



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Why allotment holders should continue to be members.

You will notice from your invoice that this year the Council is asking all users of the allotment service to confirm their subscriptions to FEDAGA and your Allotment Associations. The cost of annual membership is minimal: £1.50 to FEDAGA and £1 to the Site Association.

I am writing to you to encourage you to continue as a member which will authorise the Council to collect these sums. We would also ask for your permission to allow your contact details to be passed on to FEDAGA and your Allotment Association. I hope that you will agree to do this for three good reasons:

- By continuing as a member you will be supporting those volunteers who work to advance the interests of all allotment holders. You will be participating in the democratic process that has been in place for many decades to protect and promote allotments.
- You will also be securing an opportunity to make savings by participating in the various Trading Schemes that FEDAGA and your Allotment Associations have negotiated for you. In addition, there are social events such as the Edinburgh Allotment Show, Heritage Potato Trials and site activities such as BBQs, Seed Swaps and the Apple Press that can only exist if there is a healthy, active representative body ready to make it happen.
- FEDAGA and many Site Associations maintain a website and issue regular Newsletters via e-mail or in print to keep people in touch. Allotment communities work better for all if there are good lines of communication and everyone is involved to a level they are comfortable with.

For further information about FEDAGA go to www.fedaga.org.uk - and for information on Site Association websites click on the "Links" tab. All of those we are currently aware of are listed.

I hope you will agree to continue to be a member of FEDAGA and your Site Association. By working together we have stopped the closure of allotments and successfully argued for the creation of more sites in the future. We have also resisted unreasonable rent rises and consistently made the case for a better, more efficient allotment service.

Allotments depend on their tenants to look after them. By agreeing to pay your subscription (equivalent to the price of one cup of coffee) you will be voting to ensure the continuation of the democratic bodies that are dedicated to the protection of the valuable haven that is so important to you.

If you do not wish your details to be shared please contact CEC Parks Technical Officer Ian Woolard on 529 7916 or e mail ian.woolard@edinburgh.gov.uk

Best wishes for a productive 2017.

Ernie Watt (Secretary, FEDAGA), January 2017.

- **What is FEDAGA?** *This is the Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Associations - so is the umbrella body created by Site Associations in Edinburgh. These include all of the Council managed sites as well as a number of independently managed sites.*
- **What is a Site Association?** *Each site should have an association for the benefit of all potholders. These are independent organisations and should be properly constituted. Associations deal primarily with local matters but come together, or federate, in FEDAGA to work towards a common purpose.*

