

Blacon History Newsletter



May 2021

Welcome to the Blacon History newsletter, the Newsletter goes out either digitally or in printed format to a large number of Blacon residents. Our main aim is to research and distribute local historical information to our membership and the wider Blacon & Chester community. Additionally to work with the local community and schools to enable residents old and young to discover their local history and provide a sense of belonging. To work with other institutions to enhance and provide a local learning resource for those who are able and unable to access new technology.

Please contact us at blaconhistory@gmail.com

Or take a look at our website <http://www.blaconhistorygroup.org/>

For more information If you are unable to access technology then contact either

Dave Cartwright on 07854 681886 or Alan Smith on 07932556062



The Saxons.

The first Anglo-Saxons raided the shores of south and east England in the fourth century AD, but they were beaten back by the Romans. At the beginning of the fifth century after the Romans had left Britain the Saxons attempts to conquer Britain became more successful.

It was during the second half of the fifth century that more and more Anglo-Saxons arrived to take land for themselves.

The Anglo-Saxons took control of most of Britain, although they never conquered Scotland, Wales and Cornwall. They settled in England in places near to rivers or the sea, which could be easily reached by boat which is why they may have chosen to settle in Blacon.

The Saxons are credited with giving Blacon its name Blac Knoll which means small mounded hill or hollow. We don't know how important Blacon was to the Saxons but in Chester In the early 10th century Chester was made into a burgh or fortified settlement by Aethelflaed eldest daughter of Alfred the Great .

The Saxons had a policy of creating burghs across their kingdom as strongholds in case of a enemy attack. Streets were laid out in Chester and Saxon settlers were encouraged to come and live in Chester.

Chester was a flourishing Saxon town with a mint and a weekly market .The population was also under constant fear of attack from the local Welsh Kingdoms who wished to drive the Saxon invaders away.

For this reason the Roman walls were rebuilt in Chester's in around 907 A.D. They ran from the edge of the river on the South and Western sides of the old Roman fortress, to establish Chester at the centre of

.a line of burghs, stretching from Rhuddlan in North Wales to Manchester .

Blacon most probably had Saxon settlers living along side the locals who had previously lived under Roman occupation ,farming fishing and hunting would have been important activities in the area.

The Battle of Chester also took place nearby at Bangor on Dee. The Battle started in the Early 7th Century when the Saxons defeated a combined force from the Welsh kingdoms of Powys and Gwynedd . A large number of Monks were also killed while they preyed near the site of the battle.

The Saxons later also had to defend themselves from the new invaders the Vikings who had started to settle in large numbers on the Wirral.

BLACON HISTORY GROUP [BHG] - History Trail [Phase 1]

"Newly launched this year, in collaboration with Keeping Connected Blacon, Blacon Art Trail created an outdoor activity that everyone could get involved in by searching for 21 Artworks around Blacon during Easter The Blacon Art Trail team also collaborated with our BHG team and we used their map to include some of the historic sites so that on your walk you could spot them as well as art works on the Art trail!" If you were not able to see the original 21 Art works are now on public display on the hoardings in front of the extension to the Avenue Services complex

Following the amazing success of the recent Blacon Art & History Trail during 2nd – 18th April 2021 in OUR Community we decided to create our own unique history trail leaflets. Consequently with the assistance of a local Graphic Designer, Cat Davis and support from our 3 very supportive Blacon labour councillors [Sheila Little, Carol Gahan & Trish Richard] your BHG team have now created Phase 1 of our BHG history trail.

The trail consists of 4 individual separate trails covering the whole Blacon community .Each trail is colour coded on the trail map with each historic site numbered with is supported by brief factual information together with a tick box to record your visit

This Phase 1 History trail is only the start of our BHG ambitious plans because as soon as we can generate the required funding we hope to develop our trails further in the following additional phases;-

Phase 2 - The erection of information boards together with QR codes at each of the initial 26 historic sites

Phase 3 -The further development of our 10 health walks and history trails including Risk Assessments and information leaflets which is our ongoing project.

Phase 4 – The creation and erection of 4 “Welcome to Blacon - cum- Crabwall “ signs at strategic entrance points to be agreed with our Blacon residents.

BLACON HISTORY TRAILS



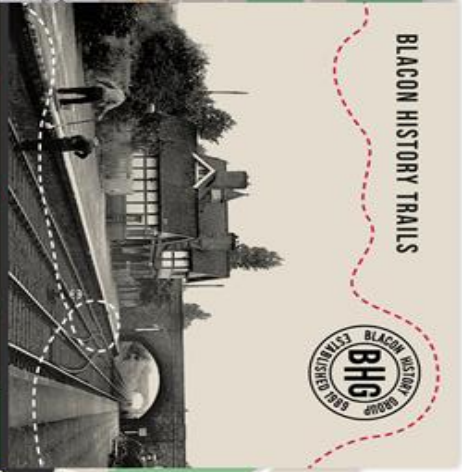
BLACON HISTORY TRAIL

FIND THE 28 HISTORY LOCATIONS ON THE MAP: *The map you'll see if you click on the map icon.*

- 1 Blacon House Farm 1844 - It was first farmed by Henry Dood, who came from a farm in Middle Farford.
- 2 Blacon House Farm Cottages 1845 - two farm workers cottages now known as The Chimneys (Lord Crewe Crest)
- 3 Blacon Escarpment & Ancient Woodland pre 1740 - the remaining remnant of the diversion of the river Doe in 1746.
- 4 Blacon Hall Farm Lodge - (former 810), the house on the corner of Blacon Point and Saughall Road.
- 5 Former St Chad's Church 1929 - the foundation stone laid by Cr Pidgey Bishop of Chester 11 June 1929.
- 6 Blacon Railway Cottages - built in the mid-1890s for railway workers at the nearby Blacon Railway Station.
- 7 Blacon Point Old Farm Cottages 1928 - 3 farm workers cottages. Look for Lord Crewe of Crewe crest plaques.
- 8 Smith's Cottages pre 1843 - probably Georgian, Blacon cottages. Look for Lord Crewe of Crewe crest plaques.
- 9 Blacon Point Farm circa 1744 - the oldest of the 4 original farms in Blacon, bought in 1935 by T B Gost.
- 10 Blacon Golf Course 1937- 1938 - Golf House was situated on 'Woodland 2' in the Nature Park. Owned by T B Gost.
- 11 Blacon Nature Park 1987 - originally 5 acres of wildflower meadows and woodlands, complete with pond.
- 12 Blacon Army Camp Officers' Houses 1956- 1960 - for Regional Officers for the Machine Gun Training Centre.

TO FIND OUT EVEN MORE FACTS AND SEE HISTORIC IMAGES OF SOME OF THESE LOCATIONS GO TO OUR WEBSITE BLACONHISTORYGROUP.ORG

BLACON HISTORY TRAILS



Get active and go on a local walk whilst also finding out interesting history facts about Blacon. There's four different routes or try them all in one day!

- 13 Roman Lookout Fort AD 60 - was before the main legionary fortress.
- 14 Blacon Army Camp 1956 - 1960 Camps in the UK (26th March).
- 15 Blacon Army Camp WCO's House the resident Regimental WCO on 31 March 1950 by the 'Great'.
- 16 Blacon Railway Station & Siding track bed of the railway. Part in Blacon. Fanned for decades.
- 17 Broadcrag Farm pre 1933 - important trade route to the Kingswood Lane / Saughall.
- 18 Holy Trinity Church 1960 - no longer big enough for the Roman Coin found Lincoln Museum (AD 96-98) now in the Chester Museum.
- 19 St Theresa's Church 1959 - had previously shared the church hut at Blacon Camp.
- 20 Blacon Hall & Farm 17th Century - the 4th farm in Blacon, mostly produced milk for cheese and butter.
- 21 Blacon Adventure Playground & Farm 1966 - a new contact back in the day - community farm, play areas etc.
- 22 King George V playing fields 1956 - part of a nationwide project providing playing fields in communities.
- 23 Shropshire Union Canal 1772-76 - 'Old Man Moore's Bridge' - canal built by Thomas Telford linking Blacon.

BE A PART OF BLACON'S HISTORY COMMUNITY - JOIN THE EXECUTIVE GROUP TO VIEW AND SHARE PHOTOS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES - SEE BLACK FOR DETAILS.

blaconhistorygroup.org



STORY GROUP

History was published in 2005 which concentrated on Blacon's history from the 1840s - 2000s. In Spring 2019, the two new members of the Blacon's History Group accepted the challenge of the group to do this. We have an active group and continue to work on the history of Blacon and the wider area. We have an active group and continue to work on the history of Blacon and the wider area. We have an active group and continue to work on the history of Blacon and the wider area.

York Alan Smith and Herman Scamling
 medieval route for Blacon Wood
 the Wood & Chester and Sport England

venue
 CHESHIRE WOOD AND CHESTER
 KEEPING CONNECTED
 Blacon

BLACON HISTORY GROUP
 BLACONHISTORY@GMAIL.COM