

Don your boots for Viking walk

BY LINDA FOO GUEST

lindafooguest@liverpool.com
[@Linda_Foo_Guest](https://twitter.com/Linda_Foo_Guest)

GET your hiking boots on and join an 18-mile walk to celebrate Wirral's Viking heritage.

This year's annual St Olav's Day pilgrimage is set to take place over two days - starting in West Kirby and finishing in Chester the next day.

The walk is free to join, and celebrates both St Olav - Olav Haraldsson, the patron saint of Norway - and Wirral's Viking heritage.

The first part of the route is on Monday, July 28 from St Bridget's Church in West Kirby. Walkers will follow the banks of the Dee Estuary along the Wirral Way to St Mary and St Helen in Neston.

The next day's (Tuesday, July 29) excursion starts from the

National Waterways Museum in Ellesmere Port and along the Shropshire Union Canal to Chester's City Wall and to St Olave's Church on St Olave Street.

Viking expert Steve Harding has organised the annual pilgrimage. He said: "This year for the first time we are going the whole way from St Bridget's Church to St Olave's over two days.

"This walk is not strenuous, although it is quite long.

"Please wear appropriate footwear and bring refreshments to last the distance.

"Walkers can come on either or both days of the walk - and you don't have to do the complete distance on either day.

"Although St Olave's church building is not used for services - it is presently used as an archive for the Cheshire

Records Office - the annual walk is important as it helps to keep away the developers from this historic building.

"It is free to take part, but people need to register beforehand so we have an idea of numbers.

"In common with the main St Olave Day walk in Norway, all walkers come at their own risk - we only provide a guide.

"This year's walk coincides with the arrival of the Viking ship Draken Harald Harfagre to West Float in Wallasey on July 18."

To register, email Steve.Harding@nottingham.ac.uk before Saturday, July 26.

● For more information about the walk visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/~sczsteve/Olsok_Part1.htm and www.nottingham.ac.uk/~sczsteve/Olsok_Part2.htm.



● St Olav's Wirral Viking heritage walk is set to take place over two days later this month. Steve Harding and Dave Forshaw study a map at last year's event