



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2010**

## **WHAT IS VINTAGE BLACON?**

Vintage Blacon is a faith based Partnership working to improve the well being of Blacon residents over the age of 55. It has representation from:

- Three of the Blacon Churches (Holy Trinity, St Theresa's & Blacon URC)
- The Hope Centre
- Blacon Community Trust
- Chester and District Housing Trust
- Western Cheshire Primary Care Trust
- AgeUK Cheshire
- Cheshire West and Chester Council

It is one of the seven Partnerships of the Blacon Alliance and is a sub group of the Cheshire West Older People's Network.

## **THE AIMS OF VINTAGE BLACON**

- a) To discover the needs and wants of older people living in Blacon through research and other methods.
- b) To identify gaps in service provision and take steps to secure the resources/ support necessary to meet them from the community, voluntary public and private sectors.
- c) To provide a range of spiritual and pastoral services for older people, equipping the churches for their pastoral outreach.
- d) To establish ongoing ways of involving older people to ensure their views continue to be heard and responded to appropriately.
- e) To value and realise the potential for older people in Blacon to participate as active volunteers within the community.
- f) To create leisure, employment, training and volunteering opportunities.
- g) To promote partnership between the various agencies which provide services for older people.

## Development Worker's 2010 report

Vintage Blacon provides an affordable and stimulating range of activities to promote physical, social and Spiritual well being for people over the age of 55. 2010 has proven to be an interesting year for Vintage Blacon where hardly a month has gone by without existing activities being expanded or new ventures being initiated



One of the new activities has been glass mosaics led by Vintage Blacon's Vice Chair, Rev. Susan Flynn. Throughout the year, up to ten people each week have been creating 12X12 inch mosaics, cutting and gluing the glass to form various designs of their choice. The completed designs will be incorporated into two window display panels in the United Reformed Church hall where the group meets.

Recent research for the Cheshire West and Chester area has shown Blacon to score highest in the number of incidents of health problems such as Acute Respiratory, Cardiovascular Disease, Coronary Heart Disease and Strokes. To help reduce this statistic, Vintage Blacon joined with the local PCT to initiate health walks in Blacon. Eight leaders were trained and a number of different walks around Blacon were designed, varying in distance and difficulty. Walks now take place every Monday morning ending with light refreshments and social interaction and are advertised alongside all the other Chester walks in a quarterly leaflet produced by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Vintage Blacon also initiated another healthy activity in 2010 – carpet bowls. A small but consistent group have met and enjoyed the social and physical benefits that go along with the game. Mid year, the group shared their bowling equipment with the local Parkinson's group to provide them with a 'taster', resulting in them also forming an indoor bowls group during the Autumn/Winter period. Towards the end of the year Vintage Blacon was successful in its application to Chester and District Housing Trust North for £1400 worth of funding to enable the purchase of a bowling mat and associated equipment when ready.

According to the 2001 census, there are approximately 2000 older people living in Blacon, with an expected projection that it will increase by a further 900 people aged over 65 by 2026. A recent survey of older tenants by Chester & District Housing Trust highlighted a growing trend in isolation and loneliness amongst this age group. This issue was one of the motivating forces behind the creation of the Blacon Silver Screen where the provision of a monthly film club not only provides a place for older people to go but also encourages social interaction, before, after and even during the film when it breaks for refreshments midway. In October 2010 it celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.



Throughout 2010 the Silver Screen attracted between 15-25 people each month, showing films chosen by the attendees. A successful application to the member's budget provided £1000 to spend on blinds for the upper windows of the hall, reducing the set-up time by half. This year the Silver Screen hosted two half term specials where children could attend for free if accompanied by someone over 55 and it hosted an adult learner's week event where as well as showing a free film, information was shared concerning learning in later life. The equipment was also loaned to one of the Partner Churches so they could screen a film at their 'Holiday on your doorstep' event for over 75 year olds.



Vintage Blacon has been keen to explore opportunities to engage in intergenerational activities and was therefore very pleased to be able to help the local Arches school to link up with two older residents to assist with the care for their newly hatched chicks. Both Gerald and Gus had extensive experience with rearing chickens and continue to offer a valuable contribution to the school's egg project.

During 2010, to ensure that it complies with current practice, Vintage Blacon compiled a number of policies from health and safety to data protection and took out its own public liability insurance so that it is covered wherever services are delivered. It was also decided that the Organisation should become a Company Limited by guarantee which, amongst other benefits, would provide the Directors with greater security. With the help of advice from an employee of a partnering organisation various documents were produced and an application will be made to Companies House in early 2011. Once completed, Vintage Blacon will pursue the idea of acquiring charitable status, making it eligible to apply for a greater amount of funding than is currently possible.

The task of effectively communicating the work of Vintage Blacon has sometimes proven difficult. In seeking to improve this, four new initiatives have been put in place this year: a website, a bi-monthly news sheet, a quarterly forum and an annual place at the Blacon festival.

**Website:** [www.vintageblacon.org](http://www.vintageblacon.org) provides information on Vintage Blacon and its activities, its Partnering organisations and a number of additional issues related to older people such as carers and spirituality. Thanks are expressed to Josh Owen, who whilst on a future jobs fund placement with Vintage Blacon, helped to develop the site.

**News sheet:** The Vintage Blacon Messenger lists a weekly timetable of events suitable for over 55 year olds as well as specific events taking place during the following two months. These are distributed to the local Churches, community groups, community forums and the library and an email version is circulated to all partnering organisations.

**Forum:** The first forum in September provided local residents with updated information on Vintage Blacon and a helpful presentation by a local solicitor on writing a will.

#### **Blacon festival:**



In July, Vintage Blacon had a prime spot at the Blacon Festival in front of the BMX bikes and army assault course. As well as having an information stand it was able to use some excess underlay from the High School's Astroturf to create an outdoor



bowling mat. Using the Vintage Blacon carpet bowls this attracted many people of all ages to the stall, especially children, who played while parents stood and watched/chatted/browsed the stall. Cakes were given away in exchange for taking some leaflets. Visitors to the stall included a very enthusiastic lady from the Lache 60+ group, a couple of families interested in finding activities for their grandparents and a lady who had been "longing for ages" to see more things in Blacon for older people and was delighted to learn about what Vintage Blacon was doing.

For many years Age Concern has provided day care in Blacon for older people with low to medium care needs and for those suffering from dementia. During 2010 it became apparent that this service was going to be stopped and therefore Vintage Blacon entered into long negotiations to not only ensure that day care remained but to offer to become the overseers of its future development. During this time Vintage Blacon benefitted from the skills of Joanne Roberts who was seconded to work part time by one of the partnering organisations. Amongst other things, Joanne worked closely with Rev. Susan Flynn in discussions with Age Concern and the local council, applying for funding for a day care supervisor, and recruiting volunteers.

Joanne also initiated a partnership between Vintage Blacon, Florence Grogan Care home and the Manchester Camerata for an 8 week workshop for older people. Working with professional musicians, and using poetry, reminiscence, and story-telling, the leader gently teased out people's emotions and violinists turned those feelings into music. A performance of the complete unique composition took place at the close of the 8 weeks and copies of it were made available to all contributors.



Vintage Blacon's Spiritual focus group has kept the Spiritual needs of older people in mind, exploring ways in which partnering Churches can help to meet them. In 2010 they organised a visit by Acorn Listening to help members of local churches to develop their listening skills. They also launched an initiative to pray for all of the residents of Blacon throughout the year and designed and distributed a Christmas card for older people, providing contact details of local churches and offering transport to services.

In 2010, Vintage Blacon also contributed to consultations on sensory impairment, the closure of Lightfoot Lodge and extra care housing in Blacon. It facilitated a consultation on proposed amendments to Fair Access to Care and Fairer Charging and organised a community health engagement event, in partnership with the local PCT, to help identify why men tend to avoid undergoing regular health checks. The two hour informal meeting was attended by eleven local male residents and produced light hearted, informative and sometimes very personal responses.

## **THE FUTURE**

- The issue of sustainability will be a key focus in 2011. Funding for the development worker post runs out in December 2011 so there will be a need to form a finance sub committee to produce a budget plan, secure funding for a worker and identify ways of generating income beyond 2011.
- It is hoped that in early 2011 Vintage Blacon will take over the management of day care in Blacon.
- In 2010 there have been discussions concerning developing the United Reformed church property into a Senior Centre, including the creating of a healthy eating café at the front and a community garden with labyrinth at the rear. In 2011 Vintage Blacon hopes to negotiate a lease for the property and land.

Glyn Thomas  
Vintage Blacon Development Worker  
January 2011

VINTAGE BLACON - A FAITH BASED PARTNERSHIP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	£	£	£	£
<b>Adjusted cash balance after accrued expenses at 1 January 2010</b>				<b>15,716.51</b>
Interest received - re 2009				0.68
<b>Income:</b>				
<u>Grants received</u>				
The Tudor Trust (Second payment)	10,000.00			
Church Urban Fund (Second payment)	8,000.00			
Church & Community Fund (Second payment)	2,000.00			
CDHT Grant for bowls equipment	1,465.00			
CWAC Grant for equipment	<u>1,000.00</u>		22,465.00	
<u>Event income</u>				
Silver Screen, bowls and exercise classes			847.79	
Interest received - re 2010			1.65	
			<u>          </u>	23,314.44
<b>Expenditure:</b>				
<u>Costs of the Worker to 31/10/10:</u>				
Wages including Employer's NIC	11,889.60			
Mobile phone and broadband expenses	364.69			
Travel expenses	19.60			
Conference attendance fees	72.03			
Payroll processing charges	<u>80.00</u>		12,425.92	
<u>Activity Equipment Purchases and Activity Expenses:</u>				
Room hire costs for Silver Screen, bowls and exercise classes	891.00			
Film licence	95.17			
Bowls Jack	25.26			
Mosaic course materials	547.68			
Blinds for Silver Screen	<u>1,280.75</u>		2,839.86	
Public liability insurance			262.50	
Website setup costs			206.45	
Stationery and advertising costs			321.58	
REACH application and registration fee			146.88	
CRB check for proposed caretaker			40.00	
Room donation re away day			40.00	
Acorn Christian Healing Foundation - speaker's expenses			22.18	
Event income stolen from URC office			<u>145.00</u>	-16,450.37
<b>Adjusted cash balance per bank statement at 31 December 2010</b>				<b><u>22,581.26</u></b>



**Accrued income and expenses relating to the period to 31 December 2010:**

Event income:	Silver Screen, bowls and exercise classes		366.00
Event expenses:	Room hire costs for Silver Screen, bowls and exercise classes	-261.00	
	Tea, coffee, refreshments etc	-18.00	
	Rock salt purchase	<u>-9.98</u>	-288.98
Worker's staff costs for 1 November 2010 to 31 December 2010 now invoiced by and paid to the paying agent - The Hope Centre:			
	Wages including Employer's NIC	-2,377.90	
	Mobile phone and broadband expenses	-50.00	
	Travel expenses	-50.00	
	Payroll Processing Charges	<u>-16.00</u>	-2,493.90
Christmas item printing costs			-18.00
Messenger printing costs and stationery			-48.06
Course cost for Worker			-35.00
<b>Adjusted cash balance at 31 December 2010 after accrued income and expenses for the period</b>			<b><u><u>20,063.32</u></u></b>

## Vintage Blacon Committee 2010

Chair: Brendan Doyle (St Theresa's RC)  
Vice Chair: Rev. Susan Flynn (Blacon URC)  
Secretary: Judith Sellwood (Blacon Community Trust (BCT))  
Treasurer: Paulette Thomas (Holy Trinity)  
Chair (*Spiritual Focus Group*): Rev John Stone (Holy Trinity)

### **Representatives from local Churches**

Blacon URC Carol Pengelly  
Blacon URC Graham Hough  
Holy Trinity C of E Paulette Thomas  
Holy Trinity C of E June Middleton  
St Therasas RC Brendan Doyle  
St Theresa's RC Vacancy

### **Representatives from community agencies**

Vintage Blacon: Glyn Thomas (in attendance)  
Joanne Roberts (in attendance)

The Hope Centre Frank Collins  
BCT John Every  
BCT (Board) Gordon 'Gus' Cairns  
Age Concern Cheshire Alex Major  
One Voice for Blacon Brendan Doyle  
Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Alex Tate  
Janet Gittins  
Julia Wilson

Chester & District Housing Trust Sue Kennaugh  
Western Cheshire PCT Dave Cotterell  
Social Services Charlotte Walton  
Extra Care Housing Project Louise Gibson



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