

Blacon History Newsletter



February 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

Blacon the first residents ?

There is no evidence of any Stone age settlements or occupation by any Celtic tribe such as the Cornovii in the Blacon area. But if you look the geography of Blacon point it is very similar too Burton point which did have a stone age settlement. Both Burton point and Blacon point protruded into the deep channel of the River Dee making them an ideal location on high ground for keeping an eye on a boats or ships using the river. Fishing and farming may have also supported people who could have lived in this area. We do know from our ariel photograph taken in 1945 that a Roman wooded base camp had been built at Blacon point possible between AD 43 and 50 which would predate any building built in Chester. Could it be a possibility that Blacon point may have before this been occupied by a Celtic tribe ?.

The Celts and the Cornovii

It is believed by many that the Celts were native only to Britain. The Celts were

a collection of tribes with origins in central Europe that shared a similar lan-

guage, religious beliefs, traditions and culture. It's believed that the Celtic cul-

ture started to evolve as early as 1200 B.C. The Celts migrated throughout Britain France and Ireland and Spain creating an advanced society that traded across Europe and even into Asia.

The Celts were a collection of different Tribes who tended to live independently .



The Cornorvii of the East Midlands and Cheshire

When the Romans invaded Britain in AD43 and ventured north to Cheshire they soon came into conflict with the Cornorvii. The Cornorvii were quickly defeated in battle at their hill fort in Wrekin by the Romans.

The word Cornorvii means horn, the Cornorvii also resided in Cornwall and the south west although the tribes lived separately without any contact.

We have no evidence of the tribe in Blacon, but we do know they liked to build hill forts could Blacon point have been a favourable point for this as the river would have been used as a trade route by many early sea fairing civilisations such as the Greeks ?.



Blacon History Group [BHG]....."Another Trip Down Memory Lane"

The 1980s –

1980 - Cllr Harold Tomlins was Mayor of Chester City Council

1982 - Cllr John Price was Sheriff of Chester City Council

The first ever charity betting shop Alpha Bet was set up in 1980 in the grounds of the Waggon & Horses car park with the aim of funding Community projects in Blacon by donating 50% of the shop's profits back into the local . famous horse Red Rum was at the opening

1983 - Blacon Handbell Ringers raised £1,500 for various charities by performing and playing in the Chester Forum

1983 – Eric Bristow the world famous dart champion visited St Theresa's Social club in January for a promotional event

1984 - Blacon Support Group for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd was formed and still continues to this day

1984 - Blacon Project was set up and opened in Hatton Rd.....Joe Rose was Chairman and developed a number of groups and schemes for local residents over the years including after school clubs ,playgroups, The Furniture Store and the Young Peoples Project .It continued successfully for over 25 years.

1987 - Cllr John Randall was Sheriff of Chester City Council,

Evergreen Club started in May,

Blacon Tea Dance Club was started and continued for over 25 years.

1988 - Duke of Westminster and local businesses help fund a mini bus for the Blacon Community.



The Blacon Ghost Train from Shotton Facebook post

There was a very interesting passage about working at Charlie Becks dairy in Blacon by Gerry Lucas.

Gerry talked about his experience of working on the milk and hearing the Ghost train in the early morning which is an experience other Blacon residents have talk about. The March edition will cover the Roman's in Blacon and we will feature a few Ghostly stories provided by Blacon residents.