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WARRINGTON WIRE MESH SPECIALISTS CREATE HISTORIC GARDEN AT RHS SHOW

The Mesh Company and Locker Group, based in Warrington, have joined forces with local charity The Cheshire Gardens Trust (CGT) to create a striking garden design on a theme of King Canute for this year's RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park in July.

The Mesh Company is an online business and was specifically established to supply wire mesh and other materials in smaller quantities to the craft and hobby markets. Chris Platt, General Manager of The Mesh Company said "We're pleased to donate the wire mesh for the project and our parent company Locker Group provided the engineering expertise and undertook the fabrication free of charge. Our wire mesh has been used to stunning effect and the end result is very impressive."

CGT, a member of the Association of Garden Trusts, is staffed by volunteers who focus on a range of local projects. Their current project centres on Caldwell's Nurseries in Knutsford, which was one of the finest Northern plant nurseries. Their fascinating history is gradually emerging as CGT opens up records dating back to the 18th century.

Caldwell's logo was an image of King Canute, who gave his name to the town of Knutsford (Canute's Ford). Instead of trying to hold back the tide, he actually tried to prove to his followers that only God could do this. The garden has a 'seaside' planting theme which includes a large sculptural gazebo of King Canute fabricated in stainless steel mesh and support structure.

This sculpture is the creation of Christine Wilcox-Baker (artist and CGT member) who says, "The ethereal steel sculpture of King Canute shelters the past with his cloak. He looks across the garden to the present, signified by a modern oak bench and ceramic pool. The planting is soft and flowing; blues and whites evoke the sea of Canute's legend." She goes on to say "We are delighted and immensely grateful to The Mesh Company and Locker Group for kindly donating the materials and fabrication facilities for this project, as well as Fenton Holloway for contributing the structural engineering report. I've been allowed to work 'hands-on' with Locker's skilled engineering designers and metalworkers. It's been an amazing opportunity to see how a modern factory operates and to learn first hand about the endless possibilities and versatility of wire mesh. I'm getting lots of ideas for future projects!"

The core CGT team for RHS Tatton consists of Jacquetta Menzies (garden designer), Christine Wilcox-Baker (artist & designer), Tina Theis (project co-ordinator) and Ruth Brown (horticulture specialist), who are assisted by a host of volunteers and contributing organisations including Bluebell Cottage Gardens and Nursery, Brentwood Moss Nurseries, Arley Hall Nursery and landscape contractor WAP Lawton & Son.

The garden design entitled 'Time and Tide – Caldwell's and Canute' can be found within the 'Cheshire Gardens of Distinction' area of the showground. The show is open to RHS members on 18th July and the general public between 19th and 22nd July.

For further information:



www.lockergroup.com

Locker Group Limited

Contact: William Spencer

Tel: 01925 406600

Email: info@lockergroup.com



www.themeshcompany.com

The Mesh Company

Contact: Chris Platt

Tel: 01925 406602

Email: sales@themeshcompany.com



www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk

The Cheshire Gardens Trust

Contact: Christine Wilcox-Baker

Tel: 01565 733612 / 07836 228844

Email: c.w-b@virgin.net

Contact: Tina Theis

Tel: 0161 442 0657

Email: tina@tinatheis.com

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