

Viking links to be disclosed

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,

By CLIFFORD BIRCHALL

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

Aladdin and friends set to take centre stage

THE Pleasurefolk Amateur Dramatic Society will be performing the classic pantomime Aladdin.

Widow Twanky, Wishy Washy and the Genie of the

Lamp will join Aladdin from November 28 until December 2 at Ormskirk Civic Hall.

Tickets cost £7 for adults and £5 for concessions on Thursday, Friday, Saturday

and Sunday including the matinee performances.

There are special offers for groups and tickets are £5 for Wednesday's performance.

To book call 01695-580755.



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