TEDDIES IN HOSPICE FUNDRAISER

A TEDDY bears' picnic will raise money for sick children on Merseyside - and you can be part of it.

Martin McE, in Warrington, is hosting the event on July 5 to help raise money for Claire House Children's Hospice, in Wirral.

Admission is free for humans - but bears must pay £2 each, or bring two and the pair will be charged £3.50.

Between 1am and 2pm, there will be a wide range of toddler activities, including face painting, a dressing nursery, an adventure playground and storytelling, as well as the chance to meet Claire Bear, the Claire House mascot.

For more information about the event, please visit www.wwt.org.uk

THE first dual-language signs in England have been unveiled marking Merseyside’s Viking heritage.

Four unique signposts have been installed around Thingwall, in Wirral where a large settlement, possibly a Viking parliament, is believed to have existed.

Wirral West MP Esther McVey did the honour of unveiling the new signs with schoolchildren from Thingwall Primary School dressed in Viking costumes.

The special signposts are the first non-Celtic dual language road signs in England.

United Utilities provided the £1,200 funding for the signs which are dotted around the village - at the bottom of Cross Hill, where the Viking assembly is believed to have met, and Landican roundabout, with another two on Irby Road and Pensby Road.

The idea came about after two signposts went missing in Thingwall.

This prompted Wirral Viking expert Professor Stephen Harding to seek to get them replaced and recognise the area’s Viking roots.

Professor Harding, a lecturer at Nottingham University, who was born in Wirral, said: ‘The good thing is that the signs were not paid for by taxpayers’ money.

‘I wanted the signs to show the importance of Thingwall’s Viking past, as it means assembly field in old Viking Norse, and was only given to large settlements.

“The two missing signs led me to suggest to replace them with something significant.

“The Shetland Islands have something similar with their Viking roots. Once funding from United Utilities was in place, which was organised by Pensby and Thingwall councillor Don McCubbin, we designed the signs.

‘Thingwall Primary schoolchildren were absolutely marvellous with their Viking dress, some of their costumes were very authentic indeed.

“It was fantastic to see them take it onboard for the occasion and they were really enthusiastic about the whole thing.

“There are only two definite Thingwall place names in England - in Wirral and Knotty Ash.

“arly days made the county great.

“Merseyside is stuffy with Viking names - Wirral has Arrowe Park, Tranmere, Pensby and Irby.

“People are starting to enjoy their Viking heritage.”

Our lowest rate
2 year tracker mortgage

2.99% APR 4.0% APR

2.99% 4.0% APR

Talk to us in branch
Visit natwest.com/low
Call us on 0800 529 8168
(Minicom 0800 917 0789)

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE

Our lowest rate
2 year tracker mortgage

2.99% APR 4.0% APR

2.99% 4.0% APR

Talk to us in branch
Visit natwest.com/low
Call us on 0800 529 8168
(Minicom 0800 917 0789)

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE

A MERSEYSIDE hospital trust which left medicines insecurely stored was told to make “immediate improvements”.

Health watchdog the Care Quality Commission (CQC) handed a formal warning to Southport and Formby hospitals trust after inspectors found errors. On an

unannounced visit to Southport hospital last month, inspectors found an area where medicines were stored had no door to prevent unrestricted access, and inside a medicines fridge was left unlocked.

On one ward, inspectors found that “in use” insulin had been incorrectly stored in the medicines fridge, despite the manufacturer’s instructions advising not to refrigerate once opened.

The CQC said the trust needed to make urgent improvements to standards, because it was “failing to protect the safety and welfare of people”.

Lisa Yates, director of nursing at the hospital, said: “The trust agrees that the safe storage of medicines is necessary to protect patients, the public and our staff.”

The Vikings are coming!