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# Archaeologists reveal skeleton found at Halton Castle in Runcorn had two broken legs and 'suffered greatly during life'

17:13, 14 DEC 2015 | **UPDATED** 17:13, 14 DEC 2015 | BY OLIVER CLAY

Salford University archaeologists and Norton Priory reveal update on discoveries including Liverpool John Moores analysis from major Halton Castle dig

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Sarah Cattell, Salford University archaeologist, was among the team to reveal some of the findings from the Halton Castle dig at a recent event at the Chesshyre Library.

Nearly 50 villagers packed into The Chesshyre Library to hear the latest updates on the mysteries uncovered at the Halton Castle archaeological dig in July.

The speakers Frank Hargrave, Norton Priory director, Lynn Smith, senior keeper, and Sarah Cattell, Salford University archaeologist, discussed a wealth of discoveries.

Lynn revealed that one of the two skeletons unearthed within the castle walls was that of a man who suffered greatly during his life due to broken bones in both of his legs and the resulting arthritis and bone infection.

The grim discovery had been made during analysis by Liverpool John Moores University postgraduates Carla Burrell and Eleanor Dove.

Sarah Cattell highlighted some of the most interesting findings including a medieval jeton – a monetary object not too dissimilar from a coin – that may well have originated in Germany.

She also discussed discoveries that raised further questions such as large post holes that could have hinted at earlier structures and possibly multiple phases of medieval settlement.

Tom Fildes, Norton Priory development officer, said: “The evening was a success and seemed to go down well with the audience.

“The confirmed dates of the skeletons will hopefully be obtained sometime over the next few months – at which time we will know a new, rather important bit of information about the Halton Castle skeletons.


“It is hoped that Norton Priory will be able to provide regular updates on the post-excavation process as new information is learnt, especially in 2016, which will see the opening of Norton’s brand new museum sometime in the summer.”



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