

# Birkdale Buzz



**A community magazine sponsored by the  
Birkdale Community Hub & 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 & 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 & 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](mailto: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](http://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 are printed in B&W and the Buzz can be viewed 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](mailto:birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk)

## Hello Readers

Welcome to our fifth 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 & 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 & Library, why not pop into the library or visit our website

[www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk](http://www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk)

Meanwhile, enjoy the Buzz and have a very Happy Festive Season.

**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 see page 21 then contact [volunteers@thestationmastershouse.co.uk](mailto: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. Our opening hours are on page 4.

## A Choice of Libraries

Although the Station Master's House is the original home of the new Birkdale library, we quickly realised that we needed more space if we were to offer a wider range of books. We were fortunate in finding a second location in the meeting rooms at the Birkdale Methodist Church on Liverpool Road (the red church).



After installing shelving and other library facilities we have now expanded the book stock to hold about half the total library collection, almost all donated by the public. With over 3000 fiction books and 1000 large print books in stock, there is ample opportunity for browsing and borrowing. If you are looking for a book that is held at the other library, we can arrange a transfer. The car park behind the Church usually has lots of space and is ideal if you want to visit the library by car.

Our rooms at the Church are also where we deal with your donated books. These will be added to the library stock or, if that's not possible, sold or put into book swaps. No book you donate will end up in landfill. The sale of books makes a valuable financial contribution to the running of the libraries, including the purchase of new books.

So do come and see us, you may even get a cup of tea!

### Library Opening Hours

Station Master'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



**La Piñata**  
Language Club

Spanish classes in Southport, Birkdale and Ainsdale for children aged 3-17 from a native Spanish speaker. Offering both private tuition in person or online up to GCSE and in lunch and after school clubs.

Recently nominated for 'Most Loved Activity Leader in the North of England' in the National Children's Activity Awards - What's On 4 Kids Awards 2023.

Please call Sandi Gomez on **07432 812516**  
Or visit: [www.lapinatalanguageclub.com](http://www.lapinatalanguageclub.com)



*Editor: here is the latest article on local landmarks by Henry James. If you would like to know more about other Birkdale and Southport buildings, please send us an email.*

## Southport's Lord's Street Station

Did you know that Southport once had another railway terminus on Lord Street? In fact, the railway station building with its distinctive clock tower can still be seen today at the southern end of Lord Street. For almost 10 years the Grade II listed building has been a Travelodge Hotel, in the 1990s it was refurbished by Safeway stores and before that it was home to Ribble buses for many years.



However, between 1884 and 1952 the building was used as a railway station. When it opened on 1 September it was the northern terminus of the Southport & Cheshire Lines Extension Railway (SCLER). The line was built to link the independent Cheshire Lines Committee railway at Aintree with Southport. It took two Acts of Parliament, one in 1881 and the other in 1882, to allow the line to go to Birkdale and then on to Southport Lord Street.

The main Lord Street building included a booking hall, toilets and a place to buy refreshments. The cavernous train shed behind (now Morrison's store and carpark) contained four platforms. Records show that during the week in September 1895 at Southport Lord Street railway station there were 17 arrivals and 17 departures. While on a Sunday there were three arrivals and departures.

Train lines leaving the SCLER station first went towards the sea under the roundabout at the end of Rotten Row and then headed south for a mile to the Birkdale Palace railway station which opened in September 1884 and closed in July 1952. It was situated next to the now demolished Birkdale Palace Hotel (see our March 23 edition) and was located between Palace Road and Weld Road.

From there the track ran along what is now the Coastal Road to Seaside station in Ainsdale, opened in 1901 and renamed as Ainsdale Beach station in 1912. The next station along the line was Woodvale railway station, which opened in September 1884.

There were other stops along the line, including Mossbridge, which is now part of the Trans-Pennine Trail. The line was independent until nationalisation came in 1948 but the SCLER routes were slower than the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway's services to Manchester and Liverpool and the last SCLER passengers travelled on the line in January 1952.

**Henry James**

# BIRKDALE Kitchen Co.



**LEICHT**

**SIEMENS**

**BLANCO**

**silestone**

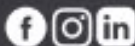
**Quooker**

**BORA**

**DEKTON**

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38 Weld Road, Birkdale, PR8 2ED | [www.birkdalekitchenco.com](http://www.birkdalekitchenco.com) | 01704 651488



@birkdalekitchenco

## **JINGLE JUICE (Sent in by Jill Jones)**

### **8 Ingredients**

- 2 cups of cranberry and pomegranate juice
- 1 tbsp of caster sugar
- 1/3 cup of orange liqueur
- 750ml bottle of sparkling white wine – Prosecco ... Cava ... chilled
- 8 cups of ice cubes
- 1 small orange cut into 8 thin slices
- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> cup of frozen pomegranate seeds
- Fresh mint leaves to serve



Place juice and sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, for 2 to 3 minutes or until sugar has dissolved. Set aside to cool completely.

Combine juice mixture, liqueur and sparkling wine in a large jug. Divide ice cubes and orange slices among 8 x 470ml-capacity glasses. Pour juice mixture into glasses. Top with pomegranate seeds and mint. Serve and Enjoy!!

**Season's Greetings!**

## **CHICKPEA AND CHORIZO STEW (Sent in by Jill Jones)**

- 1 large onion
- 4 cloves of garlic – or more!
- Picante paprika – to taste
- 2 tins of chickpeas
- 2 tins of chopped tomatoes
- Vegetable stock cube
- 1 spicy chorizo sausage ring (cooking variety)



**So easy!**

I always make the day before or even a couple of days... always tastes better!

Sauté the onion and garlic in olive oil and butter until soft. Add the paprika – I like plenty... to taste...

Drain and add the chickpeas, tinned tomatoes (and if I have any fresh tomatoes lurking in the fridge I add them too!) and stock cube. Simmer gently until the chickpeas have softened.

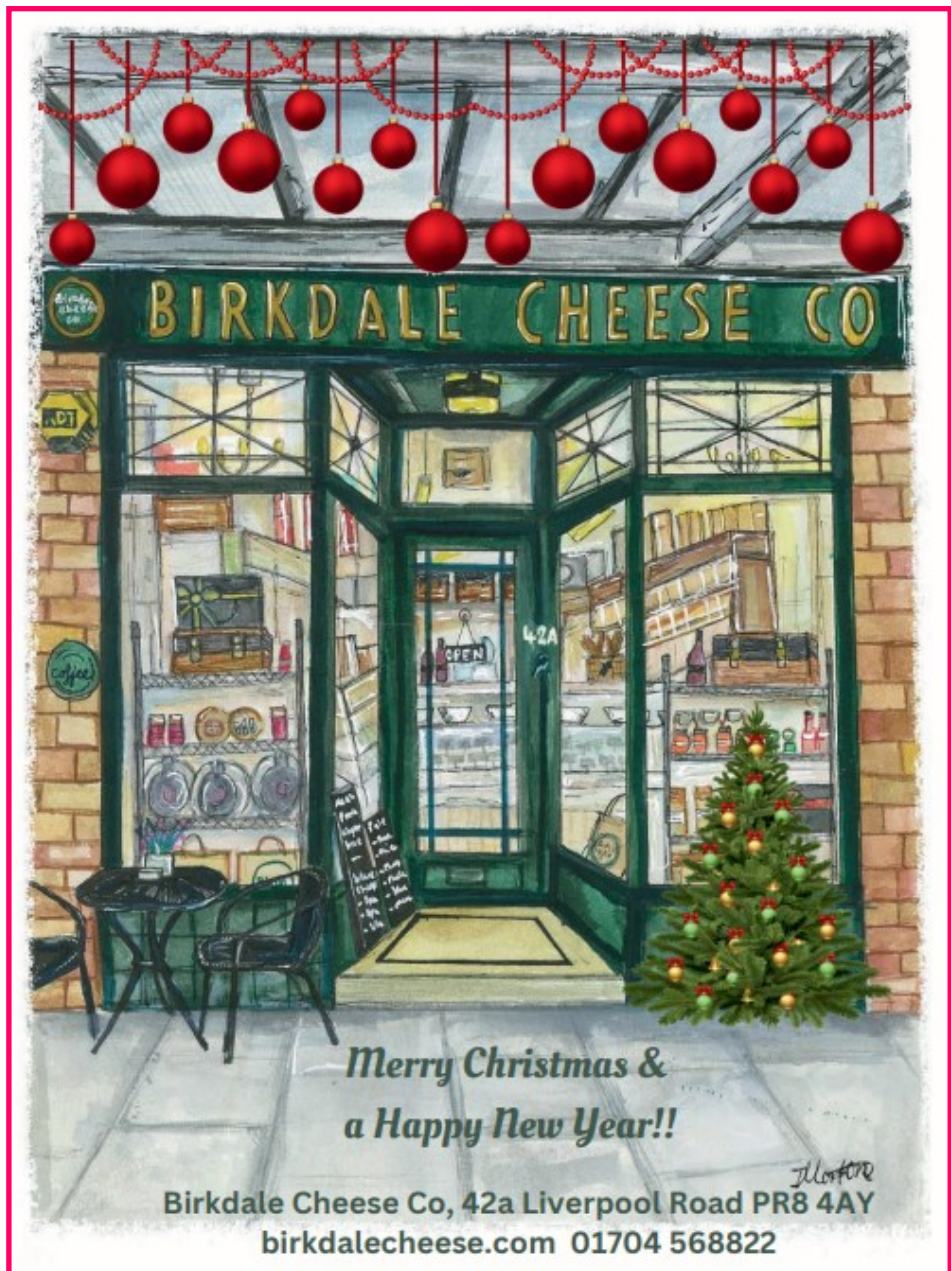
Meanwhile skin and cut the chorizo into rings. Fry gently.

Add the chorizo to the pan and all the chorizo oil. Leave to infuse over night... or longer.

Reheat... season to taste...

Serve sprinkled with fresh parsley, chunky fresh bread and aioli!

**Delicious!!**



*Merry Christmas &  
a Happy New Year!!*

Birkdale Cheese Co, 42a Liverpool Road PR8 4AY  
birkdalecheese.com 01704 568822

*JLHart*



## A day in the life of ..... a Crown Court Judge

The day usually begins with preparing for the trial ahead or other legal and administrative work and then, as 10.30am approaches, it's time to get ready to go into court. Robes and the traditional wig are put on and your usher is asked to confirm that the court is assembled. On entering court the barristers who are assembled there acknowledge your arrival with a bow of the head, which you return. It is a tradition, like the wearing of robes and wigs, that some people regard as out of date but these are actions that make it clear to everyone that the business of the court is a serious matter. What happens there is quite different from the casual comings and goings of everyday life.

Crown Courts deal with the most serious criminal offences, for example murder, rape and robbery. The day ahead in court is planned carefully but sometimes trials are adjourned for a variety of reasons and sometimes a trial that has been listed for hearing does not go ahead. The defendant may change his or her plea or a vital witness may be ill. That is when flexibility and adaptability are needed by you! The judge has overall responsibility for how trials are run and must always consider the comfort and attention span of members of the jury, the welfare of witnesses and the general behaviour of all in the court.

Although presiding over trials occupies most days in the life of a criminal court judge, there are also days when it is your turn to deal with a list of offenders who have been found guilty by the jury and are due to have sentence passed upon them. There are many papers to consult in each case, which help you to decide on the nature of the punishment.

When a sentence is due to be pronounced in court, the anxious relatives, the Press and even the judge feel the rising tension in the atmosphere. It is impossible not to be aware that, if your decision is to pass a sentence involving prison, this will affect many lives, not only the defendant but his or her family. A custodial sentence is also sending a message to the victims of the crime. When work is ended you leave the court having spent the day dealing with the bad and the sad but hoping that you have done justice to all.

### NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

The real history of Native Americans in the American West between 1800 and 1900 is coming to Birkdale Community Hub & Library on Friday afternoons between March and June 2024. This course of ten lessons will concentrate, empathically, on native experiences, beliefs, ways of living and the traumatic challenges they faced. For further details contact Course Tutor David Jones on 079086 75818, or email [davemjones1948@gmail.com](mailto:davemjones1948@gmail.com)

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



## Merry Christmas from the Vicar!

Hello Readers of the Buzz,

I wanted to take a moment to say that I pray you all have a wonderful Christmas and a hope-filled new year.

I'm fairly new to Birkdale and to Southport having only started as Vicar of St James' and St Peter's in September of this year. There are a number of services happening at St James' and St Peter's churches over the festive period that you would be more than welcome to come along to:

### St James' Church, Lulworth Road

#### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

6.30pm – Carols by Candlelight  
(Traditional Readings and Carols)

#### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

8.30am Traditional BCP Communion  
10.30am – Advent Service  
11pm – Midnight Communion Service

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December** – 10.30am –  
Christmas Morning Service

### St Peter's Church, St Peter's Road

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

3pm – Cake and Carols  
(Informal Carol Service with short readings)

#### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

4pm – Christingle service  
9pm – “Midnight in Bethlehem” Communion  
Service

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December** – 10am – Christmas  
Morning Service

Come and celebrate the Joy of Christmas with us!

**Reverend Sam Johnson, Vicar of St James' and St Peter's Churches, Birkdale**



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Discover exciting days out with Merseyrail.

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get your summer moving.

destinationmerseyside.com 

## Home Visiting Book Lending Service to be offered by Birkdale Library

The Birkdale Community Hub & Library is planning to relaunch our library **Home Visit Service** in the new year, taking books to people who can't get to the Library themselves.



In order to establish the level of demand we would like to know how many people in the local area are likely to want to make use of the service. We would like to prioritise people who are unable to visit either the Station Master's House next to Birkdale station or our branch library at the Birkdale Methodist Church on Liverpool Road. We would be grateful if anyone who might use this service could send an expression of interest email to: [homevisit@thestationmastershouse.co.uk](mailto:homevisit@thestationmastershouse.co.uk) or call the library on **01704 566992**.

We would also like to reach out to members of the public to see if anyone would like to volunteer to be a home visitor, collecting and returning books for people unable to access our premises. If volunteering, you would need your own transport, and be DBS checked, which we would arrange for you at no cost. Potential volunteers should also express their interest to the above email address or phone number.

Please could all responses be in as soon as possible so that we can make a start early in the new year. We look forward to hearing from you and will provide an update on the project progress in the next edition of the Buzz.

**Mrs Jones  
is delighted!**



she's got  
**Attendance  
Allowance**

The cost-of-living crisis means that it's more important than ever to make sure you are receiving all the government benefits that you are entitled to, such as Attendance Allowance.

Let me show you how you might be able to get regular financial assistance to help you remain independent in your own home for as long as you wish.



**Carolyn Gorman**  
Life Navigator  
Grey Matters Consultancy  
Southport



Grey Matters  
Consultancy  
SOUTHPORT

Attendance Allowance Claims  
Form Preparation Services  
Lasting Power of Attorney  
Blue Badge Applications



**07946 304426**

[grey-matters-consultancy.com/southport](http://grey-matters-consultancy.com/southport)

**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**

Mon to Sat 8am - 6pm

Sun 10am - 4pm

**VALUE**  
ON YOUR  
DOORSTEP

**SPAR**  *There for you*

**STORE OPEN 7am - 11pm EVERYDAY**

## Southport & Birkdale Sports Club



Southport & 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.

Leading up to Christmas there are functions taking place at the Club with the annual Christmas Eve Opening being its usual festive extravaganza.

The Club is closed on Christmas Day and for opening times and events, members can consult the "What's On" weekly emails, and visitors should ring 01704 569951 or visit <http://www.sandbsportsclub.co.uk>

**WHITE PARTY**  
SATURDAY 2ND, 9TH & 16TH DECEMBER  
INCLUDED IN THE NIGHT:  
CANAPES AND  
WHITE SANGRIA ON ARRIVAL  
DJ UNTIL LATE  
GLITTER ARTIST  
3 COURSE  
SEATED BANQUET  
TICKET PRICE  
£44.50  
BOOK NOW  
SOUTHPORT AND BIRKDALE SPORTS CLUB  
TRAFALGAR ROAD BIRKDALE  
SOUTHPORT PR8 2HF



White Party Nights are on Saturday 2nd, 9th & 16th December.  
See above for more details

Contact Tony Gadd, Honorary Membership Secretary,  
S&B Sports Club: Mob. 07717 418558  
email [tgaddok@aol.com](mailto:tgaddok@aol.com).

S&B Sports Club, Trafalgar Road, Birkdale PR8 2HF  
Tel. 01704 569951 Email: [social@sandbsportsclub.co.uk](mailto:social@sandbsportsclub.co.uk)

# CHOCOLATES AND CARDS

*Family run business since 1989*

Luxurious Scented Candles      Postable Wish Bracelets

*New for this Christmas*

Pop Up PUPPET THEATRE CARDS

BIRKDALE AND SOUTHPORT CHRISTMAS CARDS

LOCAL SCENE CALENDARS

mugs, coasters and notebooks

CHOCOLATE LIQUEURS: Anthon Berg, Asbach

CHOCOLATE SELECTIONS: Butlers, Van Roy and Lindt

chocolate ginger, brazils, coffee, fruit, mint, rose/violet creams

turkish delight, children's chocolate novelties, santas, coins etc

jellies, delicious own-label fudge.

14 Liverpool Road, Birkdale Village

01704 564609

## Computers at The Station Master's House

Do you need to access a website for work, investigate holiday plans, book tickets, check bills or benefits etc?

Maybe you have always wanted to try out Microsoft's powerful Word, Excel, PowerPoint or Publisher software?

Or perhaps you'd like to join in our friendly Thursday night computer club or an introductory programming course?

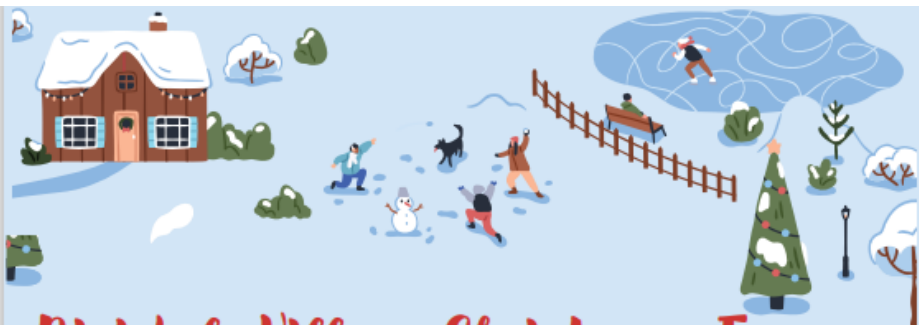
Alternatively, you might just want somewhere warm and comfortable to do homework or browse the internet.

If so, please join the library to use the equipment in our computer room suite and make the most of our facilities!

We have six modern Windows PCs which are free to use for members, each one has a full copy of Microsoft Office 365 and internet browsers. High speed Wi-Fi is also available for free throughout the Station Master's House.

Dual sided colour printing can be undertaken for a small cost from our PCs or from a device of your own such as a mobile, laptop or tablet.

*Please note that our PCs are reset after each use so if you want to take any data or documents away please use a pen drive – we sell them at Reception if needed.*



## **Birkdale Village Christmas Fayre**

**Sunday 3rd December**  
**11am - 6pm**

- . CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON**
- . STALLS FROM LOCAL TRADERS**
- . MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES**
- . LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**
- . FATHER CHRISTMAS**
- . FAIR GROUND RIDES**
- . PLUS MUCH MORE.....**

Brought to you by:  
Traders of Birkdale Village



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## Another way of supporting us!



### What is Give as you Live Online?

Give as you Live Online is a way to raise free donations for your favourite UK charity just by shopping online. Shopping with our app means you'll never miss a chance to raise free donations.

#### Help Birkdale Community Hub & Library By Donating – It won't cost you a penny!

- Birkdale Community Hub & Library are associates with the website "Give as You Live".
- If you wish to buy anything online, through a major retailer, log into this website [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com)
- Sign up
- Remember to put Birkdale Community Hub & Library as your Charity
- You can also download the app Give as You Live.
- Whichever method you choose, browse over 6000 stores, shopping as normal.
- Buy the items that you want, and the donation, usually 1 – 5% goes straight to the Birkdale Community Hub & Library.

To date the donations are approaching £1,000, so let's increase that number by having more members joining.

*Polansky's*

**Barber Shop**

Established 1961



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

No appointment needed

49 Weld Rd, Birkdale, Southport PR8 2DS.

**01704 568805**



# Welcome to your Warm Space

## What Is A Warm Space?

Every Thursday from 10am to 4pm you will ALWAYS get a warm welcome at the Station Master's House in Birkdale Village. Come and see our lovely bright, warm and cosy room overlooking the village, a friendly face will welcome you along with your "on the house" hot drinks and biscuits!



## Who can come?

All are welcome! We are located right next to Merseyrail's Birkdale station and on bus routes, 15, X2, 2, and 49.

**We are fully accessible with a lift and a toilet with baby changing facilities.**

## What's happening there?

Fancy a friendly chat while you enjoy your cuppa – this is the place!

You are welcome to come and read the newspapers and magazines that we provide. You can also access free WiFi and PC terminals. Everything provided at Warm Spaces is free of charge. We have lots of plans for future activities and some interesting speakers. For details call into the Station Master's house to see what's coming up.

Thanks to Anna Ingram from Morrisons Community who has donated a bag of sugar, a jar of coffee and 400 teabags.

## Return visit – Warm Spaces

What would the Station Master think  
If he came back today  
To drop into his former home  
Where folk now work and play.

For sure he'd find a welcome  
A hot drink and a snack  
In the wondrous 'Birkdale Hub'  
Just there beside the track.

I like to think he would approve  
And give it the 'thumbs up'  
As he settled down in comfort  
His good hot brew to sup!

**Brenda Tillston**

## Sefton Warm Spaces

a space for community  
and warmth in Sefton



in partnership with  Sefton Council  Sefton CVS

Warm Spaces is supported and funded by **Sefton CVS**,  
<https://seftoncvcs.org.uk/warmspaces/>

## Sunflower Competition: the results are out!

Over the summer Birkdale Library offered local youngsters the chance to grow sunflowers from seeds to see who could grow the tallest flower. Quite a few took up the challenge and, with a little help, they managed to get the seeds planted and germinated, some in pots, others in flower borders. They grew and grew, some stems got knocked down by strong winds, some plant pots fell over, but other more hardy plants continued towards the sky and produced lovely yellow flowers.



When the growing had finished the plants were measured and the results sent in. We had three book tokens to give away and here are the results: the winner with the tallest plant was **Nara**, and the two runners-up were **Jessica** and **Finlay**.



They and their supporters were presented with their prizes by Kim Wallis, a charity trustee, and here are the pictures from the presentation.

Many congratulations to our three 2023 winners, We shall be asking you for your tips next year please. We would love schools to enter (classes or individuals) so please email [birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk](mailto:birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk) if you want to receive sunflower seeds next spring.

**The Community Sunflower Summer Challenge – is now officially going to be an annual event!**

# Kevin Barker

07479 928507

kbatnwfs@icloud.com

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Commercial Disputes Resolved  
Business Sales & Purchases Negotiated  
MBO-MBI Consultant  
NO Engagement - Success Fees Only

## Gardeners' Corner

My name is Wendy; I am a volunteer at the library. I love gardening and hope to inspire you to wrap up and to keep gardening during the winter months and add some colour and cheer to your garden.

For inspiration, look no further than the Station Master's House, where our volunteer, Liz, has planted up the pots and window troughs with seasonal winter colour for us all to enjoy.

### It's Bulb Lasagne time

This is fun and so easy to do.

Take a good size terracotta or plastic pot. Ensure there are good drainage holes and place some "crocks" over the holes to make sure the water drains away. Use potting compost, one layer of compost, one layer of bulbs to form three layers, ending with a layer of compost covering the top bulbs.



Remember to plant your bulbs "pointy side up" in this order

- Crocks, then a layer of compost
- Bottom Layer: 6 – 8 Tulips – to flower April or May - then a layer of compost
- Middle Layer: 10 – 12 Daffodils or Narcissi – to flower February and March - then a layer of compost
- Top Layer: 20 – 25 Iris Reticulata, Crocus or Chionodoxa – to flower early February – final layer of compost

Don't worry about them "being on top of each other", they will find a way up.

Pack in the bulbs- I have given number examples for a medium pot about 33cm/13in across.

When finished you can add a layer of grit on the top, but not strictly necessary.

Water them once then put in a sheltered spot in the garden so when it pours they have some protection. When the first shoots appear, move them to your chosen location and water again. Water more often when in flower.

Bulbs are one of the first heralds of spring, and are literally uplifting – back to my garden now, just another 500 to plant!

Enjoy your garden, or the Library's from the outside or the inside, perhaps with a cup of tea and a good book from the library.

**Happy Gardening.**

## School News

### Lara: budding journalist

Last summer, I was lucky enough to be offered some work experience at the Station Master's House for Birkdale Buzz. This involved preparing questions and conducting the interview, then writing up my own article which was then published in the magazine. As a year 13 student and aspiring journalist, I found the experience invaluable, and it was a pleasure working with Phil and the friendly team at Birkdale Buzz. Phil was especially helpful in guiding and supporting me in exploring my passion for journalism. I am particularly grateful for the way in which he allowed me to be independent in the process whilst still offering support if I needed it. I felt proud delivering the copies of the September 2023 edition of the Buzz to houses around Birkdale, knowing my article was featured inside and this was a really rewarding end to my work experience at the magazine.

## *Birkdale Antiques*

Specialists in Antique Chandeliers

To celebrate 25 years (10 years in our lovely village) we are inviting customers, old and new, to come and have a Tipple with us on Saturday 23rd December 10am to 10pm

*We are also offering you the opportunity to enjoy 10% off everything and up to 30% on antiques*

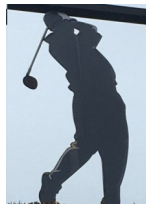
46 Liverpool Road Birkdale PR8 4AY

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[www.antique-chandelier.co.uk](http://www.antique-chandelier.co.uk)



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



## Volunteers needed!



The Birkdale Community Hub & Library charity is run by a thriving group of over 80 volunteers. Our activities are growing and we are looking for voluntary help in a number of particular areas, listed below. **Can you help?** If so please email:

**volunteers@thestationmastershouse.co.uk**

**Storytime:** we are looking for committed volunteers to read stories and organise activities for young children (babies to four year olds) between 10.15 and 11.15 on Saturday mornings at the Station Master's House.

**Schools Liaison:** we need volunteers to expand our Schools Liaison team, with the aim of encouraging more involvement with local primary and secondary schools, facilitating student visits to the library and encouraging budding journalists to write for our local community magazine.

**Events:** we are looking for volunteers to join the Events Team to help organise a wide range of activities at the Hub and at outside venues like the S&B Sports Club. The Team meets regularly to make plans and arrangements for future fundraising events such as quizzes, music evenings, demonstrations and talks.

**Birkdale Buzz:** the team producing the quarterly magazine is looking for two types of volunteers: one to promote and manage the local advertising sales, and the other to coordinate volunteers delivering the Buzz to shops and homes in the Birkdale area.

**Finance Team:** sales and donations are a vital part of the charity's income. We are looking for volunteers to join the Finance Team to oversee petty cash payments and the management of the collection boxes around the village. If you are interested you can find out more by asking to see the Financial Procedures folder at the library and then talking to either the Session Leader on duty that day, the Managers, or directly with Tony Gadd, the Treasurer.

**Home Visiting Book Lending Service:** the charity offers a Home Visiting Service to local people who want to borrow our books but find it difficult to come along to our library branches. We are looking for volunteers to be a home visitor, collecting and returning books for people unable to access our premises. More details of what is required can be found on page 7.

## Drop-in Community Police Advice Sessions

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 be offered help if you are worried about any approaches you've had that you think may be a scam.

If the Community Officer is unable to help you himself he will either pass your matter on or direct you to the right channel. Both the Police and Birkdale Community Hub & Library hope this will be a welcome and valuable service for residents and business owners in the Birkdale area. The officer will be at the library every third Tuesday from **5.00pm to 7.00pm**. As this is a drop-in service, no appointment is needed.



## Birkdale Community Hub & Library fundraising events Forthcoming dates for your diary



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Xmas Fayre** – The Station Master’s House will be open for the Village Fayre. We will have stalls and activities to add to the all the fun of the Fayre.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Xmas Rock and Roll Bingo Night** – bring your friends for a festive fun night at S&B Cricket Club! £10 per head—tickets are selling fast!

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December Live Music Night** – get into Xmas with an evening of festive jazz music at S&B Cricket Club. Tickets £10.00 per head - tickets are selling fast!

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December** Open Morning at the Station Master’s House. Books for sale, village treasure trail and a book reading from a local children’s author. And there is a rumour that Father Christmas might be there too!

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Quiz Night**—come and join us and test your general knowledge at S&B Cricket Club. £5.00 per head includes raffle ticket.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Music Night** at S&B Cricket Club. £10.00 per head.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Games Night** enjoy a fun night of a quiz, bingo and much more at S&B Cricket Club. £5.00 per head.

**For further information about any of these events please ask our volunteers at the Station Master’s House.**

### Do you want advice on how to save money on your water and energy bills this winter?

On **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** a United Utilities advisor will be visiting Warm Spaces at the Station Master’s House from 11.00am—2.00pm to give advice on how to save money on your water and energy bills this winter. Freebies will also be available on the day.

Free tea, coffee, biscuits and a warm welcome will be available as usual.

Warm Spaces at the Station Master’s House is open from 10.00am—4.00pm every Thursday. For more information about what Warm Spaces has to offer please see page 17.



# Birkdale Health Store

35b Liverpool Road, Birkdale village, Southport  
✉ nourish365@hotmail.co.uk

☎ 01704 564353

We stock organic, gluten free, dairy free, vegan food, alternatives supplements and herbal remedies



A selection of local honey that covers Birkdale, Southport, Crosby and surrounding areas



We offer allergy testing and free advice and product recommendations on menopause, joint care, prostate care, ADHD, and much more.



**BIRKDALE HEALTH STORE Call 01704 564353**

## The Great Birkdale Tree Mystery

You may have noticed that some trees were felled in the village in the early Autumn. The Buzz decided to investigate why and contacted the council. Green Sefton told us that this was because the trees were suffering from Ash dieback, a particularly virulent fungus which eventually kills trees.

The trees that have been removed had been closely monitored after their decline was spotted over two years ago at a regular tree inspection. Nothing could have been done to save them and leaving them would have increased the risk of other trees becoming infected. The trees were inspected again the week before they were removed to finally confirm the position.

Green Sefton are working with ward councillors and applying for external funding with a view to plant new trees in the village over the winter months. Let's hope they are successful.

At present no other trees seem to be infected and there are no plans to remove any more trees from Birkdale Village. We will keep in touch with Green Sefton on this issue.

## Missing a dog in your life?

### Become a Dog Sitting Host!



Barking Mad Dog Sitting Hosts enjoy friendly dogs to visit for short stays and holidays, while their owners are away.

- Dogs are carefully matched to suit your home and lifestyle
- Helps to combat loneliness
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Contact Elizabeth to find out more

07340 687230 | [barkingmad.uk.com](http://barkingmad.uk.com)  
[elizabeth.mehta@barkingmad.uk.com](mailto:elizabeth.mehta@barkingmad.uk.com)



## Birkdale Buzz Online

In response to reader requests you can now access the Birkdale Buzz in colour via our Birkdale Community Hub & Library website [www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk](http://www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk) All previous editions of the Buzz are there too and can be viewed in colour.

**Our updated website** provides a host of information including 'What's on', upcoming events, the book catalogue, how to become a member, book a meeting room and a video tour of the library.



## Birkdale Birds by Twitcher

We predicted in the last edition of Buzz that that the first Pink Foot Geese would arrive at the start of September. So they did, on 6<sup>th</sup> September, and next morning went to the marshes to feed. Three skeins followed over the next three days and then larger numbers arrived. It seemed at first that there were fewer than last year, but we realised that some may have stayed over summer, so that by the end of September the numbers were back up to their normal level. That means that we can now enjoy again the sight of large skeins, consisting of hundreds, if not thousands, of birds as they move between their feeding grounds and their roosting areas.

As winter progresses, we may see fewer birds, although some old favourites will always be there. In some areas of Birkdale, Magpies and Jackdaws rule the roost, so to speak. In others the Robin will still keep the hardy gardener company. Although Robins do overwinter here, they can suffer from a very hard winter, so providing food for them is essential. Robins seem to be braver than many birds, allowing you to get close to them. In earlier times Robins would follow wild boar around to feed on insects etc that the boars dug up. Now we have no wild boars they have learnt to follow humans in their gardens instead, their desire for food overcoming their natural caution.



Another bird that seems to tolerate humans, and which has been prominent on the Birkdale Dunes this year, is the Stone Chat. This year they have certainly bred in our area and the youngsters, like their parents, seem to enjoy perching on the top of a bush or plant and producing their call, which sounds like something being knocked against a stone. They are most unlike the Tits and Goldfinches who move with such speed between the bushes.

We are lucky to have, within easy reach, such a wide-ranging bird population. Unlike some seaside areas we are not dependent on the gulls and other shore birds for a regular fix of avian delights.

Please let us know about any of the birds wintering in your garden, and rare visitors.

### 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.**

The Labour Councillor, also representing Birkdale Ward, will hold midday surgeries at the Station Master's House on the **first Wednesday of every month between 1 and 2 o'clock.**

**No need to book, just turn up to discuss any issues you may have.**



Our British made Riser Recliners come with a 5 year guarantee and Express delivery is available, features include back-up battery, adjustable headrest and lumbar.

Free delivery and disposal available

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### **The Birkdale Community Book Club**

The Birkdale Community Book Club is held at the Station Master's House on a monthly basis, and is run by Sarah and Julia.

The Book Club is free to join, and everyone is welcome. Whether you are an avid reader or someone looking to get back into reading, this is the perfect setting for you to join this very friendly and social club. The setting at the Station Master's House is an oasis of calm amongst our busy lives and it is a chance to take some time out of the day for yourself and meet new people. The discussion around the book is pretty informal, and the choice of book is steered by the members.

For full details about when the group meets and what book is under discussion please contact Sarah who can be emailed on [sarahmunn01@sky.com](mailto:sarahmunn01@sky.com) or leave your name and contact details with the volunteers at the Station Master's House.

### **Calling all Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Guides and Scouts**

We invite you to come and experience our library at the Station Master's House in Birkdale Village! Our opening hours are on page 4 or we can organise visits out of hours if you need to work towards a badge or would just like a visit. Contact us for more information at [contact@thestationmastershouse.co.uk](mailto:contact@thestationmastershouse.co.uk)



## Ask Adam - the iPad doctor



### Using “Control Centre” on the iPad

Control Centre on an iPad gives you quick access to things you do often, like turning on Wi-Fi or changing the volume. To open Control Centre, swipe down from the top-right corner of your iPad screen to reveal the range of actions you can select. To close it, swipe up from the bottom of the screen or tap the screen.

You can also customise Control Centre to include the things you use most. To do this, go to [Settings] icon (the grey cog wheel on your home screen) and choose [Control Centre] from the left-hand list. From there, you can add or remove controls by tapping the + or - button next to a control. You can also rearrange controls by touching and holding the button next to a control and dragging it to a new position.

### Adjusting the Font and Icon Size on the iPad

Do you find it difficult to read the text and see the icons on your iPad? If the text and icons on the iPad appear too small, you can easily make them larger for better visibility. Tap the [Settings] app (the grey cog wheel, usually on your home screen) then [Display & Brightness] and choose [Text Size]. Then just drag the slider with your finger to increase the text size to a comfortable level.

Also, if you're finding it difficult to see the icons themselves, you can adjust their size. Go to the [Settings] app, (the grey cog wheel) and then tap [Home Screen etc] on the left-hand menu. You will then be given the option of selecting bigger icons to make them easier to see.

**Editor:** *we have been running “Ask Adam” iPad tips since the second edition of the Birkdale Buzz. The tips were on the following topics:*

- March 2023, p29:                      *Taking Screenshots.*  
   *Adding apps to the iPad dock.*
- June 2023, p25:                        *How to share photos and videos on an iPad.*  
   *Using Split View.*
- September 2023, p25:                *Sharing items with others using the AirDrop facility.*  
   *Organising your apps on the screen.*

*If you want to see them again you can look them up online by going to our website: [www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk](http://www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk) Click on the Community tab at the top of the home page and find the previous editions of the Birkdale Buzz.*

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



## A Local Doctor Writes....

### Winter Wellness: 10 Tips for Staying Healthy When It's Cold Outside

As winter blankets the world in frost, it's essential to take extra care of your health. The cold season brings unique challenges but, with the right approach, you can stay healthy and vibrant throughout the winter months.

Here are ten tips to help you do just that:

- **Dress in Layers:** proper clothing is your first line of defence. Layer up to stay warm, ensuring you can adjust to changing temperatures throughout the day.
- **Stay Active:** don't let the cold keep you indoors. Engage in regular physical activity, whether it's indoor exercises, winter sports, or brisk walks in the fresh air.
- **Eat Healthily:** focus on a balanced diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to support your immune system and maintain energy levels.
- **Stay Hydrated:** keep up with your water intake, even if you don't feel as thirsty. Proper hydration is vital for overall well-being.
- **Flu Vaccination:** get your annual flu shot to guard against the flu, which tends to be more prevalent during the winter months.
- **Hand Hygiene:** frequent handwashing is key to preventing the spread of germs. Use hand sanitizers when soap and water are not available.
- **Adequate Sleep:** ensure you get enough rest. Sleep is essential for maintaining a strong immune system and overall health.
- **Mental Health:** winter blues can affect your mood. Stay socially connected, get out in the sunshine (!), and engage in activities that bring you joy.
- **Warm Home:** keep your living space warm and well-insulated. Don't forget to check heating systems and fire alarms.
- **Flu Season Precautions:** if you're not feeling well, rest at home to prevent spreading illness. Seek medical advice if your symptoms persist.

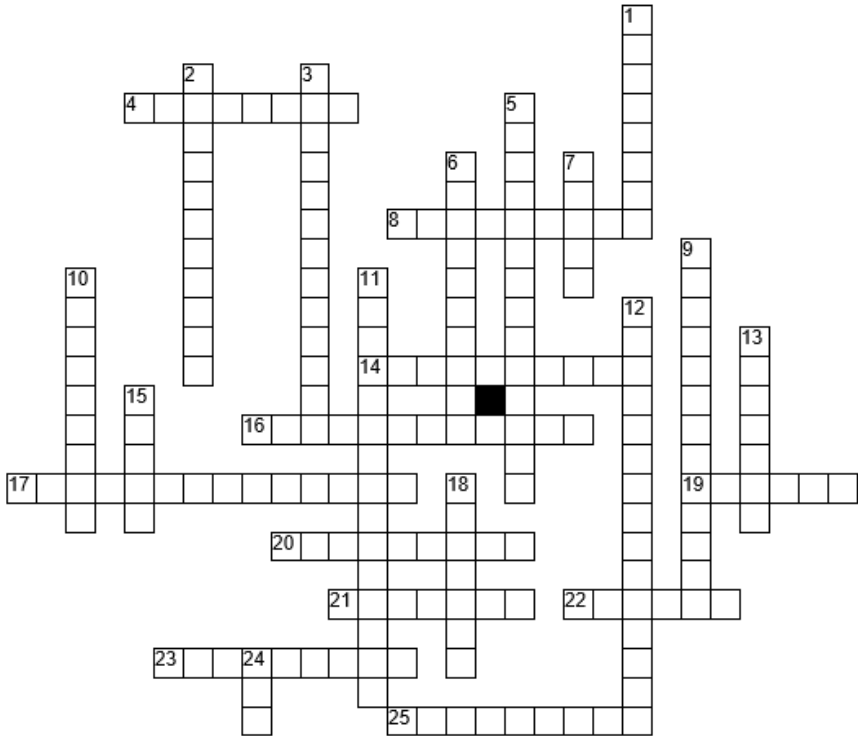
With these winter wellness strategies, you can embrace the beauty of the season without compromising your health. Stay active, eat well, and take care of your physical and mental well-being, and you'll enjoy a happy and healthy winter.



#### OPEN MORNING AT THE STATION MASTER'S HOUSE

**Saturday 16th December** Books for sale, village treasure trail and a book reading from a local children's author. And there is a rumour that Father Christmas might be there too!

## Christmas Crossword - Answers on P30



### Across

4. Pulled not buttered. (8)  
 8. Who went out on St Stephen's feast day? (9)  
 14. Fancy this with the Christmas Roast? (5,5)  
 16. Him sweetener (anag), clever trio. (5,4,3)  
 17. You can't shop with these (9,5)  
 19. "All is Calm" on what night? (6)  
 20. Nat roasted his on an open fire. (9)  
 21. Seasonal chocolate cake. (4,3)  
 22. North American native, popular in November and December. (6)  
 23. Pugilistic date? (6,3)  
 25. What was in the pear tree on day one? (9)

### Down

1. Game played in the parlour. (8)  
 2. Fit garishly (anag), see 18. (5,6)  
 3. Present camouflage. (8,5)  
 5. The most popular seasonal song? (5,9)  
 6. Casual ants (anag) Xmas visitor. (5,5)  
 7. It's unlucky to cut down one of these because they're a charm against witches. (5)  
 9. Miss Chatterer (anag) (9,4)  
 10. Cliff accompanies this with wine but the Druids value it's healing properties. (9)  
 11. Leftover favourite? (6,3,6)  
 12. Miser who saw the Ghost of Christmas Past (8,7)  
 13. What did the little star have to do? (7)  
 15. Girl and song? (5)  
 18. Tree hangers (7)  
 24. In mythology wearing a wreath around the head prevents one getting drunk! (3)

## Christmas Crossword Answers



### Across

4. Crackers
8. Wenceslas
14. Bread Sauce
16. Three Wise Men
17. Chocolate Coins
19. Silent
20. Chestnuts
21. Yule log
22. Turkey
23. Boxing Day
25. Partridge

### Down

1. Charades
2. Fairy lights
3. Wrapping paper
5. White Christmas
6. Santa Claus
7. Holly
9. Christmas tree
10. Mistletoe
11. Bubble and squeak
12. Ebenezer Scrooge
13. Twinkle
15. Carol
18. Baubles
24. Ivy

### Answers to Picture Questions.

- Q1: Wine Rack  
Q2: The Park Hotel  
Q3: Bombay Blussi



If looking for a unique experience, why not book a special guided tour that's right at the cutting edge at Southport's multi-award winning Lawnmower Museum.

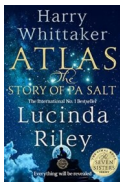
For available slots contact  
[br@lawnmowerworld.com](mailto:br@lawnmowerworld.com)

## Some of the new books coming soon to Birkdale Community Hub & Library

Here are some of our newest titles. Be the first to read them by making a reservation. Do it yourself online or ask one of our lovely library volunteers to do it for you.

### ADULT FICTION

#### Atlas. Lucinda Riley, 2023



Atlas: The Story of Pa Salt, co-authored by her son Harry Whittaker, draws Lucinda Riley's saga to its stunning, unforgettable conclusion. 2008, the Aegean. The seven sisters are gathered together for the first time, to say a final goodbye to the enigmatic father they loved so dearly. In this epic conclusion to the Seven Sisters series, everything will be revealed.

#### The Bay. LJ Ross, 2023



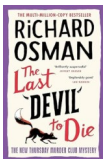
In the picturesque seaside town of St Ives, Detective Sergeant Sophie Keane is a pillar of the community. Between the occasional collar and lazy weekends spent on the beach, it seems a perfect life. But for Sophie, the golden sands and crystal waters hide a dark secret, one that's lain buried for twenty years. Suspense is peppered with romance and humour in this fast-paced mystery, set amidst the spectacular Cornish landscape.

#### Everyone Here is Lying. Shari Lapena, 2023



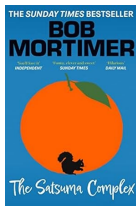
Welcome to Stanhope - a safe neighbourhood. A place for families. William Wooler is a family man, on the surface. But he's been having an affair that ended horribly this afternoon. So when he returns to his house, devastated and angry, to find his difficult nine-year-old daughter Avery unexpectedly home from school, William loses his temper. Hours later, Avery's family declare her missing. Who took Avery Wooler?

#### The Last Devil to Die. Richard Osman, 2023



Shocking news reaches the Thursday Murder Club. An old friend in the antiques business has been killed, and a dangerous package he was protecting has gone missing. As the gang springs into action they encounter art forgers, online fraudsters and drug dealers, as well as heartache close to home. With the body count rising, the package still missing and trouble firmly on their tail, has their luck finally run out?

### NON FICTION



Why not visit the Library to see for yourself our wide range of books for Adults and Children, including a Local History section?



### ***Important Numbers and Information***

Birkdale Library:	01704 566992
BCHL website:	<a href="http://www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk">www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk</a>
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 21
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
RSPCA Southport	01704 567624

### **Defibrillators in Birkdale.**

There are three defibrillators in the Village:

- in the Merseyrail Ticket Office
- on the side wall of ex Lathom's Bakery
- on the side wall of Morrisons Daily over the line.



**The next issue of the Birkdale Buzz will be out in March 2024**



**We would like to extend our thanks to  
Price Right Print Ormskirk  
01695 571443  
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