

# Glasgow Allotments Forum Newsletter

Issue 2008-2009

Glasgow Allotments Forum (GAF) is an independent organisation which provides the opportunity for ploholders from different sites to meet, share information and discuss issues related to Allotments. The meetings are open to all ploholders and anyone who has an interest in supporting and promoting allotment gardening is welcome to attend.

*Please see over for details of 2009 meetings.*

## GLASGOW'S ALLOTMENTS STRATEGY

A draft of this long awaited document was officially launched in March 2008. A GAF working group was then set up to look carefully at the document and report to the May meeting. The Forum's response was made following that meeting where points were made and suggested changes agreed. GAF was generally pleased with the constructive and positive approach of the draft document. It detailed a far-sighted and participatory approach which could improve existing sites and provide new sites in the city which would go some way towards satisfying the increasing demand for opportunities to garden.

It is anticipated that the final document will be published in the Spring of 2009 when GAF is hoping to organise *a big event* to show the importance of Allotments to Glasgow's communities and culture.



## ST MUNGO TROPHY

This year the Trophy was won by Stephen Malcolm of Berridale Allotments whose plot was judged to be the best overall. Second prize went to another

Berridale ploholder Alan Murray, while third was won by Max Hartmann of Merrylee Allotments. Congratulations to all. Next year, we hope that even more ploholders will enter this city-wide competition and with a little more publicity given to the winners, show what can be done with a bit of soil, a spade and - hopefully - some sunshine!

## HIGH CARNTYNE SITE RE-LOCATED

The old site was finally left behind this year when the new High Carntyne Allotments site was opened just up the road in Duchray Park. From their new huts and greenhouses



there are probably not many of the ploholders who now look back with too much regret for what they've left, as what they've got looks great. A Grand Opening Ceremony is to be arranged for a date in the future.

## A NEW ALLOTMENT SITE FOR GLASGOW

This was planned and built by Reidvale Street Housing Association and was opened this year. As there is such a demand for plots from local people, the waiting list at present is open only to those who live nearby.

There is a total of 11 plots, which this year have been divided into smaller units, so that more people have the opportunity to 'grow their own'. Some wonderful raised beds - of different heights and sizes - have been included so no-one is excluded from the pleasures of gardening.

## NEWS FROM SITES

\* **Hamiltonhill.** This site was reopened recently following closure because of contaminants in the soil. The plotters are busy doing a Herculean makeover from dereliction to a place of real promise for a happy future.

\* **Julian Ave.** Four large raised beds with wheelchair access, have been constructed as part of a jointly funded project with Land and Environmental Services and Kelvinside Allotments Association.

\* **Mansewood.** Boundary fence now completed.

\* **Merrylee & New Victoria Gardens.** These two sites have transferred the leases they have with the Council, from Development & Regeneration Services to Land & Environmental Services. They now have the same status as other Council sites.

\* **Oatlands.** This site, scheduled for re-location because of a housing development has recently had its buildings and plots targeted and badly damaged by vandals. As the credit crunch has now effectively postponed any development, the plotters have been left with real problems.

\* **Victoria Park.** To have its own supply pipes installed after suffering a long waterless period when its present source was cut off.

\* **Westthorn.** The plotters themselves have now completed the installers' unfinished work by clearing the rubble and building the ramp to their new composting toilet.

## SCOTTISH ALLOTMENTS & GARDENS SOCIETY

[www.sags.org.uk](http://www.sags.org.uk)

This year the SAGS travelling Trophies came to Glasgow's Allotments. Please see the above website for details and photos of the winners.

SAGS has had a very good year. A joint conference with the Centre for the Built Environment on Cultivating Sustainable Cities raised interest in allotments with planners and developers. The Annual Scottish Allotments Conference was exciting with reports from new sites and new initiatives across Scotland. This conference is free, open to all plot-holders, and is a very good information and net-working meeting. Please try and come to the next one - June 21st 2009. Otherwise there have been lots of campaigning, (Climate Challenge Fund -

do apply); support (including Oatlands) and information (what is grown on plots in Scotland). See web-site for details and briefing papers or contact Judy 357 0204

## ALLOTMENTS REGENERATION INITIATIVE.

[www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari)

Ian Welsh the Scottish ARI mentor, has all the up-to date information on the ARI and will give advice on regeneration issues.

## GAF WEBSITE

A GAF website is being developed using the facilities of the Community Web Site Builder which provides free hosting and a free content management system for non-profit making organisations. The over-riding advantage of this site is that it is independent of any individual member's Internet Service Provider, so there is no need to rely on just one person being there. The webmaster has a temporary site up and running for members to look at and make comment about content:

<http://www.btik.glasgowallotmentform.com>

Meantime, we have registered our eventual web address which will be:

[www.glasgowallotmentsforum.org.uk](http://www.glasgowallotmentsforum.org.uk)

## DISTRIBUTION GAF NEWSLETTER

This is the second 'annual' newsletter. Last year's newsletter was a luxury version as, thanks to the generosity of the Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow, we were able to print a six page copy for every plotholder in Glasgow and meet the costs of any postage invoiced. For its distribution, we have to thank the site secretaries for their help and cooperation in forwarding the newsletters as plotholders' addresses are held by them. From this year the newsletters will be available at the AGM and as soon as the GAF website is up and running it will be on the web also.

## DETAILS OF GAF MEETINGS 2009

14 <sup>th</sup> January	Wednesdays
18 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 – 9.00pm.
6 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>in</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Woodside Halls.
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Glenfarg St.
4 <sup>th</sup> November	off St. Georges Rd.