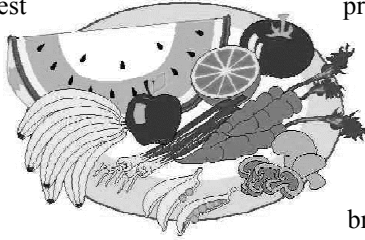


Milton-under-Wychwood Allotment and Garden Association

February is often the coldest and grimmest part of winter and still too early to do much on the allotment or garden except to try and take advantage of a dry spell to get the beds in order.

Surely, it must stop raining soon?



propagator she uses to start them off. I am always amazed that such pathetic little seedlings go on to produce such a large crop in the greenhouse.

While it is not my place to brag, particularly about

Linda's produce as we are bitter rivals at the Show, we are still eating her tomatoes. I think I told you that we will try to co-ordinate our crops on our allotments better this year. We have started well and made sure that our seed orders are complimentary. Time will tell if we can keep this level of co-operation up during the rest of the year. It is not our natural way.

Will the Hand-Cream be Needed?

Now I know Christmas and New Year are distant memories for you, but I hope Father Christmas was kind. He was quite generous to me; I think Linda may have had a hand in getting some of the presents but she assures me that it was Santa who delivered them. I still marvel at how he gets round to everyone in the time. One thing I now have plenty of is hand cream to help with those chapped winter allotment hands, useful if the weather was actually dry enough to do anything on the allotment. With all my remaining shreds of optimism I hope by the time you are reading this it will all have changed and I will be moaning about something else!

On the bright side, the MUWAGA seed order arrived and I managed to plant my garlic cloves in a mild spell in December. There is nothing showing yet but I remain upbeat. From my extensive knowledge (extracted from the pages of Kitchen Garden magazine) it is best to get your garlic planted in late autumn (or winter in my case) as the cloves need to experience a cold spell to perform best. At least I have got something in the ground. It is a start and it gives me a real boost. By March we should be chitting our potatoes and Linda's tomato and pepper seeds should be showing in the heated

And Coming Up?

Although you have missed the legendary MUWAGA Cheese, Pate and Wine evening; there is plenty to look forward to in the MUWAGA calendar. On 27th

February we have a talk by Philip Aubrey entitled *The Answer Lies in the Soil*, all about how to understand and get the best from our most valuable asset -the ground we stand on. On 27th **March**, Tim Miles will talk about the *Glorious Gardens of Cornwall*. Tim was previously curator at the Lost Gardens of Heligan so he should know a thing or two about Cornish gardens.

All the talks will be held in **Milton Village Hall** and start at 7:30pm. While you probably all know this, I will say again that everyone is welcome whether a member or not. We ask non-members to make a small contribution (normally 50p). I look forward to seeing you there.

Happy gardening, summer is on the way!

Tony Lewis