

SROI (Social Return on Investment)- hope to produce a paper with forecast for new site in Autumn

Land Reform - Local people leading planning briefings on land reform.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Meeting	Date	Venue	Status
ECM	14th Nov 2009	Fife	Agreed
ECM	9 th Jan 2010	Glasgow	Agreed
ECM	17 th April	Edinburgh	Agreed
Conference + AGM	19 th June	Dunblane	Agreed
Allotment Officers Forum	Spring 2010	Edinburgh?	FCFCG to sponsor?
Holyrood Event	Autumn	Parliament	TBA

SAGS Committee. President Mandy Fooks, VP Ian Welsh, Jenny Mollison, secretary@sags.org.uk. Treasurer Andrew Reid, Mary Blyth, John Fearn, Jane Gray, Aislinn Hazeldine, Helen Pank FCFCG rep. Barbara de la Rue web-master, Jimmy MacGregor, Liz Mackinley, Alistair Mackinnon, Frank Taylor, Judy Wilkinson Glasgow, Peter Wright,

Co-opted Chris Wilkinson Audit Archives and International Allotments. Nairn area Contact Dick Youngson . Sam Murray Planning issues

Peter J Wright OCT 2009