

# Looking ahead...

It may seem a way off but it's never too early to get these Autumn and Winter dates in your diary.

Saturday 23 September – Fashion Show hosted by the Hospice of the Good Shepherd – Parade Enterprise Centre, time to be confirmed

Saturday 18 November – Avenue Services Christmas Fair – Parade Enterprise Centre, 12pm to 4pm

Thursday 7 December – Blacon Christmas lights switch-on, featuring a performance from Theatre in the Quarter – 5pm



# MyBlacon

Summer 2017

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**What's on –**  
Your best summer yet

- Family fun days
- New pump track
- Library activities for kids

## Keep in touch

Keep up to date with everything that's going on in Blacon by joining the Avenue Services mailing list.

All you have to do is visit [avenueservices.org/contact](http://avenueservices.org/contact) and fill in the form.

Website: [www.avenueservices.org](http://www.avenueservices.org) [www.facebook.com/MyBlacon](https://www.facebook.com/MyBlacon) [@Avenue\\_Services](https://twitter.com/Avenue_Services)



Avenue Services



Sanctuary Group



Cheshire West and Chester



Avenue Services

# Welcome to the summer edition of your new-look MyBlacon



August is packed full of exciting events for everyone to enjoy across Blacon and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible joining in the fun.

We've got family fun days, nature activities, sports, a roller disco and the ever popular Glastonvenny music festival. You can find a full list of dates on pages eight and nine.

On top of this, the new pump track is already proving popular and we are hoping this will be the sign of things to come.

The Adventure Playground is also undergoing a major refurbishment, which should be completed in the next few weeks and I am sure people will welcome its new look.

The 'Venny' is an integral part of life in Blacon and this much-anticipated revamp is just what it needs to keep on bringing

joy to families for years to come.

Blacon really is a thriving community in which to live and it never ceases to amaze me how strong the community spirit is.

The recent Blacon Festival was as amazing as ever and it was fantastic to see so many people celebrating all the great things that Blacon, and its people, have to offer. Unlike last year, the weather was kind to us, which only added to the enjoyment had by all.

It was also good to see so many local people recognised for their achievements at the Community Awards at Blacon High School.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Ben Powell on his election as Blacon councillor and welcome him to the Board of Avenue Services.

Enjoy reading and the rest of your summer.

*Paul Knight*

**Paul Knight – Head of Avenue Services**

## What is Avenue Services?

Avenue Services is a joint venture between Sanctuary Group, a not-for-profit housing and care provider, and Cheshire West and Chester Council. Set up in 2012 and based at the Parade Enterprise Centre, it provides services such as grass cutting, caretaking and cleaning, housing management, training and employment, neighbourhood planning and management of Blacon Adventure Playground.

Thanks to our front cover stars Cambria Band, pictured leading the parade at the Blacon Festival.



**Karl Mayer, from Clark and Kent Contractors, with pupils from JH Godwin Primary School.**

## The latest addition to Blacon's community attractions, the new pump track, is up and running.

Biking, skateboard and rollerblading enthusiasts are already trying out their skills and tricks as the facility, in Queen Elizabeth Fields, Blacon Avenue, grows in popularity.

The track, which has been funded by Avenue Services, received a positive response from the public at a consultation event earlier this year and that has been reflected in its use so far.

Pupils from JH Godwin Primary School even wrote letters to local councillor Carol Gahan in support of its construction, saying it would help to keep them healthy, fit and active. They will have the chance to try it first hand over the summer holidays.

Blacon High School graphic design students Bradley Broadbent and

Bayleigh Broadbent were involved in the design process and had the chance to meet with Clark and Kent Contractors, whose projects include the BMX track for the London 2012 Olympics.

Councillor Gahan said: *"This is such an exciting project for the Blacon community and, having spoken to local young people during the consultation process, I know it will be hugely popular."*

## Please pick up litter

To help ensure the new pump track is clean and tidy, an extra effort is being made to keep the site free from litter.

Three bins have been provided and extra litter pickers will be visiting on a regular basis.

Please do all you can to keep this resource tidy so it is something the whole community can be proud of.

# Blacon Festival a huge success

Thousands of Blacon families were treated to an afternoon of entertainment and excitement as they joined together to celebrate life in their community.

The 22nd Blacon Festival, organised by Avenue Services, attracted huge crowds to the Queen Elizabeth Fields.

Opened by newly re-elected Chester MP

Chris Matheson, the popular event featured a variety of performances from local schoolchildren and Theatre in the Quarter, while Blacon Boxing Club put on a skills session and there was a guide dog demonstration.

A total of 55 stalls from Chester companies, charities and voluntary groups were also on hand offering a range of local produce for sale.

Chris Matheson MP said: "As always, it was a pleasure to open the Blacon Festival and spend time seeing faces both old and new.

"It is incredible to think the event has been going for 22 years and continues to bring as much enjoyment as ever to the people of Blacon."

# SUMMER



SUMMER FUN: Eva Roberts, Lucas Spencer, Kian Spencer and Layla Spencer with Brio the Bear, Chris Matheson MP and Sandra Hewitt from Avenue Services



IN THE STOCKS: Blacon boxing club coach Ross Broadbent



SHOW STOPPERS: Silhouettes dance troupe and (right) Freestyle Dance group.



SUPERWOMAN: Danielle Harley from Diddi Dance



HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE: Cambria Band entertain the crowds



BOWLED OVER: Vintage Blacon

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 10 AUGUST** – Lunch and Summer activities – Holy Trinity Church, 12pm to 3pm
- 11 AUGUST** – Panna Football – Durham Road playing fields or Parade Enterprise Centre, 7pm to 9pm
- 12 AUGUST** – Family activities day – Graham Road Park, 12.30pm to 3pm
- 15 AUGUST** – Street Play with Brio Leisure – Dinas Close/Treborth Road, 1pm to 4pm
- 16 AUGUST** – Activities and Play – Blacon Nature Park, 1pm to 3pm
- 17 AUGUST** – Lunch and Summer activities – Holy Trinity Church, 12pm to 3pm
- 19 AUGUST** – Glastonvenny – Blacon Adventure Playground
- 22 AUGUST** – Street Play with Brio leisure – Walton Place, 1pm to 4pm
- 23 AUGUST** – Bushcraft Day with packed lunch – Blacon Nature Park, 12.30pm to 3pm
- 24 AUGUST** – Lunch and Summer activities – Holy Trinity Church, 12pm to 3pm
- 29 AUGUST** – Panna Football – Durham Road playing fields, 7pm to 9pm
- 30 AUGUST** – Activities and Play – Blacon Nature Park, 1pm to 3pm
- 31 AUGUST** – Trip to Walton Hall Gardens (run by Blacon Children’s Centre), 9.15am start. Includes packed lunch. Limited spaces so must be booked in advance by calling 01244 976225

\* NO BOOKING IS NEEDED FOR EVENTS UNLESS SPECIFIED.

\*PLEASE CHECK EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE BEFORE ATTENDING.



## Summer holiday events at Blacon Library, Parade Enterprise Centre

This summer there’s something peculiar happening at Blacon Library – and that’s where the Animals Agents come in!

The summer reading challenge, for four to 12 year olds, is a scheme to read at least six library books in the summer. For every two books you read you can visit the library to receive stickers and a prize.

Anyone can join for free; all you need to do is sign up at the library with a grown up and you will be given a collector folder to keep record of your reading journey.

The theme for this year is Animal Agents – so can you help this bunch of furry, slippery and four-legged friends solve a library mystery?

If you finish the challenge you will be invited to a special award ceremony where you will be given a certificate and a medal!



**10 AUGUST** – Animal handling event (6 to 12 years), 10.30am

**16 AUGUST** – Fun Science (6 to 12 years), 11am

**24 AUGUST** – Chester Zoo Safari Rangers (6 to 12 years), 2.30pm and 3.30pm

To book a place at any of the above, call the library on 01244 976030 or email [blacon.library@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:blacon.library@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

## Until 1 September

**TUESDAYS** – Craft club (5 years and over), 1pm to 2pm

**WEDNESDAYS** – Code club with Scratch and micro:bit (9 to 11 years), 11am to 12pm

**THURSDAYS** - Craft club (5 years and over), 11am to 12pm, and Code club with Scratch and micro:bit (7 to 9 years), 4.30pm to 5.30pm

**FRIDAYS** – Lego Club (5 years and over), 2pm to 3pm, and Code club with Python (10 years and over), 3.30pm to 4.30pm. *This is a six-week course, please pre-book.*

# Celebrating four decades of Blacon Adventure Playground

**Blacon Adventure Playground has been one of the focal points of the community for 40 years. Not only is it a place where families and young children can spend their leisure time, it is a place of learning and education.**

And now, thanks to investment by Avenue Services, it will continue to entertain all ages into the future.

From zip wires and rope swings to an urban farm and indoor hall for workshops, the adventure playground has something for everyone.

It is affectionately known as the Venny and since November 1 last year has undergone an extensive refurbishment programme as part of the transfer of 11 Cheshire West and Chester Council assets to Avenue Services.

As well as the installation of new play equipment and structures, the kitchen has been expanded and all amenities, such as the toilets, have been replaced.



The main hall has been completely rewired and plumbed while the finishing touches to the redecoration works are currently taking place.

Coinciding with the new nearby pump track, it marks a major transformation of facilities in the area for young people.

Come along and visit our rabbits Amber and April, Coco Pop the donkey, Cupcake and Tilly the sheep and Zippy the goat.

The Adventure Playground is open from 11am to 7pm on weekdays and from 10am to 6pm at weekends. What's more, it's open every day of the year, too. What are you waiting for?



# The Pride of Blacon

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Blacon Community Awards, which honour the efforts and achievements of local people.

The awards are organised by a committee made up of representatives from Avenue Services, local schools and voluntary groups.

Chester MP Chris Matheson helped to present the awards, which were staged at Blacon High School, as those who go above and beyond to make lives better for others were celebrated.

Blacon Boxing Club won the Community Team Award for the impact they have made with local children. The club provides young people with the opportunity to take part in a sport that encourages discipline, respect and fitness. It is run by dedicated coaches, under the tutelage of Ross Broadbent, who give many hours each week.

Cyril Steen was presented with the Harold Tomlins Community Award for his voluntary work with Avenue Services. Cyril volunteers as a housing inspector to ensure properties are maintained. He also helps at the Adventure Playground, where he often brings food for the animals.

The Kath Evans Young Inspiration Award went to Luke Shepherd, a pupil at Highfield Primary School in Blacon Point Road. Luke has a hearing impairment and uses aids in school to help him make the most of his learning. He regularly sings and performs as part of the school choir, plays golf and is part of the disability classification football team for the Chester School Sport Partnership.

Sue Mountford won the Extra Mile Award in recognition of her outreach work at Holy Trinity Church in Norris Road. Among the many activities Sue is involved with includes a mother and toddler group, two knit and natter clubs and two community cafes, one of which also operates a gardening club.

Former councillor Reggie Jones, who represented Blacon on Cheshire West and Chester Council for 27 years, was honoured with the Joe Rose Lifetime Achievement Award, which is given at the discretion of the awards committee judging panel.

## Full list of winners and nominees:

### Community Team Award

Winner: **Blacon Boxing Club.**

Nominees: Blacon Butterflies; Blacon 5th Scout Group; Blacon Community Support Fund; Brownies, Guides & Rainbows; Knit & Natter (URC); Wagon & Horses Bingo Group.

### Harold Tomlins Community Award

Winner: **Cyril Steen**

Nominees: Margaret Bellis; Ross Broadbent; Gus Cairns; Lee Challinor; Claire Davies; Chris Dougie; Ron Glenn; Tracey Guthrie; Stephen Ingram; Julie Jones; Reggie Jones; Kathy Parker; Tricia Poole; Helen Trainer; Margaret Williams; David Michael Wishart; Carol Wood; Wendy Wood.

### Kath Evans Young Inspiration Award

Winner: **Luke Shepherd**

Nominees: Aiden Fallon; Ava Smith; Cerys Toms; Emma Williams.

### The Extra Mile Award

Winner: **Sue Mountford.**

Nominees: Blacon Adventure Playground; Michelle Ashfield; Avenue Services (Gavin & Mark); Blacon High Drama Year 9 & 10 GSCE; Rebecca Challinor; Childrens Centre Casework Team; Sasha Davies; Jo Garner; Sue Hayden; Julie Henry; Here & Now; Sandra Hewitt; Highfield Primary School Year 2 autism team; Bob Joinson; Cara Jones; Sarah Jones; PC Sally Anne Malone; Jayne Mowles; Julie Prested; Dave Sabri; Streetscene; Swettenham Chemists; Tesco Community Team; Steve Webster; Dave Williams; Sally Williamson.

### Joe Rose Lifetime Achievement Award

Winner: **Reggie Jones.**



Community Team Award



Harold Tomlins Community Award



Pupils from JH Godwin Primary School



Kath Evans Young Inspiration Award



Sue Mountford receives The Extra Mile Award from Chris Matheson MP



Reggie Jones is presented with the Joe Rose Lifetime Achievement Award by Sandra Hewitt from Avenue Services



## Well done to all the winners!

# Exciting times ahead at summer school



**Around 150 students will be taking part in a range of exciting activities at a week-long summer school funded by Avenue Services.**

**Blacon High School is hosting the event in the final week of August as the perfect build-up before the start of the new academic year.**

**Students will have the chance to choose from one of four activities throughout the week – technology and food, football, multi-sports or performing arts – where they will be able to learn a series of new skills.**

**Those opting to focus on technology and food will spend each morning making a product that they will be able to take home with them at the end of the week. The afternoons will be devoted to cooking a meal to take home and share with their families each evening.**

**The performing arts students will spend their time working on a production of the popular Disney classic Aladdin, which they will perform at the end of the week, while in multi-sports, the teenagers will be able to try their hand at a variety of sports, including supervised classes on the school's climbing wall.**

**In the football group, morning sessions will focus on developing skills before the students put those to the test in a series of mini tournaments in the afternoons.**

**All places have been taken at this year's summer school but be sure to check out our Facebook page for pictures in September – [www.facebook.com/MyBlacon](http://www.facebook.com/MyBlacon)**



## Did you know that nearly three tonnes of waste is fly-tipped in Blacon every week?

Incredibly, that's the same as three Ford Fiestas!



Our team work tirelessly to support Cheshire West and Chester Council in ensuring the streets of Blacon are kept clean and tidy.

If you discover illegal tipping of waste or see it being tipped, please report it to the council.

This can be done either by visiting any of the council's Customer Service Centres, via Twitter using @go\_cheshirewest or by reporting it online by supporting the council's Street Care Pledge.

To do this, visit <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/flytipping.aspx>, where you can also find links to the Customer Service Centres.

### With August being National Fishing Month, what better way to celebrate than by holding a series of taster sessions?

Between now and the end of August, the Canal and River Trust in Blacon is offering people chance to learn the basics of canal fishing with professional coaches.

The sessions, which run from 10am until 4pm, take place at Bridge 129, off Blacon Avenue, on the Shropshire Union Canal.

The dates are: 11 August ; 14 August; 18 August; 21 August; 25 August.

For more information and to register, visit <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/events/2017-07-24-blacon-fishing-taster-day-lets-fish>



## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD HATE FLY-TIPPING

**Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and offenders will be prosecuted.**

Fly-tippers could face a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months' imprisonment.

We need your help to stop fly-tippers in their tracks.

Tell us if you spot suspicious behaviour by calling 0800 131 3348 or 0300 123 3511.

Where would you rather live?

