

# Welcome to Yorkshire

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## **Welcome to Yorkshire garden raises the “baa” at RHS Chelsea**

The sights, sounds and smells of Yorkshire have arrived at RHS Chelsea to officially open the 2018 Welcome to Yorkshire show garden. (Launches 10:25am)

A brass band, a Wensleydale sheep and the iconic Yorkshire Wensleydale cheese brand have brought the very essence of the county to the capital for the eyes of the world to see.

The garden has been lovingly created by Yorkshire born designer Mark Gregory who is marking his 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year at the prestigious flower show.

His design is inspired by the stunning Yorkshire Dales, famed for its drystone walls and pretty villages sitting amongst traditional farming landscapes and flower-rich hay meadows.

A Wensleydale sheep, representing the unique livestock found in Yorkshire, has taken centre stage in the garden and a cheesemaking demonstration has been held in the stone bothy by Wensleydale Creamery, showcasing the fantastic produce that comes from the area.

Traditional Yorkshire entertainment was provided by members of City of Bradford Brass band, dressed in floral waistcoats by Wild Renata Flowers which is run by Leeds College of Art graduate Lara Sanjar.

**Sir Gary Verity DL, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire said:** “What better way to launch this stunning Dales inspired garden than with a brass band, a Wensleydale sheep and Wensleydale cheese - all so quintessentially Yorkshire. This garden beautifully brings the spirit of our great county to life in the heart of the capital. I hope everyone who sees it loves it as much as we do and puts a visit to Yorkshire at the top of their to-do list.”

**Mark Gregory, Garden designer said:**” It’s been truly magical seeing the garden come to life; I had a dream and the reality is even better than I could have imagined. The build has been a wonderful experience and I feel as if I’ve been conducting a fantastic orchestra. I hope I’ve done my beloved Yorkshire proud and that visitors to Chelsea will love seeing it as much as I’ve loved creating it “

**David Hartley, MD of the Wensleydale Creamery, said:** “We are very excited to be part of this wonderful project which has beautifully brought to life a little piece of our beloved Yorkshire Dales in Chelsea. What an amazing setting to showcase our handcrafted Yorkshire Wensleydale cheese in a truly authentic setting. We hope it will inspire our Southern neighbours to come up to explore the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, with a visit our Wensleydale Creamery Visitor Centre, of course!”

**Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Chief Executive, David Butterworth, said:** “It’s wonderful to see how our support for this special garden, inspired by the stunning landscape of the Yorkshire Dales, has helped turn it into a reality. We hope that the people who see the garden at the Chelsea Flower Show will, in turn, be inspired to come and see and experience the Yorkshire Dales National Park for themselves.”

**- ENDS -**

### **Image: The 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 £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 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.

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