



**PRESS RELEASE**

**13 June 2016**

## **DOUBLE CELEBRATION AT RUNCORN SHOPPING CENTRE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY STREET PARTY & LAUNCH OF HALTON'S GOT TALENT COMPETITION**

Runcorn Shopping Centre was awash with patriotic red, white and blue bunting last weekend as it hosted a traditional street party to celebrate the Queen's official 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and the launch of the 2016 *Halton's Got Talent* Competition.

More than 500 people applied for tickets to be one of 50 VIP guests at the royal party held in the shopping centre's main square. All the party goers enjoyed a delicious feast, accompanied by Union Jack flags, games, entertainment and community singing with a rousing chorus of *Land of Hope and Glory*.



The event was opened by glamorous Miss British Isles 2016, Rebecca Lake, from Haydock, who is no stranger to Halton having appeared in this year's panto Aladdin at the Brindley Theatre.

Twelve-year-old Beau Dermott, last year's *Halton's Got Talent* winner and finalist on ITV's *Britain's Got Talent*, serenaded guests and shoppers with a stunning performance of her winning song.



She was also joined on stage by other previous winners and finalists – Liam McGrath, Charlotte McKelvie, The Emrols and Kelly Gilbert who all delighted shoppers with their vocal talents.

Staff from Halton Borough Council, organisers of Halton's Got Talent, handed out dozens of entry forms for the 2016 competition. Thanks to sponsorship from Runcorn Shopping Centre, the overall winner this year walks away with a £1,000 prize.

Karl Clawley, Runcorn Shopping Centre manager, said: "The street party was tremendous fun. We wanted to do something really special for our local community and host a traditional royal street party which included everyone across the generations.

"It was lovely to see mums, dads, babies, grannies – everyone joining in the festivities and having a great time. A big thank you to all the previous Halton's Got Talent winning performers who came to entertain us, particularly Beau whose feet have hardly touched the ground since her recent TV success."

Nicola Goodwin, Halton Borough Council's community development manager, added: "Beau has taken the nation by storm and is a fantastic inspiration for

anyone hoping to enter this year's *Halton's Got Talent*. She has a wonderful voice and I am sure has an amazing future ahead of her. We are just proud that her journey started right here in Halton.

"Lots of would-be performers came to hear her on Saturday. Entry forms were flying out like hot cakes so we're looking forward to a great talent contest this year."

The 2016 competition will be divided into three age categories: 'under 16s', '17-24 year olds', and 'aged 25 and over'.

Auditions will be staged on three Saturdays in August at Runcorn Shopping Centre and on 8 and 15 August at CRMZ in Widnes, with the grand gala final taking place at the Brindley Theatre in Runcorn on Saturday 3 September.

Participants must either live, work or study in Halton. The deadline for entries is Sunday 17 July. Entry forms and full competition rules are available on Halton Council's website [www.halton.gov.uk](http://www.halton.gov.uk) and [www.runcornshopping.co.uk](http://www.runcornshopping.co.uk).

Completed forms can be returned to any Halton Direct Link, by email to [haltons.gottalent@halton.gov.uk](mailto:haltons.gottalent@halton.gov.uk) or by post to: Admin team, Halton Borough Council, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QF.

**Ends**

**Issued by Lynn Pegler, Pegler Communications**

***On behalf of Runcorn Shopping Centre***