

# The Royal Charter – a brief story

1. The Royal Charter was on its way back to Liverpool from Melbourne in Australia on October 25<sup>th</sup> 1859, and was just off the coast of Anglesey.

2. The Ship's log suggests it was carrying 502 passengers and crew, and was also carrying a large fortune of gold- £320,000 worth! There was also gold carried individually by some passengers.



3. The ship sailed across the Irish Sea to Point Lynas, near Amlwch. The captain called for the pilot to guide him into Liverpool, however the pilot could not get to the ship as the sea was extremely rough.

4. The captain had to make a choice between getting to Liverpool without the help of the pilot, or seeking safety for his ship in Moelfre Bay until the storm subsided.



5. The wind was Force 12 on the Beaufort scale! This is considered hurricane force, which is extremely problematic. The captain was forced to seek shelter, but having reached the safety of Moelfre, he dropped anchor and then disaster struck; both the ships anchor chains broke under the terrific strain.

6. The Royal Charter was driven onto the rocks off Moelfre, and the 2700 tonne ship was almost broken in two from the collision. Many people were thrown against the rocks- 459 were killed. At half five in the morning, the storm was still raging, with serious consequences.