

# Blacon History Newsletter



January 2022

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

## Finchetts Gutter.

Between the 18th and 20th of January last year Britain was hit by storm Christoph. Blacon for a number of hours was surrounded by water. The roundabout on Saughall road and Blacon meadow completely flooded which resulted in making a trip by road to Chester almost impossible. Flooding occurred right across Blacon and Chester poets corner was affected as was the express way. Flooding was particularly bad in any area that the Finchetts gutter runs through.

So what is Finchetts gutter ?. It is a stream which has several sources of water feeding into it. one running down from the high ground near Morrisons and the other joins from the direction of the Countess nature park.

The water passes under Parkgate road, and then splits and flows in two directions near the Greyhound park. One stream runs under sealand road and enters the river near the Cop. The other runs into Blacon and travels under Sealand road near ferry lane before splitting again with both streams joining the River Dee a number of miles away.

Many of us will never think twice about it ,but to travel into Chester from any direction from Blacon or the Wirral you have to cross a bridge over this water way. Today this ancient water way is still responsible for disposing of all the water which runs off our roads and pavements in Blacon. Water from the surrounding farmland also runs into the gutter.

Our other waste products from our toilets and showers travels via a different route along a number of pipelines which are above and below ground to the treatment plant on sealand road near the Cop on Sealand road. With Global warming on the increase and our increased use of water pressure on this water way is growing which may create future flooding.



Blacon meadow Jan 21



The Expressway Jan 21



The bridge & brook Sealand Rd



The river Dee outlet



The Red Line is The Flow Of the Gutter

## 2021 A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BLACON MEASDOWS....MARSHES?

Last year 2021 was not only a traumatic year for most of us all but also our beloved Blacon Meadows. The flooding of the whole area details page one wrote about above also had a serious impact of the life of Blacon Meadows

The low water table and persistent rain meant the Meadows remained flooded for an extended period. The normal productive cycle of agricultural crop rotation was broken by the heavy rains earlier in the year when a vast quantity of the potato crop was lost.



Flooding Blacon Meadow



A frozen Blacon Meadow





Land Ploughed then left



Flooding returned

The consequence appears to be that a vast acreage was ploughed and harrowed but left for a period without being sown presumably in order to restore its fertility but the flooding returned?



Marsh Land similar to Parkgate ?

However Mother Nature obviously has other ideas ....the heavy rain at the end of the year on the fallow land wants to restore the marshland similar to that at Parkgate and take it back to circa 1735 before the river Dee was canalised.

The current farming contractors on Blacon Meadows have advised that it is not one of their most profitable sites despite the rich alluvial soils so perhaps it may be eligible to the new Government incentives below.



Sustainable Farming

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) is the first of our three new environmental land management schemes. In addition to the SFI we will be launching the Local Nature Recovery scheme and the Landscape Recovery scheme, as set out in the [Agricultural Transition Plan: June 2021 progress update](#).



Canal Basin Forum

Perhaps the previous Canal Basin Forum long lasting dream and plans of creating a large scale Blacon Nature Reserve may be able to be rekindled complete with lakes ,woodland ,hedging and footpaths?