

## Harrogate Autumn Flower Show (the home of the giant vegetable championships)

I was very limited in time for preparing for the show what with being at the Rotherham Show the previous weekend and preparing for our Heritage Open weekend the weekend after at Victory Garden Allotments as it is our centenary year this year.

What made matters even worse I had double booked on the Friday to do a promotion stand and workshops for the Yorkshire Local Councils Association, AGM in York.

The Show Director, Nick Smith had also asked if I could do three talks at the show, one of the regular talks I do with Martin Walker but also two one hour illustrated talks on my own "Allotment Gardening on a Shoestring". So with the aid of my trusty Mannequin 'George' I created a simple display to accompany the display table. Unfortunately even that was made more complicated as I had to do some rather major alterations to his bent arm so he could hold the wheelbarrow.



All went well in York as I was accompanied by Liz Bunting, NAS Legal Advisor and Operations Manager I think our double act was well received.

This left me to work all Friday night until well after midnight to complete my power point presentation.

Up bright and early the following day. The talk's went very well and were much appreciated according to feedback. More individual members were recruited so all in all it was a successful weekend.

Thank you very much to Kay Heywood and Barry Bothamly for volunteering to man the stand whilst I was indisposed on the stage.

*Phil GOMERSALL*

