

M.U.W. Allotments and Gardens Association

While it seems a long time ago, I thought you might like to know how our show on 5th September went. In the wake of an exceptional show in 2008 it was probably unreasonable to expect that we would better it, but we came close and the show was very successful. What was really encouraging was the appearance of several new exhibitors. Exhibitors make the show and I thank every one of them for having a go. My thanks go to the Committee, the judges and all the other helpers who make the show happen - their efforts are often not obvious but essential.

Doreen Wins!

Doreen Dore must be particularly pleased to win the President's Cup for vegetables and the Hawtin Cup for a selection of six vegetables. Mike Hawtin has held these cups for many years but clearly he now has competition. I am sure Mike will now redouble his efforts to win them back! On the allotment I am attempting to get ready for next year. It is high time to prepare vacant beds and do the housekeeping. I believe the Romans called this time of year 'the time for planning' and I always find the process of deciding what to grow and to think how I may avoid some of this year's failures, very enjoyable. Indeed, by the time you read this, the MUWAGA seed order will have been delivered. It still remains a pretty good deal in that, by putting in a bulk order to Thompson and Morgan, the Association gets a 40% discount on seeds and 15% on other items. Not bad for a £5 annual subscription.



No Surrender

I'm going off badgers! We have had them traipsing through our garden for some time and I can tell you they can find tulip bulbs in places we didn't even know we had them. Worse, they like my carrots - a lot - hence the rather poor showing at last year's show. Now, they are on the allotments and it's getting personal. All the sweetcorn was completely eaten by them. I am not quite sure what to do next year - I think I will have to try a fence and harvest as early as possible. Surrender is not an option.

Dates for Your Diary

Forthcoming events for your diaries are the **Wine/Paté and Cheese** evening on **27th January 2010** and we are having a talk by Mornee Button on the **Flowers of the Swiss Alps** on **24th February** all held in the Milton Village Hall and starting at 7:30 pm. Everyone, members or not, are welcome.

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all. I wish you happy gardening in 2010.
Tony Lewis