

A place to grow...

The motto carved into the stone water feature in the gardens at Mires Beck Nursery at North Cave says it all... 'A place to go, a place to like, a place to grow'



The first thing you notice when you visit Mires Beck Nursery in North Cave is how friendly and helpful everyone is. There's an inscription on the stone water feature in the ornamental gardens that says "A place to go, a place to like, a place to grow".

It's "a place to go" every week for almost a hundred people with learning difficulties and disabilities who travel from Hull, Beverley, Goole, Market Weighton and Pocklington to gain horticultural work experience at the 14 acre site. Mires Beck was originally the brainchild of the late Richard and Irene Tinklin who purchased

Mires Beck Nursery

Nurturing People Nurturing Plants

the site in 1985 with a view to growing wildflowers of Yorkshire provenance. It became a registered charity in 1994 and has grown steadily ever since.

It's "a place to like", as anyone visiting the nursery will soon realise. Horticulture has long been recognised as an excellent form of therapy for people with learning difficulties or other special needs, and the service users, known as "trainees", are involved in various activities around the nursery. These include sowing seeds, taking cuttings, potting up, pricking out, weeding and keeping the grounds looking amazing.

It's "a place to grow", Mires Beck is not only about growing superb quality plants. Estate Team supervisor Steve Tuck explains, "It's tremendous working here, and I'm so thankful that I'm paid to do this. We're nurturing people's self-esteem, as well as growing plants. It's about nurturing people as much as anything, gradually building the confidence of our services users and developing their skills".

Mires Beck is of course "a place to grow" plants, with herbaceous perennials, herbs and wildflowers on sale to the public as well as landscapers and Garden Centres across Yorkshire.

Other activities include growing 8,000 trees a year as part of a commitment to the William Jackson Food Group who are celebrating 200 years in Hull by planting 200,000 trees around the city by the 2051.

The Wildflower Team is committed to growing 35,000 Phragmites (common reed) this year for nature reserves and wetlands across the country. It is also producing 7400 Luzula to be planted along the River Ure by the North York Moors National Park Authority as part of a bank stabilisation project.

As well as paid staff, Mires Beck has a team of amazing volunteers but there's always a need for more, even if it's just half a day a week.

Janis is retired and has been attending as a volunteer one day a week for the last few months. "I love the fresh air and the company, and it's so much fun working with the trainees. I've learned new skills, and I know it's a bit of a cliché, but you really DO get more out of volunteering here than you put in!"

That pretty well sums up how everyone feels about Mires Beck, where they nurture people and nurture plants.

Mires Beck Nursery is open to members of the public and landscape gardeners for plant sales on a daily basis, from 10am to 4pm see website for Winter hours.

For more information, visit www.miresbeck.co.uk
Mires Beck Nursery, Low Mill Lane, North Cave, Brough HU15 2NR Tel: 01430 421543

If you're visiting, please use Mires Lane off the North Cave to South Cave road rather than using Sat Nav.



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