



## **Edition Two - October 2019**

Welcome to the Slopefield Sunflower, the newsletter from Slopefield Allotment Association.

### **Green Flag Award**

You will have noticed that we are now proudly flying our Green Flag as the only allotment site in Scotland to be given this award in 2019. The flag pole was kindly erected by Aberdeen City Council at no cost to the Association. The pole will be maintained by Aberdeen City Council and checked on an annual basis. The flag will be lowered in November to protect it from the Winter storms and will be raised again in March next year.

### **It's Your Neighbourhood**

The It's Your Neighbourhood Assessor visited Slopefield Allotments in August and we are patiently waiting to hear the outcome of our entry. The awards ceremony for IYN will be held in Stirling at the end of this month. Next year sees the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Keep Scotland Beautiful and the IYN theme is either a display incorporating the Keep Scotland Beautiful corporate colours or the "year of coasts and waters". If you have any ideas around these themes please let us know by speaking to a Committee Member or Row rep or e-mailing [slopefieldallotments@gmail.com](mailto:slopefieldallotments@gmail.com)

### **Bonfire**

It is proposed that we have our annual bonfire again this year on Sunday 10 November at 12 noon. However we need some volunteers to help build the bonfire and keep it burning. If you are able to help on the day please speak to Terry Stott, Site Manager or e-mail [terry.stott@btinternet.com](mailto:terry.stott@btinternet.com)

The bonfire is held in the bottom car park near the large bays. Do not leave any items for the bonfire until after 3 November. Please note that **only wood and prunings** will be accepted for the bonfire. We will **not accept** any plastic, rubber, felt or polythene bags. These should be disposed of in your household waste bins or an Aberdeen City Council Recycling Centre. Opening hours and locations for the Recycling Centres can be found by visiting:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/bins-and-recycling/find-your-nearest-recycling-centre>

### **Water Supply**

The communal water supply for the site will be turned off sometime during the week following the bonfire and will not be turned on again until sometime during the third week in April. This is at the instruction of Aberdeen City Council.

### **Allotment Open Day**

One Seed Forward (<http://oneseedforward.co.uk/>) a community growing initiative in Aberdeen is suggesting that all the allotment sites across Aberdeen participate in a city wide open day in August or September next year. The Association is still considering the matter however if you have any views on this suggestion then please let us know by e-mailing [slopefieldallotments@gmail.com](mailto:slopefieldallotments@gmail.com)

### **Allotment Audits**

There will be another allotment audit conducted by Aberdeen City Council during October.

### **Dates For Your Diary**

Sunday 27 October 2019, 1.30pm to 3.30pm – Community Day (**please note earlier start!**)

Thursday 5 March 2020, 7pm to 9pm – Slopefield Allotment Association AGM (**to be confirmed**)



### **Terry's Tips**

Now is the perfect time to plant your Spring Bulbs. If planting in pots, plant all bulbs with the pointy end up and at least twice their depth. In a pot you can plant your bulbs much closer together however ensure they do not touch. To finish off the pot top with horticultural grit which improves presentation and prevents rain splash on the leaves or flowers. If planting bulbs in the ground plant them at least 4 inches/10cm deep. This will prevent you disturbing the bulbs if hoeing the soil.

Autumn is also the perfect time to tidy your plot. Clear the ground of all weeds and spent crops giving the soil a good rake over. You may wish to cover your beds with cardboard or permeable plastic sheets to keep the weeds at bay. This will save you time in the Spring when there are lots of other jobs to do. You can also wash all your pots and containers before storing them away for the winter as this will also save time when sowing fresh seed next Spring.

If you have Summer fruiting Raspberries then cut down to the ground the old canes that have fruited this year. These are the brown and woody canes. As Summer Raspberries fruit on the previous years growth tie in this years new growth to your post and wire system for fruit next Summer. You should thin the canes leaving approximately six of the strongest new canes per clump and tie them to the wires approximately 6 inches/15cm apart using soft twine. If you do not tie the new canes in there is a chance they may be broken during any winter storms. All old canes can be stored on your plot until it's time for the bonfire.

Sweet Peas can be sown now for earlier flowering next year. Using root trainers, pots or even empty toilet roll tubes sow the seed an inch/2 centimetres deep in seed or multi-purpose compost. Place them in a cold greenhouse or cold frame and the seed will soon germinate. If you want bushy plants pinch out the growing tips when the plants are approximately 4 inches/10cm's tall.

Watch out for wind – as Slopefield is a windy site please ensure that any loose items are secured on your plot before the Winter storms start. Please check that all Greenhouses, Polytunnels and netting are in good condition and securely fixed. This will help prevent damage to your plot and more importantly neighbouring allotments.

If you would like specific gardening advice then you are welcome to contact Terry direct via e-mail on [terry.stott@btinternet.com](mailto:terry.stott@btinternet.com)

### **Feedback/Suggestions/Volunteers**

If you have any feedback or suggestions for the newsletter or are interested in volunteering at Slopefield to help maintain our site in the beautiful condition that it is then please e-mail [slopefieldallotments@gmail.com](mailto:slopefieldallotments@gmail.com) or speak to one of the committee members or row reps on site. Details can be found on our website here: <https://www.slopefieldallotments.org/info>

Best wishes  
Slopefield Allotment Association