



● Archaeologists Gerald Beaudette, Howard Thomas and John Bear examine one of the three skeletons at Llandough.

Riddle of three skeletons

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A "WHODUNIT" with a difference follows the discovery yesterday of three skeletons at Llandough, near Cardiff.

But police are unlikely to pin the crime on anyone, because it is believed the skeletons—christened by archaeologists Joanna, Walter and William—have been lying in their graves for more than 700 years.

They were uncovered by members of the Barry and Vale Archaeological Group in the ruins of a 13th century house at Llandough Farm.

Leader of the group, Mr. John Bear, said yesterday, "We uncovered a skull at the base of a wall about two feet down. Then we found some leg and foot bones.

"We went on to uncover a complete skeleton in a remarkable state of preservation—probably preserved by the air-tight clay.

'Witchcraft'

"There are two theories how these people died—attacked and murdered, or victims of a plague."

Mr. Brian J. Ford, of Cardiff, scientific adviser to the group, after examining the bones last night, said, "I think one of the skeletons is that of a woman—probably in her early twenties.

"The most interesting fact of all is that the skeleton has been partly dissected after death. A small round hole has been cut in the skull, probably shortly after death.

The cutting of a hole in the skull used to be associated with witchcraft to allow an evil spirit to escape."