

Tuesday 22 May 2018

Gold for Welcome to Yorkshire Chelsea Garden

The 2018 Welcome to Yorkshire garden, inspired by the iconic Yorkshire Dales, has been awarded the highest honour at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

The coveted gold medal certificate was delivered to the garden just after 7am this morning.

The garden has been lovingly created by proud Yorkshireman Mark Gregory who is marking his 30th consecutive year at the prestigious show. His design evokes a stunning Yorkshire landscape, with drystone walls, flower-filled meadows, a fast-flowing stream and tumbling beck. Centre stage is a picturesque and authentic stone bothy with a beautiful cottage garden filled with flowers and veg.

The garden proved a major hit with both celebrity and VIP guests who were wowed by a Yorkshire brass band (@bradfordbrass) and a genuine Wensleydale sheep at the launch on press day (Monday 21st May). Welcome to Yorkshire is now looking forward to thousands more people seeing the garden throughout the week and continuing to showcase God's own County to the entire world.

Sir Gary Verity DL, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire said:

"I'm thrilled! The garden is a credit to everyone who's worked on it and to Yorkshire. Mark Gregory is one of the best garden designers in the world and we are incredibly fortunate he is a Yorkshireman who has built this garden with such passion and pride.

"I'm delighted for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, the Wensleydale Creamery and all the businesses in the Yorkshire Dales who put so much love and care into making it not only one of the most special places in the UK, but also in the world and I hope this recognition makes them all really proud.

"Her Royal Highness the Queen visited the garden last night and was enchanted by it, she made some beautiful comments and we're thrilled the judges love it too."

Garden Designer, Mark Gregory of Landform Consultants said:

"I'm completely blown away and feeling really quite emotional. I knew I'd done my best but a gold medal for Yorkshire in my 30th year here at Chelsea is just a dream come true!

“The response to the garden has been incredible, the joy and excitement I felt from people seeing it for the first time perfectly matched my feelings about designing and creating the garden.

“I just about held it together when I got the certificate but I think I’m going to have a little teary moment now. I’m just so proud to have done this for Yorkshire”

- ENDS -

Images attached: 1: Katherine Potsides, Show Manager RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Sir Gary Verity DL – Chief Executive Welcome to Yorkshire, Garden Designer Mark Gregory from Landform Consultants, Nicky Chapman.

7 x new garden images – FOR HIGHER RES PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

More images: <https://yorkshire.box.com/s/u5bwofn9iu62z1pkvz42lvjly3r4k2p1>

THIS BOX WILL BE UPDATED WITH FRESH IMAGES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

TIME-LAPSE FOOTAGE: <https://www.yorkshire.com/inspiration/chelsea/the-welcome-to-yorkshire-garden-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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