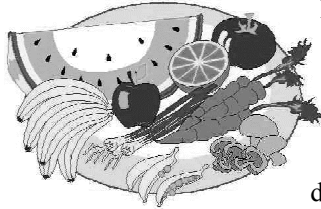


Milton -under -Wychwood Allotments and Gardens Association

I had hoped to report on what good fun the MUWAGA Cheese and Wine evening was in January but, as you may remember, we had a bit of snow and ice then so we decided that discretion was the better part of valour and cancelled it. The last thing we would have wanted was members feeling they had to come out and having a fall or an accident. I am pleased to say that after a bit of a slow start to our year we had an excellent talk on *The answer lies in the soil* given by Philip Aubrey on 27th February.



the warm moist weather that makes all the difference. A 14 hour flight and arrival back at 6am at a chilly Heathrow soon brought me down to earth.

Back on our bit of the planet I spent a couple of hours last weekend digging the allotment. The word brisk, was an understatement temperature-wise, how I dream of those lovely warm growing conditions when spring has sprung. Those spuds currently chitting in a cool part of the house should, as you read this, be in the ground and the greenhouse should be full of seedlings ready to go out on the allotment. Once Linda has her tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers ready I am forced out of the greenhouse anyway. Still I must not be ungrateful; I got two cold frames from the deal!

Climate Change, the AGM and Rice

With our equilibrium restored we can now look forward to our talk on **24th April** which is on *Climate Change and how to cope with it*, by Peter Jones and on the **22nd May** our famous Cheese and Wine AGM takes place - a real fun event, do not miss it! All these events are on **Wednesday evenings** starting at **7:30 pm** in **Milton Village Hall**. I would be delighted to see you there whether you are a member or not - everyone is welcome.

Linda took me away on holiday for the first three weeks of February. I can tell you that the weather was much better in Vietnam; the people, the scenery and the food were lovely too. For those who like their rice, Vietnam is the place for you. They have many different types, all of which have their particular place in their dishes. Why, we asked aren't more of these varieties available in the UK? What I also did not realise is that they grow just about every vegetable we do here as well but in such glorious abundance. It must be

Just Look Around

The work in the garden in spring always arrives in a rush and you feel under pressure to get everything done but do take the time to stop, take a deep breath and just look around - it is good for the soul; we are lucky to live here. The leaves are appearing and the land has the vibrant greens of fresh growth. Blossom time is upon us with the promise of fruit warmed by the sun (surely we will see more of it this year) as summer comes along. So get those seeds sown. Even tender plants such as runner beans, courgettes and squashes need to be started under cover in April to be ready to go into the ground once the danger of frost has passed. Happy gardening, summer is on the way!
Tony Lewis