



Welcome to the Slopefield Sunflower, the first e-newsletter from Slopefield Allotment Association.

Green Flag Award

You may have seen in the press last month that Slopefield Allotments along with a number of other green spaces in Aberdeen won a Green Flag Award. We are honoured to be the only allotment site in Scotland to win this award for 2019. The Green Flag Award recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces. Further information on the Green Flag Awards can be found here: <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/> Look out for our flag appearing on site shortly.

Beautiful Scotland

Judges from the Beautiful Scotland Campaign run in conjunction with the Royal Horticultural Society as part of the Britain in Bloom competition visited Slopefield last Friday and spoke with some Pupils from Airyhall Primary School about their growing exploits on the School Plot. Pupils from Airyhall Primary School visit their allotment adjacent to the Community Plot from Spring through to Autumn and are assisted by volunteers from Slopefield Allotments. The pupils also grow fruit and vegetables on the Community Plot such as Strawberries and Courgettes and these are harvested throughout the growing season by the pupils and their parents. Fingers crossed that Airyhall Primary and Slopefield Allotments have helped contribute to the Aberdeen Communities Together - Aberdeen City entry.

It's Your Neighbourhood

As part of this years It's Your Neighbourhood theme of "Intergenerational Working" service users from Craigton Road Daycare Centre came to visit Slopefield Allotments recently. Primary 6 pupils from Airyhall Primary School showed the visitors round and shared their learning. You can read more about It's Your Neighbourhood by visiting the Keep Scotland Beautiful website: <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/local-environmental-quality/its-your-neighbourhood/>

Slopefield Website & Social Media

Please visit the Slopefield Allotments website on a regular basis for Information, Growing Guides and Recipes. Our Biodiversity page has recently been updated with pictures of some special visitors to the site this year. If you have pictures, information or recipes that you would like to contribute to the website then please e-mail: sandy@sandymenziesjewellery.co.uk

We also have social media pages on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SlopefieldAA/> and Twitter @SlopefieldAA

Swap/Communal Areas

It's good to see that the Swap/Spares area was fully utilised this year with many of the items placed there by fellow plotters only remaining a short time. The swap/spares area is located in the bottom car park as you come on to the site. If you have any spare plants, seeds or equipment in good condition that you no longer require please place them in the swap/spares area for fellow plotters. Please label all plants so we know what we are planting! If you have left something in the swap/spares area and it is still there after two weeks then please remove it and dispose of at the local recycling centre. The nearest recycling centre is located beside Hazlehead Park a short drive from Slopefield. Recently however some broken items and other rubbish has found it's way into this area. Please do not dump broken or unusable items here as they have to be removed and disposed off by volunteers from the site.

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Unfortunately some vegetable and other waste matter has also been left outside individual plots on the communal grass verges. Please keep any items from your allotment on your own plot until you are able to dispose of it. Thank you.

Terry's Tips

Sow now - Winter lettuce and other salad leaves, spinach, radish, parsley, kale for small salad leaves and spring cabbage. You may have to place a cloche or grow tunnel over your plants as the days and nights get colder towards Autumn.

Onions can be harvested when the foliage starts to turn yellow and topple over. Lift the bulbs before the foliage completely dies down. Place the bulbs on the soil or a rack in full sun outdoors and protect against rain. Once the foliage is dry and papery undamaged bulbs can be stored in a light, cool, dry place until needed. Any bulbs that have grown a flower stalk will not store and should be used as soon as possible.

Maincrop potatoes can be lifted from August through until October but the longer they are left the more risk there is of damage from slugs. Once lifted leave in the sun for a few hours to dry and then store in paper or hessian sacks in a dark, cool, dry place to prevent tubers from sprouting. Check the tubers often for signs of rot or other damage.

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 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