

Blacon History Newsletter



September 2021

Welcome to the Balcony 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 in the middle ages

In the 13th century, Ireland remained an important trading partner. While Chester was no doubt a prosperous city, trading was central to its economy. Goods were imported from Ireland along with other foodstuffs and animal pelts. As well as this, Chester had other international links, with ships coming from Gascony, Aquitaine, Spain and Germany bearing wine, which was considered a very valuable import. This trading activity was evident from the many markets and fairs held in the city as it became a major regional centre.

Blacon at this time was an important fishing and farming community, Ships from all over the world would have sailed along the River Dee past Blacon point and into the port pool before entering the port of Chester.

The leather trade became one of the major industries in Chester and through this many merchants became very wealthy from their endeavours.

In the 12th century, the leather industry thrived in Chester as did artisans and potters making wares for local use and to export. Milling also became increasingly important. By the mid-13th century there were six profitable mills around the city.

Many of these merchants began to build halls of residence around the city. The first Blacon Hall a Tudor mansion house was built at the top of Gorst hill (Clifton drive) by one of the wealthy merchants in the early 16th Century. A hall was also built at Upton around the same time period.

One of the wealthy merchants living in Chester at this time was a William Gamuel who made his fortune from trading leather in Chester . William Gamuel and other merchants in Chester would soon be forced to take different sides when the English Civil war began in 1642.

In 1507 Chester recorded its first outbreak of Plague which would be an persistent unwelcome visitor for the next one hundred and fifty years ,in one outbreak in between 1603 and 1604 over sixteen hundred people died in the Chester area .Blacon residents would have suffered the same fate falling victim to plague.



University of Chester Historical videos on YouTube

For those of you are able to access You tube please follow link to view two videos about Chester's history.

Viking Age Chester.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhfxbV0rJiE>

An International City: Chester in the Middle Ages

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLX1NB_IiOI



Earlier in the year we started to look back through the decades at our Blacon Community history in our BHG monthly newsletters.

In February 2021 we travelled through the 80s and in our August 2021 BHG newsletter we covered the 90s quite comprehensively.

The 2000s –

2000 – Holy Trinity Church celebrated the 40th Anniversary of its consecration.

2000 – Cllr Reggie Jones was Lord Mayor. The Blacon Handbell Ringers played at Lord Mayor Reggie Jones Civic Service at St John's Church.

2000 – Kevin Buckley was chosen to travel to South East Asia in behalf of the “journey of a Lifetime Charitable Trust” [J.O.L.T] .Whilst there; he took care of disabled and underprivileged people who have travelled there with him.

2001 – The first St. Theresa's School celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

2001 - Blacon Garden Club won a Bronze medal at the Chelsea Flower Show in May 2001. The Royal Horticultural Society invited Blacon Garden Club to construct a courtyard garden for the show. Thanks to the concerted effort of members of the local community including David Noon, as well as local businesses including Chester Zoo, the Grosvenor Garden Centre and B&Q ,the garden was awarded a bronze medal

2004 – Blacon Youth Football Club celebrated their 40th Anniversary, Lenny and Joyce Evans were presented with a memento by The Lord Mayor of Chester Cllr. Reggie Jones in recognition of their contributions.

2004 – Blacon Eco Garden – In 2004, local residents led by Kath Evans, turned a derelict site in Bridgeman Road area into an Eco garden.

2006 – Blacon Adventure Playground celebrated its 40th Anniversary

2006 – Mathew Henry Chapel celebrated its 40th Anniversary