



Media Release

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MORE TOIL AND SOIL FOR TENANTS

Tenants who toil in the soil are set to reap more than just the fruits of their labours. This year's Tenants' Garden Competition has an abundance of prizes on offer.

Carol Gaiger, Harrogate Borough Council's Tenancy Client Assistant, said: "This year's event is set to be better than ever with more categories as well as more tenants taking part. We have opened up the competition to tenants who live in homes managed by the council's partner housing associations. We are aiming for a spectacular competition this year, especially with our entry in the Entente Florale. As well as the usual front and back gardens and the container category, we have included new categories for the largest pumpkin grown and 'environmentally friendly gardens'. We will want to see examples of bird boxes, plants which encourage wild life, composting and efforts to save water. We understand the judges will lay great store on this type of community event, which is supported by the council, and we all want to bring home the European trophy."

"Many of our tenants work very hard in their gardens bringing pleasure to many but they very rarely get recognised for their efforts. This is their chance and thanks to some very supportive and generous local businesses we have plenty to reward them with."

Darley in Bloom has already launched their largest pumpkin event for their entry in the Entente Florale but the council has also adopted the pumpkin as the theme for the 2004 tenants' garden competition in the hope of inspiring some younger gardeners. Seeds are easy for little fingers to handle; they will get quick results and are fun to watch. They also have many uses when they are harvested - soups, pies or even a Halloween lantern.

The closing date is 30 June and entry forms are available from Carol Gaiger, Tenancy Client Assistant, Department of Health and Housing, Springfield House, Kings Road, Harrogate HG1 5NX Telephone 01423 556889..

The competition will be judged at the end of July and the Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate will tour the district presenting 1st prizewinners with their award and gifts on 24 August 2004. As Pumpkins harvest later in the summer, the Mayor will present pumpkin prizewinners with their awards on 27 September 2004.

Prizes donated so far for the event this year include: **Harrogate Borough Council:** Turkish Baths 2 tickets; Knaresborough Pool 3 family swims; Pump Room Museum 2 tickets; Harrogate International Centre entertainment at HIC. Bed Restaurant, Harrogate 5 meals for 2; Ripley Castle 5 family days out; Harewood House 5 family days out; Fountains Abbey 2 family days out; Mother Shiptons Cave 1 family day out; McDonalds 10 meals; Harrogate Flower Show 4 tickets; Taylors of Harrogate 150 boxes of tea; Moorland Nurseries 10 packets of pumpkin seeds; Odeon 2 family passes; Sainsburys £5 voucher; Morrisons £5 voucher; Strikes Garden Centre garden tools; Land life Flower seeds.