

Water theme for 'stunning and distinctive' Singha the lion

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Roger Harrington, Managing Director, Sembcorp Bournemouth Water, with designers Sallyann Smith (left) and Andrea Todd of GetSet.

Pure water provided by one of the area's longest-established companies is the theme of the latest 'Pride in Bournemouth' lion sculpture.

'Singha' has been designed to show water as it flows over him, reflecting the fact that the lion has been sponsored by Sembcorp Bournemouth Water (SBW).

Talented designers Sallyann Smith and Andrea Todd rose to the challenge of designing and decorating the latest addition to the innovative Pride in Bournemouth initiative. Both work for design company GetSet, which is part of SBW.

GetSet's meeting room was transformed into an art studio during Singha's creation with various pictures of lions displayed to inspire his painting and, in particular, his features.

A variety of shades of blue paint were applied in stages to Singha's original white coat by various means followed by glass mosaic tiles and beads, resin and varnish. The end result, according to Roger Harrington, SBW's Managing Director, is "truly stunning."

He added: "We are very proud of our long service to the local community and wanted to represent not only the pride that we have for the area but also the purity of the water we supply."

The name 'Singha' is Sanskrit (a historical Indo-Aryan language) for lion which gave Singapore its name. SBW, which was founded in 1863, is owned by Sembcorp Industries Ltd, a Singapore-based water, energy and marine group.

Mr Harrington said: "We felt Pride in Bournemouth was a perfect opportunity to engage with the town where we are based and at the same time support two very deserving charitable causes."

Singha will take up residence in Bournemouth Gardens later this month (June). He is one of 50 lion sculptures due to be displayed across the resort's streets and parks during the summer as part of a trail for residents and tourists alike. A further 15 school lions will also be on display.

Following the event, the 50 lion sculptures will be sold at a charity auction with 75 per cent of the net proceeds being donated to the Born Free Foundation and Julia's House.