

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 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 fourth 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.

Birkdale Village Summer Fayre 2023

On Sunday 30th July 2023, the Birkdale Civic Society and our local traders teamed up to bring our annual summer fayre back to the village, for the first time since COVID, and what a fantastic fun day for all the family, with plenty to do and see for all ages.

The village played host to nearly 60 classic vehicles including Ferraris, Bentleys, Morris Minors, Rolls Royces and emergency service vehicles, with thousands of people coming down especially to see them. On top of that, we also held a hugely successful Dog Show run by the amazing Max from Milla & Max, with almost 100 entrants competing for the top spot in each category. Whilst cutest dog, naughtiest dog, best trick, and best in show were some of the highlights, it was great to see so many people bring their prized pets to the competition! A big thank you to Max for running this and providing such great prizes to those involved.



Over the course of the day we saw thousands of people enjoying the facilities we have in the village including our many hospitality businesses, local independent traders, and entertainers. As well as that, additions such as our fairgrounds, external traders, craft stalls, fire service, and the Southport Lifeboat made a super range of activities and sights to be seen.



We would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers who helped to make the event happen including helpers from the Southport Rotary, our own Birkdale Civic Society, the Birkdale Community Hub and Library, and local residents who all came forward to steward the event. Without these key volunteers helping to organise and run the event we would not be able to bring such a fantastic day to our community!



Local Landmarks: The Smedley Hydro

In the last issue of the Birkdale Buzz we looked at the history of the Palace Hotel, and in this edition we turn our attention to another Birkdale landmark.

The Smedley Hydro on Trafalgar Road is one of Birkdale's most imposing and important buildings and has had a variety of uses over the years. It was built in 1876 with 47 rooms and started life as Birkdale College for young men. In the same year, however, the



building was bought out by John Smedley, who had already established a Hydro in Matlock, Derbyshire. His company paid £7,500 for the building and the five acres of land that surrounded the property. He opened a hydropathic hotel on the site on 1st May 1877 with the capacity to cater for up to 140 visitors.

An advertisement for the hotel in 1885 boasts that the establishment has a new Turkish bath with swimming bath attached, is 'one of the finest in the kingdom' and is free to residents in the establishment. It also offered various fearsome-sounding, hydrotherapy treatments such as galvanic, electro-chemical and Kreuznach baths, all designed to treat illnesses and improve mental health. Hydrotherapy establishments usually had medical staff on hand and the Smedley employed Dr Frederick Barnardo as the resident physician, brother of Dr Thomas Barnardo, who founded homes for poor and deprived children.

There has been little recorded about what happened at the Smedley Hydropathic Establishment in the opening years of the 20th Century. However the business was closed between 1924 to 1928, when alterations could have been made to the building. It is known that in 1932 the premises became the Smedley Hydro Hotel

The advent of the Second World War in 1939 saw a new lease of life for the Smedley Hydro. The North West coast was chosen by government as an area for relocation of civil servants from London. About 2,000 civil servants were moved to Southport and more were sent to Blackpool and Morecambe. Smedley Hydro was requisitioned to use as premises for the creation of the National Register, containing the personal details of every civilian in the UK. This information was then used to issue identity cards and organise rationing etc.

After the war ended the building continued to be used by the British government for the management of official records. The NHS was founded on 5 July 1948 and the staff of Smedley Hydro were asked to administer the identification numbers of the people who used the service (the familiar NHS number). The General Register Office, which is responsible for births, adoptions, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths moved to Smedley Hydro in the 1990s *[see separate article on page 7]* and now also houses employees working for the Passport Office. Today the building is probably the town's largest employer, with a major impact on the Southport economy.

Henry James

BIRKDALE Kitchen Co.



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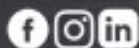
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@birkdalekitchenco

A Day in the Life of a Registrar during Wedding Season

The Registrar Service is something that most people have heard of, but don't really know what it does. They will only come into contact with a Registrar for a few brief, but important and often very emotional times in their lives. Here's a little glimpse behind the scenes

The first UK civil registration of birth, marriage and death records was introduced in 1837, establishing a national network of local registrars and a centralised registration function. Since the Second World War many of the administrative functions had been carried out in Birkdale at the Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, and certificate production moved there too in the early 1990s. The Smedley remains its main location for the General Register Office (GRO) today and holds well over 260 million records.

Many aspects of the Registrar's work are strictly regulated and remain unchanged but some things have evolved over recent years. Registrars no longer write out the registers and certificates by hand. Instead, the details are input via local Registrars onto the national database with individual certificates then printed out from this information. However, in keeping with tradition, the certificates are still signed with a fountain pen using registrars ink made of Iron Gall. This special ink writes in pale blue but oxidizes to black as it dries, is fully waterproof and will last for hundreds of years.

Weddings too have changed. Couples still have to 'give notice' of their marriage or civil partnership at their local Register Office - these notices are now digitally displayed for 28 days prior to the wedding or civil partnership at the Register Office. However, in a large metropolitan Register Office, like Liverpool, they may have over 50 different venues licenced to host civil weddings as well as the Register Office itself. So, a busy summer Saturday can see teams of Registrars conducting and registering over 30 weddings in different venues across the city, over the course of one day.

A team usually has one Superintendent Registrar, who conducts the ceremony and one Registrar or deputy who is responsible for the checking/completing and then signing of the legal document/schedule by the bridal party, witnesses and finally the Registrars.

Once the ceremony is finished and legal document/schedule signed, the Registrar is then responsible for its safe return to the local Register Office. Here, the data is inputted onto the GRO system and goes through further checking processes before a wedding certificate can be issued. Couples no longer take a marriage certificate home with them on the day; it arrives by post in the following weeks.

What most wedding guests won't see is the work behind the scenes; the taking of the initial notices and inputting of data, the schedule/document production, the work of the ceremonies team, the quality and assurance processes of the certificate production team and the finance team. All these services contribute to a couple's Big Day – and are all jobs that are in a day's work for a Registrar.

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.

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destinationmerseyside.com



A Warm Welcome at Birkdale Library

Last winter Birkdale Library joined churches and other organisations by taking part in Sefton's Warm Spaces initiative, offering local people an opportunity to meet with others in a warm, friendly atmosphere. We at the Library have continued with the scheme over the summer and are now preparing for the winter ahead.

Sefton's Warm Spaces initiative will run through the coldest months of the winter, from **1st October to 31st March** and the Library will set aside rooms on Thursdays from 10 am – 4 pm, where, as before, there will be refreshments, newspapers, access to computers, and a chance to meet, chat and make friends. Working in partnership with Sefton CVS we also plan to offer a programme of additional services such as advice on energy schemes, Green Doctor, Citizen's Advice. Details are being worked out and will be published before the start of the winter scheme.

Welcome Spaces is entirely free and open to everyone. Our Library is fully accessible, with a ground-floor toilet with baby changing facilities and an accessible lift to the first-floor rooms and computer suite.

If you know someone who might be interested in coming along to Birkdale Library on a Thursday please let them know about the Welcome Spaces scheme. And of course, if Thursdays are not convenient they will receive a warm welcome from our volunteers at the Library whatever day they come in to see us.

If you have any queries, please contact Wendy at:

secretary@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or phone the Library on 01704 566992.



What's on in Southport	
9 th & 10 th September	Southport Airshow
22 nd -23 rd September	British Musical Fireworks—Victoria Park
29 th September – 15 th October	Southport Comedy Festival—Victoria Park

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



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.



Or to book a 'Cut Above Unique Experience Tour'
Contact br@lawnmowerworld.com

What's Cooking?

LIZ'S LEMON CURD... Delicious and so easy! (Sent in by Jill Jones)

Ingredients

- 3 eggs (free range even better!)
- 2 large lemons – juice and rind
- 3 oz of butter (block not soft spreadable)
- 8 oz of caster sugar



Method

- Beat the eggs and sugar
- Add the grated lemon rind
- Juice the lemons – removing all pips
- Melt the butter (microwave)
- Add the lemon juice and butter to the egg/sugar mixture
- Microwave for 6 mins in total – [2 mins, then stir... another 2 mins, then stir.. and last 2 mins]
- Whilst the mixture is cooking sterilize your small jam jars in the oven
- Pour your mixture into the jars... place a circle of greaseproof paper on top and in the clean lid.
- Seal... and when cool place in the fridge – should keep for a couple of weeks
Simply delicious on fresh bread, toast, crumpets etc! Enjoy!

LEMON POSSET - Nothing could be easier! (Sent in by Jill Jones)

Ingredients

- 600ml double cream
- 200g caster sugar
- Zest of 3 lemons + 75ml of lemon juice



Method

- Gently heat the cream and sugar in a saucepan – stirring until the sugar has melted
- Turn up the heat and let the mixture bubble for one min – **do not boil**
- Turn off the heat and stir in the lemon zest and juice – the mixture will start to thicken
- Divide between small pots (shot glasses look nice as the mixture is rich).
Decorate with a little lemon zest.
- Cool to room temperature. Place in fridge and chill for at least three hours or better still overnight.

Serve with a small shortbread round (I cheat and buy the shortbread!... but of course you can make it!)

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 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.

Diary Dates
S&B's Beer Festival
25th – 28th August

S&B Cricket Section Dinner
29th September



Hockey, Squash and Snooker seasons start in September with league matches throughout the winter.

NEW PLAYERS WANTED

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

**OPEN TO ALL AGES AND
ABILITIES**

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

SCAN ME

FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT EMMA:
07894 870122



Look out for our Brilliant Gala Nights in December

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



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

School News

Greenbank High School



A visit to the Station Master's House

Our "Sefton Super Reads" book award participants were invited to the Station Master's House for a tour and a quiz.

I really enjoyed it because everyone there was so welcoming, sweet and helpful. I love how most of the books available to borrow were donated so they can be reused after others are finished with them.

We were offered juice and biscuits as we learned about the history of how it got to be the place it is today. We also had a tour of their library, the meeting rooms which people can book, and the lovely computer room that people can access.

I would highly recommend that people go to the Station Master's House in Birkdale. It is an amazing place to get books if you like to read, there are also clubs you can join like Lego club, and they invite speakers in. It is also a great place to meet people and is for all ages.

Katie (Greenbank High School)

Isla, a student from Greenbank High School, reports...

I recently completed a week's work experience at the Station Master's House. The library offers a great experience for a first taste of a real work environment, as well as the chance to work alongside friendly and helpful staff. As the library is run by volunteers, I was able to engage with different staff members every day.

Because the library is also a community hub it hosts several group activities. This allowed me to socialise with a wide age range whilst also learning the inner workings of a library system. I enjoyed the experience so much that I will continue to volunteer.



OPEN DAY 23rd September 10.00-13.00

**Books, cakes, children's knitting, bric-a-brac stalls
Lego Club, Storytime, Children's activities**

Come along and help to support Birkdale Community Hub & Library

Know your Birkdale Village

Q2 Where's this?

Answer on page 30





Professional Cleaning



At Love2Clean we are passionate about making your homes and businesses shine, and offer tailor-made services and packages that meet client needs.

We aim to use cleaning materials which are as kind to your home as they are to the planet, only using top of the range products. Unless otherwise stated, everything we use is safe for people and their pets.

Our Services

Love2Clean is fully insured and you will always be in safe hands. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions about our services.

Standard Clean - £15 per hour

Booked weekly or fortnightly, including kitchen and bathroom cleaning, vacuuming, dusting and polishing

Spring Clean & Deep Cleans - £18 per hour

Includes everything a Standard Clean offers with the addition of:

- Washing of all common areas such as doors, woodwork and skirting boards
- Moving of heavy furniture, like sofas and beds, to access often forgotten about areas
- Steam cleaning kitchens and bathrooms
- Light fittings thoroughly dusted and washed
- Indoor windows and frames washed

A la Carte Cleaning Extras

Oven Cleans from £50

Patio Furniture Cleaning from £18 per hour

Mould and Mildew Treatments from £30

End of Tenancy Deep Cleans

Holiday Lets Turnarounds, comprehensive cleaning services

Event cleaning – Parties, Receptions, Business events

After Building and Renovations

Thinking of
cleaning your house?



07495 225809

love2clean29@gmail.com

Learn more about our services WWW.LOVE2CLEAN.CO

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.

Save a Life Using CPR: some advice from the experts

Who we are: Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust provides specialist services in cardiothoracic surgery, cardiology, respiratory medicine including adult cystic fibrosis and diagnostic imaging, both in the hospital and out in the community. As a specialist hospital we treat patients following referral from a wide catchment area encompassing Merseyside (including Birkdale village) Cheshire, North Wales, Isle of Man and the rest of England and Wales. You can find out more about our hospital and receive the latest news and updates by registering as a member. For more information please visit the Membership Zone section of www.lhch.nhs.uk

The information below is provided as guidance to help save a life in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest. We hope this is helpful.

Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital 
NHS Foundation Trust

Save a Life Using CPR

Recognise Cardiac Arrest

- Patient is unresponsive and their chest is not moving

Call for Help

- Call the emergency services via 999 explaining there has been a cardiac arrest

Initiate CPR

- Initiate chest compressions in the centre of the patient's chest at a rate of 1:2 per second with a depth of 6cm
- Do NOT stop!
- Do NOT leave the patient alone!
- If you have help ask them to access an Automated Defibrillator (AED)
- Switch this on and follow the AED voice prompts



There are three defibrillators in the village (see back page). However, in the event of an emergency please call 999 who can advise the nearest location and details of how to access this.

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".

u3a Learn Laugh Live

Birkdale & Ainsdale u3a and *Meols (Southport) u3a* are Southport's two local u3a groups. With smaller overall membership numbers, we are in a unique position to tailor activities to meet our members' needs. From physical and social activities to learning new skills, you will be able to form friendships with other like-minded people. For further information, search Google for *Birkdale & Ainsdale u3a* or *Meols (Southport) u3a*.



Or contact Paul Marshall (*Birkdale & Ainsdale*) on **07984 836105** or Tony Dalton (*Meols*) on **07484 180639**.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

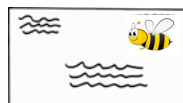
Growing up in the 1950s I would play out in the street after school and at weekends. I would play footy with my friends, using coats as goal posts, and girls would show off their skills using an extended skipping rope. I would only go in when my mum shouted my name. Children today cannot enjoy such simple pleasures because of the increase in traffic. Any spare land is gobbled up for housing or industrial units. They end up looking at screens at home. A survey has found many children starting primary school are obese. This can lead to long-term health problems and poor job prospects. It does not help that schools have sold off their playing fields.

All is not lost. At the coronation of the King many roads were closed to hold a party. Why not continue by closing streets to form a Play Street? Help is available for how to organise one in our area by going to: playingout.net On the website there is an interactive map where you can scroll down to find your local authority and whether it has a Play Street policy.

The health of our children is in our hands.

Bernard J. Powell.

Editor: thanks for our first letter to the editor. More please! Looking up Sefton on the playingout.net website shows that we don't appear to have any Play Streets in our area. Anyone want to comment?



Gardeners' Corner

My name is Wendy and I'm a volunteer at the library. I love gardening and hope you have enjoyed the garden this summer, despite the weather challenges. At the Station Master's House our "Sidings" courtyard seating area is there for you to relax in. It's accessed by walking through the library and via the carpark for those with wheelchairs and buggies.

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

Well, that was fun. The sunflowers enjoyed lots of sun with a fair bit of rain and endured far too much wind. Thanks to everyone who has sent in their sunflower photos. Well done, and a thank you on behalf of all Birkdale bees and hoverflies. The seed heads can be enjoyed by birds in the winter. The results will be announced in our September library members' eNewsletter and on social media.

Evergreens for structure and winter colour

Evergreens provide structure and interest and that all important feel-good green colour during the winter months. With warm soil and cooler air temperature, autumn is the perfect time to consider planting evergreens. Daphne and Sarcococca have glossy, green leaves and beautifully fragrant winter flowers; both can be planted in pots or borders.



Spring Bulbs

In the next edition I will share my love of bulbs in pots and show you how to plant a "pot bulb lasagne" for wonderful spring colour. In preparation, here are some bulb suggestions for pots or troughs:

Top Layer: Iris Reticulata or Crocus or Chionodoxa

Middle Layer: Daffodils or Narcissi

Bottom Layer: Tulips:



Good quality bulbs are available from DIY stores and local garden centres.

Here are some gardening jobs for the autumn:

- Keep feeding and deadheading, the flowers will continue to appear and bloom until the frosts.
- Early November, lift dahlias two weeks after first frost, keep dry and well wrapped.
- Buy some spring bulbs ready to plant a "bulb lasagne" in a pot – see how in our December edition.

And finally, take time out to enjoy your garden or The Sidings, perhaps with a cup of tea and a good book from the library.

Happy Gardening

ADVERTORIAL

Andrew Willetts Opticians

A report from **Lara Talbot**, work experience student.

Several Birkdale shops are changing this autumn. The well-established business of **Andrew Willetts Opticians** is moving across the road to a brand-new, bigger practice next to Villaggio Cucina. The move is likely to happen around October at the same time as the optician celebrates 25 years of his business operating in Birkdale.

Andrew says he is “very excited about the move” as he has been looking for a bigger place for a while and feels the new practice will allow him and his team to “do the job better for people”. The team aims the premises to have a greener, ecological feel and will continue recycling frames and packaging where possible. The new space will provide opportunity for better facilities, including another test room as well as space for a bigger range of frames and displays. A bigger facility will also allow for improved disabled access, making it easier for the team to be hands-on to help people as they browse.

Andrew and his team pride themselves in offering a more personal experience, looking after people, ensuring each customer finds their perfect pair of glasses - something which sets them apart from other practices. Andrew praised his “invaluable” staff for being the “best around” and a major reason for his success. The practice has had almost 10,000 patients since day one, many of whom have been with them for the full 25 years!

Andrew feels his business has become part of the Birkdale community and says the village has become somewhere that’s a really great place to work. There is no doubt that Andrew’s services will continue to be even more successful once the business moves over the road, and we look forward to keeping an “eye” on progress!



Birkdale Connections

This is the first in an occasional series of articles by **Adrian Cork** that will tell the stories of famous people from, or with a connection to, Birkdale. This time he shines the spotlight on the world's most famous executioner, **Albert Pierrepoint** (pictured).



Albert Pierrepoint was born in March 1905, at Clayton, near Bradford and brought up in Huddersfield and Manchester. His family had an unusual occupation: his father, Harry, was a hangman for a decade, and his uncle for 42 years. Albert was only nine when he first conceived the ambition to become an executioner. He believed he was 'chosen by a higher power for this task and put on this earth especially to do it'.

After leaving school he worked in various jobs and in 1931 his chance came to follow his dream: he beat off ten rival applicants for the post of executioner at Strangeways Prison, assisting his uncle, Tom Pierrepoint.

In 1940 Albert became Head Executioner. In all he was responsible for 450 executions (17 of which were women) over 25 years. He travelled to Germany for his job, given the task of executing over 200 convicted Nazi war criminals, including 13 staff from the Belsen concentration camp.

Given his job, finding a wife was a challenge. Albert married Annie Fletcher in Manchester in 1943 after a five year courtship. During that time he didn't tell her what he did for a living but all was revealed after a few weeks of marriage. Annie was unfazed by the confession: she had known all along about his job after hearing gossip locally.

At the end of World War II, Albert became a publican while continuing to act as an executioner. His pub attracted ghoulish sightseers by the coachload. He later admitted to hanging one of his customers, a man convicted of murdering his mistress.

In 1956 Albert unexpectedly resigned his position following a disagreement with the Home Office over an expense claim. He denied that he had resigned because of the furore a few months previously over his role in the execution of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged.

In the late 1960s Albert and Annie retired to Southport, buying a bungalow in Preston New Road. He settled back into normal life in the town, working behind the bar at the Lakeside Inn and selling tickets for the pleasure boats on the Marine Lake. As their health began to deteriorate, they moved to the Melbourne Nursing Home in Westbourne Road, Birkdale. On 10 July 1992 Albert passed away. His notoriety did not disappear in death as there was a considerable police presence at his funeral to ensure that no photographers or TV crews were allowed to cover the event.

Albert is often quoted as running a tobacconist shop in Birkdale Village, but evidence is scarce. If anyone knows the truth about this, perhaps they could email the Birkdale Buzz.



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Home Visit book lending service

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



You can call the library on 01704 566992 or call in to tell a volunteer that you (or someone you know) is unable to get to the library and would like to receive books at home. Alternatively, you can email Helen at: homevisit@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

You will be asked for your contact details and some idea of the kind of books you are interested in reading. We offer fiction, non-fiction choices and large-print versions too.

A volunteer from Helen's team will contact you to arrange to visit, bringing a selection of books for you to browse. Your visiting volunteer will carry ID.

Birkdale Birds by Twitcher

Looking back over the summer we can see that the changing climate has impacted on our bird population. Many of our birds went into forested areas, where it was cooler and water available, so fewer were around than we might have expected. And migrating birds arrived around three to four weeks later than expected, which delayed a lot of local breeding as well.

By September most of our local birds will have started to group together, searching for food. We will see migrating birds (such as swallows and swifts) returning to Africa. In the opposite direction ducks, geese and other northern birds moving south from their breeding areas in Europe to local reserves in the UK.

One of the most noticeable migrants, heralding the oncoming autumn, are the Pink-footed geese who will have had the young before they return to the UK. They start to arrive from Spitsbergen, Iceland and Greenland in early September, with the main returning waves spread over the next two to three weeks. They can be seen and heard from most houses in our area in the morning and in the early evening, honking away to each other. We can expect anywhere between 30,000 and 60,000 to fly over us, feeding on root crops on farmland and on food provided by wildlife centres during the day, then returning overnight to river-estuaries such as the Ribble. In the northern UK they mainly overwinter in Reserves from Scotland down to Cheshire, while the rest are spread around Somerset (Slimbridge) and the Norfolk areas.



A question often asked is “Why do geese fly in skeins of about 150 birds?” There is clearly an advantage in flying in these V-shaped formations. The birds leading at the front of a skein are normally older, more experienced birds that know the routes, although they can all take turns. The leading bird pushes air backwards as it flaps, creating an updraft. The following bird flies close behind and slightly lower, benefitting from this airflow by expending less of the energy needed to keep up its position in the skein,

A trip to the moss in front of the waterworks at the end of the coast road, or the RSPB’s big reserve at Hesketh Bank, will reward you with the sight of ducks that have also taken advantage of milder winters, including Teal, Moorhens, Tufted Duck, Oystercatcher, Gadwall, and Pintail. You might also find a number of over-wintering birds in your gardens, such as Blackcap, Redwing, Crossbills, Fieldfare, Waxwing, feeding on local nuts etc.

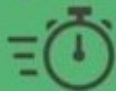
Editor: If you see any interesting birds or bird activity in the autumn please send in your report by emailing: birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk and we’ll publish it in the December edition of the Buzz.

To identify birds by their song download the free app Merlin Bird ID on your phone.



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Ask Adam - the iPad doctor



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.

Sharing items with others using the AirDrop facility

What is AirDrop?

AirDrop is a feature on Apple devices that lets you share things like photos, videos, files and websites with other Apple devices that are close by. You can share things with people up to about 30 feet away but you can only use this feature with other Apple devices.

Using AirDrop

- Make sure the person you're sending to is nearby and within Bluetooth and Wi-Fi range.
- Check that both you and the person you're sending to have Wi-Fi and Bluetooth turned on.
- If either of you have Personal Hotspot on, turn it off.
- Check if the person you're sending to has their AirDrop set to receive from Contacts Only. If they do, and you're in their Contacts, they need to have your Apple ID's email address or mobile number in your contact card for AirDrop to work. If you're not in their Contacts, have them set their AirDrop receiving setting to "Everyone" in order to receive the file.
- Send the item by opening and tapping the AirDrop icon (blue semicircles) and then the person you want to send to.
- You can then receive items via AirDrop on your iPad by opening Control Center by swiping from the top right-hand edge of the Home Screen and touching and holding the top-left group of controls which includes the AirDrop icon. Then tap AirDrop and choose either "Contacts Only" or "Everyone for 10 Minutes". You'll have the option to accept or decline each incoming request.

Organising your apps on the screen

Is your iPad cluttered with apps spread across multiple Home Screens? Would you like to group similar apps together into **folders** for easier access? You can even add these folders to your Dock for quick access to your most-used apps, such as Work or News.

To create a folder, press and hold an app icon, select Edit Home Screen and all the icons will start to wobble, then drag the app over another app and let go. A new folder will be created containing both apps.



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



SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 6th Quiz Evening - come and join us for a fun 'Movie' themed evening at S&B Cricket Club
£5 per head (includes raffle ticket)
Please sign up at the Station Master's House as spaces are limited

OCTOBER

Friday 20th Live Music Night – bring your dancing shoes and join us for all your favourite 60s/70s hits at S&B Cricket Club. £10 per head - tickets will be on sale via the Station Master's House in September

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 8th Quiz Evening – come and join us and test your general knowledge
£5 per head (includes raffle ticket) at S&B Cricket Club
Please sign up at the Station Master's House as spaces are limited

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd 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 6th - Xmas Rock and Roll Bingo Night – bring your friends for a festive fun night at S&B Cricket Club!

£10 per head - tickets will be on sale via the Station Master's House from October

Xmas Floral Decoration Workshops – join us to learn how to make a selection of Christmas decorations and make/take your own decoration home.

£15 per head includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, all decorations and materials provided

Thursday 7th (6pm -9pm) workshop 1

or Friday 8th (1pm -4pm) workshop 2

(Both workshops are at the Station Master's House)

Tickets will be available from the Station Master's House in October, numbers are limited

Wednesday 13th Live Music Night – get into Xmas with an evening of live music at S&B Cricket Club

More information and tickets available from the Station Master's House in October

Know your Birkdale Village

Q3 Where's this?

Answer on page 30



A Local Doctor Writes:

“Doctor, please come quickly. There’s a patient with chest pains at Reception.”

Fifteen years ago, on a cold, snowy December day, I met a patient with such a rare condition that I’ll probably only ever see it once in my medical career.

The gentleman had been sitting at his desk when he started to get chest pains and breathlessness. He got his wife to drive him to the surgery, not ring for an ambulance. That decision probably saved his life.

When I got to Reception he was pale, sweaty, gasping for air and gripping his chest, on the point of collapse. My first thought was that he was having a heart attack. I readied myself for his imminent cardiac arrest.

When the chips are down, and the adrenaline is coursing through your veins, your training kicks in: *Airway. Breathing. Circulation.*

His airway was working fine. But when I listened to his chest, to my surprise, I couldn’t hear any air getting into his right lung. Tapping (‘percussing’ in the trade) confirmed my worst fears - a spontaneous tension pneumothorax.

Air was passing through a defect in his outer lung lining, but not getting out, causing his chest cavity to fill with higher and higher pressure, squashing his lungs and blood vessels. Paradoxically, every time he breathed he was suffocating himself. He had but seconds of life left.

I had practiced the treatment for this rare condition on dummies, but never on a real patient. With huge anxiety, I passed a long needle into his chest. Air hissed out, relieving the pressure. He started to turn pink and his breathing settled.

“Gosh, that feels better Doc.”

My turn to nearly pass out. If he’d had to wait at home for an ambulance that day, I don’t think he’d have made it.

Fifteen years later, our paths crossed again. We embraced, like old war colleagues. Live to fight another day.

A reader asks ...

Jacque has written in about the article on the Palace Hotel in the June edition of the Buzz. She asks “Is it fact or fiction that the Palace Hotel was built backward with the windows facing away from the sea?”

The Editor replies: Certainly I was given this ‘fact’ when I came to the town in the late sixties and this was supposed to be part of the reason the hotel failed. However, having looked up Jacque’s query in Wikipedia we find that the rumour was not true. Disappointing!



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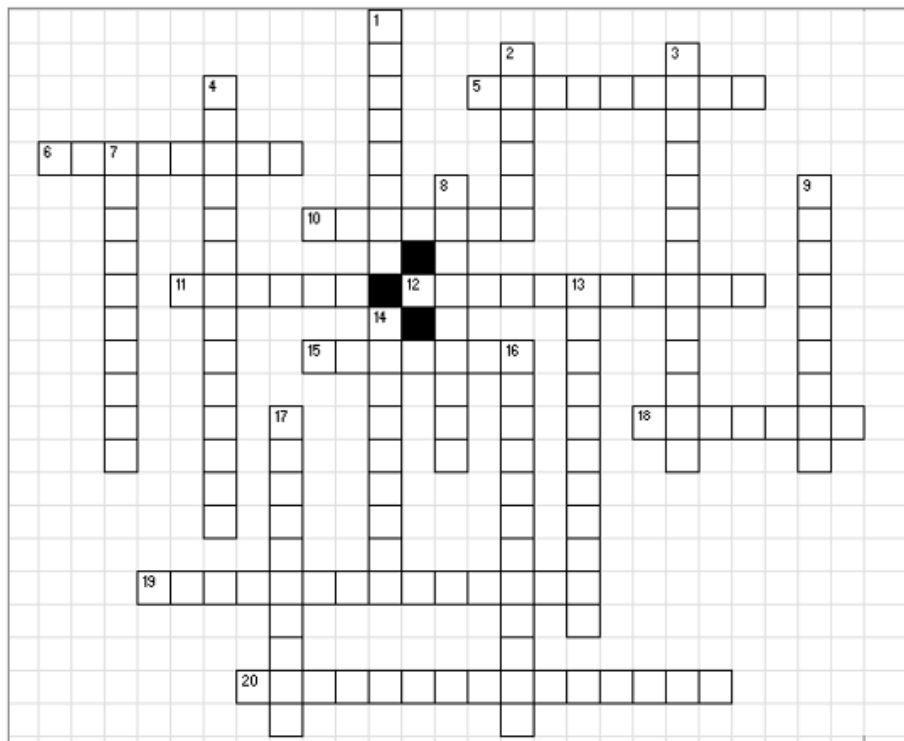
Unique Birkdale Village card & chocolate shop

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 Previous editions of the Buzz are there too and can be viewed in colour.



All about Autumn Crossword



Across

5. Often roasted on an open fire (9)
6. Shades for this season? (8)
10. Fireworks banned in 1997 (7)
11. A "flying fire lance" originally invented in China (7).
12. Sometimes called Parkin (11)
15. A gothic novel for autumn ? (6)
18. Where vanities are burnt? (7)
19. Firework in memory of a martyred saint (9,5)
20. Originally pagan and now a Christian celebration at the end of the summer (7,8)

Down

1. They make a great pie (8)
2. Some believe in them, others don't (6)
3. Plan to blow up parliament in 1605 (9,4)
4. Kids used to ask for it (5,3,3,3)
7. Time to turn this up? (10)
8. Type of leaf-shedding tree (9)
9. Careful when you wave these around (9)
13. Manor Lanced (anag) Italian firework? (5,6)
14. Time to dress up and frighten the neighbours (8)
16. Those (6,6) keep drifting by the window
17. The autumn term at University (10)

Answers on page 30

Answers to Puzzles



Autumn Crossword Answers

Across

5. chestnuts
6. autumnal
10. bangers
11. rocket
12. gingerbread
15. Dracula
18. bonfire
19. Catherine wheel
20. Harvest Festival

Down

1. pumpkin
2. ghosts
3. gunpowder plot
4. penny for the guy
7. thermostat
8. deciduous
9. sparklers
13. roman candle
14. Halloween
16. autumn leaves
17. Michaelmas

Answers to Picture Questions.

Q1: Sitting Pretty Salon

Q2: Labour Club

Q3: The Tea Rooms



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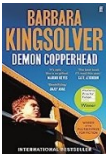
- Birkdale Community Hub & Library are associates with the website "Give as You Live".
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- You can also download the app Give as You Live.
- Whichever method you choose, browse over 6000 stores, shopping as normal.
- Buy the items that you want, and 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.

Some of the new books at Birkdale Community Hub and Library FICTION

Demon Copperhead, Barbara Kingsolver

Women's Prize for Fiction winner, 2023.



A retelling of Charles Dickens David Copperfield for the modern age. Demon's story begins with his traumatic birth to a single mother in a single-wide trailer, looking 'like a little blue prizefighter.' For the life ahead of him he would need all that fighting spirit, along with buckets of charm, a quick wit, and some unexpected talents, legal and otherwise.

Marriage Portrait, Maggie O'Farrell

Runner up, Women's Prize for Fiction 2023



Winter, 1561. Lucrezia, Duchess of Ferrara, is taken on an unexpected visit to a country villa by her husband, Alfonso. As they sit down to dinner it occurs to Lucrezia that Alfonso has a sinister purpose in bringing her here. He intends to kill her. What is Lucrezia to do with this sudden knowledge? What chance does she have against Alfonso, ruler of a province, and a trained soldier? How can she ensure her survival?

Trust, Hernan Diaz

Sunday Times Bestseller and Pulitzer Prize for Fiction winner, 2023



1920s New York. A Wall Street tycoon takes a young woman as his wife. Together, they rise to the top in an age of excess and speculation. Now a novelist is threatening to reveal the secrets behind their marriage. Who will have the final word in their story of greed, love, and betrayal? Composed of four competing versions of this deliciously deceptive tale.

Marple: 12 New Stories, *Various authors*

Shrines of Gaiety, *Kate Atkinson*

The Last Remains (Dr Ruth Galloway, last in series), *Elly Griffiths*

Dark Rooms (Jane Tennison, latest in series) *Lynda La Plante*

The Family Remains (Family Upstairs, 2 in series), *Lisa Jewell*

The Missing Sister (Seven Sisters book 7), *Lucinda Riley*

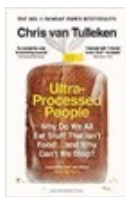
Livid (latest Kay Scarpetta), *Patricia Cornwell*

Dream Town (Private Investigator, Archer, 3), *David Baldacci*

Mercy, (Attlee Pine Series, 4), *David Baldacci*

Death in a Desert Land (Agatha Christie, 3), *Andrew Wilson*

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:	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
RSPCA Southport	01704 567624

Defibrillators in Birkdale.

There are three defibrillators in the Village:

- in the Merseyrail Ticket Office
- on the side wall of The Dutch Bakery
- on the side wall of Morrisons Daily over the line.



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



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