

LIVERPOOL AIMS TO CAPTURE PIRATE WORLD RECORD

Q: How many pirates does it take to fill Liverpool's Albert Dock?

A: An arrrghful lot.

And that's just what we'll need on Sunday 18th July 2010 when **the 2nd International Mersey Pirate Muster attempts to break the Guinness World Record for largest gathering of pirates in one place.**

The record, and yes, it is a real one, was set at Brixham earlier this year, when 1,744 barnaclebacks and scurvydogs descended on the town.

But, just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water, those Buccaneering Bilge Rats from the New World scuppered the celebrating with 2,600 souls squeezed like sardines into the Northern California Pirate Festival, barely a few weeks ago.

So, before that American Ink dries in the ship's log, and as true gentlemen (and women) of fortune, we're calling to arms all available pirates - young and old - to join our own Mersey Pirate Navy and reclaim the record, for our own noble maritime city.

The world record attempt has the backing of Liverpool's seaworthy Lord Mayor Hazel Williams.

Councillor Williams said: "Liverpool is a proud maritime city – a UNESCO Maritime and Mercantile City no less - and few ports are a patch on us. With a fair wind I'm sure we can muster enough pirates of all ages to capture this swashbuckling claim to fame and sail right into the Guinness Book of Records. And there'll be no better way to have fun while raising funds for such a worthy cause this side of the Atlantic this year."

To take part you must follow these six simple steps:

- 1 - Wear a pirate hat or bandana
- 2 - Wear an eye patch
- 3 - Carry a cutlass, flag or parrot
- 4 - Wear a piratey shirt or T shirt
- 5 - Wear rolled up or raggedy piratey trousers
- 6 - And finally..... TURN UP!

This memorable event will be taking place from 1.45 pm just in front of the Echo Big Wheel. Register for a purple eye patch for 50p and support Liverpool Unites at the same time.

But if you don't want to dress up, you'll still be warrghmly welcomed down at the dock, for we're sure you'll find there's plenty to see and do. The event has been organised by BeSpoken Storytelling's Cathy Roberts and Liverpool Front House's Paul Miller.

Cathy Roberts said "This is only the second Mersey Pirate Muster, but we're really proud that so many local businesses and community organisations have climbed on board with us. When we heard there was a pirate gathering world record, we couldn't resist the challenge. Hopefully we will muster enough people to clinch it, but either way it will be a fabulous fun day out."

The record attempt is just one of the highlights of this year's Mersey Pirate Muster, visiting Liverpool's On The Waterfront festival (July 16-18) which will launch on Friday night at 8.30pm with a spectacular pyrotechnic tribute to the Picasso exhibition at Tate Liverpool in the Albert Dock.

On The Waterfront, commissioned by Liverpool City Council and delivered by Walk the Plank has a second instalment on August 6-8, but the July edition will exclusively feature a flotilla of Tall Ships, aerobatic displays, a Feel Good Fair and a sculpture made from 60 tonnes of sand as well as many other maritime malarkeys.

As well as the Pirate World Record attempt there's also a chance to win real life hidden treasure – all you have to do is Pick up a copy of Mysterious MacNamara's Map around the docks. On Saturday you should also cover your ears for the spectacular Battle of Canning Dock, with tall ships, cannons, and enough muskets to wake old Davy Jones himself.

But never fear landlubbers, the only thing these pirates will capture is your imagination.