

Date: 30 November 2017

## Genuine wedge of the Yorkshire Dales on show at Chelsea

The stunning Yorkshire Dales have been confirmed as the inspiration for Welcome to Yorkshire's 2018 RHS Chelsea show-garden.

The sights, smells and tastes of this world renowned national park will be on display in the capital next May.

The area is famous for its Wensleydale cheese, quintessential buttercup meadows and iconic drystone walls – all of which will be authentically recreated in London to showcase Yorkshire's beauty to the world.

The walls will be crafted from genuine Yorkshire stone on loan from the Bolton Estate which will be returned there after the show.

A first look at the artist's impression, unveiled today, also reveals woodland, lush pastures, varied plants and flowers, a cultivated cottage garden, and a tumbling beck with dramatic fast flowing water.

Pride of place in the garden will go to a stone bothy which has been converted into a craftsman's creamery where genuine artisan cheese production will take place.

**Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire said:** *"We're delighted to be back at the prestigious Chelsea flower show for the ninth year running, bringing a garden inspired by the stunning Yorkshire Dales to the heart of London for the whole world to see.*

*"As well as showcasing the scenic beauty of Yorkshire's many iconic gardens and breathtaking open spaces, this year's garden will celebrate Yorkshire's plentiful natural materials, traditional crafts and skilled artisan food production. We hope it will inspire those who see it, to come and experience first-hand everything our amazing county has to offer."*

This evocative and aromatic garden is the vision of designer, and proud Yorkshireman, Mark Gregory, who marks his 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year at the prestigious show next year.

**Garden Designer Mark Gregory said:** *"Marking 30 years at the greatest flower show on earth is a significant moment for me and what better way to celebrate than with a return to designing a garden for the place that shaped me as a person.*

*Most people who know me, know how proud I am of my roots, so creating the Welcome to Yorkshire Garden is an incredible honour. I want to re-create the magnificence of Yorkshire's landscape. It deserves to be seen and appreciated by the wider world."*

**- ENDS -**

## **Image: Artists Impression of the 2018 Welcome to Yorkshire garden**

### **Editors' Notes:**

- **Welcome to Yorkshire at Chelsea:** Previous gardens have seen Welcome to Yorkshire awarded one Gold Medal, six Silver Medals, one Silver Gilt Medal and six People's Choice Awards.
- **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

**About Mark Gregory:** Born and bred in West Cowick, East Yorkshire Mark has been at the forefront of the horticultural and landscaping industry for the past thirty-five years after training at RHS Wisley and studying at Askham Bryan College.

2018 will be Mark's 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year at RHS Chelsea. In that time Mark has managed and delivered 157 show gardens and exhibits, with over 90 of these being at Chelsea Flower Show. He has personally designed four gardens, the last three of which all won gold in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

**For more news and a free Yorkshire image bank go to:**

<https://industry.yorkshire.com/archive/resources/free-image-library>

**Username:** Media **Password:** MZHB9LPa5vA8

**For further information contact:**

**Claire Casey – Director of Communications (Maternity Cover)**

Email: [ccasey@yorkshire.com](mailto:ccasey@yorkshire.com)

Direct Line: 0113 322 3537

Mobile: 07875 858453

**Alice Bailey – Senior Press Officer**

Email: [abailey@yorkshire.com](mailto:abailey@yorkshire.com)

Direct Line: 0113 322 3563

Mobile: 07711 221068