

Birkdale Buzz



**A community magazine sponsored by the
Birkdale Community Hub and Library at the
Station Master's House
Find out what's going on in the Hub as well as in
and around Birkdale village**

BCHL chosen for Asda Foundation Charity



Our local ASDA store has chosen Birkdale Community Hub & Library as one of their three Southport charities for the current **Asda Foundation Green Token Giving** scheme. A huge thank you to ASDA Southport.

We will use the ASDA donation to print the next version of this free magazine, The Birkdale Buzz. Our aim is to continue to print Birkdale Buzz for the benefit of our local community.

The charity with the most online votes will receive a £500 donation with second place receiving £400 and third place £300, so please vote for us!

How: Online only. Simply follow this link <http://www.asda.com/green-tokens>, scroll down to **Southport** from the drop-down menu and vote for us. Just type in your email address. ASDA sends you an email for you to confirm your vote, no purchase necessary.

Often! ASDA encourages you to vote **once every seven days** so please help us to make the most of this opportunity by voting each week until **midnight Sunday 30th April**.

SPREAD THE WORD

PLEASE ASK YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO VOTE FOR US

Want to advertise in the Birkdale Buzz?

The magazine comes out every quarter (March, June, September and December) and is printed in A5 format. The next edition will be printed in B&W, although coloured artwork can be sent in for B&W printing.



The charge for placing adverts in the next edition is as follows: 1/8 page costs £10, 1/4 page costs £15 and 1/2 page costs £25. We also offer a discount for placing an advert in four editions: four adverts for the price of three. For further information and advice please email us at birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Welcome

Hello Readers

Welcome to our second edition of the **Birkdale Buzz**, produced by volunteers at the Birkdale Community Hub and Library. We hope that quarterly editions of the Birkdale Buzz will help keep locals in touch with people and events around Birkdale. Copies of the Buzz are free and we are grateful to local advertisers who help pay for the costs of printing. Details of advertising costs can be found on page 2.

The Community Hub and Library is situated in the Station Master's House next to the station, where there is a library, meeting rooms for hire, and a computer suite. The charity also runs a branch library at the Birkdale Methodist Church on Liverpool Road.

If you want to know more about future events organised by the Birkdale Community Hub and Library, why not pop into the library or visit our website

www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk. Meanwhile enjoy the Buzz!

Phil Margham
Chair of Trustees

Becoming a Library member: it's easy

To borrow books and use the Station Master's House facilities such as computers, you will need to register as a member of the Library. **Membership is free**. When you come to join the Library please bring a form of ID with you. After signing up you'll be issued with a library card, and away you go!

Supporting the Community Hub: would you like to help?

We are now recruiting more volunteers to help us develop our services. We are looking for help with a variety of roles, including IT and digital media, children's story and rhyme time, organising magazine distribution, book groups, or you may have other skills to offer. To find out more please contact volunteers@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or come in and see us.

We welcome all Book Donations

The majority of books in the Birkdale library have been kindly given to us by members of the public. Donated books are sorted into those we can add to our catalogue and those that, for a variety of reasons, we will not be able to use. These unused books, however, are still valuable to us as they can be sold to buy additional titles from the funds raised.

If you have any books you wish to donate, please drop them in either at the Station Master's House or the Birkdale Methodist Church on Liverpool Road.



Thanks to SPAR Birkdale for their sponsorship
by supplying newspapers and biscuits on Warm
Spaces days



New for Winter 2022 “Warm Space” at the Station Master’s House

What is it?

An opportunity until April to drop into a warm friendly space and meet an informal group of locals to share how you are feeling about things, have a brew and make connections.

What we are offering:

- A warm space for up to 20 people at a time every Thursday throughout the winter months
- Free tea, cuppa-soup, coffee and biscuits available and refreshed throughout the day
- TVs in each space for a choice of viewing
- Selection of newspapers
- Selection of puzzle, word search, sudoku and crossword books for adults and children
- Free wifi and free use of six computers
- Free membership to the library, its books and access to other leisure activities

Who is it for?

We welcome everyone, you do not need to be a library member and everything is provided for free.

Is it Accessible? Yes, our rooms are fully accessible to those in wheelchairs or with mobility issues with front door access ramp, fully accessible toilet and fully accessible lift to first floor and rooms with one adjustable pc desk for a wheelchair.

When? Every Thursday from **10 am – 4 pm from now to April 27th 2023**

Where? In our first floor, heated comfortable spaces at The Station Master’s House, 2 Liverpool Road, Birkdale, PR8 4AR.

Any questions please contact: 01704 566992

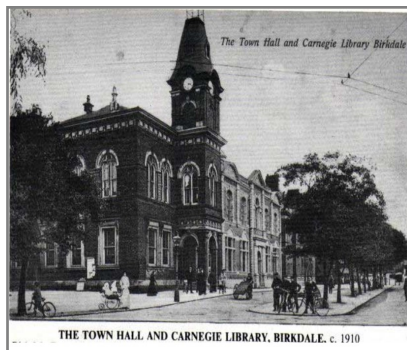
We look forward to seeing you!

Birkdale's First Library

Birkdale has had three libraries, the present one in the Station Master's House next to Birkdale Station, the previous one based on Liverpool Road (opposite the Krakajak garage) which opened in 1974 and closed in December 2013, and one that you may not have heard about. It was based in the village, "over the line" where Carnegie Court flats are now on Weld Parade and adjacent to Birkdale Town Hall and Police Station.

The original Birkdale Carnegie Library opened on December 2, 1905, a fine-looking building with a clock tower. The library was built with finances given by Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish-American, who lived from 1835 to 1919, and is seen as the world's biggest-ever philanthropist. He made his money from the American steel industry but, by the time he died, he had given away \$350m (about \$5.5 billion in 2021) to charities, foundations and universities. He said, "to die rich, is to die disgraced." and "...there was no use to which money could be applied so productive...as the founding of a public library." Wise man!

Some Birkdale residents may remember the old Carnegie library in Birkdale, designed by two Manchester architects George Brown and Leonard Dutch. The green-tiled entrance hall led into a children's library on the left and a large adult reading room on the right, with a reference section upstairs. A postcard of The Town Hall and Carnegie Library in Birkdale c 1910 can be found on the internet. There is also a picture of the Reading Room at the library and an interior shot of the building on Sefton Council's digital archive website. The library was a feature of village life for many years before being demolished in 1970. Birkdale lost other municipal buildings, such as the police station and the town hall during the 1960s and 70s.



The Birkdale Carnegie Library and the library on Liverpool Road may both have gone, but the village has a book lending service thanks to the volunteers who campaigned and fundraised to enable the Birkdale Community Hub and Library to be set up at the Station Master's House.

Henry James

BIRKDALE Kitchen Co.



LEICHT

SIEMENS

BLANCO

silestone

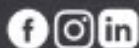
Quooker

BORA

DEKTON

EFFE

38 Weld Road, Birkdale, PR8 2ED | www.birkdalekitchenco.com | 01704 651488



@birkdalekitchenco

How does the Library pay for itself?

Anyone can become a member of the library and then use the facilities at the Station Master's House and the Birkdale Methodist Church library at no cost. The Birkdale Community Hub and Library charity which runs the facilities receives no funding from Sefton, so how do we pay for heating, lighting, broadband, insurance, maintenance etc? The answer is simple: by the public generously contributing in some way to our running costs, either by joining the 200+ Club lottery, becoming a Friend of the Station Master's House, by the sale of unwanted books and by buying tickets for one of our events.

Thanks to everyone for their contribution. We couldn't do it without you.

The 200+ Club

The 200+ Club, launched in 2017, provides a valuable source of funds for Birkdale Community Hub and Library, while at the same time giving supporters a chance each month of winning a cash prize. The money raised is used as a mix of basic income and to fund ongoing improvements to facilities offered by the charity, both within the Station Master's House and at our other site, in rooms rented from Birkdale Methodist Church on Liverpool Road.

Thanks to all those who are members of the 200+ Club. Your contributions are an essential part of our income, helping us to offer so many facilities to the public free of charge.

Being part of the 200+ club costs just £2 a month per number, the more numbers you have, the greater your chance of winning. The monthly draw gives one prize of £50 and 2 prizes of £20 each month, plus an annual prize draw of £500.

To join or to find out more, contact Chrissy Gadd

Email: 200club@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Friends of the Station Master's House

Another way of helping us to provide our free services is to become a Friend of the Station Masters House. Being a Friend means that you will receive a quarterly newsletter giving details of recent activities as well as informing you of future events and plans for the library, ensuring you do not miss out on all the exciting activities taking place.

Why not become a Friend for just £12 annually (payable in January each year) and help meet the costs of running your local library and community hub?

To join, pick up a form from the library reception or download an application form from our website: www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk

ADVERTORIAL

Polansky's barbers shop was opened in 1961 by Cyril Polansky and is the longest established barbers shop in Southport. Amanda Vella joined the staff in 1991 and worked alongside Mr Polansky for several years before buying the shop from him. The shop is still going strong, offering all types of modern skin fades to traditional haircutting, and is open six days per week with no appointment needed

Mandie says "I run a very child-friendly salon. Being a mother to Layla, who is 13, I know that patience is key when working with the children, especially if they find the whole business of getting their hair cut a little daunting. I offer them a children's Batman novelty barber's chair to keep them occupied while having a haircut and, when it's all over, they get a good behaviour sticker and a sweetie as an incentive to want to come again.



I look forward to welcoming old and new customers."

Polansky's

Barber Shop

Established 1961

Open Monday to Friday 8.30-6.00, Saturday 8.15 to 5.00

No appointment needed

49 Weld Rd, Birkdale, Southport PR8 2DS.

01704 568805

WHAT'S ON IN BIRKDALE

 **Birkdale
Community Hub & Library**
At the Station Master's House

**AMERICANA * ROOTS * BLUES
* ACOUSTIC * 60'S NOSTALGIA**

THE WANDERERS



29TH MARCH

7:30PM

£5

SOUTHPORT & BIRKDALE SPORTS CLUB

TICKETS FROM THE STATION MASTER'S HOUSE

01704 566992

Drop-in Community Police Advice Sessions

Birkdale Bobby, Constable David Jackson from Merseyside Police, holds regular drop-in community police advice sessions at the Station Master's House. David, the local community police officer for Birkdale ward, is keen to offer local residents the opportunity to meet him to discuss and receive advice on any local or neighbourhood issues and concerns. You can also seek advice on security and crime prevention measures and offer help if you are worried about any approaches you've had that you think may be a scam.

If David is unable to help you himself he will either pass your matter on or direct you to the right channel. This is a new venture that both David, and Birkdale Community Hub and Library, hope will be a welcome and valuable service for residents and business owners in the Birkdale area.

David will be at the library every third Tuesday from **5.00 pm to 7.00 pm**. As this is a drop in service, no appointment is needed.

Home Visit Service

Volunteer Helen Parmiter is leading a Home Visit lending service for the library, offering this as an exciting extension to existing services already offered. How does it work?



- you can call the Hub on 01704 566992 or call in to tell a volunteer that you (or someone you know) is unable to get to the library and would like to receive books at home. Alternatively, you can email Helen at: homevisit@thestationmastershouse.co.uk
- you will be asked for your contact details and some idea of the kind of books you are interested in reading. We offer fiction, non-fiction choices and large-print versions too.
- a volunteer from Helen's team will contact you to arrange to visit, bringing a selection of books for you to browse. Your visiting volunteer will carry ID.
- you will be signed up as a member of the library, which is free, as is the Home Visit service.

Sefton Councillor Surgeries

Councillors representing Birkdale Ward (i.e. Birkdale to landward of the railway line) and Dukes Ward (Shoreside Birkdale as well as Town Centre) will hold evening surgeries at the Station Master's House on the **3rd Tuesday of every month between 6 and 7 o'clock**. No need to book, just turn up to discuss your problem.

Regular Meetings at the Community Hub

Shared reading

Our shared reading group is held each week on Tuesday afternoons, during which we enjoy short stories, poems and extracts from novels, which are read aloud. These are very varied and can be modern or classics. We take pauses during the reading to talk about what we've read and share any thoughts around it.

There is no pressure on anyone to read aloud or to speak, you are welcome to just relax and listen.



Knit and Natter

A new Knit and Natter group has started on Tuesday afternoons. It's free of charge and will be held weekly at The Station Master's House from 2 – 4pm. Call in and leave your name and contact number for Angela, who runs the group, if you'd like to join in.



Guitar for Beginners

Interested in learning to play the guitar? Perhaps your New Year's resolution is to learn an instrument or a new skill. Our beginners' course is available to book. It's free of charge (possibly with a donation to the charity if you are willing or able), so why not book now! Ring Pete Rimmer on 07973 623210



Lego Club

Lego Club runs from **10.30-11.15 every Saturday** for library members. Come and join us to build a Lego creation - we've got lots of Lego.

Your model could be on our website - look out for our latest creations!



Need help with Computing?

Do you want to get more out of your iPad? Would you like help in using your computer/laptop? Free individual support is available. Please telephone (01704 566992) or call into the Station Master's House to leave contact details and a volunteer will get in touch with you to discuss what specific help you would like and to arrange a date and time when it would be convenient to book a meeting.



Please ask at the Community Hub for details of other meetings taking place

SPAR



BIRKDALE

We are proud to continue to be at the heart of the local community and have our very own butcher's in store offering a great selection of quality meats & ready meals.



**Clayton Park
Deli**



**Graham Eyes
Butchers**



Cheeky Coffee

BUTCHERS OPENING HOURS

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Sun 10am - 4pm

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ON YOUR
DOORSTEP**

SPAR



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STORE OPEN 7am - 11pm EVERYDAY

What's Cooking?

This is the first of a regular series of recipes and cooking tips. If you have a recipe that is a favourite with you and your family, why not send it in for everyone to enjoy? Editor.

Cauliflower Bake sent in by Janet Wooding

This is a recipe of my own that I concocted, which has become one of our family staples. It is extremely versatile; quantities depend on your own preferences, to be adapted at will. It is a vegetarian dish, but if there are meat eaters in the family, then it goes well with sausages, or a pork chop/steak. A baked potato could be added for teens who need filling up!

Serves 2-3 as a main, 3-4 as a vegetable side

One Cauliflower

Tin Lentils

Tin Butterbeans

Onion -- chopped

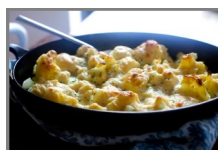
Tasty Cheddar Cheese -- grated

Henderson's Relish (vegetarian) or Lea and Perrins Worcester Sauce (with anchovies)

- Gently sweat the onion in oil until soft. At this stage you could turn up the heat a little to caramelise for added flavour, but that is not essential.
- Steam or boil the cauliflower – be careful not to overdo.
- Rinse beans and lentils and mix in a casserole dish, with the relish. (I use 6/7 tbsps)
- Cover with the onion.
- Add a layer of grated cheese.
- Arrange the cooked cauliflower on top of this.
- Add more grated cheese on top of the cauliflower.

Bake in a medium oven (170 – 180C) for 20 – 25 mins.

I hope you enjoy it as much as we do!



Know your Birkdale Village

Q1 Where's this?

Answer on page 32





**42a Liverpool Road
Birkdale Village
PR8 4AY
01704 568822
www.birkdalecheese.com**

School News

Work Experience at the Station Master's House

We have welcomed several student helpers in the library over the last few months including two from Greenbank High School.

Jasmine spent a week's work experience with us, learning how the library functions, working with our teams and observing the many groups using our meeting rooms. She became a valuable member of our volunteer teams dealing with the public as they came in and library administration too. Jasmine also reported that she really became aware of all the background work involved in organising a library! At the end of her time, she told us how much she had gained - not only her individual confidence in her socialising skills, but in team-working and problem-solving too.

We in turn really enjoyed having her help for the week. Her ideas and her approach to library projects were so useful.

Rosa, another Greenbank student reports on her time with us:

"I decided to do my work experience in the library last year; I knew that a library would be the perfect environment for me, and the volunteers I worked with were very supportive. Since March 2022, I've been creating artworks on the library windows with chalk paints. I enjoy doing this, as I feel a great sense of fulfilment and accomplishment after completing a new design. For October, I painted an autumn tree with spiders hanging from its branches. For Christmas, I designed Christmas trees and baubles. Now that it's February, the windows are painted with pink and red hearts, celebrating not only Valentine's Day, but our love for our library."

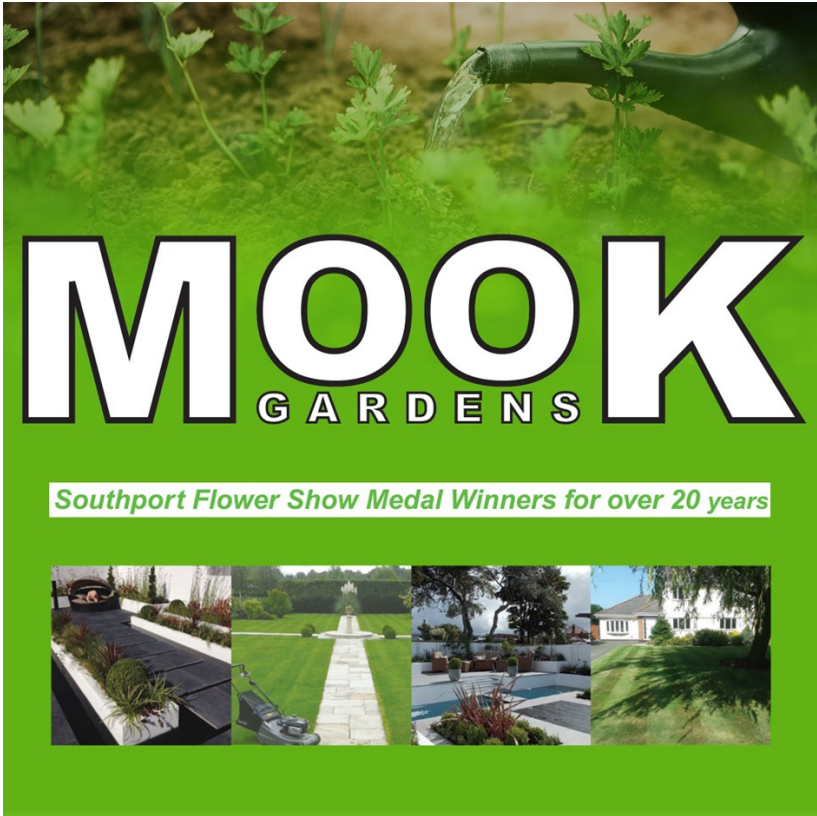
We wish all of our student helpers well in the future and we do really value all their support.

Young Voices and me

Young Voices (YV) is the largest children's choir in the world! Over 150,000 children from around the UK take part in singing together in large arenas, all learning songs to sing together at a YV concert.

Jessica (Year 5) reports: "My school, Farnborough Road Junior School, has taken part in YV lots of times and this year it was my turn! We all got together to form a YV choir with our teachers and practised lots of songs together each week, we learnt dances too!" On the morning of 1st February, everyone who participated in Jessica's school was on the bus. "We chattered all the way to Manchester Arena and couldn't believe how huge it was: 21,000 seats!"

Rehearsals began and all 9,000 children from different schools across the north west sang the songs that they had practised for months. "The concert started at 7pm, the whole Arena was full and the energy level was incredible!" Besides the choir there were rappers, dancers and celebrity singers too, and they even made the local news! "After a long day of singing, cheering and eating we made our journey back, tired and very proud. It was a fun and exciting adventure and experience for everyone. I hope this inspires other people to join in 2024. See you next year YV!"



Mook Garden designs are a well-established, Multi-Award winning Company with over 35 years' experience in Landscaping and Garden Maintenance.

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office@mookgardens.co.uk

Gardeners' Delight

My name is Wendy, I am a volunteer at the library. I love gardening and hope you do too. We have two small garden areas at the Station Master's House library. The bay window boxes were kindly donated by Farnborough Road Junior School and with luck the bulbs are beginning to flower. In the Sidings, accessed by walking through the library to the back door, we have a seated courtyard area which we plant up for summer.

Do come and have a look and perhaps enjoy a quiet moment when the weather gets warmer.

We have a large variety of gardening books to inspire you too.

The 2023 Community Sunflower Summer Challenge – how tall is your sunflower?

Who can grow the tallest sunflower from seed this year in Birkdale?

It could be YOU? Whether you are 8 or 80, we would love you to join in. To get started all you need is a packet of sunflower seeds to grow; choose any colour or sunflower type you like.

You can grow your sunflowers in a pot, in a trough, in your flower bed, whatever you want to do.

We have 50 packets containing six sunflower seeds with growing instructions to give away, just pop into the library, show your library card (or join the library) to collect a packet. When your sunflowers are at full height, send us a photo of yourself (or family) next to the sunflowers with a tape-measure held up next to them to clearly show their height in cms, together with your name and contact details.

Please send to birkdalebuzz@thestationmasterhouse.co.uk by the end of August 2023 to be printed in the September issue of the Birkdale Buzz.

Now back to your garden. The jobs for Spring are all about getting ready for Summer:

- * Give the garden a thorough spring clean-up by removing weeds and dead leaves/plants from beds.
- * Cut back dead stems from last year's perennial plants (like salvias, ox eye daisies), this gives new shoots light and they will thrive.
- * Prune roses, wearing gloves to protect yourself.
- * Put plant supports like trellis and stakes in place before the plants start to grow fast.
- * Move and divide perennials flowers like geraniums and echinacea.
- * If you want to move a shrub, now is the time.

And finally, sit back with a cup of tea, enjoy your garden and be proud of what you have done. **Happy Gardening**



Southport & Birkdale Sports Club



Southport and Birkdale Sports Club is the leading multi-sports club in the area. The grounds, situated on Trafalgar Road are the back-drop for the well-appointed social club. Sporting members have the option to concentrate on one sport or take part in all five, cricket, hockey, snooker, squash and tennis.

If you just wish to have a social membership, this allows you to use the club facilities whether it be to have a drink, at discounted prices, on a summer afternoon, watching the cricket, take a meal supplied by the renowned D'vine Catering, or attend one of the many functions arranged throughout the year.

S&B CC Summer Events 2023

S&B CC Launch Night March 31st
S&B CC Former Players Day May 13th
S&B CC Race Night May 19th
S&B CC Ladies Day June 10th
Lancashire v Hampshire June 11-14th
Lancs Thunder v Southern Vipers July 7th
England O60s v Australia O60s July 19th
S&B CC Golf Day August 11th
S&B CC Cricket & Beer Festival August 28th
S&B CC End of Season Dinner September 29th

NEW PLAYERS WANTED

INTERESTED IN JOINING A FUN AND FRIENDLY TEAM?
GIVE SOUTHPORT AND BIRKDALE WOMEN'S AND GIRLS
CRICKET A TRY!

OPEN TO ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

THURSDAYS 7-9PM - HARDBALL TRAINING
SUNDAYS 10-12PM - SOFTBALL TRAINING

SCAN ME

FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT EMMA:
07894 870122

Contact Tony Gadd, Honorary Membership Secretary,

S&B Sports Club: Mob. 07717 418558

email tgaddok@aol.com.

S&B Sports Club, Trafalgar Road, Birkdale PR8 2HF

Tel. 01704 569951 Email: social@sandbsportsclub.co.uk

Instagram: @s_n_b_cc Twitter: @SNBCC

If you have recently retired, or working part time - and are now looking for an organisation where you can start a new chapter in your life, make new friends, learn new skills, exercise both body and mind, then **Southport u3a** is for you.

We have close to 1800 members and are currently running over 100 separate interest groups in a whole variety of subjects. All our groups are run by members themselves, sometimes sharing a passion for the subject or just managing the process to let others enjoy.

So, from **Walking to Talking, Local History to Ukulele, Spanish to Snooker, Jewellery to Jazz, Gardening to Astronomy**, the list of things you can take part in, is limitless. And if your particular passion is not covered, we will give you the facility to run your own class. *All this for a fee of £15 per year!!*

We also have a monthly meeting which takes place on the first Thursday of the Month at Christ Church on Lord Street and you would be very welcome to come along and have a chat and a coffee to find out more about us.

Many more details are available on our website at www.southportu3a.org.uk together with contact details. If you want more information then phone 07885 785614 or email membership@southportu3a.org.uk. **Look forward to seeing you soon.**

Birkdale Civic Society

Making a difference in the village



For over 30 years, the Birkdale Civic Society volunteers have been doing their best to keep the village looking beautiful, with a variety of floral displays around the area. The tree squares and planters are all maintained by a small group of volunteers who dedicate their time to the planting, watering, clearing and pruning so that our village looks its best in the warmer months.

Some of our volunteers have been maintaining the area for over 20 years, and we are thrilled that this year we have a new intake to help bolster the numbers and keep the work going forward. As well as the main street, our volunteers also maintain the planters in Birkdale Station, and are looking forward to some new planting structures there this year in memory of our founder, Ralph Gregson MBE. As well as doing their bit for the village, our planting volunteers, known as the "Birkdale Bloomers", do a great service at bringing local people together, and the social element of the planting is just as important as the work itself!

All of the plants and maintenance equipment are paid for each year by the Birkdale Civic Society which purely relies on donations in order to keep this happening year on year. If you are passing through the village and spot one of our volunteers at work, please feel free to say hello!

If anyone would like more information, or would like to get involved, please contact us at info@birkdalecivicsociety.org.uk

WHAT'S ON IN SOUTHPORT



Birkdale Support Group

An exciting fundraising event with

The Phil Shotton

Mini Big Band

Presenting an evening showcasing the music of Glenn Miller,
Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee and Ella Fitzgerald.



Sunday 4th June 2023 at 7.30pm

Little Theatre, Hoghton Street, Southport. PR9 0PA.

Tickets £12.50 available by calling Suzanne Gray on 07919032726 or
email suzannegray@aol.com

SEASONS by William Honeyman, age 10

Sprouting Flowers

People getting excited about the end of school

Running round the streets

Intrigued to make new friends

No more woolly hats

Going to the park late at night.



Sunbathing on the beach

Under the sea holding your breath

Mum's saying come here put sun-cream on

Money flying about buying ice creams

Engaging stares, falling in love

Remembering names before you go back to school.



At night the sun is bright

Under your bed you try to warm up

The crunch of the leaves under your feet

Under 0 degrees feels like minus 10

Mum's saying get your gloves on or you'll be cold

Never underestimate Autumn.



Woolly hats once again

Into the house for hot chocolate

No more shorts and T-shirts

Tracking down friends to get them with snowballs

Entering the house into the warmth

Retrying homework, mum's getting frustrated.



Know your Birkdale Village

Q2 Where's this?

Answer on page 32



Daily
Specials

Home Made
Soup of The Day

Home Made
Scotch Egg's

Home Made
Sausage Rolls

THE HOT DOG

ESTD 1974 SANDWICH TRUCK 2015/16

69B EVERTON ROAD
Next to Southport Life Boat Charity Shop

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Social Evenings

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 **Birkdale
Community Hub & Library**
At the Station Master's House

UPCOMING EVENTS – dates for your diary

EASTER CRAFTS & SALE – Sat 8th April
Cakes, crafts for children, Easter gifts

CORONATION CRAFTS – Sat 6th May

EUROVISION SPECIAL – Sat 13th May

ROCK 'N' ROLL BINGO – w.b.22nd May
at the S&B Sports Club

Coronation Memories 2 June 1953

I can just about remember the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II when living in Thornton. Dad came home one evening with a large wooden box that had Radio Rentals on the side and yes it was a television! Wonderful I thought, all those cowboy films on children's television, no chance, this was for the coronation.

So on the appointed day close friends and family came into the lounge, grandparents on the settee and me on the floor in front of the grandparents. Everyone else dotted around the room after mother had diligently arranged the furniture to view the event on a tiny black and white screen.

I vaguely recall getting a bit bored and went outside to kick a football around the garden, whilst mother and father passed refreshments around the audience. All schoolchildren received a coronation mug but please don't ask where mine is! **ROGER**



My Dad was big on any technical innovation, and as soon as the TV transmitter at Sutton Coldfield opened in December 1949, he immediately bought a set: an HMV television. The choice was 9", 10" or 12" screens and, so as not to be too ostentatious and, more likely, to save money, Dad plumped for the 10". On 2 June 1953, all the chairs were arranged in an arc, in rows, in the dining room. There was no cable extension to take the signal into the larger front lounge, which was only ever used for visitors about six times a year. The neighbours were all invited.

There were probably about 15 people in a room approximately 10 foot square, all glued to the grainy screen for about six hours. I was very bored, especially as, in Leicester, and, if I remember correctly, also in London, it rained most of the time, and so I couldn't even go in the yard and kick a ball about. All my friends were with their families on that day, so there was no-one to skive off with. I think my Mum supplied some sandwiches, but the other neighbours also bought exotic things that I'd never seen before like sausage rolls and cheese on sticks, some with little onions (ugh). It could have been yesterday! **TONY**



A day off school, a decorated tin with a bar of chocolate, tagging along behind other children to the park. **MYRA**

I remember my father returning home with a black and white TV boxed in a cupboard. All the neighbours came round to watch the coronation on our very small screen. It was a tight squeeze but very exciting. We had a big street party after. **JOY**

Our memories seem to focus on the arrival of television rather than the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. I wonder what today's seven and eight year old children will remember about the coronation of King Charles III. **CAROL**

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We are open Monday to Saturday from 9am until 5pm in the heart of the village at 35b Liverpool Road. We can deliver (at a small cost) for anybody that is housebound or unable to collect or living outside our immediate area.

If you've never visited us before you'll be sure of a warm welcome from Claire, Jan or Matt. We'd love to see you.

Spring in Southport by Sister Jo

There are so many poems about Spring,
Many melodies, songs for to sing.
Those by Browning and Hopkins the best,
As the tortoise awakes from its rest.

Young lovers claim Spring as their own!
As if previous joys were unknown!
When their heartbeat increases its rate,
Pulse quickens at the thought of a date!

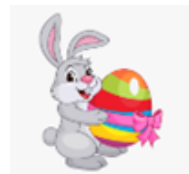
Yes, I'll not worry about being old,
I can weather the wintertime's cold
With memories aplenty of songs and of rhymes,
Of lovers and friendships, of wonderful times!

Young and old – let's now welcome the Spring
Together..... send the blues on the wing.
In our beautiful town, let's spread joy all around.
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Know your Birkdale Village
Q3 Where's this?
Answer on page 32



Easter Sunday
9 April 2023





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A Local Doctor Writes.....

It's not something we often think about, but the bugs living inside our digestive systems are really important in how we feel. Recent research has shown that the bacteria, viruses and fungi living in our guts can play a vital function in our overall health and well-being. They also play a role in the immune system, helping to protect the body from more harmful bacteria and viruses, and are even connected to mental health and regulating mood and behaviour.

In addition to these connections, the gut microbes have been shown to be less frequent and diverse in people with obesity than those with a healthy weight, and researchers have found that these differences can negatively affect how we process and store nutrients, leading to changes in metabolism.

So, as it's clear that gut microbes are really important, what can we do to promote our own little internal microbial friends? One way that is showing to be important is to use probiotics and prebiotics to promote gut health.

Probiotics are live bacteria that can help to restore a healthy microbiome, while prebiotics are non-digestible fibres that feed the good bacteria in the gut. Why not give them a try and see how you get on?

Yakult anyone? (Other probiotic drinks are available).

Birkdale Buzz: are we getting it right?

In this second edition we've expanded the range of articles to make the magazine something you can dip into. Are there other topics you would like us to explore? You can email us at birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or hand in a note at the Station Master's House addressed to "Editor, Birkdale Buzz". If you prefer you can call into the library to give our volunteers your comments or suggestions and they will be passed on.

CRICKET FANS - DON'T MISS THIS

**Lancashire v Hampshire 11-14 June
At Southport & Birkdale Sports Club**



Dear Reader: every quarter we plan to present an article about birds in our local area. Here is the first one, focusing on birds in your garden. Enjoy.

Editor.

Birkdale Birds by Twitcher

The last few years have seen bird numbers decline, especially urban populations, mainly due to changing weather patterns and new agricultural practices. Starling numbers, for example, have reduced by 70%. You will probably have noticed fewer birds in your garden and we hope that this first article will help you to encourage their return.

Birds will want to visit your garden if food and water are available - and once established, will increase in numbers and hopefully come again. To get more birds in your garden it really helps to provide seed and peanuts in feeders. Remember to place them near cover and to clean them regularly to avoid disease. Pet stores and supermarkets sell seed mixtures which will help to draw a wide range of visitors. Niger seeds attract Goldfinches and Siskins - which are beautifully coloured and great fun to watch. Kitchen scraps, such as fruit, bacon rind and hard cheese are also welcome sources of nutrition. Don't forget to provide water as well as food. Birds need water for both bathing and drinking, especially in harsh winters and prolonged dry summer spells.

Real enthusiasts might think of installing nesting boxes, and they're well worth the effort. They need to be three to four metres up a tree or wall, should face between N and E, allow a clear flightpath into the nest and be sheltered from strong sunlight and wind.

To make the most of your bird visitors it really helps to have a bird identification book to hand and, if you have them, binoculars. With these you should be able to identify birds that are common at the moment including Blackbird, Thrush, Dunnock (Hedge Sparrow), Jackdaw, Magpie, Goldfinch, Blue Tit and Great Tit.

Please let us know if you have any unusual visitors, (e.g. a large bird of prey) and we will make sure to include the news in our next edition.

Enjoy your garden and your new friends.



Ask Adam - the iPad doctor

Taking screenshots

It can be very useful to take a screenshot of what's currently displayed on your screen, particularly for things like tickets and booking references.

To take a screenshot with an iPad with no Home button (the physical round button at the bottom of the screen), press the power button and either volume button at the same time and then release. You'll know you took the screenshot because you'll feel a haptic (buzz-type) response, and a small thumbnail will temporarily appear in the bottom left side of your screen.

If your iPad has a Home button, press the power button and the Home button simultaneously and then quickly release both buttons.

Once you've taken a screenshot it should be then saved within your Photo app.

Adding apps to the iPad dock

For apps you use very often, it's probably worth adding them to the dock which is the series of apps always displayed at the bottom of the screen. It's easy to do this, you simply need to press on an app until you see all the apps on screen start to wobble and then drag down any apps you want to add to the dock down below. Similarly, to remove apps from the dock just press and drag whichever app you want to remove back to the home screen. Then just tap any blank area within the home screen and the apps will stop wobbling and you're done.

Please send in your requests for any specific queries you might have on using your iPad or any other tablet (Amazon Fire, Samsung Galaxy etc.) and we can look to include in future issues.

The next issue of the Birkdale Buzz will be out in June



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Love Libraries

Reading books and first and second language acquisition.

Why is reading skill important for language learning?

If English is not your mother tongue (as is in my case) then by reading good English, you can develop a feeling and insight into the working of the language. It also holds the key to the development of real communicative competence and vocabulary in English which is so necessary in everyday life.



Reading is a passive but no doubt a most important skill of language learning and therefore it is vital that children are exposed to reading/being read to as early as possible. Stories that rhyme are very helpful for teaching speech and language skills and can help children discover a love of language and the world around them.

Reading and storytelling with babies and children **promotes brain development and imagination, develops language and emotions, and strengthens relationships**. Sometimes you can read and sometimes you can look at picture books, sing songs or tell stories from your culture.

The importance of early childhood is recognised by many of us and most recently the Princess of Wales launched a new campaign called **Shaping Us** to draw more attention to the importance of a child's social and emotional development.

We, at our Birkdale Community Hub and Library at the Station Master's House, play a little role in that drive. Our Story Time for children up to 4 years on Saturday mornings is increasingly becoming more popular and I hope it shall continue to be so.. **Grazyna Daniel [Volunteer at BCHL]**

Keen on writing?



Why not send us a short story (350 words max) about a topic that interests you and might be a good read for others? Perhaps a ghost story, a chance meeting, something that changed your life, a good friend etc. Email us on birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or hand in at the Station Master's House, addressed to "Editor, Birkdale Buzz".

Book Reviews and Recommendations

The Railway Man by Eric Lomax

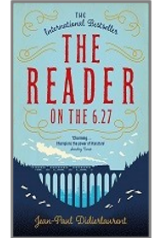
As Eric Lomax points out in the book, he is not a train spotter but a railway enthusiast.

His knowledge and enthusiasm of railways sadly eventually led to his brutal capture. The relationships that developed with one of his captors during his incarceration and subsequent release remained visceral loathing. Like many from WWII he suffered mentally on repatriation and it wasn't until he confronted his demons by meeting with his captor, that the strain was relieved.



The Reader on the 6.27 by Jean-Paul Didierlaurent

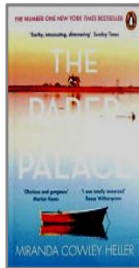
The book jacket 'blurb' stated that the book was similar in look and feel to Amelie ... and never loses its capacity to enchant – that sold it to me. Guylain, the protagonist, was encumbered by a name which was a bad pun for 'ugly puppet' that dogged his childhood and youth so that he tried to melt into the background. However, each day he reads aloud to commuters on the 6.27 scraps of books he has saved from a sinister book-pulping machine. By chance he discovers the diary of a lonely young woman and starts the journey to a richer life.



Beautifully written, it is indeed enchanting and shows how kindness and a good heart wins through. Recommended!

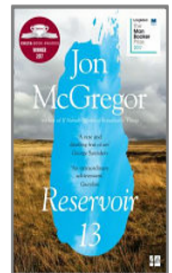
The Paper Palace by Miranda Cowley Heller

This book was shortlisted for The Women's Prize for Fiction 2022, was a nominee for the Best Fiction book 2021 and recommended by both the Richard and Judy Book Club and Reese Witherspoon Book Club.



Reservoir 13 by Jon McGregor

Reservoir 13 starts with the disappearance of a teenage girl on holiday. It revisits the community every year charting the changes as life goes on. It has a filmic quality and is gripping and mesmerising.



"Recommended - 10/10, a 5 star read"

Got a story to share?

Do you have any family stories that you would like to share? If so, why not send your story in to us by emailing birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or handing in at the Station Master's House, addressed to "Editor, Birkdale Buzz".



Important Numbers and Information

Birkdale Library:	01704 566992
BCHL website:	www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk
Station Master's House:	2 Liverpool Road, Birkdale. PR8 2AR.
Birkdale Methodist Church:	Liverpool Road (near Mercedes Garage), PR8 4PD.
Fire, Ambulance, Police emergency	999
Police (non-emergency)	101
Community Police Surgeries	see page 10
NHS Health advice	111
Out of Hours GP service	01704 395755
Southport Police Station	0151 709 6010
Southport Community Fire Station	0151 296 6650
United Utilities (emergency)	0345 672 3723
Gas emergency (if gas smell)	0800 111 999
Sefton Council Services	0345 140 0845
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
Benefits Enquiry Line	0151 934 3660
Job Centre Plus	0800 1690190
Passport Advice Line	0300 222 0000
Samaritans	116 123
RSPA Southport	01704 567624

Defibrillators in Birkdale.

There are three defibrillators in the Village:

- in the Merseyrail Ticket Office
- on the side wall of Lathom's the bakers
- on the side wall of McColl's newsagents over the line.



Answers to Picture Questions.

- Q1: Brough's Butchers
Q2: Upper floor above Polansky's etc.
Q3: SJ Carpets & Rugs



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