



18<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Genuine lock gates donated by Canal & River Trust for Welcome to Yorkshire RHS Chelsea garden

Lock gates recently removed from a canal in Yorkshire are being donated by Canal & River Trust for this year's 2019 Welcome to Yorkshire RHS Chelsea show garden.

The Trust is teaming up with the tourism organisation for this year's prestigious flower show to celebrate the county's rich industrial heritage and the hundreds of miles of stunning waterways which run across the county.

The national waterways and wellbeing charity, which cares for canals including the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Pocklington Canal and Sheffield & Tinsley Canal, is helping make sure the garden brings to life a totally authentic Yorkshire experience and is providing old lock gates from the Huddersfield Narrow Canal to form the focal point of the garden.

People from across the Trust, including volunteer lock keepers, heritage experts, and apprentice carpenters, will be supporting the garden by sharing their knowledge, lending artefacts, and getting hands-on to help build some of the features.

**Sean McGinley, Director Yorkshire & North East at Canal & River Trust, said:**

*"We're delighted to partner with Welcome to Yorkshire and offer our expertise and passion to help showcase the county's spectacular waterways to the world through this beautiful canal-themed garden."*

*"Spending time on or by your local canal can make you feel happier and healthier, so we hope this garden will encourage more people to get out by Yorkshire's beautiful waterways to reap the benefits."*

The garden has been designed by Mark Gregory, whose 2018 Dales-inspired Welcome to Yorkshire garden won a Gold Medal, the coveted People's Choice Award and the Best Construction prize.

**Garden Designer Mark Gregory said:**

*"I am really pleased that Canal & River Trust have come on board as they are the perfect fit for this year's Welcome to Yorkshire garden. It's so important to tell the story of just how vital the canal system was to this country, its engineering and sheer*

*scale: the motorways of their time. And from that, to their use today as an essential part of the leisure and tourism industry and a valuable environmental resource.*

*“This garden will showcase the importance of canals right across Yorkshire and beyond. It will be a big challenge for myself and the team, but so much fun. We can’t wait to get started.”*

Thousands of people will see the garden in person at the Chelsea Flower Show and millions more will see it on TV and in news coverage. Its aim is to showcase Yorkshire to the world and encourage people to visit and see the county’s beauty for themselves first-hand.

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

*“It’s great to have Canal & River Trust on board to help us make sure our 2019 RHS Chelsea garden is authentic and truly represents Yorkshire’s stunning waterways. It’s our tenth trip to the prestigious flower show as we celebrate the organisation’s tenth year – so it’s extra special.*

*“Like us, the Trust shout loud and proud about the beauty which is abound on all our doorsteps here in Yorkshire and together we will show the world why a visit here is essential, with towns, cities, coastline, countryside and of course our beautiful canals just waiting to be explored.”*

**- ENDS -**

**Image:L-R Ged King, Regional Construction Manager Canal & River Trust and Garden Designer Mark Gregory / Garden Designer Mark Gregory**

**Editors’ Notes:**

- **Welcome to Yorkshire at Chelsea:** Previous gardens have seen Welcome to Yorkshire awarded two Gold Medals, six Silver Medals, one Silver Gilt Medal and seven 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 Canal & River Trust:** Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a difference to people’s lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day.

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**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 36 years after studying at Askham Bryan College and training at RHS Wisley.

2019 will see Mark working on his 99th garden at RHS Chelsea. Mark has created gardens at Chelsea for the last 31 years and during this time he has delivered almost 160 show gardens and exhibits across the UK. He has personally designed five RHS Chelsea gardens, the last four of which all won gold in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2018. Last year's Welcome to Yorkshire garden earned Mark the BBC People's Choice Award and the Best Construction Award.

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