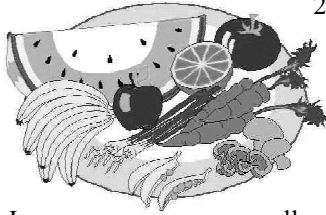


## Milton - under - Wychwood Allotments and Gardens Association

I really like Christmas and New Year - time for a bit of indulgence and a chance for the family to get together, that all seems a long time ago now. February can be a bit of a struggle to stay positive, I always feel it is the last blast of winter and often brings the worst weather. I am determined to put all that behind me and concentrate on what is ahead. If you have a greenhouse or sheltered spot (like a cold frame or windowsill) you could have a go at starting some broad beans off in pots or modules.

### Little Weed

The first broad beans have such a lovely taste and are the first outliers of the summer to come. If you are a tomato grower, starting those little seeds off with a bit of heat in February is not too early. This is Linda's territory, but I still have that sense of wonder that the tiny seeds and weedy looking seedlings that appear are going to turn into thuggish plants aiming to grow out of the greenhouse. My optimism does at times tempt me to sow outside too early; last year's cold spring brought a bit of disappointment, but the trick is not to sow all the seeds at once. If you sow them in batches over a few weeks when the weather is warm enough you are pretty sure to get success and anyway we mere mortals, who are not growing commercially, do not want our entire crop to be ready at once. If the weeds are growing, you are usually pretty safe to sow the normal hardy veggie seeds. Last November seems so distant but that was when we had our last talk of



2013. It was on *The Wonderful World of the Bee* given by Steve Mollan an excellent talk on this fascinating topic. For instance, I did not realise that bees do not hibernate, so all you good folks out there make sure you have early and late flowering plants in your garden, including fruiting ivy which is great for bees.

### Carry on Dreaming

By the time you get this edition of *The Wychwood* we should have had the **Cheese, Wine and Pâté evening** in January, weather permitting, to provide a bit of early cheer - I hope to have seen you there. Our next talk is on **26<sup>th</sup> February** and is *The Year Round Container Garden* by Chris Day who has talked to us previously and is an excellent speaker. On **26<sup>th</sup> March** Sue Smith and Sue Dodd will be giving us a talk on *Butterflies and Moths in Gardens*. That sounds good to me too! The talks are always on **Wednesday evenings** in the **Milton Village Hall** and start at 7:30pm. You do not need to be a member to attend if you are interested, come along. We will be pleased to see you. Oh, how I miss the old 'Carry On' films. I am lying of course; I enjoyed them at the time but one moves on. With spring on its way there is still time to carry on dreaming at a personal level. It is not too late to spend a bit of time thinking of how you want the garden and allotment to be in 2014 and then find the time to put your ideas into action. Go for it! Happy gardening.  
**Tony Lewis**