

Wildlife Project

2017 was an exciting and busy year for the Federation as we delivered the project on **Appreciation and protection of the natural wildlife heritage on allotment sites in Sheffield.**

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (so a big thank you to all who do the lottery each week!) this has let us

- Prepare a leaflet sent out to all plot holders
- Put on workshops on identifying insects
- Run a workshop on growing good crops while looking after wildlife
- Have a talk by a soil scientist
- Make 2 short films on the subject



LOTTERY FUNDED

See the films at www.sa-federation.co.uk

We are deeply indebted to Derek Whitely and the Sorby Invertebrate Group, to Darrell Maryon of Wortley Walled Garden and to Dot Rodman of Firth Park Community Allotments for the knowledge they have shared and for their huge support in this project.

There's still more!

On Saturday 31st March there will be an outdoor workshop at Mossway Allotments on how to collect and record insects and other invertebrates. Adults only for this one, and booking essential. Email sheff.allot@gmail.com

Sunday May 24th will see an **Insect Bioblitz** at Manor Allotments. This is for children as well as adults and if the weather is even half decent should be good fun. See our website or reverse for details. Booking required, so get in early.

Allotment Advisory Group

Three times a year there are meetings of the Allotment Advisory Group. This group consists of Allotment Officers, elected Councillors, members of the Federation committee and one representative from each allotment society.

If your site doesn't yet have a properly constituted society and you want to be able to attend the meetings you can contact us or ceri.ashton@sheffield.gov.uk to find out how to set one up.

The members of the Federation committee who attend try to represent all Council allotment holders.

Federation committee

Our committee meetings are at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Please let us know if you want to come so that we can put your item(s) on the agenda. For more details see our website at www.sa-federation.co.uk.

Dates for your diary

AGM Tuesday 20th November 7 - 9pm at Quaker Meeting House, 10 St James St, S1 2EW

Environment weeks 28th Apr – 10th June. For details see www.sheffieldenvironment.org.uk

Filling vacant plots

If you are at a site that is having difficulty filling vacant plots and you know of a local fair or event we might be able to bring a recruiting stand to that event.

To promote your allotment site open day on the Federation website please contact us.

Insect Bioblitz at Manor Allotments

Sunday May 27th 11am-3pm

You will join in with spotting and collecting insects and other wee critters This event will led by the hugely knowledgeable people from the Sorby Invertebrate Group. Booking required (sheff.allot@gmail.com) and children under 16 must be accompanied.

There is reasonable local parking but this site on City Road is easily accessed by public transport using the tram or buses. Full details on booking or from our website at www.sa-federation.co.uk

Bring a packed lunch. Drinks and cakes will be available from the Manor Allotment Society



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Collecting wildlife records

Open up a Word file on your computer and record your observations. At the end of the summer send it in to invertebrates@sorby.org.uk. If you prefer to use pen and paper that's OK. Send to Sorby Invertebrate Group, Beech Cottage, Wardlow, Buxton, SK17 8RP.

Each record will say When, What, Where (name of allotment), Who.
e.g. 5 April 2018, 3 Holly Blue butterflies flitting round holly bush, Meersbrook allotments, Jo Bloggs

Photographs are great. Try to take several from different angles – top, side underneath if possible.

Collecting specimens

If you don't like killing creatures you can still help by collecting dead specimens from spiders webs, water butts, dead on paths etc.

If you don't mind killing (but NOT butterflies, moths, bumble bees or dragon flies) you can take a specimen and either

- Drop it into a tube of alcohol (eg vodka, not meths or after-shave) or
- Put in a dry tube and then into the freezer

Write a label in pencil with your name, date and allotment site. Put the label inside the tube. At the end of the summer, or when you have several, contact the email address above to arrange where to take or send these.

Records will be passed to the Sheffield Biological Records Centre for reference in years to come.

The History of Allotments in Sheffield

By Margaret Boulton

The Federation is delighted to be able to mark the publishing of this well-researched 156 page book, with many illustrations, celebrating 300 years of allotments in Sheffield.

To purchase your copy (£10 +p&p) email msboulton12345@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0114 236 4813