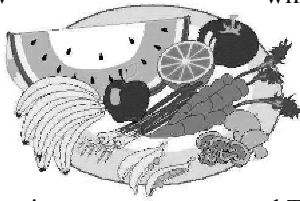


Milton - Under -Wychwood Allotments and Gardens Association

I sit writing this as the mellow fruitfulness of autumn comes to an end and I can say with conviction that it has been a funny old year weather-wise. I suppose we can draw some comfort in that we have not suffered alone; it was also the case, as far as I know, across a good part of northern Europe and probably well beyond. Don't even start me on global warming! It is really confusing the plants. As Monty Don said to me last night (along with a few million other TV watchers) a lot of plants that needed mid-summer heat to flourish just never really got going. Instead we had a sort of summer burst in April followed by cool weather until suddenly October turned the heat up again. At least it was good for the winter squashes which are now curing in the greenhouse. They can do this because all the tomatoes and peppers which were filling it are now in the kitchen with Linda making every tomato and pepper meal, preserve and chutney known to man. What a woman! Added to that, she is also battling with the allotment, moving earth and manure like an Amazon. Well, to be truthful, I have never associated Amazons with such work but if they did I know what they would have looked like.

Winter Talks

Our winter talks are now well under way. I have to admit to having missed the first two by going on holiday. I am glad to say that they were well attended and hopefully enjoyed by everyone there. We do not have a meeting in December so the next event will be in January 2012 when we hold the famous MUWAGA cheese,



wine and paté evening on

Wednesday 25th January.

This will be followed by a talk on **February 22nd** entitled *50 years of gardening tips* by Howard

Drury who is a lecturer, writer and TV presenter, so we are

expecting it to be a very enjoyable and informative evening. As always, all our social gatherings and talks are held in **Milton Village Hall** on a **Wednesday** and start at **7:30pm**. Everyone is welcome to come - and we really mean that. Our only plea is that if you are not a member you make a small contribution to attend. If you have not been before and feel it may be a bit daunting please have no fear, we are an informal and friendly bunch and delighted to invite new people in.

Christmas in the Allotment?

The really frightening thing about writing this short missive to my one reader is that I am writing about next year - where the heck has this one gone! Please tell me I am not losing the plot, I am only half way to 122!

Reluctantly, I suppose I am going to have to mention Christmas. This will seem quite reasonable when you read this in December but for me, a serious non-shopper; it causes alarm as I write it earlier in the year. What will Linda want for her allotment, will she tell me and will I get it right? You will just have to wait for the next installment to find out!

I wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year. May all your gardening wishes come true.

Tony Lewis