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School stages toast to outstanding news

NOTICEBOARD

St Helens

BEN Lomas, a Year 9 student at Rainford High, was recently elected to be the Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) for St Helens.

This important role calls on Ben to represent young people's views and concerns from the local area on a national level.

Speaking about the campaign, Ben said: "I first began campaigning for the role from January 2019, and me and Mrs Quinn, senior learning support assistant at Rainford High, devised a campaign strategy for the next two months - the election week was in March. Firstly, we constructed my manifesto which set out my policies and plans for my two-year term if I was elected.

"The policies that were prominent in my manifesto were making transport and leisure cheaper and more accessible for young people across the borough of St Helens and ending the scourge of knife crime which has become a major issue for young people not only in our town but across the nation.

Ben continued: "Having finalised my manifesto and having submitted it to the St Helens Council who monitored the MYP Elections, I then focused on campaigning and ways in which to engage young people in the process of the MYP election."

Ben added: "As voting closed, we waited with great anticipation for the result of the vote. I won with over 30% of all votes received!"

The United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) is a national organisation through which young people campaign to make positive changes for their peers across the country.

St Helens is entitled to have one Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) and one Deputy.

Here's how to get in touch:

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WIRRAL

Councillor Geoffrey Watt joined the Hoylake Lifeboat crew on a training exercise in August 2018
PICTURE: HOYLAK RNLI



IN May 2018, Councillor Geoffrey Watt nominated the borough's lifeboat stations at Hoylake, West Kirby and New Brighton as among the local charities that would benefit from the Mayor's Special Charity Fund.

Throughout the year, Councillor Watt visited some of the lifeboat stations and met their volunteer crews to find out more about their lifesaving work.

He was previously Commodore of Hoylake Sailing Club and a keen sailor himself. Councillor Watt made three visits in support of RNLI New Brighton during his time in office.

Accompanied by Mayoress Ann Watt, he took part in the lifeboat station's July 2018 Open Day.

The couple also attended the St James' Church lifeboat thanksgiving service for the station in the following October. New Year's Day 2019 also saw Councillor Watt - acting in an unofficial capacity - take charge as referee of the tug-of-war challenge between the RNLI New Brighton lifeboat crew and Mersey Divers, Wallasey.

In August 2018, Councillor Watt swapped his chain of office for the RNLI's distinctive yellow crew kit as he launched on a training exercise with Hoylake RNLI's volunteers on board their Shannon class lifeboat Edmund Hawthorn Micklewood.

As well as the local lifeboat stations, Councillor Watt also dedicated the past year to raising funds for the local Forester's Horn Group of the Riding for the Disabled Association and other Wirral-based charities and voluntary groups.

He presented the donations to representatives from each of the

charities at a reception at Wallasey Town Hall last month.

The event also saw students and staff from Woodchurch High School present a donation of £700 to the RNLI after the school decided to fundraise in support of the Mayor's charity fund.

Following the presentations, Hoylake RNLI lifeboat Coxswain Andy Dodd said: "It was an honour to host the Mayor on Hoylake Lifeboat last year and to show him how the fantastic amount he has raised will be used to train our local crews and ensure the RNLI can continue its lifesaving work. We're also grateful to everyone at Woodchurch High School for their fundraising efforts."

West Kirby RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager Dave Henshaw said: "It was marvellous to see the Mayor and Mayoress again after their strenuous year.

"It takes a great level of commitment for the Mayor to carry out his role and to collect for his charities, including the phenomenal sum of £11,000 for the RNLI. The students of Woodchurch High School also deserve a major thanks for their donation."

New Brighton RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager Ian Thornton said: "We were all delighted to see both the Mayor and Mayoress at our events this year and appreciate the significant time spent with our volunteers on each occasion.

"The amount raised as a result of Councillor Watt's charity commitment to Wirral RNLI lifeboat stations is brilliant and we are truly grateful.

"We'll be making sure our share is put to good use in our ongoing efforts at saving lives at sea."

LIVERPOOL Theatre School is celebrating after achieving the highest possible rating during its latest Ofsted inspection.

The Aigburth stage school, which specialises in professional acting and musical theatre training, was rated 'outstanding' in all areas including quality of teaching, learning and assessment.

Ofsted inspectors were impressed by the vast industry experience of teachers at Liverpool Theatre School, as well as the work ethic of students, which was noted as being 'excellent'.

The report also highlights the 'extensive, high quality advice and

guidance' students receive from teachers in order to develop their skills and performance quality to a 'very high standard'.

Maxine Ellis, Principal at Liverpool Theatre School, is thrilled to have achieved an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating.

She said: "Liverpool Theatre School marks its 80th anniversary this year and an 'outstanding' Ofsted report is a perfect way to celebrate.

"I am surrounded by a fantastic team of talented teachers at Liverpool Theatre School and I am absolutely delighted that their hard work and dedication has been recognised by Ofsted."

AIGBURTH

Liverpool Theatre School receives Outstanding



CARING Connections CEO Paul Growney and Systems Supervisor Sean Scott bravely abseiled 452ft down the Radio City Tower raising over £1,000 for Cash for Kids.

The abseil is one of the highest charity abseils in the UK and it was encouraged for participants to don their favourite superhero outfits.

Sean said: "This was probably the scariest thing I've ever done, but really happy to have

completed it and raised money for such a good cause.

"I completed the hospital abseils last month, but this was a different scale of fear."

Caring Connections is a registered charity based in Knowsley who provide a range of services supporting vulnerable individuals. The organisation has made a pledge to complete four charity events for other local charities this year.



Paul Growney and Sean Scott

KNOWSLEY