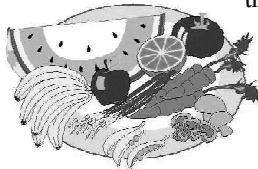


Milton-under-Wychwood Allotment and Gardens Association

Life is a roller-coaster and that also appears to be true of MUWAGA. At the end of last year I wrote that attendances at our talks had really dropped off and we wondered what the problem was. We may never know, but we had a very large audience for the talk on 25th February which was on the cultivation of Dahlias, given by Robin Pearce.

Come Along Shipton Folk

The wild fluctuations in numbers have caused the Committee to think hard about what we can do to make the Association as inclusive as possible. We are keen to hear from anyone who has suggestions for improvements; our aim is to make the Association provide what people want. I have been told that many people in Shipton still think that because we have the word Milton in our name that they cannot join. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are also re-introducing the swap-table at our meetings where people can bring along magazines, seeds, plants and any gardening paraphernalia that is surplus and which they are happy for someone else to have. There will be no set price for this but a small donation will be welcome. So, watch this space. We like to think we are a friendly bunch and we welcome everyone so please do not be put off, come along and give us a try! Linda and I have just returned from three weeks away in sunnier climes. On our return I was able to spend the afternoon on the allotment. It was really busy with more people taking on plots or half plots. I think the Romans called winter the time



of planning. Well, that is behind us now and these months are such busy times of sowing and planting.

The Real Green Shoots!

Forget all the doom of the current economic turmoil these will be the **real** green shoots of regeneration - and they are free!

I have just received my onion sets so this is it! I'm off planting. The struggles of last year are a distant memory and with wild optimism I will sow far more seed than I will ever have room for,

but we can all dream. My aim is to increase what I get from the allotment. I estimate we got about 20% to 30% of our vegetables from it last year. I want to up that considerably but it will require a level of planning and organisation that has eluded me in the past. Linda remains pessimistic!

Future Plans

So, what is coming up? We are trying to rearrange our meeting on **April 22nd**, as the speaker has had to pull out. If we cannot get a speaker we will try something new - I can sense the excitement! On **27th May** we have our AGM; we will soften the pill of having to discuss the serious stuff with a Cheese and Wine evening. Do come along, it is our chance to discuss what we want from our association. This year's show is on **Saturday 5th September**. Have a go! It is fun to show your produce. Believe me it is not scary and my exhibits are always there to make you look good!

Tony Lewis