

# Reconstructed longboat begins voyage

**FITTING OUT:** Viking longship the Draken Harald Hårfagre preparing to leave Haugesund Pictures: PEDER JACOBSSON, courtesy of the Draken Harald Hårfagre team



it's liverpool

**ECHO** 

## Staff deserve much better

ANOTHER day, another damning report... This latest one concerns Liverpool Community Health, which has been heavily-criticised over a "culture of bullying". Independent arbitration consultancy body ACAS interviewed 210 staff from a range of services, locations and grades in confidential sessions – and some of the responses were truly disturbing.

Many staff said: "I feel ashamed to work for LCH" and "the organisation should be ashamed of the way it treats its staff".

The report further stated: "Staff repeatedly said they had been told to go out and treat patients who were verbally or physically abusive or who had illegal drugs or guns in their home" – and that "When incidents were reported nothing was done and staff were told they were overreacting."

We are glad to hear the trust has apologised unreservedly to its staff following "mistakes the organisation made in the past".

**People are the most important part of any organisation and they must be valued and respected. Such a morale-sapping culture has no place in this or any other workplace.**

## Nice one, George

AT LAST, some good news from George Osborne! Few would say the Chancellor has been a dear friend to Liverpool, but today he was in the city – as part of the International Festival For Business 2014 – to unveil a spending package for our science and transport infrastructure worth almost £40m.

**This is good to hear, George, but we believe there is a lot more you could help us with. Now, about the coalition's culture of cuts...**

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# Vikings set sail for visit to Wirral


THE world's largest-ever reconstructed Viking longship today set sail for Merseyside on its maiden overseas voyage.

Draken Harald Hårfagre, named after Norwegian Viking king Harald the Fairhair, left Haugesund, on the Norwegian west coast, at just after 12.15pm BST.

**The 115-long ship headed out into the North Sea and is set to arrive at the River Mersey after a three-week passage under sail on July 18 – at a time when the world's media will be focused on Wirral for the prestigious Open tournament at the Royal Liverpool golf club, in Hoylake.**

Skipped by Swedish captain Björn Ahlander, she is crewed by a hundred-strong international "Viking Navy" of volunteers –

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including Ged Gedge, from Wirral. After stops at the Shetland Islands and the Isle of Man, the Norse longship, which has a huge 2,800 sq ft sail made of pure silk, will be brought into West Float, Wallasey, where it will be hosted by Liverpool Victoria Rowing Club until she departs on August 3.

Wirral Viking expert Professor Steve Harding, who originally set up the deal while DNA testing in Norway, helped by the ship's owner, Norwegian businessman Sigurd Aase, said: "All the preparations for receiving this magnificent vessel are in place – thanks largely due to the efforts of Liverpool Victoria Rowing Club at Wallasey Docks, and we wish Bjorn and his crew all the very best for their long journey."



**FINAL CHECKS:** The Draken Harald Hårfagre preparing to leave Haugesund

"Wirral and Liverpool are ready to welcome them. It should be a great spectacle when it arrives for members of the public watching from both sides of the Mersey."

**The longship had originally been scheduled to set sail for Merseyside last summer, but after the voyage was delayed, the plan was scrapped in favour of a trip to America instead.**

But, earlier this summer, the Wirral team was contacted and asked if they would still like to host the Draken on its maiden voyage, and she is now finally on her way to the borough – 1,100 years after the Vikings originally settled in Wirral. Jim Bibby, chairman of Liverpool Victoria rowing club, said:

"Everyone is excited and looking forward to it."

"It's going to be historic as West Float is the closest point we can get to where the Vikings are thought to have originally landed at Meols."

While moored alongside the rowing club's boat house, there will be opportunities for the public to visit the vessel by booking through the club's website.

The longship will be rowed within the sheltered confines of the West and East Floats while based at the club by a 100-strong team of Wirral volunteers set up by Steve – a former Oxford College oarsman – with colleagues at Liverpool Victoria. **More information on the visit will be available at <http://den.vikingkings.com/en/dragon-harald-fairhair.html> and the rowing club's website, [www.lvrc.co.uk](http://www.lvrc.co.uk)**



## Liverpool Unites



**Liverpool Unites, the ECHO's charity, has a fundraising target of £500,000 for Alder Hey Children's Hospital. All money will be used to build play areas in the New Children's Health Park due to be completed in 2015. [liverpoolecho.co.uk/unites](http://liverpoolecho.co.uk/unites)**

## Quick Quiz

1. What do the letters GCSE stand for?
2. According to the nursery rhyme, what type of food would Jack Sprat not eat?
3. Parker and Barrow were the surnames of which famous couple?
4. What are the first names of the four children who enter Narnia through a wardrobe in The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe?
5. Which brothers flew the world's first successful airplane in 1903?
6. What does the abbreviation UHT stand for?
7. Roger Hargreaves created which characters in a series of books in the 1970s?
8. What is Charlie's surname in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory?
9. In which city was Motown born?
10. Michael Bond wrote about which famous bear in a series of books for children?

1. General Certificate of Secondary Education 2. Fat 3. The Wright brothers 4. Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy 5. Bonnie and Clyde 6. Ultra Heat Treated 7. Mr Men 8. Bucket 9. Detroit 10. Paddington