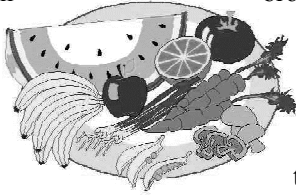


Milton-under-Wychwood Allotments and Gardens Association

Linda (the organised one) will confirm that my ability to predict the future is marginally worse than my chance of remembering what I should be doing now. You will not be surprised that my prediction of wind and rain in my last article was, I am glad to say, wide of the mark. I am rather pleased about that as we have had a 'proper' spring. The downside is that I have to write with an eye on the future which feels as if I am trying to rush through the year, almost wishing it away.



brought into cultivation. All this, plus the lovely views from the Milton allotments and a delightful spell of April weather convinces me that an excellent summer is on the way (but keep the wet-weather gear handy).

If you are lucky enough to have a greenhouse then you may be further ahead. Linda (head greenhouse gardener) already has ours full of seedlings. I have been granted a small space for my efforts which I know will soon be taken away for tomatoes, peppers and aubergines.

The Rush to Summer

This is the joy and curse of writing articles ahead of time. The joy now is that I am busily sowing seeds, preparing the ground, keeping weeds and grass at bay and doing the winter jobs I never got round to. I also have to consider what I may need to sow to see us through the winter, still the far side of summer and not close enough to worry about. It seems a rush now, but by the time you are reading this the pace will be easing and the first of those lovely fresh vegetables will be appearing: broad beans (my absolute favourite); mange-tout, asparagus and not forgetting blanched rhubarb.

Looking around, I think the current fine weather has given us all a boost and renewed our enthusiasm. The countryside is awash with lush greens, the vibrant yellow of oilseed rape, the tree blossom and flowers, many with delightful scents and bees at work - it gladdens the heart. The allotments are encouragingly busy too with existing and new plots being

What's On?

We had our last talk of this season on 23rd April, given by Gerald Sinclair about *Late Summer Perennials*, a really good practical talk delivered with wry humour. Our **AGM** was held in Milton Village Hall in May. Our AGM coincides with the annual subscription renewal which remains at £5 - a bargain. We hope to see you at the Milton Village Fete in July and then we move on to the **Produce Show**, also to be held in Milton Village Hall on **30th August**. There are plenty of classes, not just vegetables and flowers but cooking, preserves and jams, photography and so on. If you have exhibited before I hope to see you there again and if you are new to showing, it is not the kind you see on TV - it is friendly and fun-have a go! If you have not had a copy of the Milton Gardener and want to know what the Show is about then contact me or anyone on the Committee and we will be happy to give you more information.

Happy gardening!

Tony Lewis