Birkdale Buzz 🐝



A community newsletter 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



Contact Details

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Tel: 01704 566992

Email: birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk







Charity number: 1153611

Advertising in the Birkdale Buzz will not only support local businesses but will contribute to the ongoing success of the Community Hub and Library.

We plan to produce four editions annually.

If you would like to advertise in future editions, please contact: birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Welcome

Hello and welcome to our first edition of the Birkdale Buzz, which is produced by volunteers at the Birkdale Community Hub and Library with support from the Birkdale Civic Society. With the demise of the Champion we are hoping to produce quarterly editions of the Birkdale Buzz to help keep locals up-to-date with Birkdale news. This first magazine is more about us, but in future editions we hope to present news from local clubs and shops as well as locals themselves. So, if you have news and views to share, please let us know by emailing: birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

The next thing on the village calendar is the Birkdale Christmas Fayre which will take place on Sunday 27th November between 10.00am and 6.00pm. There will be lots of activities including children's amusements, things to buy, bands, choirs, and loads to eat and drink. Please come along to support your local businesses.

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 Hub will be having an Open Morning on Saturday 10th December. As well as the regular story time and children's activities, we will be selling books and bric-a-brac with an emphasis on presents for Christmas. Why not come along and help to support us?

With winter arriving and major worries about energy costs, we are opening rooms in the Community Hub for local people to keep warm and comfortable, see page 5. Our partner institution, the Birkdale Methodist Church, is also part of the Warm Spaces initiative.

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!

PS: Have you joined the library yet? It's free!



Phil Margham
Chair of Trustees

Birkdale Civic Society



The Birkdale Civic Society is now in it's 40th year of active service to the community of Birkdale. Originally founded to act as a formal non-political group who could oversee the protection of the local heritage, and act as watchdog for the interests of the local residents, the organisation has evolved to include the overseeing of our local events, such as our village fayres, in close collaboration with the village traders.

Since being founded in 1982 the BCS has been responsible for the development of a number of key local attractions such as the refurbishment of the Round Hill in Hillside, the preservation of local thatched cottages, and the annual planting of Birkdale village.

Most notably in recognition of the Queen's Jubilee, the Birkdale Civic Society developed the Queen's Jubilee Trail, for which they received a medal at St James' Palace. Additionally the regeneration of Rotten Row first began with the society in 2010 and has proven to be a huge success receiving many awards for its horticultural beauty.

The organisation runs local meetings and events which are open to all, and all membership fees are ploughed right back into the upkeep and development of the village. This year we are thrilled to be bringing the Birkdale Village Christmas Fayre back and can't wait to see you all there for our Christmas tree switch on!

The Birkdale Community Hub and Library are happy to support and assist the Birkdale Civic Society in organising the Christmas Village Fayre on 27th November.



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



New for Winter 2022 "Warm Space" at the Station Master's House

What is it?

An opportunity from December to 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 December 1st to April 27th 2023 (exc. 29th Dec)

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!

About the Community Hub

History

It is a rare thing to set up a library completely from scratch: no premises, books, system or staff. It is well known that the Birkdale Community Hub and Library was born out of the closure of Birkdale Public Library in 2013. Also known are the heroic efforts of the Friends of Birkdale Library to try and save it and their subsequent fundraising to provide a community-led library.





Fast-forward to 2020, and there were premises, donated books and almost 50 willing volunteers. While the building was being made ready, a group of trustees and librarians worked to identify, test and recommend a library management system which would be essential for managing day-to-day operations. We also began the task

of selecting books from the thousands we had been given – a physically demanding and occasionally smelly task where some stored boxes had become damp and mouldy.

The call went out for more librarians to take on the task of putting our books onto the system and with their cataloguing efforts we were able, in the lead-up to Christmas 2020, to bring in more volunteers to get these books shelfready. Volunteers were fuelled with tea, cake and Christmas tunes. Seeing these books on the

shelves was hugely rewarding ... it was beginning

to look a lot like an actual library!



Let's not forget that all this was happening during the pandemic. Everything



took longer but our volunteers continued regardless, and we managed to continue cataloguing and processing books as well as learning about how our new library management system worked as we went along. Before opening for 'click and collect' in May 2021, our volunteers learned how to use the library system and most of us have continued learning on the job ever since. Every day is a school day at the Station Master's House and now that it is working library, it is rewarding and fun in equal measure.

About the Community Hub continued from previous page

The unloved backyard - has also been transformed into *The Sidings* — it has been flagged, the walls repaired, and planters are now filled. Children from the local schools have helped to create a quiet space to sit and read and Merseyrail has kindly donated some benches originally made for Lancashire and Yorkshire railway, these have been altered to suit their use at the house and spruced up with a fresh coat of paint.



There is a well-known phrase 'it takes a village to raise a child' but in our case, it took our village to create a library!

Echoes by Harry Cooper

Gone.....

Nappies, chapped bums, condensation Rusk-stained ties, hot shirt collars, school runs Hamsters, shoelaces, The Snowman Bedtime stories compulsory!

Toast under sofa, marmalade knobs, weeing in bushes, Bruised knees, liquid eyes, sleepovers, Hormones, teenage angst.

Discovered......

Cruises, mini weekends, apartments Bus passes, matinées, Lily of the Valley.....Steradent.

Missing......

Dirty faces, runny noses, marzipan kisses Gentle embraces, tiny fingers..... open palms..... Trusting eyes.

Has this sparked any memories?
Why not write a story for others to read?

Know your Birkdale Village

Q1. What building was knocked down to make way for the parade of shops in Weld Road? Answer on page 22

The Station Master's House .. more than just a library

On the 23rd July 2021 we welcomed people into the hub for the first time.

Opening fully has been a joy, there is so much public support and obvious delight in having a local library again, and great admiration for what has been achieved. Volunteers are enjoying meeting library members, of which there are now around 1000, showing them around the building and helping them make the most of what the hub has to offer.



Thanks to ongoing donations of many good quality

books, in addition to our extensive range of fiction and non-fiction we also offer a selection of books for **young adults** as well as books for children. There is also a wide choice of **large print books** now available to borrow.

Becoming a member

To borrow books and use the Station Master's House facilities you will need to register as a member of the library. Membership is free and can be done via the website: www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Once registered, we'll email your logon details to you, which will allow you to reserve books for collection.

On your first visit to the hub please bring a form of ID with you. You'll be asked to agree and sign a brief Terms of Use of the library and your library card will then be issued. Those without internet access can register by visiting the hub during opening hours, again bringing along a form of ID.

Only one form of ID is required, documents we accept are: driving licence, passport, Merseytravel-pass, bank statement, utility bill, care home invoice.

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:

emailingbirkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or handing it in at the Station Master's House, addressed to "Editor, Birkdale Buzz"

Library Opening Hours

Station Ma	aster's House	Birkdale Methodist Church				
Monday	10 am - 4 pm	Monday	10 am - 1pm			
Tuesday	10 am - 7 pm	Tuesday	Closed			
Wednesday	10 am - 4 pm	Wednesday	10 am – 4 pm			
Thursday	10 am - 7 pm	Thursday	Closed			
Friday	10 am - 4 pm	Friday	10 am - 1 pm			
Saturday	10 am - 1 pm	Saturday	Closed			
Sunday	Closed	Sunday	Closed			

Birkdale Methodist Church

We have over 7000 books in our catalogue, more than can be stored at the Station Master's House. To house our expanding book stock we have formed a second branch within rooms at the Birkdale Methodist Church (BMC) on Liverpool Road. This is close to the site of the former Birkdale library that was closed by Sefton council in 2013. From this site we offer members access to our complete book catalogue and books can be borrowed and returned from there. Our home visit service also operates from the BMC, seeking to provide library access for those unable to get to the library themselves.

Supporting the Community Hub Would you like to help?



We are now recruiting more volunteers to help us to continue and develop our services and support for the local community in a variety of roles, including IT and digital media, children's story and rhyme time, and book groups, or any other skills or experience that you would like to offer. If you are interested in volunteering with us, we'd be very pleased to hear from you. To find out more, please contact manager@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or come in and see us.

Meeting Rooms at the Community Hub

Birkdale Community Hub and Library have two meeting rooms available for private use by local businesses and individuals. Each room is fitted with a smart TV connected to the internet, providing access to training videos e.g. YouTube, making it ideal for business meetings and training sessions.



The cost of renting the room varies with the use and for some community groups may be free of charge. For more detailed information about the facilities, rental charges and availability of rooms, please contact the managers, Tim and Ian, at: manager@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Keen on writing?

Why not send us a short story (500 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".

Open morning and Winter Fayre at the Station Master's House



Come and join us on Saturday 10th
December

From 10.00am - 1.00pm

All welcome to look around the library, books and facilities

Cake stall, book stall, bric-a-brac and other attractions

Children's Library

Birkdale Community Hub and Library are delighted to be joined by Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, Hoghton Street, who will be supporting the children's library over the next five years. Directors Jayne and Tim Hayes have donated a table, chairs, cushions and a themed mat for the children's section of the library and awarded an annual donation for the purchase of new





children's books. The first selection of 107 books, was chosen by Jayne and librarian Liz Rea during a recent visit to Broadhurst's book shop in Market Street.

The trustees and librarians are very grateful for this support, enabling the hub to maintain up to date learning and reading resources for children, which will complement the wide range of children's books which have been donated.

Books for Older Children and Young Adults

We also stock a wide range of books for older children and young adults too, spanning a wide range of genres - Classic Fiction, Fantasy, Adventure, Romance, Science Fiction and Horror.

There is something for everyone from Roald Dahl, David Walliams and J.K. Rowling to Philip Pullman, Suzanne Collins and Terry Pratchett. We also have a variety of Graphic Novels too.



Computer suite

We're pleased to let you know that the six PCs in our computer room are available to members of Birkdale Community Hub and Library to book, for free, hourly sessions during hub opening hours.

There is no charge to become a member of the library.

The computer room has a speedy internet connection and each PC has modern hardware, the full Microsoft Office suite and browser software.

Please note that work cannot be stored onto the hard drives of these machines between sessions but can be saved to USB pendrives, SD cards or webmailed.



Pendrives are on sale at the library and printing of documents is available at a small charge.

One to one help with basic computer skills and iPads is also available on some days in the hub. To check availability and book sessions, contact us on 01704 566992 or in person at the House. For more information visit https://thestationmastershouse.co.uk/computers

Printing and copying

Did you know that printing and photocopying is available at the library? We charge only **10p per copy, single or double sided, colour or black and white.**

You can print your own documents or from the internet, using the hub's computers if necessary and volunteers will be happy to help you with your printing if needed.



Know your Birkdale Village

Q2. What was the original location of a fish shop in the village? Answer on page 22

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. Initially the money raised was held in reserve to build a contingency fund for renovation of the house. Now the money raised by the 200+ Club is used as a mix of basic income and to fund ongoing improvements to facilities offers 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
Tel: 01704 566530 or 07776 221393

Friends of the Station Master's House

Friends of the Station Masters House was set up in 2017 as a way to raise money for the charity to help towards the funding required to bring a community hub and library back to Birkdale. Now that the library is up and running, we still require a regular income to buy books, equipment, and finance activities as well as general running costs. Becoming a Friend to the charity allows us to have a regular source of income and your contribution would be much appreciated. 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. Your involvement will be key to our success as a charity. Why not become a Friend for just £12 annually (payable in January each year) and support your local library and community hub?

To join, pick up a form from the Library reception or download an application form from our website:

Friends | The Station Master's House (thestationmastershouse.co.uk)



Sunday, 27th November 10am - 6pm

- **★ OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON**
- * UNVEILING OF OUR NEW TREE
- * LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- **※ FAIRGROUND RIDES**
- * STALLS FROM LOCAL TRADERS
- **※ RAFFLES & PRIZES**
- MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES
- **※** VISIT FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS
- * PLUS LOTS MORE



Birkdale Christmas Fayre is proud to support Compassion Acts & The Salvation Army Toy Appeal.

Donation stations located on Weld Parade



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WORDSEARCH

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Village Notice Board

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

Going to School by Harry Cooper

My friend Joe goes to school with his big sister, Shelly; Zebras go to school in black and white pyjamas. Snakes go to school wriggling and sliding on their bellies; Monkeys go to school swinging on lamp posts, eating bananas.

Kangaroos go to school bouncing up and down, bumpty bump bump; Monsters and trolls go to school all screaming, smelly and scary. Elephants go to school trunks in the air, trump, trump. trump; Snails leave home for school two days early.

Giraffes go to school ducking under bridges and pylons; Flamingos go to school with their feathers all pink and frilly. Gazelles go to school running from lions' talons; Aliens don't go to school. Now that would be just too silly!

Why not paint a picture about something in this poem? We'd love to display your artwork at the Station Master's House

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.

Book Donations We continue to welcome all book donations

Thanks, must also go to all those who have already donated books, allowing the library to offer such a wide range of titles.

For a variety of reasons, we may be unable to use some of the books we receive. However these are still valuable to us as, whenever possible, they are sold, with the funds raised used to purchase additional titles.

Sales this year have already generated a fantastic £2000.

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

Book and reading groups

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.

If you would like to come along or to find out more, please contact



Know your Birkdale Village

Q3. What was the station car park originally used for? Answer on page 22

Home visit service

Volunteer Helen Parmiter has recently set up a home visit lending service for the library. Helen, who ran a similar service in London some years ago, is offering this as an exciting extension to existing services the library offers.



There is a wide variety of reasons why people would appreciate this kind of service. It may be that they are able to get to and from the library, but struggle to carry their books home, those who are temporarily incapacitated, perhaps post-surgery and of course those who are totally housebound.

Helen will match volunteers with the library members requesting this service, who will find out what they like to read, how many books they would like and then set up a monthly visit for them. All volunteers involved will have DBS checks before taking part.

For those who would like to book a visit or more information, contact Helen on 07561-838818 - this will be an answerphone, please leave a message including your name and telephone number, or by email: homevisit@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Large print book collection

A substantial collection of large print books, both fiction and non-fiction, are available to borrow from the library. The majority of these were acquired from a very generous donation from ISIS publishing, part of The Ulverscroft Group which was founded in 1964 by Fred Thorpe, a retired publisher who recognised the importance of access to literature for those whose eyesight was declining. One of the first books Ulverscroft published in large print in 1964 was 'A Pocket Full of Rye', by Agatha Christie, who subsequently requested that all her books were published in large print format.

Gill Rees, Thursday Evening Session Leader, says 'I was exploring means of funding a wider large print collection for Birkdale Community Hub and Library, as I knew from experience it would be a very valuable asset to the local community. When I heard from the team at ISIS publishing, it was almost too good to be true! We immediately started planning a road trip to their base in Oxford to collect the books.

A selection of these titles is kept at the Station Master's House, with a wider range at Birkdale Methodist Church. Books can be reserved online or in person for collection at either site. There is a wide range of genres and authors, including biographies, thrillers, historical fiction, crime novels and romance which offer something for everyone.

Village Notice Board

Advertising in the Birkdale Buzz will not only support local businesses but will contribute to the ongoing success of the Community Hub and Library. We plan to produce four editions annually. If you would like to advertise in future editions, please contact: birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

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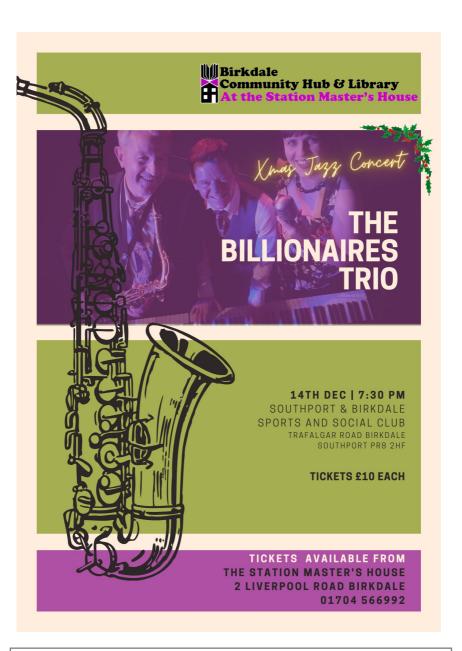
Christmas Gifts

Park in front and take a look

5 Weld Parade, Weld Road, Birkdale 01704 569697

What's on at the Hub - WEEKLY DIARY - Autumn 2022

Creative writing	Monday afternoon 1.30 - 3.30 pm	If you are interested in joining this group please leave your name and contact number at the library.			
Shared reading group	Weekly on Tuesday 2.00 - 3.30 pm	No booking required, anyone interested can just drop in. Free of charge. Contact: judireading@btinternet.com or leave your contact number at the library.			
Birkdale Local Councillors	6.00 – 7.00pm on the second Thursday of every month	Drop in surgery at the library no appointment is necessary			
Beginners Guitar Class	Fortnightly on Friday at 11.00 am	Booking required. Contact: Peter Rimmer on 07973 623210 or email peterimmer.gallimaufry@hot mail.co.uk			
Story time	Weekly on Saturday from 10.30 - 11.15 am	For children up to four years old. Sessions are free of charge and need to be booked in advance. Contact: BCHL.			
Lego Club	Weekly on Saturday from 10.30 - 11.15 am	No booking required. For all ages.			
Southport U3A	Hold some of their group meetings at the hub, more information can be found on their website https://www.southportu3a.org.uk/ These are open to U3A members only.				



Answers to Know your Birkdale quiz Q1 The original Birkdale Library Q2 Bistrot Verité

- Q3 Sidings and coal marshalling yard

Village Notice Board

BARRIQUE

Wine Bar, Café & Deli

2 Pizzas and a bottle of house wine £35 (available Sunday - Thursday)

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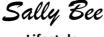
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Southport & Birkdale Sports Club

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. There is coaching available, either personally, or in groups, for squash and tennis coupled with the option of social matches, club tournaments and local competitive leagues.

Cricket and hockey sections provide training and fixtures for both juniors and adults.

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.

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

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