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SAGS New Website

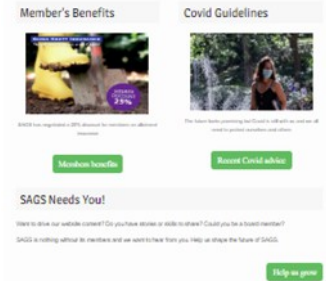
Screen Actors Guild; Saigon Ground Services; Self-Aligning Guide Shoe and Summer Active Ground Squirrel....

SAGS can be many things to many people. But there's only one Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society.

To make it even easier to find us, we've launched a new site, with a new website address www.scottishallotments.org

As we build the website, we'll be adding extra features, sharing members' news and launching a members' only section.

You can find out more about how you can help shape our new website here: www.scottishallotments.org/help-sags-grow



Confused about Covid?



With the vaccine rolling out and the latest lock-down easing, the future looks bright. But, as we move from full lock-down back to the tier system, the rules can become confusing for us all.

Our Covid updates are based on the latest Government advice.

You can find the latest Covid advice from SAGS here: www.scottishallotments.org/covid-advice



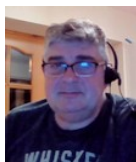
Find us on Twitter

[@ScotAllotments](https://twitter.com/ScotAllotments)

Meet the Board



Derek



Richard



Trevor



Andrew



Julie

SAGS is governed by a Board of Trustees, elected by the members of the Society in annual elections. The Trustees are all volunteers who have a passion for allotments and community gardens.

They have responsibility for the work of the Society and for ensuring it meets the requirements of a charity and its governance.

Find out more about us www.scottishallotments.org/trustees

To contact the board, in the first instance, please email secretary@scottishallotments.org

Future Plans



“SAGS will become more dynamic, relevant and accountable.”

SAGS president, Derek Livesey has ambitious plans for the future of SAGS.

“The purpose of SAGS has always been to champion and serve the interests of allotment gardeners in Scotland. That won’t change (the clue is in the name). However, if this is to be successful, the organisation must

begin a programme of initiatives to see this modernisation in practice.”

At the heart of his plans is nationwide representation for allotments and community gardens.

“SAGS will become more dynamic, relevant and accountable. It must rebuild confidence to

campaign at the highest levels.”

Also high on the agenda are tackling the ever-growing problem of waiting lists and bringing communities together.

“Every site is different but many share the same issues, and SAGS will be on hand to help, all across the country.”

Read Derek’s letter to members in full here:

www.scottishallotments.org/presidents-letter

Help SAGS grow

With so many ambitious plans for the future, SAGS needs your help.

Now that SAGS is a registered charity, we hope this will make it easier for us to access grants from funding bodies and contract with other organisations.

With the ability to represent allotments and community gardens nationwide, we can really make a difference.

To do this, we are going to need as much help as possible - from joining our board, to moderating our members’ forum, to sharing your stories

with us so we can share them with everyone else.

If you would like to help SAGS grow, please get in touch. The more diverse range of skills we have on our team, the better.

Find out how you can help SAGS grow here:

www.scottishallotments.org/help-sags-grow



“We’re gonna need a bigger board!”

Demand for Allotments Soars under Lockdown

We all know there has always been a huge demand for allotments in almost all parts of the country.

Since lockdown, that demand has got a whole lot greater.

In June 2020, The Sunday Post reported that Aberdeen has its highest ever waiting list, Edinburgh had received triple the amount of applications and Glasgow had seen an increase of 700%.

Behind these statistics are real people,

desperate to grow their own food, but data protection laws means that councils cannot share their details.

This makes it harder for communities who want to campaign for new sites to reach like-minded people.

SAGS would like to hear from anyone who is currently on the waiting list.

We want to attach real people to the stats, share their stories and, with their permission, put them in touch with one another.

If you, or someone you know, is on the waiting list, please visit

www.scottishallotments.org/waiting-list

Hunt out the Good Eggs this Easter

The Easter holidays are upon us and sites all over Scotland would normally be arranging events to keep the kids occupied. Unfortunately, continuing Covid restrictions means there won't be any of the usual Easter egg hunts, but there are some good eggs we can hunt out on our own plots.

We are all used to looking for clutches of eggs on the undersides of our precious young plants and often, in a bid to ensure we catch the bad guys before they're born, we resort to destroying all the eggs we find. But we could be destroying an army of helpers in the process. Here's our pick of the best eggs to hunt out, but definitely leave alone, this Easter:



Lacewing eggs

Also known as aphid lions, the larvae of the delicate little lacewing are anything but delicate.

They are voracious consumers of eggs, aphids and mites and will even eat their own siblings. To prevent them from doing so, mother lacewing lays her eggs on stalks. Each stalk has one egg at the end so that, once the hatchling lacewing larva has climbed down the stalk, it usually can't be bothered climbing up another to eat its sister.

These eggs on stalks, often laid in a U-shape, are really easy to recognise and, with a single lacewing larva capable of eating 200 aphids a week, this is one clutch of eggs every gardener should be delighted to discover.

If you aren't lucky enough to find the eggs of these future pest controllers, maybe you just don't have enough dandelions.

Adult lacewings feed on some aphids but not nearly as many as their kids. They like a drink with their meal and they prefer flowers where the nectar is easy for them to reach. So, plants from the daisy family - daisies, dandelions, sunflowers and feverfew - as well as plants from the parsley family - angelica, Queen Anne's lace (wild carrot) and lovage all help to attract lacewings.

Find out more about lacewings from [The Wildlife Trust](#)



Ground beetles

When ground beetles are disturbed, many will spray a foul-smelling liquid and, if that doesn't put you off, they can bite you.

Despite these defences, they are a gardener's friend and prey on slugs, snails, wireworms, leatherjackets and other soft-bodied insects we don't tend to like. Sometimes they eat earthworms but what's a few worms between friends? Especially when you know that ground beetle larvae also like to eat New Zealand flatworm.

Ground beetles lay their eggs in soil or leaf litter. In a week's time, they hatch into larvae which spend a good few months roaming around the soil, enjoying a diet of just about anything they can get their teeth into. Eventually, they pupate and emerge as adults. Adult ground beetles tend to hunt at night, saving us time spent with a torch looking for slugs.

Unlike slug and snail eggs, which are rounder and more translucent, the eggs of ground beetles are usually creamy white and oval.

There are around 350 species of ground beetles in the UK and, if you want to attract them to your vegetable patch, it's as easy as leaving a pile of logs or leaf litter for them to sleep under during the day.

For more on ground beetles and rove beetles, visit [The rhs](#)



Ladybird eggs

Every gardener loves ladybirds and yet many a ladybird has her reproductive ambitions shattered when we mistake her eggs for a clutch of cabbage white butterfly eggs.

Like those of the cabbage white, ladybird eggs are bright yellow, oval shaped and are laid on the undersides of leaves. But, if you take a closer look with a hand lens, you will see that ladybird eggs are smooth, whereas the eggs of cabbage whites are ribbed.

The eggs hatch out in a week and the larvae consume huge numbers of aphids and other sap-sucking insects such as scale insects.

Unfortunately, for ladybird larvae, they are not nearly as pretty as their mothers and often get squashed on account of the mistaken assumption that, if they're that ugly, they must be bad.

Ladybird larvae look like tiny little alligators and, as they get bigger, they may even develop spots on their backs, just like their parents.

Ladybird larvae and eggs are sold as biological pest controllers and, if you order them, they will more than likely arrive through the post in a petri-dish. Make sure you have some aphids to feed them because they will need to eat straight away.

For more on the lifecycle of ladybirds and how to recognise their larvae, visit [UK safari](#)



European goldfinch

There are very few British birds that can tolerate the taste of cabbage white caterpillars. Robins, blackbirds and blue tits will all turn their noses up at a meal of cabbage caterpillars. However, goldfinches happily eat them and that makes them a great little allotment pet.

Their eggs are very pale blue, with reddish-brown spots, laid in cup-shaped nests, lined with soft down or wool. The nests can be found in trees near the end of the branches or in hedgerows.

Goldfinches aren't daft. They often decide to migrate to the warmer parts of Europe for winter, arriving back on our shores in the spring when they're ready to breed. The adults eat insects and seeds but have a notable preference for the seed-heads of Teasel so this is a great plant to grow in order to encourage adults.

When feeding their young, they will look for soft-bodied insects because seeds can be hard for the little ones to digest so, if you are lucky enough to have a nest, the adults will be more than happy to keep your cabbages clean of caterpillars.

Goldfinches are very beautiful. With their bright colours, they look like escaped exotic caged birds and they were once kept as caged birds in this country. Of course now, they are a protected species.

More on goldfinches at [rspb.org](#)

Download our A4 printable poster 'Good eggs and bad eggs' [here](#)



Share your stories

We want to hear all about your upcoming events, good news stories and allotment growing tips.

If you have a story you want to share with the rest of the Scottish allotments and gardens community, please contact us:

newsletter@scottishallotments.org