

# Crosby Crowds Lit Up by Lightcloud!

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Thousands of people were dazzled by a huge constellation that lit up Crosby Coastal Park at the weekend (November 8-10).

Huge crowds headed to see the Parabolic Lightcloud that signalled the start of preparations for Sefton's Borough of Culture Year

The Borough of Culture (BoC) title is awarded by the Liverpool City Region's Combined Authority to one of its six local authorities (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral) on a rotating, annual basis.

2019 is currently Wirral's year while 2020 will be dedicated to Sefton with a raft of new, existing and community led events planned for the year.

As part of the constellation switch on, local performers entertained the crowds over three nights (November 8-10) and visitors to the Coastal park were encouraged share images of the Parabolic Lightcloud.

Both the Mayor of Sefton, Cllr June Burns and the Mayor of Wirral, Cllr Tony Smith, made speeches at the launch that were followed by the reading of a poem commissioned by Eleanor Rees, Lecturer in Creative Literature at Hope University, Liverpool.

This was read out by Grace Travers, 14, a student at Holy Family Catholic High School and Aidan Challoner-Baker, also 14, and from Calday Grange Grammar School.

Following the poem, lollipop man Arthur Snellgrove, who works at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, pressed the plunger to illuminate the Parabolic Lightcloud.

Dwayne Johnson, Sefton Council's Chief Executive, said: "What a weekend and what a start to the beginning of Sefton's Borough of Culture year.

"As Wirral's amazing year draws to a close, the lighting of the Parabolic Lightcloud was a perfect way for Sefton to start ours.

"The constellation looked amazing in the wonderful setting of Crosby Coastal Park and over the course of the weekend, thousands of people made the time to come and see it in all its splendor.

"The Borough of Culture title for 2020 is one we are extremely proud of and can't wait to showcase everything about our wonderful borough. The focus of our year will be on stories looking at two key

elements, local history and the environment.

“This is just the start of an exciting 12 months of cultural activities tapping into new, existing and community led events across the whole of the borough. From later this month we will be looking to engage with communities and partners regarding the stories from our history and heritage on which they would wish to see focus in 2020, so watch this space!

“Thanks to all our guests who attended, our fabulous entertainment and most importantly those who made the time to marvel at the constellation.”

The Borough of Culture initiative is part of the Metro Mayor’s Culture programme that sees Liverpool City Region commit to spending the equivalent of 1% of its annual £30 million devolution funding from government to stimulate cultural and creative activities.

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