



Date: 29/3/10

Chester Cathedral's 'Garden of Distinction'

Did you know that one in eight of all garden visits in Britain takes place in Cheshire? Chester Cathedral's beautiful Cloister Garden has now been officially recognised as one of Cheshire's exceptional 'Gardens of Distinction' by the local tourism board, 'Visit Chester and Cheshire'.

This unique garden is situated in the heart of the Cathedral's medieval cloisters, which alone marks it out as something special, but what makes it truly remarkable is the extraordinary planting which enhances the inherent beauty of the site and turns it into a paradise of peacefulness and calm. The garden was replanted in 2008 with support from the Friends of the Cathedral, and the new planting is now firmly established. Plants were selected on the basis that in a relatively small but important site only the most exotic species would suffice. Scent, colour, form, year round interest and, of course, the ability to survive in a difficult site were the outstanding criteria.

Specially designed hand made oak benches have been placed in the garden so that visitors can sit in peace and enjoy the tranquil atmosphere with the calming sound of water splashing over Stephen Broadbent's major sculpture 'The Water of Life'.

Chester Cathedral is working with regional tourism body Visit Chester & Cheshire to promote the new cloister garden under its 'Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction' brand.

Caroline Hoppé, Project Manager for Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction at Visit Chester & Chester, said: "For the first time, Chester Cathedral's cloister garden will enable visitors to enjoy one of the region's finest gardens in the heart of this vibrant city.

PAGE TWO

“They will be able to experience an array of different colours and scents from delightful plants, shrubs and bushes, bringing the Cathedral to life year round.

“We’d like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in creating the new garden, which will look delightful and I’m sure will prove a huge hit with visitors and garden enthusiasts.”

The garden is open at standard Cathedral visiting times (Monday – Saturday 9.00am – 5.00 pm, Sunday 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm) and usual admission charges apply. More information about Cheshire’s glorious ‘Gardens of Distinction’ can be found at www.cheshiresgardens.com

- END -

Contact:

Nicholas Fry, 12 Abbey Square, CHESTER, CH1 2 HU

Tel: 01244 500958

E-mail: visits@chestercathedral.com

Fax: 01244 699040

Notes:

- **Flagship Gardens of Distinction:** Tatton Park, Lyme Park, Chester Zoological Garden, Arley Hall and Gardens, Jodrell Bank, Ness Gardens, Cholmondeley Castle Gardens, Capesthorpe Hall, Gawsworth Hall and Norton Priory.
- **Further Gardens of Distinction:** Adlington Hall, Dunham Massey, Mount Pleasant, Walkden Gardens, Quarry Bank Mill Apprentice House Garden & Secret Garden, Eaton Estate, Rode Hall, Weeping Ash Garden, The Quinta Arboretum, Combermere Abbey, Walton Hall Gardens, Hare Hill, Stapeley Water Gardens, Dunge Valley Hidden gardens, Dorfold Hall, Bridgemere Garden World, Bluebell Cottage Gardens, Stonyford Cottage Nursery & Gardens, Ness Gardens, Little Moreton Hall, Abbeywood gardens and Cloister Garth Chester Cathedral.
- **Developed by** local tourism board, Visit Chester & Cheshire in partnership with European Regional Development Fund, the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and Cheshire’s leading gardens.
- **Cheshire’s Gardens of Distinction** programme celebrates the richness and diversity of Cheshire’s horticultural heritage and green spaces. Building on the success of Cheshire’s Year of Gardens 08 marketing programme, the project aims to continue to achieve significant impact for the regional tourism industry from local, national and international markets.

PAGE THREE

- **Supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** Between 2007 and 2013 the Northwest of England will receive a total of £521million (dependent on exchange rate) from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Managed by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), this funding will enhance the competitiveness of the region's economy by supporting growth in employment and enterprise. **For further information about ERDF please visit www.erdfnw.co.uk**
- **For further information please visit www.cheshiresgardens.com**