

Milton-under-Wychwood Allotments and Gardens Association

March into April is, in my opinion, a wonderful time with the promise of summer ahead, the advent of all those vibrant spring colours and those glorious fresh new leaves on the trees. It is also the time to start planning!

Growing to Eat

There is normally no point in sowing your seeds into cold wet soil; wait a little longer and they will almost always do better once things have warmed up a bit and later sowings more often than not catch up with the earlier ones. I should know. My normal attempts to stagger my sowing so I get a good succession of crops instead of the usual 'feast and famine' seem to end up with a slightly longer glut rather than a nice even production of crops. However, it has not dampened my enthusiasm so far and I hope it never will.

There is something so satisfying about sowing these little miracles called seeds and seeing them sprout and develop into something that looks and tastes good. My primary interest is in growing things to eat, but this year I am also sowing some flowers on the allotment, which attract lots of wildlife happy to eat some of those bugs, and they also look nice. It must be a sign of age that my interest in flowers is growing.



Forced Out!

As might be said on the Fast Show: "In March I expect to be mainly in the greenhouse." However, it won't last, because very shortly Linda will be underway with peppers and tomatoes and I will then be forced out. It's a hard life!

MUWAGA has been busy over the last two months. The Cheese and Wine evening in January was good fun and, judging by the level of debate, the quiz was challenging. I missed the talk by Mornee Button on February 27th on the *Scented isle of Corsica* which I am sure was excellent.

On **March 26th** Donald Everitt will give us *Ideas for summer bedding* and on **23rd**

April Jeff Oke will talk on the theme *Fuchsias are fun* both talks in Milton village hall starting at 7.30 pm. Plants will be on sale at both these talks. As we look further ahead we have the AGM on **28th May** (followed by a wine/paté and cheese evening to sweeten the pill).

Then for all you growers, comes the big challenge of the **Annual Show on 23rd August**. As I know no fear, I fully intend to have another go at the 'long tapering carrots' class despite my total drubbing in previous events.

Happy gardening!

Tony Lewis

Dog Fouling

New legislation has given powers to local authorities to impose on the spot fines on people in charge of dogs that foul public areas. From April to May, West Oxfordshire District Council will be stepping up their efforts to control this nuisance. Many dog owners make great efforts in the village to keep the

pavements and grass areas clean – be responsible for your dog and don't spoil things for other people; otherwise you may find it costs you more than a plastic bag. If your dog fouls anywhere in the villages, pick it up!

Alice Burns

Clerk to Shipton Parish Council