

# Blacon History Newsletter



June 2021

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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](mailto: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

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## The Vikings on the Wirral

The Vikings landed on the Wirral in 902 AD and settled in the area. It thought that they came ashore between Meols and West Kirby. The Vikings were renowned as a race of violent raiders who slaughter and robbed local communities and then moved on, but by the year 902 AD many Vikings had started to settle in places such as the Wirral. The Vikings settled on the Wirral after being forced out of Ireland , on the Wirral they became farmers and fishermen and at first lived along side their neighbours the Saxons peacefully .

Thingwall was the seat of power in Viking Wirral, as the Parliament headquarters, it regularly staged important meetings and court sessions. Meanwhile, Meols was used as a seaport, and it remains one of Britains best preserved Viking sites to this day.

A longship is believed to lie beneath the Railway Inn of Meols, and some archaeologists even consider it the first Viking vessel ever discovered in the UK. Tranmere is derived from the Old Norse of Trani-Melr, meaning sandbank with the herons. It likely that the Vikings saw a heron, or crane bird, perched on a nearby sandbank, and that particular township was duly named as such.

There is evidence that a Viking settled even as far south as Shotwick and the ancient name Blacon cum Crabwell may also have come partly from the Viking word Crabwell, meaning narrow field, krupp-vollr .

As time went by the Vikings and Saxons ended up at logger heads , Blacon may have been an area the Vikings attacked and travelled through when they made raids on the Saxon settlement of Chester.

The Saxons soon became fed up of the Viking attacks on their settlements .King Alfred who ruled from 871-899 was determined to drive the Vikings out of England and there is evidence that a major battle of Brunanburh took place between the Saxons and Vikings on the Wirral very close to modern day area of Bromborough .

The Battle ended in a Saxon victory resulting in the Vikings slowly being driven out of England for good.

The Vikings did leave a lasting legacy on the Wirral and many of the modern day residence have Viking blood ties.

As for the Saxons a new invader gathered in France waiting to invade Britain , soon the Saxons would face the Normans in a battle which would change Britain's history.



## **.BLACON HISTORY GROUP [BHG] - History Trail [Phase 2] History Trail Launch – 10th June 2021**

The BHG History Trail was eventually launched on Thursday 10th June thanks to the assistance of a local Graphic Designer, Cat Davis and support from our 3 very supportive Blacon labour councillors [Sheila Little, Carol Gahon & Trish Richard]

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 2 History Trail is only the continuation of our BHG ambitious plans because as soon as we can generate the required funding we hope to develop our trails further as previously reported in our BHG May 2021 Newsletter

However in the meantime the free BHG Trail leaflets below will be available from Friday 18th June 2021 in our local Blacon Library and Post Offices to coincide with the start of Chester Heritage Festival .[18th -28th June],.

Additionally a supply was also delivered to each of the six Blacon Schools so our future historians can also enjoy the experience.

A [pdf] downloadable copy together with supporting summary or detailed fact sheets are also available on our Blacon History Group website :- ....[www.blaconhistorygroup.org](http://www.blaconhistorygroup.org)

