

Blacon History Newsletter



November & December 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



Welcome to our end of the year History group newsletter for 2021. We started the year in January and started by covering Blacon during the Ice age we have now reached the 17th century.

Next year 2022 we will continue Blacon's history in more detail. If you have a Story about Blacon which you would like featured in our news letter then please contact us our details are above.

The Famous Architect who is laid to rest in Blacon Cemetery

Many of you may have visited the Architect Pub which is opposite the Chester Race course. But do you know who the Architect on that sign is ?. And that he lies at rest in Blacon cemetery

The Architect is Thomas Harrison (1744-1829).He was an English architect and bridge engineer who trained in Rome, where he studied classical architecture. After moving to Lancaster he worked on local buildings, received commissions for further bridges, and designed country houses in Scotland. He also designed the Grosvenor Bridge, a design which had an arch almost 60 feet high, with a span of some 200 feet at the time, the largest single spanned bridge in the world. The bridge cost around £50,000, or some £4 million in today's money.



Thomas Harrison also commission to design the new North gate of Chester city walls, which he completed in a simple classical style. In 1815, he was appointed Cheshire County Architect. Work on Chester Castle was completed by 1820, which coincided with the completion of St Martin's Lodge as his residence.



Chester Castle 17th Century



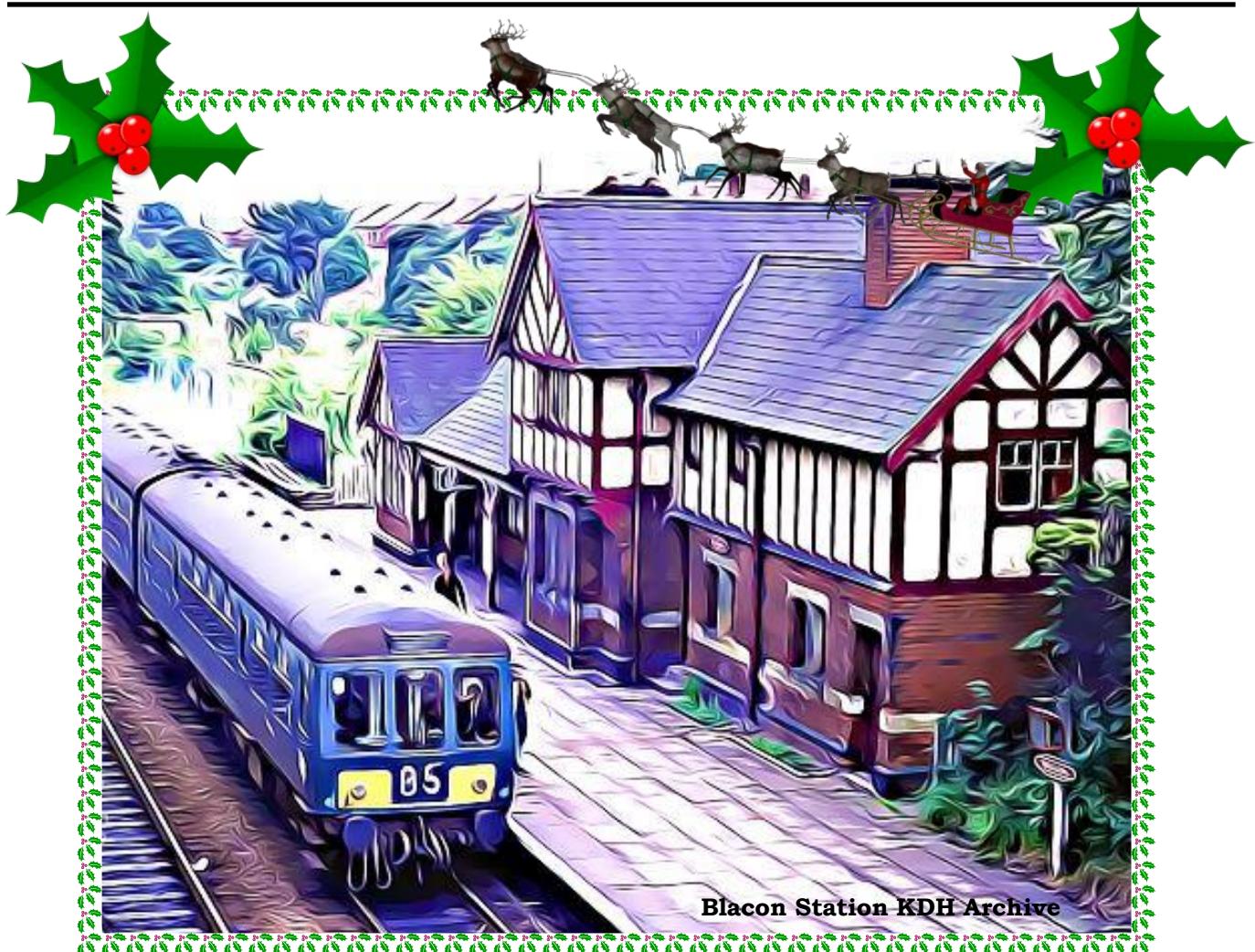
Present day



Blacon Cemetery

Harrison married Margaret Shackleton at Lancaster Priory in 1785. The couple had three children who survived childhood; a son, John, who died in 1802, and two daughters. Harrison died aged 85 at his home, St Martin's Lodge, Chester, in 1829. He was buried in the churchyard of St Bridget's Church, Chester, but his remains were moved to Blacon Cemetery when the churchyard was cleared in about 1964. His estate amounted to £6,000 (equivalent to £530,000 in 2019).

We are at this present time trying to find which Plot in the Cemetery that Thomas Harrison was laid to rest more news next year.



Blacon Station KDH Archive

**Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
To all our Members**

