

16 April 2018

50 tonnes of Dales stone heads to London to showcase Yorkshire at RHS Chelsea

35 tonnes of walling stone and 15 tonnes of glacial boulders are being collected in the Dales for the Welcome to Yorkshire show garden at RHS Chelsea.

It is all on loan from the Bolton Estate to make sure this year's garden at the prestigious flower show in London next month is authentically Yorkshire.

The 2018 design showcases Yorkshire's iconic countryside and green spaces and also celebrates the county's plentiful natural materials, traditional crafts and skilled artisan food production; the aim is to encourage those who see the garden, to visit the country and experience its beauty first-hand.

Designer Mark Gregory who is celebrating his 30th year at Chelsea has been inspired by the stunning Yorkshire Dales, world famous for its Wensleydale cheese, wildflower and buttercup meadows and iconic drystone walls.

The stone, collected from near Castle Bolton in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, will be used to create a genuine drystone wall and to construct a stone bothy in the garden. The glacial boulders will be used to help create a tumbling beck and fast flowing stream. All items are on loan and will be returned to the Bolton Estate after the show.

This year's garden will also showcase the wonderful and unique local produce found in the Dales, especially Yorkshire Wensleydale. Genuine traditional cheese making equipment is being loaned to Welcome to Yorkshire by the Wensleydale Creamery in Hawes. This will be used when cheese production takes place in the bothy at certain points during the show, adding even more genuine Yorkshire sights and smells to the garden.

Sir Gary Verity Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire said:

"It's brilliant to see this stunning design being turned into reality. Borrowing some genuine pieces of Yorkshire is a fantastic way to make our garden shine as brightly as this great county does when viewed first hand, and we're incredibly grateful to the Bolton Estate, Wensleydale Creamery and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for all their help and support in making this happen. We promise to take great care of these precious pieces of Yorkshire and return them straight after the show"

Garden designer Mark Gregory said:

“To create a garden that truly evokes the beauty of Yorkshire you have to start with the right ingredients. We wouldn’t be doing it justice if we didn’t borrow part of the soul of the county and it’s amazing that we are being given access to this kind of quality material. We’re trying to make it as authentic as possible, but we are also being incredibly respectful to the environment.”

David Hartley, Managing Director at The Wensleydale Creamery, said:

“We are very excited for the start of this wonderful project, which will create a little piece of the Yorkshire Dales in Chelsea, allowing us tell our historic story and showcase our much-loved Yorkshire Wensleydale in a truly authentic setting.”

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Chief Executive, David Butterworth, said:

“We are pleased to support this wonderful garden inspired by the stunning landscape of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. We hope it will, in turn, inspire visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show to come and enjoy the sights, smells and tastes of the Park for themselves.

“The whole purpose behind the involvement of the National Park Authority in an event of this kind is to ensure that the Park itself, its landscape, communities and businesses remain in the public eye and benefit accordingly.”

- ENDS -

Images: To follow - pm Monday 16th April 2018.

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 £8 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 30th 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.

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For further information contact:

Alice Bailey – Senior Press Officer

Email: abailey@yorkshire.com

Direct Line: 0113 322 3563

Mobile: 07711 221068