



Scottish Allotments
and Gardens Society



Welcome Pack

SAGS works for allotment sites and plot holders throughout Scotland to:

Protect sites by

- networking among allotment associations
- campaigning nationally and locally
- raising awareness of the planning process and new legislation

Preserve skills in gardening and design through

- recording the on-going story of allotments
- coordinating the conservation of seeds and plants

Promote the value of allotments for

- healthy activity, mental well being and good food
- celebrating our open air communities
- saving the eco-system and enhancing bio-diversity

Website:

www.sags.org.uk

Secretary:

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Introduction:

Scottish Allotments (SAGS) is a totally voluntary organisation with no paid officials. To function it is totally dependent on the enthusiasm and subscriptions of its members. This pack describes the information, support and networks that it offers to members.

Advice and help: If you need any advice or help please email the secretary or the web master. They will forward queries to people who have experience in the particular area of your request. Scottish Allotments committee members and supporters work together to offer their help. All of us are plot-holders and members of our local allotment associations as well as allotment federations where they exist.

- If requested the secretary will arrange visits and presentations or recommend local associations and plot-holders who may be able to assist.
- The web site has a blog where members can ask for advice or pass on information.
- With agreement from the Executive committee, the secretary will send formal letters in support of Associations or other organisations.
- If you or your Association is a member of NSALG through SAGS we can ask for advice from a Scottish solicitor and there is access to the NSALG insurance and seed schemes.



Aileen Campbell MSP addresses the conference June 2008

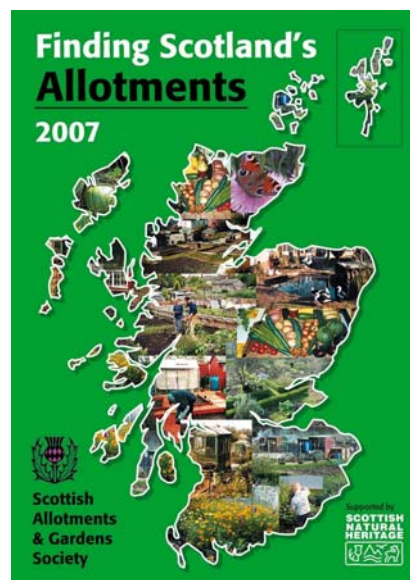
Annual Scottish Allotments Conference:

- Held on the third Saturday in June.
- Free for all our members (donations requested to pay for lunch).
- Opportunity to meet people from allotment associations across Scotland and hear about their concerns and activities.
- Chaired by an MSP who gives a report from Parliament on the latest government consultations and bills affecting allotments.
- Presentations from local authority officers and others concerned with furthering the cause of allotments in Scotland.
- Organisations such as SNH, greenspace scotland and Community Food and Health (Scotland) are giving out information and help with workshops.
- Workshops are varied, concerned with topics such as the management of allotments as well as the practicalities of growing vegetables and fruit.

Documents:

Many documents can be downloaded from the web site but if you need further advice or hard copies please contact our secretary. Among others there are:

- **Finding Scotland's Allotments 2007.** An audit of all the sites in Scotland, description of activities and discussion of way forward
- **CoSLA – Allotments in Scotland** - Guidance notes for Scottish Councils.
- **Growing Scotland** - an analysis of the importance of allotments and gardening to the agenda of the Scottish Government
- **Allotments and Biodiversity** – leaflets from Glasgow, Edinburgh and Tayside on growing in harmony with nature..
- **Advice notes** – how to find a plot, case histories on starting allotment associations and saving allotments, exemplar constitutions and leases, law, gardening advice.
- **Briefing papers** – Allotments and the Single Outcomes Agreement - how allotments can contribute to local authority targets; carbon reduction from allotments, food policy
- **Responses to government and local authority consultations** –Edinburgh Allotment Strategy, East Lothian allotment policy, Glasgow strategy, Aberdeen policy, SPP11, climate change, food policy



The cover of the SAGS audit of all allotments in Scotland completed in 2007. The work was funded by a grant from SNH and a charity.

Membership of other bodies:

Our Vice-President is a mentor for the *Allotments Regeneration Initiative*

We are members of:

- Scottish Environment LINK – the forum for Scotland's voluntary environmental organisations.
- Local People Leading - an informal alliance of national networks, local community groups and individuals to promote the work of local people in their communities and to influence national policy development

We have representatives on the Edinburgh Strategy Group, Glasgow Allotments Forum, Garden for Life, WECAN Fife, Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum, Scottish Biodiversity Structures people and communities group.

Campaigns:

Our vision is that everyone who wishes should have the opportunity to garden; there should be a plot for every 300 people in Scotland by 2018 and a plot for every 100 people by 2028.

To this end we :

- Campaign vigorously at Government and local authority level. We liaise with a group of MSPs representing all the political groups who support allotments.

- In 2007 along with other gardening and horticulture organisations, we launched the 'Growing Scotland' document at an event at Holyrood.. We plan to hold a similar event in 2009.
- We are working with Government, local authorities, landowners, developers and farmers to find land for allotments.
- We encourage community involvement in allotment sites and disseminate information on examples of good practice such as community health projects, school plots, special needs groups, biodiversity surveys, composting, soil conservation and orchards.
- We ask our members to respond to Local Plans, ensure allotments are considered in their local authority greenspace audits and input into the Government consultations

Allotment Gardening:



- We encourage good practice in allotment gardening with workshops on organic growing at our Annual Conference.
- We are currently conducting a survey of what people grow and how much they harvest, how much it costs in terms of work and money, how much space is needed for growing a crop.
- Through our membership of Garden for Life we contribute to the Gardening Scotland show in June. Members actively support open days on their plots, the FEDAGA show, Dundee flower show, Glasgow show and other events to support allotment gardening.

Trophies:

Scottish Allotments have three trophies the Stevenson Amenity shield, Robert Greig memorial Trophy and the Miller Cup. Each year these are offered in different regions across Scotland to encourage good practice in allotment sites, recognise individual excellence and encourage young gardeners.



Children from Glasgow primary schools are awarded the Miller Cup

Records

'Finding Scotland's Allotments' in 2007 was the first survey ever undertaken of allotments in Scotland. We reckon that we identified 95%. We would appreciate any sites we missed, new sites or potential groups to fill in a survey so that we can keep up the data base.

Constitution and Rules amended at the AGM 2008 available on request.