



Scottish Allotments
and Gardens Society

Still DIGGING
FOR
VICTORY

Saturday 16th June
The Victoria Halls, Dunblane, FK15 9EX

09.30 Registration and coffee

10.00 Welcome from the President, Ian Welsh

10.15 100 years of Scottish Allotments: launch of SAGS centenary booklet by Hannah Connelly

10.45 Travels with a WW1 Allotment: George Gilchrist and Ray Collinson, SRUC Oatridge, will trace the establishment of the allotment at SRUC Oatridge in the weediest corner of the college to a journey that has taken it to The Highland Show and the Houses of Parliament including a few historical facts along the way and finishing by selecting their favourite varieties that we could not live without now

11.15 Sharing Stories (with a little bit of technology): Andy Crofts, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. Everyone has a story and they are a powerful way of sharing ideas and experience for positive change. The Big Picnic Project at RBGE set out to tackle the issue of food security in disadvantaged communities living near there. They discovered that the medium of digital storytelling could be used to gather personal stories about challenges people had experienced accessing nutritious food. Andy will explore the digital storytelling method and tools used before looking at opportunities for allotment groups to engage with the Big Picnic to explore food security issues and contribute other stories.

11.45 Q and A

12.00 Lunch, Networking and Stalls

13.00 Launch of SAGS' Governance Booklet: Deborah Burn

13.30 Soil Association Scotland: Joe Hind from the food and farming charity Soil Association Scotland will present about the Food for Life Better Care programme which is a Big Lottery funded programme aiming to harness the power of good food to reduce malnutrition and loneliness among older people.

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13.50 GROW Project – Deborah Long, Programme Director GROW. The GROW Observatory is a 3 year EU funded Innovation project, run by 18 partners working in 8 countries across Europe and led by a team based at Duncan of Jordanstone School of Art and Design. GROW is a citizen science observatory working with growers and gardeners across Europe who gather, share and use data on soils and knowledge on growing practices. The data and knowledge gathered is used by growers themselves to inform their own growing practices, help science validate climate change models generated by satellite data and inform policy making in soil conservation, land management and community empowerment.

14.10 Late Potato Blight - Siobhan Dancey, James Hutton Institute, Dundee. Potatoes are an important crop in Great Britain and every year face the risk of potato late blight disease which can be detrimental. 'Fight Against Blight', operated by the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board (AHDB), monitors outbreaks across the country; allowing us to conduct research to better inform growers of local disease pressure and the presence of specific genotypes. We are interested in involving more allotment growers to monitor disease pressure across the country which would improve our system by creating a more detailed map of disease presence and act as warning sites for commercial growers.

14.30 Communication in the 21st century: Stuart McKenzie – a live demonstration of website building and creation of a newsletter in conjunction with Les Slater of Dunblane Allotments. All at zero cost and, we hope, maximum impact.

15.15 Q and A and final remarks by President

Followed by SAGS Annual General Meeting at 16.00