It’s been confirmed that the Welcome to Yorkshire 2020 White Rose Awards will be held online for the first time in the event’s history.

The UK’s biggest tourism awards ceremony usually sees a thousand people celebrating the very best of the county’s tourism industry at a top Yorkshire venue. This year, to make sure all nominees can enjoy the event, regardless of any COVID-19 restrictions which may be in place across the county, Welcome to Yorkshire has now revealed that the presentation will be fully digital.

**Monday 23rd November at 7.00pm** has been confirmed for the ceremony to take place, at what promises to be an event as exciting and immersive as technology allows, with people enjoying the experience from the comfort of their own homes.

The fantastic Natalie Anderson and Rich Williams will return as Welcome to Yorkshire’s wonderful White Rose Awards hosts for the evening. Both Yorkshire-born and bred presenters are thrilled to be hosting The White Rose Awards for a second time. Natalie Anderson is a proud Yorkshire woman, actress, presenter and an established lifestyle influencer with her online platform and brand The Capsule. She is best known for her prolific roles on ITV dramas *Emmerdale* and *The Royal*, plus guest presenting ITV’s *This Morning*, as well as appearing in musical theatre productions *Wicked* and Kay Mellors’ *Fat Friends - The Musical*. Broadcaster Rich Williams is passionate about Yorkshire, presents on Virgin Radio and can be seen on LUTV, the official TV channel of Leeds United.

Everyone who attends the White Rose Awards online event is being encouraged to dress up to the nines and get fully in award show spirit, despite this year’s different format.

98 finalists are in the running to win one of the highly coveted trophies. All the nominees brilliantly showcase the wonderful variety of world-class offerings in the county with awards recognising the very best in food, drink, accommodation, attractions, arts and culture.
Head judge Elaine Lemm said:

“There’s no keeping our fabulous Yorkshire tourism and hospitality businesses down. We may not be able to celebrate together in the usual way but celebrate we will, recognising and honouring the 2020 finalists and winners and the incredible work they all do in making Yorkshire amazing.”

Welcome to Yorkshire’s Chief Executive James Mason said:

“2020 hasn’t been the year any of us expected, but we are completely committed to celebrating the vast tourism talent we have here in the county. This year’s awards relate to the 12-months between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020 which wasn’t affected by COVID-19. Since then however we know it’s been incredibly challenging for all our members but I’ve been blown away by the creativity and enthusiasm which has emerged with online events, shops and deliveries, virtual tours and performances. Every business who’s fought on through lockdown is a winner in my eyes and this year more than ever we’ll be celebrating them ALL.”

For more information and to register: https://wra.yorkshire.com/virtual-white-rose-awards

- ENDS -

Images:
- White Rose Awards 2020 presenters Rich Williams and Natalie Anderson
- Natalie Anderson
- Rich Williams

Editors’ Notes:

**WHITE ROSE AWARDS 2020 FINALISTS**

**Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Award**
- Cottage in the Dales
- JORVIK Viking Centre
- Leeds Playhouse
- Waleswood Caravan and Camping Park at Rother Valley Country Park

**Arts & Culture Award**
- Freedom Festival Arts Trust
- Harewood House Trust
- Huddersfield Literature Festival
- Hull Libraries (The Big Malarkey Festival)
- Kala Sangam
- Selby 950
- The Stephen Joseph Theatre
- Yorkshire Sculpture International

**B&B and Guest House of the Year**
- Brickfields Farm
- Cawthorne House
- Orchard Lodge

**Business Events Venue of the Year**
- Mercure Barnsley Tankersley Manor
Mercure Sheffield Parkway
The Grand, York
Lakeside Conference Centre (part of York Biotech Campus)

**Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the Year**
- Brompton Lakes
- Catgill Farm - Camping and Luxury Glamping
- Cote Ghyll Holiday Park, Cottage and Mill
- High Oaks Grange
- Peaks and Pods
- The Private Hill
- Waleswood Caravan and Camping Park at Rother Valley Country Park
- Wigwam® Holidays Sedgewell Barn

**Ethical, Responsible and Sustainable Tourism Award**
- Bert's Barrow
- National Centre for Birds of Prey
- Rendezvous Hotel, Skipton
- Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens
- The Devonshire Arms Hotel & Spa

**Experience of the Year**
- Hotham’s Gin School and Distillery
- Leeds Cookery School
- The Bloody Tour of York
- The Cookery School at The Grand, York
- Wensleydale Railway
- YORTOURS

**Large Hotel of the Year**
- Grantley Hall
- The Coniston Hotel Country Estate & Spa
- The Grand, York
- The White Hart Hotel, Harrogate
- The Yorkshire Hotel

**Large Visitor Attraction of the Year**
- Cannon Hall Farm
- Castle Howard
- Harewood House Trust
- JORVIK Viking Centre
- Wensleydale Creamery
- York Maze

**New Tourism Business Award**
- Galtres Lodge Hotel & Forest Restaurant
- Grantley Hall
- The Bay Horse Inn – Goldsborough
- High Oaks Grange
- The Private Hill
- Waleswood Caravan and Camping Park at Rother Valley Country Park

**Producers and Makers Award**
- Bullion
- Bert's Barrow
- Cryer & Stott Cheesemongers Ltd
- Masons Yorkshire Gin
- Rounton Coffee Roasters
- The Candied Peel Cake Co
Welcome to Yorkshire is the official destination marketing 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 £9 billion annually
• The county’s tourism and hospitality industry employs almost 225 thousand people
• Tag Welcome to Yorkshire in any coverage on Twitter and Facebook using our handles: @welcome2yorks and https://www.facebook.com/welcometoyorkshire

For more news and a free image bank go to:
https://industry.yorkshire.com/archive/resources/free-image-library
Username: Media
Password: MZH9LPa5vA8

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