

Queen's Badge Presentation and Royal Garden Party.

On the 15th of May, Jake and Chris were presented with their Queen's Badges at Linacre Missions Church in Litherland. The service was opened by the North West District President, Alan McLoughlin and led by the Chaplain of the Liverpool Battalion, Nicola Langton-Miller.

After the colours were received (with Jake in the colour party), a rousing rendition of the Boy's Brigade hymn, "Will Your Anchor Hold", and a short sermon from the Battalion Chaplain about the Good Samaritan, the 24 young people, 19 boys and 5 girls, each received their awards from the Lord Lieutenant of Liverpool, Dame Lorna Muirhead DBE. One of the new Queen's Men, from the 1st Elworth Company near Sandbach, read a vote of thanks to the dignitaries, outlining the work that had to be completed to gain the award and benefits he had attained from working towards the badge.

Dame Lorna responded with an address to the boys, girls and their friends and family. She made the point that the young people should be very proud of their achievements, as should the officers and family members that had supported the young people in their work. She also dismissed news paper articles that paint a negative picture of young people in the country and she highlighted the invaluable work that thousands of volunteers, that she meets on daily basis through her role, perform that also goes unrecognised by the media outlets.

At the end of the service, the colours were returned and everyone stood to sing the National Anthem before refreshments were served to all those present.

Everyone who attended had a really enjoyable afternoon and it was lovely to see the hard work that had been completed by the young people and their supporters recognised in such a appreciative way.

Jake and Chris were chosen from the 24 young people to attend the Royal Garden Party on the 19th of May at Buckingham Palace.

Jake and Chris, together with Chris's Dad, Mark, made their way to London on the Wednesday afternoon and stayed over night at Mark's Aunties in Woodgreen before making their way to Buckingham Palace on the Thursday morning. Although they didn't get chance to meet the Queen, they did see Prince Charles and both Jake and Chris thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it was just reward for their hard work.

A DVD of the Garden Party is being produced on behalf of the Royal Family and a copy has been ordered. When the DVD has been delivered, an evening will be arranged to show the DVD in the Church Lounge for everyone who is interested.

Kay Owen