

# New bar mixes area's past with the present

**WIRRAL'S Viking heritage and trendy wine bars aren't two subjects you would normally see in the same sentence.**

But one venue in West Kirby is mixing the past with the present to put some culture and heritage back into Wirral's bar scene.

The Wro wine bar in West Kirby earned its name after its owners Sally and Howard Boyd flicked through Viking expert Stephen Harding's Ingimunds Saga book.

On the hunt for a name for their new business which had some relevance to the local area they came across the wro (vrà) - Old Norse for corner - where a place of the same name was last recorded there in 1454.

After approaching Professor Harding, who is well-known to readers as an author of several books on Viking Wirral and a champion of the peninsula's unique heritage, they managed to track down the old charter which shows the last ever recording of the wro.

And they say the story has gone down a storm with the locals.

Sally said: "We took over the bar about 10 weeks ago and we were looking for a name that had some meaning.

**By KATY WEST**

"So we started looking through local history books, came across this and contacted Stephen.

"It is a real talking point for people who come in to the bar and it's great that, in a minor way, we have been able to raise awareness of the history of the area."

The extract containing the last ever recording of the wro comes from the Rental of the Years 1453-54 from the Manor of Little Caldý which was transcribed into English then later translated into modern English.

Professor Harding said: "I found out the charter was in the vaults at the British Library and, by chance, my old school friend from Overchurch was working there.

"So we managed to get hold of it and we have blown it up into a huge poster so Sally and Howard can put it up in their bar. I think it's wonderful.

"The Vikings thought very highly of women so I think they would certainly have approved of Sally being at the helm. They were also fond of a drink of two- so this would have gone down very well with them!"



● Stephen Harding (right) hands over the Viking script to Howard and Sally Boyd at the Wro bar in West Kirby

Code ph110906f

## Chance to sample local fruit

**WIRRAL Wildlife group will be holding two "apple days" next month.**

More than 20 local apple varieties will be on display and the whole family can help to turn apples into juice using an old-fashioned wooden press.

Those with a steady hand can also see how long a piece of peel they can cut from an apple.

The first event will take on Saturday, October 7 at Brimstage Hall from 2-4pm, with the second on Sunday, October 8 at Eastham Country Park from 2-4pm.

For more information, ring 342 1395.

## Beaches pass health check

**WIRRAL'S beaches have passed a mid-season "health check" with flying colours.**

Water quality at New Brighton, Moreton, Meols and West Kirby has been graded as "excellent" by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS).

The tests took place during May, June and July.