

New theatre opens at Wrightington

A STATE-OF-THE-ART operating theatre has opened at Wrightington Hospital - costing a cool £1.4m.

This increases the number of theatres at Wrightington from seven to eight allowing chiefs to increase theatre capacity and meet the demand for joint replacements.

Angela Kelly, acting general manager of the musculoskeletal division, said: "This investment will help the hospital continue to improve services and create extra capacity for surgery.

"This will also ensure that we meet the Government's 18-week target for orthopaedic patients being seen from referral to treatment. This is vital to ensure that Wrightington Hospital remains the first choice for patients both locally and nationally choosing orthopaedic treatment.

Chief executive Andrew Foster added: "This is fantastic news for Wrightington.

"We already have an international reputation for orthopaedic surgery but it is imperative that we invest in and continue to improve services at Wrightington so that we have the capacity to meet the 18-week target in order to remain the number one choice for patients.

"Staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that we are on track to meet the target that by December 2008, so that no patient will wait more than 18 weeks between GP referral and hospital treatment.

"We have plans in place to ensure that we offer the best orthopaedic service nationally. Our high volume of specialist procedures and long-standing research means that we can predict the best clinical outcomes, the lowest revision rates, the highest levels of pain-free patients and the highest levels of significantly improved mobility.

Findings of Viking study expected soon



● West Lancashire still retains strong links with its Viking past

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 evening 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 7pm 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

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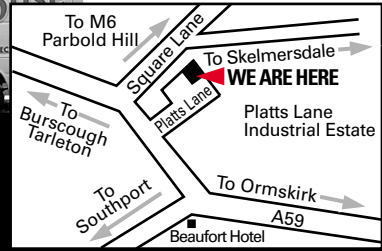
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