

Blacon History Newsletter



July 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 Normans & Kingswood Lane

At the Junction of Saughall road with Saxon Way is a leafy footpath called Kingswood Lane at one time it was one of the most important routes on the Wirral. It was known as in 1339 as the Saltesway .



The Saltesway was used as a route to Shotwick ford which was a easier way of crossing the Dee Estuary than crossing the marshes between Chester and Hawarden.

Its reputed that the armies of Edward the first travelled this route on their way to his castles in North Wales between 1272 and 1307. Edward was known as Long shanks because he was very tall.

Shotwick castle lies very close to the ford. The castle was built by Hugh Lupus the first Earl of Chester.

Hugh Lupus held extensive estates in Normandy before arriving in Chester during the Norman conquest He soon became engaged in fighting the Welsh, during which time he was given the nickname Lupus, meaning the Wolf, on account of his savage ferocity.

In 1083 Hugh Lupus built Shotwick Castle to protect the Dee crossing and defend against a Welsh invasion of Chester. Hugh fought many battles against the Welsh armies of Gruffydd, and at one point Hugh Lupus ruled a large part of North Wales after many successful victories over the Welsh armies.

In later Life Hugh became known as 'Les Gros' meaning the fat Owing to excessive gluttony.

In July 1101, suffering from a fatal illness, he became a monk at the Abbey of St Werburgh and died there four days later on 27th July, 1101..

Local Blacon History Stories

World war two ended in finally in August 1945 after the Japanese surrender. But sadly the majority of people who fought in World War two in all theatres who lived in Blacon and the country as a whole have now passed away. Those who still survive are in their nineties and are few in number.



A few years ago while attending the Here and Now Social group I was fortunate able to meet a Blacon veteran of World war two and was able to record a video of his story about his service in the far east in the war against Japan.

For those of you who are able to access a computer and access you tube please follow the link below to view the video. Many of you may remember John when he worked at the Jet Petrol Station on Sealand road.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3IE7-_6eZo

Alternatively just type **johns war wmv** into Youtube.

Earlier in the year we started to look back at through the decades at our Blacon Community history in our BHG monthly newsletters and in February 2021 we travelled through the 80s so continuing on our time travel here are some interesting moments and facts from the 90s.

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

The 1990s –

1990 – The first ever week long Blacon festival took place

1990 – Cllr Lillian Price was Sheriff of Chester City Council

1990 - Blacon Credit Union was set up

1990 – Blacon Garden Club set formed in early 1990s.

1990 – Harold Tomlins officially opened Blacon Day Centre for Senior Citizens.

1991 – A separate memorial garden for babies was set up in Blacon Cemetery.

1991 – Western Avenue Medical Centre moved in July 1991 from previous premises in Fowler Road

1991 – Petition was set up to save Stratford Road Post Office

1992 – Cllr John Randall was Lord Mayor.

1992 - Blacon Aqueduct containing the Shropshire Union Canal was built over the Deva Link road.

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1993 – Poets Corner estate built in 1968 was renovated in 1993 with a £5.5 million pound facelift over the next 3 years.

1993– Blacon Garden Club Shop opened in the former off licence of The Highfield Hotel.

1994– A Blacon Young Poets Group was formed.

1994 – The Delta Youth Centre was opened at the rear of Blacon Community Centre on Sherwood Road

1995 –.- Cllr David Neild Price was Sheriff of Chester City Council

1996 – Cllr Lillian Price was Lord Mayor of Chester City Council

1997 – Blacon Parade shops and maisonettes were renovated.

1997 –Cllr Ray Bott was Sheriff of Chester City Council

1997 – Joe Rose was honoured In September 1997 by the Chester Business Community for 10 years of dedication to the Blacon Project.

1998 –Cllr David Neild was Lord Mayor of Chester City Council

1998– One Voice for Blacon was established. The first co-chairs were Cllr John Price and Father Mike Lester

1999 - Cllr Marie Nelson was Sheriff of Chester City Council

1999 – Blacon was divided into 2 Wards - Blacon Hall and Blacon Lodge .Prior to this, it consisted of Blacon Hall, Dee Point and part of Sealand Ward

Fact the Greyhound park on Sealand road was once a Greyhound stadium the stand stood on the site Argos and other shops occupy today

