

Milton-under-Wychwood

Allotments and Gardens Association

Whoopee, we are on the way up! The shortest day is well behind us and on March 21st, the vernal equinox, the days will be lengthening at their fastest rate, plants will be growing (plus the weeds) and the pressure comes on allotmenters and gardeners alike to finish any ground preparation and start sowing and planting. Will I be ready? On past record, I will be almost, but not quite, ready. Last year this worked in my favour in a couple of instances since I avoided the worst of the damage from the late frost. I may try and use that as an excuse this year.



will be giving us *50 years of gardening tips*. I don't know about you but I need all the help I can get so I shall certainly be there. Following on **28th March** we have **Duncan Coombs**, a lecturer at Pershore College, giving us a talk on *A spring visit to Japan's gardens and countryside*.

illustrated with superb slides from his recent visit. As always, the talks are in **Milton Village Hall** starting at **7:30pm**. If you have trouble remembering the dates all you need to know is that it is always the **4th Wednesday in the month**. There, that is your last excuse gone! You don't have to be a member to come - no-one is turned away and the charge for non-members is only 50p.

With Christmas behind us I can now say that my Christmas present of a hoe to Linda was welcomed less enthusiastically than the Kindle. I thought she was a committed allotment holder? The first seeds of doubt have been sown.

What About Linda?

But, I hear my reader mutter, what about Linda? Why no news? Well, Linda is now a woman with two bad knees, two greenhouses and two allotments. Linda is not one to give up easily and she is working hard to get over it - no-one is more supportive than me - my New Year's wish is, of course a secret, but you may guess the theme. Let's put it this way, I do not want to be the man with good knees, three allotments and two greenhouses plus someone who may be critical of my efforts on said allotments and greenhouses!

Howard's Way

Our talk in November (I know, that seems an age ago) was by Mornee Button on the flowers of Southern Spain and Portugal. Mornee is always an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker and brought a welcome burst of summer to a dark winter evening. Looking ahead to **22nd February** our talk is one I am really looking forward to. **Howard Drury**, well known as a lecturer, writer, TV and radio presenter

Alert to all Allotment Holders

With other allotment holders, I have received a letter from Milton Parish Council announcing that at a meeting in the New Year they will be reviewing the rental charges. I presume this is a coy way of letting us know they mean to increase the rents. I will certainly be interested in the rationale they use to support any change (rents may of course go down as well as up). I will keep you informed and wonder if something similar is happening in Shipton? Does anyone out there know? Well, it's only money. The sun will soon have his hat on. So, it is time to get ready. Let sowing and planting commence! Happy gardening!

Tony Lewis