

Conductor takes his final bow

GRAHAM Jordan Ellis, conductor of St Peter's Singers and Orchestra, Heswall, for the past 21 years, will make his final appearance when he takes the baton for An Evening of Mozart for Easter.

Pressure of many commitments has forced Graham to resign but he will still play an important role conducting choirs and at musical events in Wirral and elsewhere.

Philip Barnett, paid him a special tribute, saying: "Graham has led the choir on a musical journey which has been thrilling, challenging and, above all, enjoyable

"His skilful training and leadership have produced many wonderful concerts in a regularly full church."

This year's Easter concert, which will also feature Mozart's Vespers and Horn Concerto No 3, will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Telegraph Road, Heswall, at 7.30pm on Saturday, March 31.

Tickets, costing £8, are available at Lingham's bookshop, Heswall, and P Williams chemist, Lower Village, Heswall.

Viking invaders are flocking to Tranmere

Supporters celebrate

A NEW invasion of Vikings is hitting Wirral - Norwegian football supporters.

There are now more than 100 regularly attending Tranmere's Friday games, coming from all over Norway.

Last Friday among the invaders was a group from Sarpsborg in Southern Norway who celebrated Tranmere's 2-0 win over Chesterfield.

Many of the "raiders" come over and watch Tranmere on the Friday and then go and see one of the Premiership clubs on either Saturday or Sunday.

But Wirral's Viking expert and lifelong Tranmere fan Professor Steve Harding hopes they will make Tranmere as "their" team, especially as the connection goes even deeper.

Professor Harding, from Nottingham University, explained: "I think many Tranmere fans are now aware of the club's wonderful



● Tom, Ingi, Svein and Erlende, from Sarpsborg, celebrate Tranmere's win on Friday night with Steve Harding (second right)

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uniqueness in being the only club in the English league with a Norwegian Viking name.

"Tranmere was founded by Viking settlers more than 1,000 years ago as Tran-melr meaning "sandbank with the cranebirds or herons.

"I tell all my Norwegian friends that all Norwegians should support Tranmere, maybe the penny - or kronor - is starting to drop!

"One my friends, Gerhard Dalen, director of cultural affairs at the municipality of Trondheim and one of the main instigators behind Tranmere's Lerkendal Stadium, has said Norwegians are very proud there is an English league team in Wirral with a Norwegian Viking name."

Professor Harding added: "One pair of Norwegian sup-

porters - Eirik and Rakel Fjeld from Skien near Oslo - have been so bitten by the club that they have chosen to study at Liverpool John Moores University, enabling them to get to all the games."

Together with Tranmere supporter Tom Roger, from Bergen, Eirik has started a new "blog style" Norwegian Supporters website on <http://trsn.blogspot.com>

Events to help trace your roots

MEMBERS of the public interested in tracing their family history can enjoy two special events this weekend.

On Saturday Wirral Museum in Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, is hosting a history and heritage fair from 10am-4pm.

There will be a wide range of exhibitors from family history groups to history societies and sales tables for local publishers and the Wirral Postcard Society.

The Friends of Arrows Country Park, Bromborough Society, the Wirral Society, and all four of family history societies from Wallasey, Birkenhead, Bebington and West Kirby will be among those attending.

On Sunday the Merseyside and Cheshire Family History Fair takes place at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight from 10am-5pm.

Admission is £2 and accompanied children get in free.

Opera group's church show

ST John's Church in Meols will be hosting an evening with St Paul's Operatic Society this Saturday March 10.

Entrance is £5 and there will be refreshments and a raffle. The event starts at 7.30pm.