

Ben Chapman, MP for Wirral South

AS A POLITICIAN people naturally expect me to be forthright and positive about the area I represent, but I can genuinely say that there is no need to embellish Wirral's very special appeal. It is a peninsula of mixtures – of rural villages alongside model industrial villages; of countryside and coastline; of birdlife estuaries with sites of special scientific interest and high technology manufacturing.

It is a haven of rural peace and tranquillity that draws people to visit from all over the UK to enjoy the huge range of wonderful attractions, as well as offering some of the finest residential areas in Britain.

In many ways Wirral is closely tied to nearby Chester and perhaps even more so to Liverpool, that great maritime city getting ready to be the European Capital of Culture in 2008 and basking in the glory of newly acquired UNESCO World Heritage status for its own magnificent waterfront.

Yet, although sometimes perhaps over-shadowed by its boisterous neighbours, Wirral has an independent and positive attitude forged from a steely resolve to be proud of a long history taking in connections to both the Roman Empire and the Vikings.

It always comes as a pleasant surprise when I am travelling around my constituency in south Wirral to discover more fascinating facts and to find places of interest that I hadn't come across before.

For me, Wirral is a constant source of pleasure, wonder and delight. I am pleased that I have made my home here and am especially proud to represent a large part of it as a member of parliament. I hope that others will enjoy the images in this book as much as I enjoy the real thing.



Ben Chapman