What's On Guide

Introduction

Sustainable Blacon is a community based company dedicated to promoting and developing Blacon as a ***model sustainable urban community***. Our focus is on four key elements of 'sustainability':

- ***Transport***
- ***Energy***
- ***Open Spaces***
- ***Enterprise***

Here's a snapshot of some upcoming events not to be missed in 2011. There's also plenty of opportunities to get involved so please get in touch if you'd like to know more!

Transport

Blacon on Bikes!

We've had a great run so far this year with a good turnout on Cycle Chester's 'Cycle Sunday' with nearly one hundred school children, parents and teachers meeting to cycle together at The Old Station Site.

Now that the weather is looking brighter and the Greenway in Blacon is sporting new signs promoting safe cycling for both pedestrians and cyclists, what better time to make use of this well used route into Chester!

'Dr Bike' was another big hit thanks to Cycle Chester and two enthusiastic young bike mechanics, Daniel and Chris Cotterell who checked out and repaired over 30 bicycles free of charge at Blacon Community Centre.

Organised community cycle rides are also set to happen this year, the first being Sunday 12th June, welcoming people of all ages and abilities and 'Bikeability' training on offer for you or someone in your family to gain more skills or confidence to cycle. If you'd like to get involved in any of these activities or for more information please do get in touch!

Energy

Second Eco-Home Opens Doors
Sustainable Blacon's Second Eco-home at No. 2 Stamford Road is due to open this Spring as a valuable new community resource with lots of exciting features added including brand new solar panels, internal insulation (for houses with solid walls), LED lighting and a kitchen made out of recycled plastic bottles as well as lots of things for the garden!

A Children's Parliament including 22 children from the local schools in Blacon are helping with the project and are collecting plants and materials for the garden and displays.

For more information on how you can get involved with the Eco-home please contact Simon Dukes at simon@sustainableblacon.org.uk / 01244 379 021

Universities Connect with Blacon for Valuable Research
The University of Chester is currently working with Sustainable Blacon to evaluate research results of the Blacon Energy Management Programme as part of The Low Carbon Communities Challenge in Blacon. The project has attracted a lot of excitement across a number of Universities as an area for further research including Universities of Southampton, Strathclyde, Cardiff, East Anglia and Oxford Brookes.

Blacon Energy Management Programme (BEMP) Reveals Results
Sustainable Blacon will be inviting BEMP members to join together with the University of Chester towards the end of the year to share the results of the programme looking to help shape government policy. What are the key factors, which have helped us to save energy? What impacts did the energy kits have on our awareness and behaviour of how much gas and electricity we use? Have we been able to help others to cut down and save money on bills, though the programme? All will be revealed…!

Open Spaces

Grow Our Own!
We shared a fantastic evening at 'Blacon Bites' in January with a seasonal and local meal made especially by BYPP (Building Young People's Potential). Now it's time to spread the word further and we're currently exploring ideas to promote home-grown food in Blacon! If you'd be interested to get involved in or take a lead then get in touch! This could be placing large pots around Blacon to grow beautiful and tasty treats for all to enjoy…..! We are also looking ahead to 2012 and a Big Blacon Meal based on growing our own. Have a look at: http://www.visitmiddlesbrough.com/site/whats-new/news/2009/9/29/town-meal-brilliant-success-a305. Would you be interested?!

Plan for the future!
Some of you will already know we are helping Blacon Alliance (CDHT and the Council) to update the open spaces sections of the Vision and Action Plan for Blacon. We hope that there will be further sessions in the spring and summer to help bring this to a conclusion. We need your views so come along and shape the future!

Enterprise

***Recycle Your Cycle* - New Venture!**
Sustainable Blacon are looking for people who may be interested in working in a voluntary or paid position on an exciting new venture 'Recycle Your Cycle'.
With support from Cycle Chester, we hope to put unused bicycles back into use across Blacon.
There may be hundreds of unused bicycles across Blacon in household garages, sheds or lofts, which are the wrong size (old children's bikes?), need repair or are no longer required. We would like to get them back into use after repair by us and either returned to the owner for a nominal repair cost, or by donating them into a community scheme where they could be made available for low cost purchase, loan, swap or rental. To learn more or get involved please contact Stephen Perry at Stephen@blacon.org.uk or 01244 379 021.

Other Exciting Events Ahead…

Blacon Summer Festival

On Saturday 9th July 2011 Blacon will enjoy a Summer Festival once again which somehow seems to get better each year! Last year had a fantastic turnout and the

Sustainable Blacon Tent was busy all day with people picking up energy saving lightbulbs, completing Home Energy Check forms and signing up to see the eco-home at Dyserth Road, as well as playing with exciting new energy saving kits on display! B&Q turned up with eco products, along with Friends of The Earth, Transition Chester and Dr Bike fixing bikes for free as well as BMX demonstrations! We had a fun day and look forward to this year's festival!

Blacon Conference!

We are hoping to host a conference early in November to promote and publicise in Blacon and also in a regional and national context, the work that we are doing here in generating a sustainable community. WATCH THIS SPACE for more exciting developments here!!

Sustainable Blacon

Generating a model sustainable urban community

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