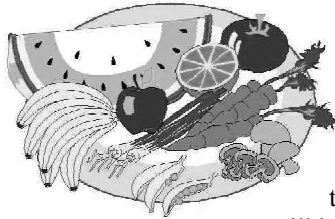


Milton-under-Wychwood Allotments and Gardens Association

I am writing this on one of those cold winter days when the sun simply does not get rid of the frost. At least that means I am rattling the keys on the laptop in the warm rather than labouring on the allotment. I am not a New Year resolution type of person but, if I was, it would be to try and do better on the allotment than I did last year. I know we all had trouble with the weather but that was only part of my problem, the other part was me! For some reason I just seemed to be 'behind the drag curve' all year. I was always struggling to get a bit of ground ready for plants that had already been too long in pots or modules and the results reflected that.



No Excuse!

So, for 2008 I intend to get ahead, which is why all the strollers and dog walkers going past the Milton allotments may have seen a lonely, and often hot, person attempting to bring order to my usual chaotic plot. Only time will show if I can keep it up. I have to say Linda has been less than supportive. My assurance that the plot is looking better fails to impress, she says that as long as I keep the grass paths it will never be neat (she is probably right but the thought of the effort needed to dig them up is just too much to bear at the moment) MUWAGA members have little excuse for a late start as we have now received our seeds, from Thompson and Morgan this year, which, with a hefty 50% discount, saved me more than my subscription. James Burgis certainly gets

my thanks for sorting out the seed order. James shoulders this large task, mostly by himself, and Association members get a great deal as a result.

So Untidiness is OK?

We did not have any meetings in December, but November's talk on *Pest and Disease Control without Chemicals*, which was very well attended, was excellent. Another inspirational idea that I need to put into practice. I was

gladdened to hear at the talk that my natural untidiness could well be benefitting wildlife and a load of pest-eaters; I must ask them to try harder! By the time you are reading this we

will have held our January Wine, Paté and Cheese evening, where food for the brain will be tested by a light-hearted garden quiz. On **February 27th**, Mornee Button will talk on the *Scented Isle of Corsica* and on **March 26th** Donald Everitt will talk on *Ideas for Summer Bedding* with a range of plants for sale.

What More Could You Want?

As ever, both members and non members are welcome at all our events. They start at 7.30pm in Milton Village Hall and for a small remuneration there is tea, coffee and biscuits, what more could you want? I look forward to seeing you there.

Lastly, I hope you had a good Christmas and that 2008 turns out to be a happy and healthy year for all of us. Now it is back to the allotment, that excess has to be worked off somehow!

Tony Lewis