

# Blacon History Newsletter



May 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 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.

