

Wednesday 24 May 2017

Original Calendar Girls celebrate Yorkshire with West End stars at RHS Chelsea

Stars of the hit West End show “The Girls” have joined the original Yorkshire Calendar Girls by the seaside in the Welcome to Yorkshire show garden at RHS Chelsea.

Thousands of visitors have been admiring the beautiful Welcome to Yorkshire garden this week with its chalk cliffs, ruined abbey and beach scene.

The garden, awarded a silver medal by RHS Chelsea judges, was designed by Leeds-based Tracy Foster and made with 30 tonnes of Yorkshire stone, sand and pebbles.

And today original Calendar Girls Tricia Stewart (Miss October) and Ros Fawcett (Miss November) took centre stage in the garden alongside the stage stars of The Girls West End musical, Claire Machin, Debbie Chazen and Sophie-Louise Dann.

Tricia said: “I just think the Welcome to Yorkshire garden looks wonderful. I love this beach and sea and the white rocks are fantastic, and the abbey! I think it’s inspired and I love it. It’s definitely the best one here.

“This garden gives everyone a taste of Yorkshire. Some people have no idea about how wonderful Yorkshire is, and this garden just shows it off.”

Ros said: “It’s just as though we’re on the east coast of Yorkshire and it’s wonderful.

“I would say to everyone: come and visit Yorkshire first and then come down to the Calendar Girls show in London and then they can appreciate it all.”

Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire: “Yorkshire’s wowing London right now, both in the West End with The Girls musical and here at Chelsea with our spectacular garden.

“The Calendar Girls’ story is a tale of true Yorkshire grit and determination and perfectly showcases our fantastic county to the world, just as our garden shouts loud and proud about the beauty of Yorkshire.”

Musical producer David Pugh said: “The cast are delighted to have joined the women who inspired The Girls at RHS Chelsea, helping to bring the beauty of Yorkshire to the world.

“Without this great county, we wouldn’t have these incredible women and this wonderful story that has inspired us to produce this moving and uplifting musical comedy.”

The Girls, the award-winning musical by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth, has received five-star reviews and runs at the Phoenix Theatre, until July 15.

- ENDS -

Images:

1. (l-r) Original Calendar Girl Tricia Stewart, Claire Machin who plays Cora in The Girls, Sophie-Louise Dann who plays Celia, Debbie Chazen who plays Ruth and original Calendar Girl Ros Fawcett
2. (top to bottom) Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, Tricia Stewart, Claire Machin, Sophie-Louise Dann, Debbie Chazen, garden designer Tracy Foster and Ros Fawcett

Editors’ Notes:

- **Welcome to Yorkshire** is the official destination management organisation for Yorkshire, working to grow the county’s visitor economy.
- **Welcome to Yorkshire** is a not-for-profit membership organisation, funded in part by grants, sponsorship and Welcome to Yorkshire members. All money raised is reinvested directly back into promoting Yorkshire.
- Key facts include:
 - Tourism in Yorkshire is worth £7 billion annually
 - The county’s tourism and hospitality industry employs almost a quarter of a million people

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For further information contact:

Alice Bailey - Senior Press Officer

Email: abailey@yorkshire.com

Direct: 0113 322 3563
Mobile: 07711 221068

Arlene Lawler - Senior Press Officer and Y Magazine Editor

Email: alawler@yorkshire.com

Direct Line: 0113 322 3546

Mobile: 07866 622814

Amanda Malpass & Alexandra Buchanan – Publicists for *The Girls*

Email: info@amandamalpass.com

Tel: 020 3709 9720