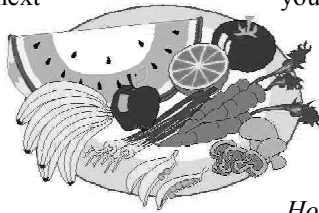


## Milton-under-Wychwood Allotments and Gardens Association

By the time you get this copy of *The Wychwood* dear old Bing will be warbling across the airwaves again. Actually, whilst I like Christmas, I am not so keen on the hype that precedes it for the previous two months or more. This was brought home to me recently. Linda and I were filling in our MUWAGA seed order (such good value with 50% off, saving our Association subs several times over) and flushed with visions of next year's plants went to Burford Garden Centre. You will have spotted that shopping is not my favourite occupation (with the exception of hardware shops – when are Groves going to get their store rebuilt?). To add to my general glum demeanour the garden centre had put the Christmas decorations and other fare out in mid-October.



### What Do You Want For Christmas?

This is the question I dread. I do not know about you, but when you reach a certain age you tend to have most of the things you need that could be put on a Christmas list. I scratch around desperately trying to conjure up ideas for things I need and then get criticised (one's children can be particularly critical) for being unimaginative or coming up with such specific items that only I can buy them. Now I love my allotment but I still struggle to think of appropriate presents, even garden related ones. If my reader has any ideas would you please forward them to me in a plain brown envelope. A lorry load of manure comes to mind but the gift-wrapping would be a nightmare!

### MUWAGA Evenings

In September we had an excellent talk by Timothy Walker, the Director of the Oxford Botanic Garden, on *Euphorbias*. It may sound a bit specific, but he is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker who put the subject across in a straightforward and humorous style. Our October talk was by Chrissy Ching on *Potagers – Beautiful, Edible gardens*. As you know I warm to anything edible and Chrissy showed that vegetables can fit in any garden big or small and look attractive. Our November talk will be *The Incredible World of the Honey Bee* by Steve Moll which really interests me.

There is no talk in December but January brings our **Cheese, Wine and Paté evening** to cheer us all up. So put the **22<sup>nd</sup> of January** in your diaries. As always, it will be held in Milton Village Hall kicking off at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome – but non-members will be asked to pay a little extra .

### A Time to Plan

A bit of dreaming when you cannot get out is no bad thing. Each year I mean to sort my seeds into sowing times, to try and get some succession, rather than my normal vegetable boom and bust cycle. A bit of planning may feature in my New Year's resolution. At least if you have an idea of what you want to achieve you can make the most of the all too fleeting weather windows. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Happy gardening!

**Tony Lewis**