

## The diploma for ecological gardening was awarded to:

1) the „Neugrabener Moor e.V.“ allotment garden association (D)

### **Germany: The allotment garden association “Neugrabener Moor Hamburg e. V.” received the diploma for an ecological gardening**

The association emphasises ecology and a sustainable development. You can find among others bees on this site. The presence of these useful animals has a positive effect on the garden cultivation. The fruit harvest has significantly increased after the introduction of bee populations. The beekeeper’s station is only one element of the educational nature trail.

One can find as well:

- A wood and marsh educational trail
- A pip fruit lane
- A kitchen garden with an important herb section
- A farmer’s cot

The educational trail especially allows pupils to very closely discover nature and to understand the ecological system.



2) the „An der Vils e.V. „ allotment garden association in Amberg (D)

**Germany: The allotment garden association “an der Vils e. V.” in Amberg (Bavaria) received the diploma for an ecological gardening**

The association’s strength resides in its technical gardening advice of exemplary quality.

Gardening practices favoured in the allotment site influence the behaviour of the commune. Individual gardeners take the advices of the association’s gardening experts into consideration. Ecology and the sustainable development are the main subjects of the gardening advices given.



### 3) the Stadspark allotment garden association in Groningen (NL)

#### **Netherlands: The association Stadspark in Groningen received the diploma for an ecological garden**

Stadspark is situated at its present location in the west of Groningen since the sixties. The site exists has 205 gardens all different in size.

In 2004 Stadspark started the road to the National Quality Mark. This led to a beautiful four dots on the ladybird in 2012.

Stadspark has developed a considerable number of projects, for example:

- A website with variety of information about a natural gardening
- Guided walks, tree route, wilderness
- Wild indigenous plants in the public spaces
- Social activities that contribute to a group cohesion within the association as well as stimulate natural gardening
- Publishing information on natural gardening in their own magazine 'Het Groene Boekje' (The Green Book)
- Promotional activities on local level
- Dune garden and volunteer ornamental plants in a nature garden near the toad pool
- Tasty route through the park with 20 different types of fruit, nut and berry plants
- Water saving toilet tanks, use of CFL
- Over 40 different kinds of nesting boxes suitable for swallows and other birds, hedgehogs, bats etc.

At this moment about 85% of the member gardeners participate.



#### 4) the De Driehoek allotment garden association Utrecht (NL)

### **The Netherlands: The association De Driehoek in Utrecht received the diploma for an ecological gardening**

De Driehoek is situated at its present location in the northeast of Utrecht since 1963, however the association is older than that. The site contains 137 garden of an average size of 250 m<sup>2</sup>.

In 2003 the board of the association wrote a vision paper aiming among others things to convince the city of Utrecht of the importance of garden sites. The garden site of De Driehoek is part of the ecological main structure in The Netherlands.

Characteristic for De Driehoek are the two parallel ditches, the remains of the historical lay out of the meadow. Along these ditches there are apple and pear trees, some older than 50 years. There is a belt with high trees and a wide ditch all-round the site.

In 2010 De Driehoek started the road to the National Quality Mark. This led to a beautiful four dots on the ladybird in 2012.

De Driehoek developed a considerable number of projects, for example:

- A quarterly newsletter for the gardeners
- Information signs at special location describing among others water life, fruit trees, birds, grass snake, butterflies
- Organizing courses and workshop on ecological gardening, making insect hotels, duck stairs and nesting boxes, composting, trimming etc.
- Floating islands and duck stairs in the ditches
- Nameplates for all the old fruit tree varieties
- Kingfisher wall
- Mutual composting heap, including a grass snake
- Ecological sound mowing of the banks of the ditches
- Collecting and shredding of trimmings



## **The diploma for social activities was awarded to:**

1) *the Dresden-Altleuben e.V. allotment garden association (D)*

### **Germany: The allotment garden association “Dresden Altleuben e.V.” in Dresden received the diploma for social activities**

After the reconstruction of this allotment garden site after the century flooding in 2002 and its efforts for an ecological gardening of the garden plots with an extensive gardening, one has to point out that the strength of the association is its social involvement. The association realizes different projects aiming at contributing to a “social city”.

In order to facilitate the overtaking of a plot by socially weaker families, the association buys the contents of the plot from the leaving tenant. The new tenants can then buy them by paying instalments to the association.

A therapeutically garden, laid out for mentally ill people, is another of the association’s social project.



2) the regional allotment garden association Karlsruhe e.V. Sinzheim Baden Württemberg (D)

**Germany: The regional federation of allotment gardeners in Baden-Württemberg received the diploma for social activities for its park for generations**

The generation park is a meeting point between young and old and creates links between children, adults and seniors. Wide paths without barriers through the whole site passing along the newly laid out pond with a bridge link the different areas to stay.

These comprise a small open-air theatre, a “silent zone”, a dementia garden, raised beds and a place for barbecues.

All the centre of the commune is involved in the realization of these ideas.



### 3) the Mazargues allotment garden association in Marseille (F)

#### **France: The Mazargues allotment gardens in Marseille received the diploma for social activities**

The Mazargues Gardens were created in 1905 and are the only one of their kind in France. In fact, it's the only allotment and community garden site that has climatic spa, which were created to fight tuberculosis, which was rife at that time.

With their 3.7 hectares of pinewood, the Mazargues Gardens represent a greenbelt for this area of the city and represent an unrivalled reserve of biodiversity in Marseille.

The Mazargues Gardens allow more than 100 modest gardeners' families to grow a large proportion of the vegetables that they eat.

These gardens welcome people with reduced mobility, handicapped people in wheelchairs and are also a place for training and education for children.

At a time where our society has a tendency to crumble, the Mazargues Gardens create social ties and offer a special place for cross-generational interaction.



## **The diploma for innovative was awarded to:**

1) *the Bron Fair allotment garden association (UK)*

### **Great-Britain: Bron Fair Allotments has received the diploma on innovative projects for a disabled garden**

In late Summer of 2009 Bridgend County Association was asked if it had a piece of allotment land on which a Gardening Club for their visually impaired members could be organised.

By late September 2009, 450 sq. mtrs. of usable, flat ground were ready for the project in the Bron Fair site.

But now the hard work began, looking for the funding. We applied to the local Town Council in Maesteg hoping that they would be able to help us. To our delight the Councillors awarded us £9,200.

Now as we had some funding, we could start looking for match-funding for this project which would be the first of its kind in Bridgend County Borough to provide a specially designed and built facility for the visually impaired and disabled in the Community.

We were successful and could so have all that we wanted for the Bron Fair site: 20 raised growing beds, a poly tunnel, a sensory garden, and a compost loo, together with a meeting hut and patio area. All the paths would be wide enough for wheelchair users, and the whole site would be fenced and secure.

Beginning of April 2010 all the ground works had been completed, the raised beds and shed were in place, and the site was ready for the Gardening Club to begin.

On 23rd June the Bron Fair Garden for the Disabled was officially opened.





## 2) the Cold Barn Farm allotment association (UK)

### **Cooperation between the Cold Barn Allotment Association and Abersychan School at risk children**

Cold Barn farm Allotments are working closely with Abersychan comprehensive school and Torfaen youth service on a project called ASDAN. The project aims to include young people who find themselves close to exclusion from school. A group of ten young people come to Cold barn Farm weekly and have recently started work on the allotment extension. They have done all the ground works and built the new raised beds.

The young people are currently working on erecting an additional poly tunnel at the site. We have learned that even the most disruptive young people will work hard when given a leadership role and a project they can be Hands on with. The school teachers have noticed a marked improvement in the young people's attendance and behaviour since they started the project.

We planted a willow and bamboo plantation on site 4 years ago with the view to use it in the allotments and youth centre. Our young people, harvest and also show other allotment holders the many uses willow have on allotment site. We also use it for arts and craft activities.

This summer the young people will be building a bird hide from willow. This has come from a big interest in bird watching amongst our youth club members. We have installed a very busy bird feeding station.

