

www.sefton.gov.uk

COULD YOU FOSTER A CHILD AGED 11 – 16 YEARS OLD?
OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU!

ALL YOU HAVE TO BE IS OVER 21 YEARS

YOU CAN BE

- Married/single
- Working/not working
- With/without children
- Of any race, religion, culture
- Gay/straight
- Retired

YOU WILL BE

- Paid an allowance
- Fully trained
- Supported 24/7

WE NEED PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND CHILDREN, HAVE A BIG HEART AND A SENSE OF HUMOUR.

You could be just what they need!
PLEASE CALL AND FIND OUT MORE
0151 934 3737/3691

Sefton Council



Forensics find Viking clues

FORENSIC tools have taken the place of trowels as researchers unearth the North West's Viking past.

History has come alive thanks to a project based on volunteers' DNA, which will appeal to people living in the areas around Southport, many of which have a Viking heritage.

Guided by myth and a maze of Viking placenames, they sought out men whose families had lived in West Lancashire or Wirral for generations – men with surnames dating back to the area before the 17th century.

A unique DNA marker – a Y-chromosomal haplotype to be precise – plots male family history as it hardly ever alters, even over hundreds of years.

Professor Stephen Harding, from the University of Nottingham, and Professor Mark Jobling of the University of Leicester, will reveal the results of their team's years of research at a special evening on Tuesday, November 27, in Knowsley, for the West Lancashire Heritage Association, which has members from Southport. These results are about to appear in the major scientific journal *Molecular*

By **CLIFFORD BIRCHALL**

Biology and Evolution, published by Oxford University Press.

"In the North West of England, Scandinavian major place-names are most concentrated around the Wirral peninsula and West Lancashire. These two regions possess the only definite examples of the place-name 'Thingwall' (from Old Norse þing-völlr meaning 'Assembly Field') in England, indicating settlements of sufficient density and autonomy to warrant their own parliaments," Prof Harding says.

"Moreover, the intensity and distribution of minor place name elements attests to the persistence of a Scandinavian-influenced dialect through the centuries that may reflect the intensity of the original settlement.

"This onomastic evidence is supported by archaeological discoveries such as jewellery, weaponry or treasure hoards at Meols, Crosby, and Cuerdale or Hiberno-Norse ring-headed crosses and hogback tombstones which reflect Scandinavian presence."

But Viking blood is still run-

ning strong in the veins, too. DNA samples in both areas reveal this.

The researchers' chosen marker is a relatively frequent lineage in Norway, Shetland, Orkney and the Isle of Man, but rare in most mainland English and Welsh samples.

"The samples from men with old surnames from both West Lancashire and Wirral show a strong increase in the proportion of it with respect to their 'modern' counterparts and suggests a strong Scandinavian input into the population."

How strong will be revealed by Profs Harding and Jobling together with Judith Jesch, Professor of Viking studies at the University of Nottingham. The event will be hosted by the West Lancashire Heritage Association at 7pm at the David Lloyd Leisure centre in Arbour Lane, Knowsley, Liverpool, on Tuesday, November 27, which is Lancashire Day. Tickets cost £6 and can be obtained from the West Lancashire Heritage Association by calling 01695 573350 or e-mailing patrickwaite@hotmail.co.uk

Nick joins the team at Barrons

Advertising Feature

Barron Independent Mortgages are welcoming on board Nick Lowne as the newest member of the team. Nick is a qualified mortgage consultant, with an extensive background working with estate agents.

After leaving university, Nick started his career with the Yorkshire Building Society and has spent the last five years advising clients on their mortgage needs. He joins the company, which offers independent mortgage advice, from a mortgage arm of a busy estate agency in Manchester specifically dealing with people buying and selling homes so can appreciate the need for a prompt and knowledgeable service.

And having recently moved house, he knows from his own experience exactly what client's expect from their mortgage consultant and can sympathise with the pressure they are under in making one of the hardest financial decisions in their life and how time consuming and stressful mortgage negotiations can be.

He explained: "When you come to Barrons, you will have an advisor who can source the whole range of products available on the market. And with the market being so competitive and mortgage suppliers really trying to court customers at the moment, there are huge savings out there if you know where to look."

When Nick isn't imparting his expert financial knowledge to clients he likes to make his opinions heard on the stands of his beloved Manchester City football club. A season ticket holder, he manages to get to most home games.



Nick Lowne (left) with Managing Director, David Barron

Managing Director, David Barron added 'Nick brings a wealth of experience and we are looking forward to working together. With his appointment, we can deal with the ever-increasing client bank and referrals from our much-valued introducers. We are looking forward to a happy and fruitful working relationship together.' Barron Independent Mortgages prides itself on the personal service it offers to clients, a result of a close working relationship with estate agents all over the North West. Mortgage plans are arranged quickly, making sure the house-buying process is facilitated with the utmost speed and efficiency. The latest IT systems ensure that the team at Barrons maintains access to the latest mortgage products and packages, ensuring a service that is second-to-none.

As well as appointments at the company's office on Houghton Street, you can arrange to meet with a mortgage adviser at your home with daytime, evening or weekend appointments available. So if you're looking for independent help to source your mortgage, talk to **Barron Independent Mortgages** on **0800 587 0140** or visit www.barronmortgages.co.uk.



BARRON
INDEPENDENT MORTGAGES LTD

31 Houghton Street, Southport, Merseyside PR9 0NS

t: 01704 512120 f: 01704 512211 e: office@barronmortgages.co.uk

Freephone 0800 587 0140