Findings of Viking study expected soon

THE findings of a major study into West Lancashire’s links with the Vikings are set to be revealed this month.

It comes after a special project based on volunteers’ DNA took place in the district. Researchers sought out men whose families had lived in West Lancashire for generations. Men with surnames dating back to the area before the 17th Century.

A unique DNA marker – a Y-chromosomal haplotype – plots male family history as it hardly ever alters, even over hundreds of years.

Professor Stephen Harding, from the University of Nottingham, and Professor Mark Jobling, of the University of Leicester, will reveal the results of their team’s years of research at a special event on Tuesday, November 27, in Knowsley at an event hosted by West Lancs Heritage Association.

These results are about to appear in the major scientific journal Molecular Biology and Evolution, published by Oxford University Press.

Prof Harding said: “Scandinavian major place names are most concentrated around the Wirral peninsula and West Lancashire.

“The samples from men with old surnames from both West Lancashire and Wirral show a strong increase in the proportion of it with respect to their ‘modern’ counterparts and suggests a strong Scandinavian input into the population.”

The event on November 27 takes place at 7 pm at the David Lloyd Leisure centre in Arbour Lane, Knowsley, Liverpool. Tickets cost £6 and can be obtained by calling 01695 573350 or e-mailing patrickwaite@hotmail.co.uk

West Lancashire still retains strong links with its Viking past

The event is part of a major study into West Lancashire’s Viking links. It is expected to reveal new insights into the area’s Viking history.

The study has been conducted by a team of scientists from the University of Nottingham and the University of Leicester. They have been examining the DNA of men with old surnames from both West Lancashire and Wirral.

The results are expected to reveal new insights into the area’s Viking history, including the extent of Viking influence on the local population.

The study is part of a wider project that is examining the DNA of people from all over the world. This is expected to provide new insights into human history and migration patterns.