

MyBlacon

Summer 2019



What's inside

- Residents honoured at Blacon awards
- Swinging Sixties come to Blacon Festival
- Health Hub Plans
- What's on

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Welcome to the summer edition of My Blacon. It's certainly been a busy first six months of the year, with lots of exciting things happening here in Blacon.

We're constantly looking to invest in our community and to provide more facilities and activities for our residents to enjoy.

We have recently launched two brand new free youth clubs for young people, making even better use of our fantastic facilities at Cairns Crescent and Blacon Adventure Playground. You can read more about the clubs and the activities on offer by visiting our website, www.avenueservices.org.

There are further exciting developments on the horizon, with plans to build a new health hub and apartments on land next to the Parade Enterprise

Centre now formally submitted.

The proposals would bring a GP surgery and community health and wellbeing centre to The Parade and developer Sanctuary Homes is talking with residents and local healthcare providers about the sort of facilities that would benefit Blacon and its residents the most.

We'll bring you further updates in future editions of this newsletter, or you can visit the website for all the latest news.

Turning attention to the present, we've been busy making preparations for the biggest celebration of the summer, the Blacon Festival.

The big day should be almost upon us as you read this, and I'm pleased to report that we have another fantastic event in store. With a 1960s theme

and a packed line-up of music, entertainment, stalls and activities, we're looking forward to another day to remember.

Make sure you join us at Queen Elizabeth Fields on 6 July to celebrate our community and everything great about Blacon!

Thank you for reading.

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, youth services, neighbourhood planning and management of Blacon Adventure Playground.

Awards celebrate inspirational Blacon residents

Inspirational residents whose efforts make a real difference to the local community were honoured at the Blacon Community Awards.

Organised by Avenue Services and the Blacon Awards Committee, the awards are a chance to celebrate the unsung heroes who go above and beyond to help make Blacon a better place to live. This year's event was hosted by Blacon High School and was sponsored by Avenue Services, Sanctuary Housing, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Blacon Education Village, Airbus and Arriva.

The ceremony was compered by Dee Point Primary headteacher, Dave Williams, and featured musical performances by the Blacon Education Village Choir, Blacon High School Choir and pupils from The Arches, Dee Point, Highfield, St Theresa's and JH Godwin Primary Schools.

The Harold Tomlins Community Award, for residents who epitomise a real sense of community spirit, went to Dr Venu Prasad for his efforts volunteering to help local primary school children improve their reading.

Eileen Irwin collected the Blacon Extra Mile Award for her 36 years of dedicated service to Blacon Adventure Playground, while the Kath Evans Young Inspiration Award went to Samuel Davies-Thomas.

Here and Now, a social enterprise, won the Community Team Award in recognition of its work bringing socially isolated people together.

The Joe Rose Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Karen Newell, honouring her 'exceptional service' to generations of young people during a 40-year career as a teaching assistant at The Arches Primary School.

Paul Knight, Head of Avenue Services, said: "We'd like to thank Blacon High School for hosting the ceremony, all of the children who performed, the teachers and staff from the Blacon schools who supported the event and the awards committee for all their efforts in making it such a success.

"We'd also like to congratulate all of the winners and everyone nominated for an award. Your efforts are truly inspirational and play such an important role in making Blacon a great place to live."



Blacon Festival goes back to the swinging Sixties



The biggest celebration of the summer is almost here!

This year's Blacon Festival will be taking place on Saturday 6 July at Queen Elizabeth Fields, on Blacon Avenue.

We've been busy planning another fun-filled day of family-friendly activities and entertainment including music, dance, games, stalls, a fun fair, plenty of delicious food and drink and much more.

Local schoolchildren will get proceedings underway with a parade

led by the Karamba Samba band, starting from The Arches Community School, on Saughall Road, at 10.45am, before the festival officially gets underway at 11am.

The theme for this year's event is the 1960s, and we're encouraging you all to dress for the occasion, with prizes on offer for the best adult and children's fancy dress costumes as well as the best-dressed stall.

Paul Knight, Head of Avenue Services, said: "The Blacon Festival is one of the most

anticipated events in our local calendar and we can't wait to welcome residents along for another fantastic, fun-filled occasion.

"We have a great line-up of activities and entertainment in store for people of all ages and we look forward to joining the community in celebrating all the wonderful things that Blacon has to offer."

For more information about the festival call **0300 123 1741** or email **sandra.hewitt@sanctuary-housing.co.uk**

Feast of fun at Blacon Food Festival

Families enjoyed a feast of food-related fun at the second annual Blacon Food Festival.

More than 300 people of all ages attended the free event at Blacon Adventure Playground, tucking into tempting treats from around the world and enjoying a variety of food-based activities.

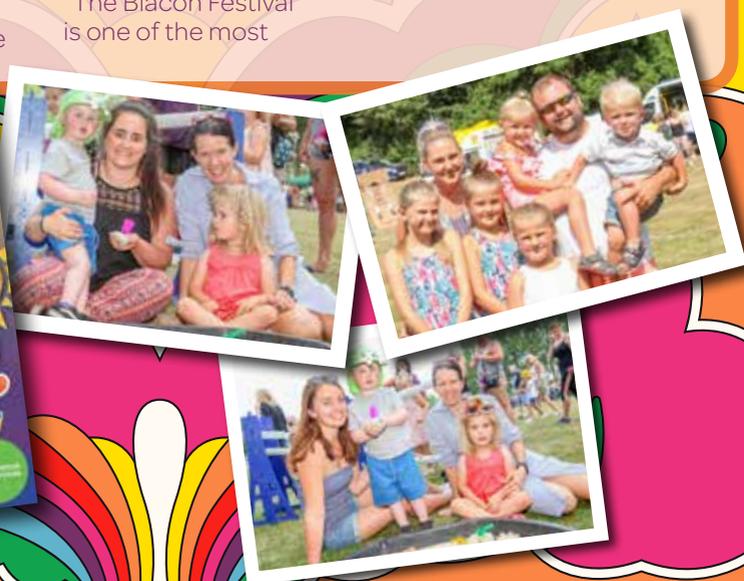
Organised by Avenue Services, the festival also offered the chance to find out more about healthy eating and cooking tasty, nutritious meals on a budget. Popular attractions included a smoothie bike and campfire cooking, while fruit kebabs, bread and butter pudding and flatbreads were among the huge array of food on offer.

The event was supported by the Welcome Network, Men in Sheds, Blacon Children's Centre and local community safety wardens, while Morrisons and Asda donated food for visitors to enjoy.

Sandra Hewitt, Blacon Adventure Playground manager, said: "Healthy eating is so important and it was wonderful to see so many people having fun and enjoying the chance to find out more about the food we eat.

"The food festival is now established as one of the most popular events in our local calendar and we're already looking forward to it returning next year."

For more details and the latest news from Blacon Adventure Playground, visit www.blaconadventureplayground.co.uk



PLANS SUBMITTED FOR NEW HEALTH HUB AND APARTMENTS



Plans to build a new health hub and apartments on land next to the Parade Enterprise Centre in Blacon have now been submitted.

The three-storey development would feature a GP surgery and community health centre on the ground floor. The proposal also includes 12 one and four two-bedroom apartments above the health hub, which would be available for affordable rent.

Developer Sanctuary Homes, part of Sanctuary Group, held a public consultation to gather Blacon residents' views and comments before submitting the plans.

Sanctuary's senior development manager, Danielle Wrigley, said: "We are delighted to submit our planning application for new homes and medical facilities at the Parade in Blacon.

"As well as consulting with residents, we have

worked with Blacon Community Forum and local providers to ask people what sort of healthcare facilities they would like offered at the building. These conversations will continue over the coming months."

Look out for further updates in future editions of this newsletter or visit our website, avenueservices.org, for all the latest news.

What's On at Blacon Library?

Find us inside the Parade Enterprise Centre, 14 The Parade, Chester, CH1 5HN Call 01244 976030

Wednesday 24 July, 2.30pm Racing Rockets

Create your own amazing rocket out of recyclable materials and race it against the others.

Every Thursday during Aug, 2pm Space Crafts!

Workshop with Creation Station to make 'out of this world' objects from different craft materials.

Wednesday 14 August, 2.30pm Mama G

Blast off with Mama G and her amazing space stories.

Friday 30 August, 2pm Our Planet

Interactive workshop with Chester Zoo. Race round the world and find out what's happening all over our planet. Fun for all the family



Meet the Rockets!

The Rockets are a futuristic family living in space and they are hot on the trail of a mischievous band of aliens who have been jumping from galaxy to galaxy, helping themselves to whatever they like. Now books have mysteriously started to vanish from the Moon Library and the Rockets are on the case. With lots of help from children taking part in the Challenge, they'll go on a mission to try and find the missing books and introduce the aliens to the wonders of the library. Let the Space Chase begin!

Children of any reading ability can take part in the Reading Challenge and read any book they like – fact or fiction. Audiobooks and eBooks also count. Once the challenge is completed, there's a certificate and medal for every child, given out at a special award ceremony.



The Summer Reading Challenge: Space Race

Children aged four to 11 can once again take part in the Summer Reading Challenge at Blacon Library, which starts on Saturday 13 July.

The challenge is to read six books over the summer holidays, collecting lots of rewards along the way and having lots of fun at all the free events and activities.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge takes place in space, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first Moon landing.



Step into summertime fun

There's a sense of excitement in the air as the summer holidays are fast approaching. We're looking forward to another fun-packed summer filled with a host of activities for everyone to enjoy.

- **7 August - National Play Day celebration**
- **17 August – Glastonvenny music festival**

Looking ahead

- **31 October – Halloween event**
- **7 December – Christmas Lights Switch-On (TBC)**

For more info on any of these activities, look out for posters locally and check our Facebook page. You can also give us a call on **0300 123 1741** or visit www.avenueservices.org



Encouraging families to Give Up Loving Pop

We all know that too much sugar in our diet isn't good for us but many people don't realise just how much is in many of the drinks we enjoy. Research shows that children and young people are consuming more than three times as much sugar as the recommended daily intake, most of which comes from sugary drinks.

knowledge and raising awareness of the health risks linked to giving sugary drinks to children.

The recommended daily maximum sugar in a person's diet is no more

can of Cola can contain nine cubes alone, pushing a person over their recommended daily allowance before you even consider any added sugar contained within food and other drinks.



gulp. give up loving pop

Drinking two sugary drinks per day can increase your risk of developing type 2 diabetes by more than a quarter

By tackling unhealthy drink habits early on and switching sugary drinks for water or milk, we can protect our children against poor dental health, weight gain and other health

Cheshire West and Cheshire Council, together with Food Active, is encouraging families to Give Up Loving Pop by improving

than five cubes of sugar for four to six year olds, six cubes for seven to ten year olds and seven for children 11 years and older. One

problems. Find out more at: www.giveuplovingpop.org.uk

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 and fill in the form.

Website: www.avenueservices.org **f** www.facebook.com/MyBlacon **🐦** [@Avenue_Services](https://twitter.com/Avenue_Services)

