

Enscape create a beautiful community garden for Wirral Evolutions in Pensby



Wirral Evolutions are delighted to unveil their fully renovated day centre in Pensby on Somerset Road, and in collaboration with Wirral Landscape Design firm, Enscape, have added a wildlife and sensory garden for service users.

As part of the £2 million refurbishment and redevelopment of Pensby Day Centre by Wirral Evolutions, the outdoor space has been completely overhauled with help from Enscape and funding from Tesco's local community support programme.

Enscape were commissioned to design and develop an easy to maintain garden which encourages wildlife and excites the senses. Incorporating two distinct zones, the garden was designed and completed to a tight timescale and forms a crucial part of the day centre redevelopment.

The commission for the garden had originally been awarded to another company, but having drastically miscalculated their budget they pulled out at the last minute, leaving the team at Enscape to step in, sourcing the hard landscaping and plants, and completing the project in record time.

The site had a number of challenges, including existing hard landscaping and the stringent accessibility requirements for wheelchairs and service users with mobility issues. Working within restrictions and coming up with practical solutions, the team designed a space that was functional as well as beautiful, ensuring the garden could be enjoyed by all.

The design incorporates Enscape's trademark large-scale planters filled with a wide range of wildlife-friendly plants, including buddleia and verbena to attract butterflies and herbs and scented flowers for the sensory garden.

Wirral Evolutions Managing Director Christine Rothwell said: "I can't thank Nick at Enscape enough. We had received funding from Tesco for a sensory garden for people with multiple profound learning disabilities at Wirral Evolutions' Pensby Wood location. At the last minute the people commissioned for this project pulled out. We were really stuck with a very tight timeframe for this project. We called Enscape who said they would come along to see if they could help. Wow, and did they help!

"Enscape listened to what was required to meet the needs of the people we support and designed a sensory area that surpassed our vision and expectations. The garden is accessible to all, people are enjoying interacting with the water feature and watching the butterflies, bees and wildlife drawn to the bespoke plants. Enscape care about the gardens they bring to life and their aftercare is just as important to them as the work they produce."

Enscape's team are proud of their work on site, with Managing Director Nick Akers commenting: "We pride ourselves on our flexible approach and ability to adapt to tight budgets and timescales."

The centre reopened with a launch party in July and the garden is now in full bloom ready to be enjoyed by visitors and their families.

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Continuing our serialisation of Geoff Andrews' fascinating book, *Memories of a Lifetime Past*, about the life and times of Parkgate fishermen, Chris and Jim Peters

The advent of engines in fishing boats was frowned on by the old 'uns. Some stories that came out at the change from sail to power were quite funny, here are a few.

One fisherman called Punch had a Brooke two-stroke engine fitted. On hearing an almighty clatter coming from the engine room he ran the boat up the beach, to ascertain the cause. Danny Campion, another fisherman, happened along and remarked: "What's up, Punch?" "The big ends have gone," Punch shouted, on which Danny replied: "Wait a minute I'll get you a shackle."

Chris and his brothers put an Amanco engine in one of their big punts and used to tow some of the lads down to the mussel beds. On waiting for the tide to slack, and holding onto a mooring, with all the other fellas holding onto them, Chris would say "Start her up Jim", and Ragga in the next boat remarked "Do you want a match?"

Such was the ignorance of these men (in the nicest possible way) that they couldn't conceive that an engine could do the work and, of course, the engines would give them trouble from time to time, then they would really lose their rag. Great oaths could be heard floating over the river like "I'll throw the bloody thing over the side." (Putting it mildly...)

Apparently Ragga Campion liked his pop, and was more or less always 'happy'. Chris said no one could upset him, he was always come day, go day. While out walking, he bumped into a sandstone gatepost and was heard to say: "Good morning Charlie." (I should imagine, just like in *Last of the Summer Wine*). On getting no reply he said: "It'll be a long time before I speak to you again."

One night the tide carried his boat over the wall and it ended up by the churchyard wall in the square at Parkgate. A bobby seeing it there, went into the Red Lion to get Ragga to shift it, on which he replied: "The Lord put it there, so the Lord can put it back."

A day or two later, some of the men got together and started to drag it down to the slip, by the Watch House. On seeing this Ragga remarked: "It came over the wall, it can go back over the wall," and that's how we got it back in the water.

It also had its serious side as well, regarding safety. Chris told me that Albert and Job had been fishing in the *Thora* and she had a Studebaker engine. After tidying up, Albert took up a floorboard to bail her out and his jersey was seized by the propeller shaft and he was dragged into the bilges, with the life almost squeezed out of him. Although very poorly for months after, he made a complete recovery.

Some of the light-hearted stories emerged, such as the time some of the lads didn't feel like putting a tide in. They'd swap over the leads on the petrol engines and swap them back, when the tide had nearly ebbed out and the owner had swung his guts out on the handle.

Alan Kitchen, in the nobby *Lassie*, was fishing with them all at the Bar, when an Isle of Man steamer went past at a rate of knots and nearly rolled him out of the boat. I believe the dulcet tones of: "Someone ought to pee down yer funnel and put your fire out," came floating over the airwaves!