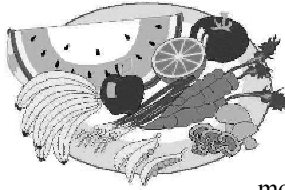


Milton-under-Wychwood Allotments and Garden Association

It's official, winter is on the way and by the time you read this, it's here. I have just handed our MUWAGA seed order to David Van de Pol, who has been public spirited (or just plain foolish) enough to take on the task of managing it for the Association. I only hope my adding up was OK this year.



preparation and pressing production line put in place for the day. The other crop we have in plenty is walnuts. Last year we gathered them but they went mouldy; this year the new dehydrator has dried them to perfection and I am now extracting the nuts to be frozen. This is part of nature's bounty that is providing me with a never ending job, still what else would I be doing on a winter evening?

A Family Affair

As though that was not bad enough, I think Linda's seed order is bigger than mine and she is digging her new allotment like a maniac (and I use that word with care) with an evil glint in her eye when she mentions next year's show. On top of that, a second greenhouse is being considered. Now I like peppers and cucumbers but let's be reasonable, every man has his limits.

Where the Cider Apples Grow

With the onset of shorter days and colder temperatures, life should be slowing down, with the allotment and garden going to sleep for the winter but all is not yet quiet on the horticultural front. Everyone seems to have a bumper crop of apples and we are no different. We are slowly picking apples and storing them in a custom-made apple storer, - one of my most successful scrap wood projects - and it works, with apples lasting through to the spring. If only my scrap-wood fruit-dryer had been as successful. We have had to resort to buying a commercial one, which I admit is 100 times better but, as I keep telling Linda, mine only cost £5. The less than perfect apples are bound for cider making. This is a family affair with a

The MUWAGA season of talks has started with a flourish with two well attended talks, one in September on *Garden ponds and lakes*, which was full of information and in October, *Favourite things and must-haves*, which was an excellent round-up of the best garden plants, many of which I had never heard of but I now have the seeds, so watch out. Both provided a good deal of inspiration for next year.

Grassing on You

December is a month off, talk wise, and January brings the wine, cheese and paté evening on **26th January** to start the New Year. On **23rd February** we have a talk on ornamental grasses which are much in vogue. All talks are in **Milton Village Hall** and start at **7:30pm**. Everyone is welcome, whether a member or not. By the time you get the magazine, Christmas and the New Year will be closing in, so I wish you all the very best for this year's end and the start of the next and hope that life and Father Christmas are kind to you. Merry Christmas and happy gardening!
Tony Lewis