

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**

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.

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 two 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

Being a Friend means that you will be kept up to date about recent activities and future events and plans.

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

Want to advertise in the Birkdale Buzz?

The magazine comes out every quarter (March, June, September and December) and is printed in A5 format. Paper copies of the next edition will be printed in B&W and in colour online via our website.

The charge for adverts in the next edition is: 1/8 page costs £10, 1/4 page costs £20 and 1/2 page costs £30.

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

Hello Readers

Welcome to our third 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. This edition is printed on paper in B&W and online in colour.

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. All our facilities are free for members to use.

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 BCHL

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.

Coronation Day 6th May 2023

We were delighted to host an Open Day to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The Stationmaster's House was decorated in Union Jacks and red, white and blue, both inside and out.



Deputy Lieutenant Michael Braham visited us and read out a message from the King and Queen thanking all of those who had put on events to celebrate the Coronation within their communities.

Our volunteers, also dressed in red, white and blue, did a great job of celebrating and helping out both our regular library users and lots of people who were popping in for the first time.



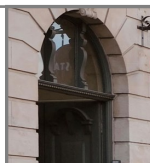
As well as our usual Storytime, Rhyme time and Lego club, we had Coronation crafts from children who could create a right royal crown, a celebratory keyring and a royal befeater. We saw some fabulous creations!



We had full coverage of the Coronation in our large meeting room, accompanied by hot drinks, cakes, biscuits and snacks. It was lovely for people to come together to watch the event, and enjoy the treats!



Know your Birkdale Village
Q1 Where's this?
Answer on page 30



Local Landmarks: The Palace Hotel

In the last issue of the Birkdale Buzz we looked at the village's former libraries, and in this edition, we turn our attention to another lost Birkdale landmark - The Palace Hotel.

The hotel opened in 1866, costing £60,000 to build (equivalent to over £9 million today) with 75 bedrooms and a huge ballroom. It was situated in 20 acres off Weld Road, between Westcliffe Road and Palace Road. At one stage it had hydropathic facilities to compare with the nearby Smedley Hydro and from 1884 it had its own train station on the Cheshire Lines extension.

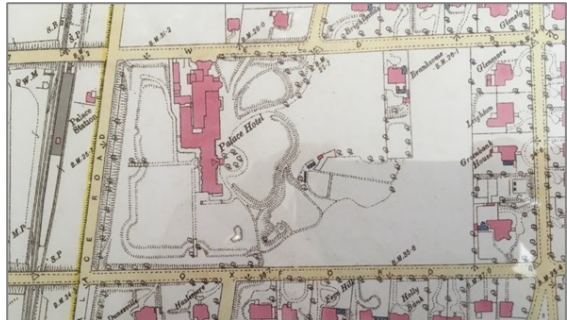
Manchester merchants funded the construction of the building to provide a

destination for businessmen. Families coming for a holiday in the resort were less attracted to the hotel, finding it rather isolated from the town. The venue was given to the American Red Cross in 1942 and Clark Gable came to Southport in 1943 to film a documentary called "*Combat America*", which showed how injured American soldiers were looked after. It was partly filmed at the Palace Hotel and can be viewed on YouTube.

A few years later the Palace Hotel hosted another famous American: Frank Sinatra who stayed while performing at the Liverpool Empire in 1953. During another stay at the hotel when Sinatra was doing a season at Blackpool he called for a taxi and was picked up by Ginger McCain, the Red Rum trainer. Sinatra wanted to be driven to somewhere that sold a hairbrush. The everyday life of a star!

Towards the end of its life in 1961 the Palace was in the news for being the scene of a murder. More happily, the hotel was the base for the Hungary football team competing in the 1966 World Cup, and the Norman Wisdom film "*What's Good for the Goose*" was filmed there in 1968/69, using several well-known amateur actors from the Southport area.

The final owners of the Palace were unable to restore the hotel's fortunes and the company went into liquidation in 1967. The building was demolished in 1969 after a period of strange events such as lifts working without power and reports of ghosts. Today all that remains of the Palace Hotel is the Fishermen's Rest pub, which was originally the hotel's Coach House.



Henry James

Editor: Do you have any memories of the Palace Hotel to share with us? If so, send them in to: birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

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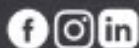
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FRIENDS OF ROTTEN ROW



It started with a Michaelmas Daisy

One day in 2011 a Birkdale couple were driving along Rotten Row and were horrified to see the Michaelmas daisies being cut down. Stopping to ask why, they were advised that due to severe cutbacks in the budget of Sefton Borough Council, they could no longer afford to maintain Rotten Row and it was likely to be grassed over as the other side had been. Fortunately the couple were members of Birkdale Civic Society and suggested to the society that saving Rotten Row could be their next project.

A meeting was held at Southport Town Hall in May 2011 to see if there was any interest in involving the local community and forming a volunteer group that would work in conjunction with the existing Sefton Council maintenance programme. The aim of the group would be to restore Rotten Row to its former glory for future generations to enjoy. A large number of people attended the meeting, ensuring the project was viable and the Civic Society was successful in obtaining Heritage Lottery Funding. It was then decided to make this a standalone group and Friends of Rotten Row (FORR) was born.

The restoration of Rotten Row commenced in June 2011. The border is half a mile long with an average width of 26 feet, making it one of the longest, if not the longest, herbaceous border in the UK.

For simplicity it was decided to number the borders 1 to 6, the Duke Street end near Morrisons becoming Border 1. The borders were overgrown with ground elder and bindweed and Golden Rod had completely taken over borders 5 and 6 and many plants had become lost to view. It was decided to completely remove everything from borders 5 and 6 and replant with all new species. However the ground was so overgrown that removing everything by hand would prove too difficult and take too long. A mechanical backhoe was hired, which took a day to remove everything. This was then dug over by the volunteers and replanted. Work then progressed on to the remaining four borders, which were steadily restored to their former glory.

The Friends continue to maintain the borders and are always looking for people to join them. No experience is necessary. We have some plant experts amongst the Friends and all tools are provided. Our 2023 season is well underway and we meet each week on: Mondays between 10.00am and 3.00pm, and Thursdays between 1.00pm and 3.00pm

Pop along for an hour or join us for the whole session. You will be most welcome.

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Warm Spaces

During the winter months the Birkdale Hub and Community Library charity joined the 'Warm Spaces' initiative coordinated by Sefton. Here is an account of how it went from Eileen, one of our volunteers.

A 'Warm Space' was offered at the Station Master's House every Thursday from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm since the beginning of December 2022 until the end of April.

We provided a choice of warm, well-lit rooms, free tea and coffee and a selection of delicious biscuits to all comers, as well as access to television and a variety of newspapers, puzzles and jigsaws. Things started off quite slowly in December with three or four visitors for the first couple of weeks (there was also a spell of very icy weather just before Christmas which meant that people stayed indoors) but numbers after the New Year increased and we had as many as six or seven people together in the meeting rooms at any one time.

Everyone who visits told us how pleasant and welcoming they found the Library, and they all got on well with each other. They chatted together, read the newspapers and enjoyed unlimited cups of tea and coffee accompanied by the aforementioned delicious biscuits! We had several regular customers and others started visiting because their friends had told them about us, so word obviously spread!

We would not have been able to offer this service without the support of our lovely volunteers on Thursdays, who chat with the visitors, bring fresh supplies of hot water, milk and biscuits and who do the washing up and tidying around afterwards. Angela, the lady who does the Knit & Natter group on Tuesdays, also comes on Thursday mornings to do crafts with any of the visitors who wished to participate. They all deserve a big thank you!

Thanks also go to Wendy who developed the idea and secured funding from Sefton Council for the initiative and who often visits on Thursdays to chat with the visitors.

A big thank-you also goes to SPAR in Birkdale village for their support in providing the newspapers and refreshments for our Warm Space and to Lianne for organising.

Warm Spaces becomes Welcome Spaces

Great news, the charity will continue to run a weekly "Welcome Spaces" with support from Sefton CVS and we hope to provide regular advice/support sessions over the weeks. The sessions take place every Thursday from 10 am – 4 pm in the large meeting room at the Library and (weather permitting) in The Sidings, the little garden at the back of the Library.

If you would like to become involved in the development of "Welcome Spaces" we would love to hear from you. Please contact Linda Morris by email at:

volunteers@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or leave a message on 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.

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How Big Is Yours?

If you're going in for our sunflower competition (P19) compare your flower with this one grown by Brian Randall last year.



The flower head measured 33cm (13.5ins)

What's Cooking?

Bara Brith teabread

In Welsh *Bara Brith* means speckled bread. It is best served sliced and buttered and even better when accompanied by a cup of the tea at the end of a long walk in the beautiful Welsh hills.

Ingredients

10oz (300g) mixed dried fruit
4oz (125g) demerara sugar
1 tbsp marmalade – very fine cut
Cup of hot strong black tea - 250mls
2 tbsp brandy/rum/amaretto [optional]
1 egg beaten
½ teaspoon mixed spice
8oz (250g) self-raising flour



Method

Measure fruit, sugar, marmalade into a bowl. Pour over the hot tea (plus brandy/rum/amaretto if using) and stir to ensure the sugar is dissolved and the ingredients are well mixed. Cover and leave to soak overnight.

Grease and line two 1lb loaf tins

Add the beaten egg, mixed spice and flour and mix well to make sure the flour is incorporated into the mixture. Divide between the two loaf tins and bake at 130° for 45-55 minutes. I cover the tins loosely with foil after about 30 minutes to prevent the tops browning too much. Test to see if fully cooked by inserting a skewer into the middle of the Bara Brith and when it comes out clean it's cooked.

Leave to cool then turn out from the tins. The teabread freezes well. It can also be made in one 2lb loaf tin but a longer cooking time is required.

Know your Birkdale Village
Q2 Where's this?
Answer on page 30



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.



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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.

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 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



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



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

School News

Greenbank High School Music Department



SOUNDS LIKE SUMMER

We are delighted to have been asked to introduce Greenbank High School Music Department to the readers of the Birkdale Buzz – so fasten your seatbelts and join us for this magical mystery ride!

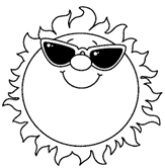
Here at Greenbank, we offer instrumental and vocal tuition (on a very wide variety from Oboe to Viola, Piano to Cello) and always strive to accommodate all requests for specialist instruction. All students in Years 7 and 8 learn to play an orchestral melody instrument within the curriculum too. With a ‘Music for all’ motto we encourage everybody to involve themselves in rehearsals with one of our many musical ensembles or clubs: Brass Ensemble, String Ensemble, Music Tech Club, Clarinet Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Windband, Saxophone Ensemble, Jazz Club, Music Theory Club, Greenbank Voices, Guitar Ensemble and Orchestra. Playing two concerts per year and supporting school functions such as Awards Evenings, Remembrance assembly and Open Evening is a lovely way to give back to our school community. We also love to get involved with fundraising and this year Christmas Carol Club raised over £100 when spreading Christmas cheer all around our corridors on the last day of the Winter term. Musical ensembles have been on three international school tours to Austria and Italy in the past, and every year as a thank you to our committed musicians we enjoy a visit to hear the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra perform – this academic year we were treated to a performance of the film music from ‘E.T.’ We are planning a Music Residential to Anglesey in January 2024 which we are already looking forward to.

Currently we are preparing for our end of year performance – **SOUNDS LIKE SUMMER** and pieces of music for the programme are taking shape nicely. Our summer concert will take place at **Greenbank High School at 7pm on July 6th, 2023**, and we are buzzing to be able to extend an invitation to all readers! Please call school reception (01704567591) to reserve tickets (£5 for adults/£3 for students) to come and hear us play.

THANK YOU!



★★★
 ★ **WHAT'S ON IN VICTORIA PARK THIS SUMMER** ★
 ★ **Southport Food & Drink Festival 2-4 June** ★
 ★ **Enchanted Fields Festival 7-9 July** ★
 ★ **Save the Rave Festival 22 July** ★
 ★ **Southport Flower Show 17-20 August** ★
 ★★★



Birkdale Village Summer Fayre

10AM-6PM
SUNDAY
30TH JULY

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Birkdale Civic Society



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Sefton Councillor Surgeries

LibDem 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 any issues you may have.

Need Help with Computing?

Do you want to get more out of your iPad? Would you like help in using your computer or laptop? Free individual support is available at Birkdale Library. Please ring 01704 566992 or call into the Station Master's House at Birkdale Station and a volunteer will get in touch to arrange a meeting.

Ainsdale & Birkdale Gardens

Four local gardens will once again be opening their gates for the National Garden Scheme in June and July this year. The gardens are at 14 Saxon Road owned by Margaret and Geoff Fletcher, 23 Ashton Road where John and Jennifer Mawdsley live, 115 Waterloo Road the home of Rebecca and Antony Eden and 45 Stourton Road owned by Pat and Bill Armstrong. The National Garden Scheme raises funds for nursing and caring charities such as Macmillan, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Parkinson's UK and Carers Trust and donates some £3million a year to these major health and caring charities, together with a range of smaller nursing and gardening charities.

There has been an active involvement in the scheme in this area since 2003 when the Saxon Road garden opened for the first time. That grew into Birkdale Village Gardens in 2008 and Hillside and Ainsdale gardens have been added since. The combined entrance to all four gardens is £6, children are free and dogs are welcome.

Refreshments are available at three gardens and plants available at most. So why not join us on June 11th and July 16th to help support the charity which has raised over £50 million since its inception in 1927 and have a great day out into the bargain with luscious cakes and new plants for your own garden. Hope to see you in June or July.



Ainsdale & Birkdale Gardens

115 Waterloo Road PR8 4QN

14 Saxon Road PR8 2AX

23 Ashton Road PR8 4QE

45 Stourton Road PR8 3PL

Sunday 11 June

Sunday 16 July

11am - 5pm

Combined entry £6 Children free



WHEELCHAIR ACCESS PLANTS FOR SALE

TEA



PHOTO: THE GARDEN SOCIETY

More information at ngs.org.uk

Gardeners' Corner

My name is Wendy; I am a volunteer at the library. I love gardening and hope you do too. Our two garden areas at the Station Master's House library are in full bloom. As well as the window boxes, do come and enjoy the Sidings courtyard, accessed by walking through the library (or via the carpark for those with wheelchairs and buggies); it's a shaded seated courtyard area with summer flowers to enjoy.

Dotty for Dahlias

I have a confession to make: I am completely obsessed with dahlias and admit to growing 43 plants this year! A flower once much out of favour, but not anymore. We hope to have some beautiful dahlias enjoying the sunshine at the Library this summer for you to enjoy. If you are growing dahlias, one easy way to ensure you have lots of flowers is to pinch out the tips of the main central shoot once it has grown three pairs of leaves. This is likely to be in early June. Simply use scissors to cut just above where the leaves join. It looks drastic but what will quickly happen is that buds, shoots and then flowers will form in abundance. If in doubt about this technique just look it up on YouTube.

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

All the sunflower seed packets went, so we are very excited to find out how your sunflower seeds are getting on. Are you growing the tallest sunflower from seed this year in Birkdale? When your sunflowers have grown as tall as they can, send us a photo of yourself (or family) standing next to the sunflowers with a tape-measure held up next to the plants to clearly show their height in centimetres together with your name and contact details. Please send to birkdalebuzz@thestationmasterhouse.co.uk by 30th August ready for the results to be reported in the September edition of the Birkdale Buzz

Here are some gardening jobs for the summer:

Hanging baskets, pots and troughs will keep on giving right up to the first frosts as long as you:

- Water regularly, particularly in very hot weather
- Feed every week - liquid tomato feed is great
- Deadhead to encourage new flowers to come (or your flowers will say "job done" and die!)
- Take soft cuttings from your favourite plants. Salvias and fuchsias are easy to propagate now
- For rose lovers, feed your roses again in June to encourage further flowers,

And finally, relax and enjoy your garden, perhaps with a cup of tea and a good book from the library.

Happy Gardening

Birkdale station and the railway to Liverpool: a story

Birkdale Station was a vital link for the community, connecting locals to destinations far and wide. However, it was the railway to Liverpool that truly held a special place in their hearts.

Liverpool, a city renowned for its industry, commerce, and culture, beckoned with endless opportunities. The railway line from Birkdale meandered through picturesque landscapes, traversing hills and rivers until the towering skyline of Liverpool emerged on the horizon.

For the people of Birkdale, the railway to Liverpool symbolized ambition, hope, and new beginnings. It was more than just a means of transportation; it represented a gateway to a world beyond their own. Whether seeking employment, education, or adventure, locals boarded the train with eager anticipation.

Yet the railway faced its share of challenges. During the war, it became a crucial lifeline, transporting troops and supplies amidst the looming threat of bombings. Birkdale Station witnessed tearful goodbyes and emotional reunions, as the community rallied together during those tumultuous times.

As years passed, the railway to Liverpool evolved with modernization efforts, improved tracks, and upgraded stations. Throughout these changes, Birkdale Station remained a constant, a symbol of stability amidst a changing world.

Today, as commuters embark on the train to Liverpool, the spirit of adventure and connection still thrives. The railway serves as a reminder of the boundless possibilities that exist beyond their hometown, an ever-present thread linking the community to the wider world.

Birkdale Station stands tall, its platform alive with the comings and goings of dreamers and seekers. It is a testament to the enduring power of railways, bringing people together, shaping destinies, and uniting communities as they journey towards their aspirations.

Editor: Who or what wrote this? See Page 30 for the answer.

Birkdale Buzz Online



In response to reader requests you can now access the Birkdale Buzz in colour via our BCHL website www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk We have also loaded the first two editions of the Buzz (December 22 and March 23) so that these can be viewed in colour too.

SOUTHPORT AND DISTRICT LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB



Are you a lady who 'likes to lunch'? If so why not join us?

We are a social club and meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Southport and Birkdale Sports Club where we enjoy a delicious lunch followed by an interesting speaker.

Lunch is served at 12.20pm but members usually arrive a little early so they are able to socialise and make new friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

The club has been established for 70 years and we now have a few vacancies for new members.

If you are interested please give us a ring:

Eileen Culshaw 01704 564335

or

Teresa Shorrock 01704 875727



Birkdale Community Hub and Library wins top place for Asda Foundation Charity



Over the spring months our local ASDA store chose Birkdale Community Hub and Library as one of their three Southport charities for the current **Asda Foundation Green Token Giving scheme**. Thanks to strong and regular online voting from our many supporters we came first in the poll and have been awarded the top prize of £500. **A huge thank you to ASDA Southport for this award.**

We will use the ASDA donation to pay towards the costs of producing the Birkdale Buzz, our free quarterly magazine that aims to inform and interest the local community.

Birkdale Birds by Twitcher

Since I last wrote in the Birkdale Buzz spring has well and truly arrived. Our gardens burst into life, flora and fauna seemed livelier and louder, our birds appeared in greater number, and the dawn chorus and the mating season began in earnest.

In addition to our resident birds, we started to see migrants, and I thought a brief explanation of these visitors might be helpful. Generally speaking, southern birds (such as Swallows, Swifts and Redstarts) arrive mainly from Africa between February and early June, and others such as Pink-footed Geese do the opposite by flying North.

One day in March I saw a tired Marsh Harrier flying over the sea toward Leighton Moss. We headed off in that direction only to find when we got there that it had arrived 10 minutes before us! Watching the skies through binoculars, you may be lucky enough to see an Osprey which are now visiting the area.



Of our permanent residents, you may see four kinds of Tits in your garden, the familiar Great Tit (larger body, larger black head) and Blue Tits, the Coal Tit - recognised by its fawn-coloured body, and black head split by a broad white stripe, and the Long-tailed Tit - pink, black, and white, with its unmistakable extended tail.

At the end of February I saw three Chiffchaffs scratching the soil in a very organised way looking for insects. In early April I heard a terrible screeching in my garden as a baby Sparrow Hawk chased two Racing Pigeons, nearly catching one which escaped, the other hiding behind a bin. I gave the escapee some nuts and water for three hours, before it finally flew away.

Helen has written in to report that she enjoyed an over-wintering Grey Wagtail in her garden which has now moved on. A pair of Woodpeckers also spent the winter in her garden and now come back for food. "The Woodpeckers raised a chick last year so we're hopeful of success again this year as we think they are nesting in a nearby tree."



Editor: Please send in any unusual or interesting bird sightings so we can include them in our next newsletter.

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If not... then read on....

Going to Spain this year... then why not try a few words in Spanish?

It is always appreciated if you try to communicate in the native tongue, even if it is only to say "please" or "thank you". So give it a go...

Please	Por favor
Thank you	Gracias
Hil	iHola!
How are things?/How's it going?	¿Qué tal?
A beer please	Una cerveza.... por favor
A white coffee please	Un cafe con leche... por favor
A red wine... please	Un vino tintopor favor
Where are the toilets?	¿Dónde está el baño / los servicios?
See you tomorrow	Hasta mañana
The bill ... please	La cuentapor favor

And now you can say.....




Ask Adam - the iPad doctor



How to share photos and videos on an iPad

One of the great things about having photos on your iPad is that you can send them all over the world via email, message etc. Here's what you need to do:

1. On your iPad open the photo or video you want to share.
2. Tap the share button (a square with an upward arrow). 
3. Choose how you want to share (e.g., via Mail, Messages, or other installed apps) and send the photo off.
4. To share multiple photos or videos at once, tap *Select* when viewing a screen with multiple thumbnails (pictures), then tap the thumbnails of the items you want to share. A little tick will appear on the selected pictures.
5. Tap the share button and choose a sharing option, as steps 2 and 3.

You can also share photos and videos from a specific day or month by tapping *Library*, then *Days* or *Months*, then tapping the share button.

Using Split View

Sometimes it's useful to see a number of things on screen at one time from two different apps. For example if you're writing an email but want to check over some information in another app at the same time.

- To use Split View, first open the app you want to use in Split View.
- Then tap the three-dot button near the top of your screen.
- Then look at the left side of the menu and tap the 'Split View' button. It should be a rectangle with a line in the middle.
- You'll then go back to your home screen and you're then able to then choose the other app you want to use in Split View.

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.

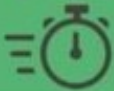
Know your Birkdale Village
Q3 Where's this?
Answer on page 30





FOOD INTOLERANCE & ALLERGY TESTING

RESULTS WITHIN
1 HOUR



Are you
suffering from:

Headaches / Migraines
Tiredness
Being Overweight or Weight Loss
Bloating
Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)
Skin Rashes
Arthritis
PMT



**Test
Cost
£55**

IMMEDIATE
RESULTS

BIRKDALE HEALTH STORE Call 01704 564353 to book

A Local Doctor Writes: It shouldn't happen to a GP.....

On a wet winter's night, I had been tasked to visit a patient: Mr Flibbertigibbet (not their real name, or necessarily their gender for that matter), who had a one-day history of a cough. With no other concerning symptoms, the patient had been triaged as a lower priority. As it had been a busy shift they would have to wait several hours for a visit.

Whilst I was en route, in the wee hours, after seeing several more poorly people, my patient rang for an update. They were advised I'd be there within a short while.

In the pouring rain, and at an ungodly hour, I arrived to begin my assessment. No answer at the door. No answer on the phone. No answer when I knocked on the windows. I checked around the property for lights or signs of life. Nothing. I began to worry. Had the patient collapsed? Was I going to have to escalate matters and ask the fire service to attend to force the door in?

Sitting in my warm, dry car considering my options, I noticed blue flashing lights racing towards me. Had the patient despaired of me ever arriving and called an ambulance? As the blinding, blue-lighted vehicle screeched to a halt, I realised my error: it wasn't an ambulance, it was the police.

What the....?

Several police officers approached me. "We've had reports of a burly man trying to break into number 32." Burly? I'll take that.

I was invited to sit in the back of the police car, whilst they confirmed my identity and the suspicious circumstances. I watched as an officer spoke to the patient in the doorway.

He returned to the car. "They don't want to see you now. They're feeling better."

Ah, the life of a burly GP.

Birkdale Buzz: would you like to contribute?

We welcome thoughts and ideas from our readers. Maybe you have memories of Birkdale that you would like to share or you want to mention something that is happening, good or bad? You can email us at birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or leave your contact details and a brief description of your article at the Station Master's House addressed to "Editor, Birkdale Buzz".



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Please call Sandi Gomez on **07432 812516**
Or visit: www.lapinatalanguageclub.com



BUSY BODY'S

Lingerie Stylists Birkdale

The importance of individual fitting

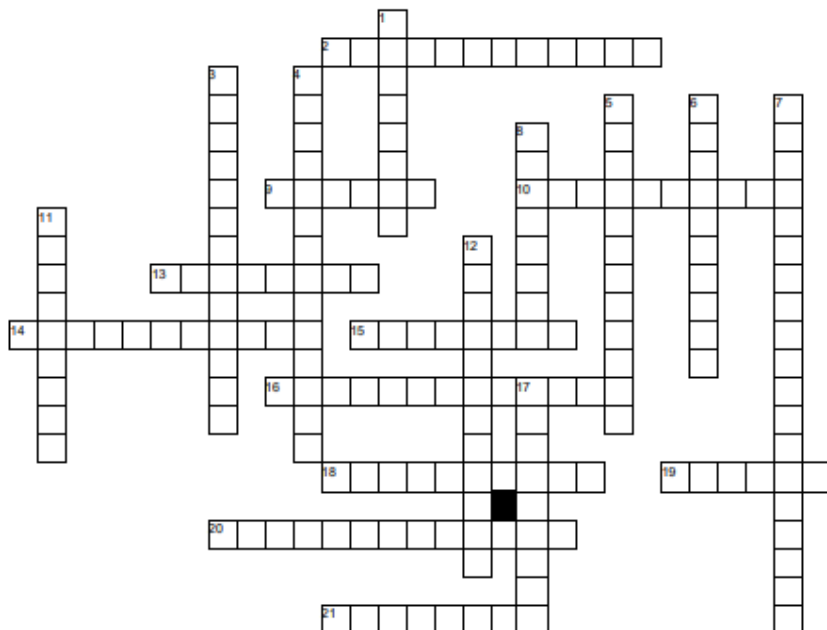
42E Liverpool Road, Birkdale Village
Southport PR8 4AY

T: 01704 227096

E: Busybodyslinterie@btconnect.com

W: busybodys.uk

June Birkdale Crossword



Across

2. Where records are kept (7,5)
9. Metropolitan Borough (6)
10. 'The' local boulevard (4,6)
13. able dirk (anag) (8)
14. Go for a swing here? (7,4)
15. Baker's lucky number? (13)
16. Would the king play here? (5,8)
18. Local Bird Sanctuary (6,4)
19. Name for those who lived by the Mere? (6)
20. Place to watch amateurs play (6,7)
21. Birkdale route to the sea (4,4)

Down

1. First station to Manchester (5,3)
3. 2nd longest structure of its type? (9,4)
4. Famed local Amphibian (10,4)
5. Southport born and bred (12)
6. Local village in the Domesday Book (10)
7. August Event? (9,6,4)
8. Merseyrail goes under here (8)
11. One long herbaceous border (6,3)
12. 09.04.23? (6,6)
17. Seaport street by the railway? (5,4)

Answers on page 30

Regular Meetings at Birkdale Community Hub and Library



Shared Reading, Knit and Natter, Guitar for Beginners and Lego Club are just some of the meetings that take place at the Community Hub.

Please contact the Station Master's House for more details of these and other meetings taking place. T: 01704 566922 or call in to chat to our volunteers.

Answers to Puzzles



Birkdale station and the railway to Liverpool

The little story on page 20 was not written by anyone in particular, or indeed by any human being. It was constructed by a website called ChatGPT, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to search the internet for ideas. Your editor put in a request to the website: “Write me a story about Birkdale Station and the railway to Liverpool in around 250 words”, and three seconds later out came the story!

I could have asked for anything, e.g. “Write me an essay on the English Civil War in 1000 words” and a properly constructed essay would have emerged in a few seconds. Imagine what this means for students and for those marking their work. And how about writers of fiction and non-fiction?

We live in interesting times!

June Crossword Answers

Across

2. Smedley Hydro
9. Sefton
10. Lord Street
13. Birkdale
14. Hesketh Park
15. Thirteen
16. Royal Birkdale
18. Martin Mere
19. Rimmer
20. Little Theatre
21. Weld Road

Down

1. Meols Cop
3. Southport Pier
4. Natterjack Toad
5. Sandgrounder
6. Churchtown
7. Southport Flower Show
8. Hillside
11. Rotten Row
12. Easter Sunday
17. Dover Road

Answers to Picture Questions.

Q1: Entrance to Costa Coffee

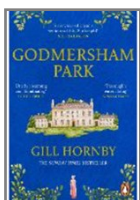
Q2: Trustee Savings Bank logo above Sainsbury’s entrance

Q3: Flats above Lathom’s Bakers

Some of the new books at Birkdale Library and Community Hub

FICTION

Godmersham Park, Gill Hornby, 2023



Sunday Times bestseller by the acclaimed author of 'Miss Austen' offering an atmospheric account of a young governess forming a firm friendship with the literary genius. 'If you love Jane Austen you're sure to enjoy Gill Hornby's stylish glimpse into the life of young governess Anne Sharp ... this elegantly written tale skilfully recreates a world where governesses are midway between the family upstairs and the servants downstairs.'

The Independent

Great Circle, Maggie Shipstead



'Beautifully written and endlessly readable' The Guardian

A breathtakingly ambitious novel that weaves together the astonishing lives of a female aviator and a Hollywood actress. 1950s aviator Marian Graves is driven by a need for freedom and danger, yet her obsession with flight consumes her most. Shortlisted The Women's Prize 2022 and The Booker Prize

Cleopatra and Frankenstein, Coco Mellors



An astounding and painfully relatable debut novel about the spontaneous decisions that shape our entire lives and those imperfect relationships born of unexpectedly perfect evenings. Addictive and humorous contemporary fiction set in Bohemian New York about the shock waves caused by one couple's impulsive marriage. A Sunday Times bestseller.

1989 Val McDermid

The Crossing Places Elly Griffith

London Rules Mick Herron

Joe Country Mick Herron

Damascus Station David McCloskey

The Pale Criminal Philip Kerr

A German Requiem Philip Kerr

Cloud Cuckoo Land Anthony Doer

The 6:20 Man David Baldacci

Paris Apartment Lucy Foley

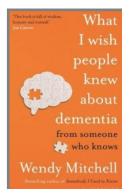
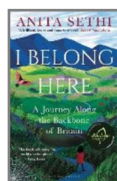
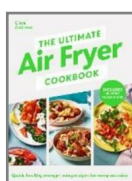
Again, Rachel Marian Keyes

The Twyford Code Janice Hallett

Snow Country Sebastian Faulks

The Black Bird Tim Weaver

NON-FICTION



Why not visit the library to see for yourself our wide range of books for adults and children?



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.



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



**We would like to extend our thanks to
Price Right Print Ormskirk
01695 571443
For their help and assistance with this edition**