



PRESS RELEASE

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NEW 'HALTON'S GOT TALENT' STARS

Sixteen-year-old Lucy McDiarmid is the new star of *Halton's Got Talent 2016*. At the grand gala final at Runcorn's Brindley Theatre on Saturday, she beat off stiff competition from 21 other talented performers to win two trophies and a cheque for £1,000.



Her rendition of Ella Henderson's song, '*Yours*', accompanying herself on grand piano, melted the hearts of the judges and the packed Brindley audience alike. Lucy, who lives in Widnes and attends Wade Deacon School, was named winner of the hotly contested Under 16 category and then the overall prize winner.

Widnes singer songwriter Liam McGenity (24) won the 17-24 age group with his own composition '*It's obscene*', accompanying himself on guitar. And *Take That* tribute band performer Kyle Stanley (27), from Runcorn, won the new

over 25 category with a lively performance of the Queen hit, '*Somebody to love*'. Each were presented with a cheque for £100.

The contest was organised by Halton Borough Council and sponsored by Runcorn Shopping Centre. For the first time three of the heats were hosted in the shopping centre and live streamed through the Runcorn centre's Facebook page.

Other talented Halton hopefuls in the final were Abbey Brady, Izzy Burns, Charlotte Codack, Elissa Dockerty, Peter Furey, Jamie Galloway, Isabella Willow Guthrie, Emily Jerram, Amy Jones, Beth Lambert, Grace McDonald, Rebecca McGuire, Drew Norwood Green, Amy Rotherham, Jake Santley, Terri Taylor, Rossi Walsh O'Neill and boy bands, SPILT and Wasteland Paradise.

Presenting the prizes, Halton Mayor Councillor, Ged Philbin praised the "absolutely fantastic standard" and commented on the difficult task for judges Lynne Fitzgerald, Rebecca Lake, Charlotte McKelvie, Jane Rigby and Andrew Spokes.

Cllr Marie Wright, Halton Borough Council Executive Board member, said: "This is the ninth year for *Halton's Got Talent* and thanks to our partnership with Runcorn Shopping Centre, this year has been bigger and better than ever.

"The standard has been amazing and we have been particularly delighted to see several over 25s coming forward in the new adult category.

"It was also brilliant to welcome back last year's winner Beau Dermott to be a guest performer after her wonderful success in the ITV *Britain's Got Talent* show. Her remarkable journey has been an inspiration to everyone entering the competition."

Karl Clawley, Runcorn Shopping Centre manager, added: "The shopping centre is at the heart of our community and we were delighted to support the contest and provide a venue for the new open auditions. Working with Halton Council, we very much hope this 2016 contest has been a spring board for making dreams come true, like they did for Beau.

"Halton is home to some fantastically talented performers. The response to the live streaming of the heats was amazing and we've been blown away by the thousands of people tuning in to see the performers in action and later check out the results. We even picked up viewers from Cyprus and Ireland.

"We were proud to be involved in such a unique collaboration between a council and a local shopping centre."

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Issued by Lynn Pegler, Pegler Communications

On behalf of Runcorn Shopping Centre and Halton Borough Council

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