

Birkdale

A Community Magazine

BUZZ



**Sponsored by Birkdale Community Hub and Library
at the Station Master's House**

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



HATE GYMS? ... LOVE GYMOPHOBICS!

Members receive a personalised programme specifically built around individual needs with regular 1-2-1 reviews keeping members on track.



We aren't just a gym, we are a whole lifestyle package revolutionising women's health and fitness.



T : 01704 505072

Unit 6, Shakespeare Street, Southport PR8 5AB
Southport@gymophobics.co.uk. *Parking Available*



Ladies Only – 30 Minute Workout

Junior Chess Club: Every Wednesday from 4-5pm

The Junior Chess Club is free to join and is proving to be very successful. The two volunteers, Yvonne and Charlie (who is at Birkdale High School) have welcomed chess players, from total novices to experienced players over a range of ages, starting at age six.



Come and join us at Birkdale Community Hub and Library

Contact us on: **01704 566 992** for more details

Want to advertise in the Birkdale Buzz?

The magazine comes out every quarter (March, June, September and December) and is printed in A5 format. Adverts can be printed either in B&W or full colour.

The charge for adverts in the next edition in **March** is:

B&W adverts: 1/8 page costs £15, 1/4 page costs £25, 1/2 page costs £50

Colour adverts: 1/8 page costs £20, 1/4 page costs £35, 1/2 page costs £70

We also offer a discount for placing an advert in four editions: four adverts for the price of three. The deadline date for the **March** edition is **12th January**

For further information and advice please email us at:

birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Hello Readers

Welcome to the December edition of the Birkdale Buzz, produced quarterly by volunteers at the Birkdale Community Hub & Library charity. We do hope that the magazine, now in colour, helps to keep locals in touch with people and events around Birkdale and provides an interesting read on all sorts of topics. We distribute copies to over 3000 homes in the Birkdale area.

The Community Hub & Library is situated in the Station Master's House next to the station where, besides the library, there is a computer suite and two meeting rooms for hire (email roombookings@thestationmastershouse.co.uk for details of hire costs). The charity also runs a branch library at the Liverpool Road Methodist Church.

Membership of the library is free, and all our facilities are free for members to use. We organise frequent social events, so why not just pop into the library or visit our website at www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk to find out what is taking place.

On behalf of the over 100 volunteers working for the charity, can I wish all our many readers a very happy Christmas and successful 2026.

Phil Margham (Editor and Chair of Trustees)
Birkdale Community Hub & Library

NB. An online version of the Buzz can be found at www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk
If you would like to send an online copy to friends and relatives, please email us at birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk and we will put you on the emailing list.



Southport Talking Newspaper

A Free Service for The Visually Impaired | 07999 496322 | Charity: 519677

Every week since 1987, the **Southport Talking Newspaper** has delivered local news to blind and partially sighted listeners throughout the Southport and Formby areas. This free service is a lifeline to many, and our listeners look forward greatly to receiving the next edition.

Our friendly teams of volunteers perform a wide range of duties, from news gathering, editing, reading, copying and despatching to listeners. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers, so if you would like to join us, we would love to hear from you.

If you know a blind or partially sighted person who would like to receive our recordings, either by post or online, please tell them about us.

For more information, please contact us on

07999 496322



Presents for
2026

Bruce Graham's Production of

The Gondoliers

**Wednesday 25th
to Saturday 28th
March 2026**

**Fancy being in a
Fully Staged
Performance with a
Full Orchestra?**

**New Members
Are Always Welcome
Why Not Join Us?**

If interested ring Jonathan
on 07793 113083

Rehearsals Thursdays 8 pm till 10 pm
Starting 4th September 2025

Christ Church, Alexandra Road,
Waterloo, L22 1RJ

MICHELLE TAYLOR
— BSc. —

HCPC Registered
CHIROPODIST / PODIATRIST

Unit 5, The Mews, 15a Liverpool Road, Birkdale,
Southport, Merseyside PR8 4AS

Telephone: 01704 540614 Mobile: 07742 447050



**CAR DETAILING
CENTRAL**
*Mobile car valeting & detailing ranging
from interior cleans to full machine
polishing*
E: cardetailingcentral@yahoo.com
M: 07568092491
W: car-detailing-central.jimdosite.com
f car detailing central
Southport & surrounding areas

Alan Nanson

**Painting & Decorating
Interior & Exterior**

All Work Undertaken To A High Standard
Over 20 Years Experience,
Free Estimates.

Tel: 01704 566108

Mob: 07810 491 876



The next issue of the Birkdale
Buzz will be out in **March 2026**
Advert requests, contributions, questions
or feedback should be submitted to
the Editor by **12 January 2026**
birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Parliamentary Update from Southport's MP, Patrick Hurley

The government's recent announcement that they will finally introduce a statutory Duty of Candour, the so-called Hillsborough Law, is a long-overdue but hugely welcome step forward.

This law will place a legal duty on public officials to tell the truth during inquiries and investigations. It should never have taken this long, and it beggars belief that this wasn't a statutory duty anyway. For too many families and campaigners, truth has been delayed, sometimes for decades, by a system that has often prioritised protecting institutions over delivering justice.

Across the country people expect honesty from public authorities. When the state fails our people, whether in the NHS, the justice system, or any public body, citizens have a right to know what went wrong. That right has been too often denied.

The announcement follows years of tireless campaigning, not just by the Hillsborough families, but by those affected by the infected blood scandal, the Post Office Horizon miscarriage of justice, the Primodos drug scandal, and many others. What unites all these groups is the same heartbreaking experience: institutions hiding the truth, and victims being forced to become campaigners just to be heard. I've had meetings with local people here in Birkdale who were at Hillsborough back in 1989 and want this law passed as a way of ensuring the state can't cover up other avoidable tragedies again. But the law's impact also reaches more contemporary issues around public inquiries and the need to establish the truth.

This law won't fix the past. But it will change the future. It means that during public inquiries and investigations, officials will no longer be able to mislead or withhold evidence without facing consequences. It will help ensure that cover-ups are harder to orchestrate and that accountability is not something victims must fight for alone.

I pay tribute to all those who have fought to make this happen. Their persistence, courage and dignity are what has driven this change.

But we should also be clear: this must be the start of wider reform, not the end. Truth should never be optional in a democracy. This change is a vital step in making sure that, in the future, it isn't.

Patrick Hurley MP

House of Commons, SW1A 0AA

Email: patrick.hurley.mp@parliament.uk

Looking for an opportunity to volunteer part-time?

Birkdale Community Library welcomes applications from new volunteers. To find out what opportunities are currently available, please email volunteers@thestationmastershouse.co.uk or pop into the library to request an application form.

Life Empowerment

Live the life you have always wanted!

Shed unwanted behaviours or eating habits that hold you back.
Transform relationships. Remove phobias, anxiety & manage stress!



Life Coach, Fully Accredited Master NLP
Practitioner, Certified Hypnotherapist &
Timeline Practitioner.



"Amy is truly gifted. She helped me to get rid of the constant pain in my rib cage I had due to anxiety...Even my fitness tracker has picked up on my stress levels going down!"

07790316165

Lifeempowerment.info



amy.lifeempowerment



Life Empowerment with Amy

WeDo House Clearances

For all your property needs

Whether you are short of time and you've just sold your house, you need to clear your property after renting it out, or you are dealing with a bereavement

**Let WeDo House Clearances
take care of the hard work for you.**

We will clear houses, offices, garages,
flats and garden sheds

Get in touch for a free quotation on

**01704 551762 or
07511 522850**



A Local Doctor writes:

Sleep - the Foundation of Healthy Living

Quality sleep is essential for adults, especially for older people, supporting physical health, mental clarity, and emotional well-being. Poor sleep can worsen conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and depression.

So, what are the do's and don'ts?

- Aim for 7-8 hours nightly to allow your body to repair and recharge.
- Establish a consistent bedtime routine - go to bed and wake up at the same time daily if possible.
- Create a relaxing bedroom environment: keep it dark, quiet and cool, and avoid TV and phone screens an hour before bed, as blue light disrupts melatonin production.
- Limit caffeine and alcohol, especially in the evening, as they can interfere with sleep cycles.
- Light exercise, like an evening walk or stretching, promotes relaxation, but avoid vigorous activity close to bedtime.
- If stress keeps you awake, try deep breathing or meditation to calm your mind.
- A diet rich in magnesium and B vitamins, found in leafy greens and whole grains, supports restful sleep.
- If you have persistent sleep issues, like insomnia or sleep apnoea, consult a doctor for evaluation.

Good sleep hygiene enhances energy, mood and overall health, empowering you to live actively and, for older people, enjoying your golden years to the fullest.

It's Sam's LEGO World

My name is Sam Selby-Weatherley and I'm the "Lego Expert" volunteering at the **Birkdale Community Library**. I have many years of experience in Lego building and now have over 100 Lego sets, ranging from cars, buses, roller-coasters and, of course, my favourite Harry Potter sets. I often display these at the Atkinson and put on an exhibition at Walker's Café in Wesley Street each year.

I love helping out with children interested in creating Lego structures, seeing how they use their imagination and the smile on their faces when they complete their build. I run a free **Lego Fun class at 10.30 every Saturday at Birkdale Community Library**. It's good to see our regular visitors and their parents, as well as new attendees who are surprised at what they can achieve in such a short time.

Why not come along and give it a try?



Barber Shop

Established 1961

~ OPEN ~
Monday to Friday
8.30 ~ 5.30
Saturday
8.15 ~ 4.00

*No
Appointment
Needed*

49 Weld Road, Birkdale
Southport PR8 2DS

01704 568805

Linwar

M O T O R S

BMW SPECIALISTS SINCE 1970

Linwar Motors is Southport's **Independent BMW Specialist** established 1970. We have a 30,000 sq. ft. warehouse full of parts. Workshop facilities too, offering the following services:

- **Routine Servicing and Maintenance**
- **Parts – New/Used/Remanufactured**
- **Computer Diagnostic**

Linwar Motors Ltd. 40/44 Virginia Street • Southport • PR8 6RU

Tel: **01704 540047** [**www.linwar.com**](http://www.linwar.com)

The Farmer's Dog

a report from John Guest

Jeremy Clarkson – like him or loathe him; there are no half-measures.



What is indisputable is the awareness he has generated concerning the plight of many British farmers. His *Amazon Prime* TV series, of which there are four, emphasises some of the many diverse and often stressful aspects of farming life, ones many of us fail to appreciate.

The latest episodes demonstrated the complications in starting up a British-themed pub and restaurant, one shunning all drink and foodstuffs that do not have their origins in the UK. But Mr Clarkson has achieved just that, and quite spectacularly too.

My wife and I visited ***The Farmer's Dog*** in September, having first perused the website and booked a table. You can only do so one month in advance. Do not chance turning up without a reservation; you could be sadly disappointed!

The refurbished pub, complete with hanging tractor, is situated on the A40 near Burford. A warm welcome is guaranteed; the young “team” happily engaging with their visitors - each being approachable, knowledgeable, and attentive. A small but inspiring menu ensures that you may sample produce from surrounding farms, indulge in a diversity of local beers, ciders and British wines, following which you can explore the *Grand Tour Marquee*, purchasing locally-sourced delicacies, or retreat to the large covered terrace, resplendent with ample heaters and large blankets; allowing you to enjoy the Cotswold vista.



Any downsides? Well yes; there need to be more toilet facilities, which we understand are being addressed. Oh, and don't bother emailing – you're unlikely to receive a response!

But all-in-all, don't be put off. It's well worth the visit.

Postal Voting

Do you vote by post? If so, Sefton have sent out some important information for you. All postal voters who completed a postal vote application form before 31 October 2023, will have to renew their postal vote application no later than **31 January 2026**.

The new postal vote will be in place for a maximum of three years, following which the elector will need to make a new application. See www.sefton.gov.uk/elections for more details.

The quickest and easiest way to reapply for a postal vote application is online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote Phone Sefton on 0345 140 0845 if you need assistance, especially if you are not used to the Internet.

Thanks to Bernard Powell for reminding us about this information.

And Another Thing...

Why has everything gone further away? I grew up in the fifties in a small town less than half the size of Southport. In or near the high street there were the council offices, a Water Board office, separate showrooms for Electricity and Gas products where your electricity and gas accounts were managed, numerous banks, a telephone exchange with an enquiries counter, and even an Inland Revenue office, also with an enquiries counter. Sorting out day-to-day affairs was simple – a phone call to a local person or a visit to the office in town.

Nowadays, most of these local services have gone and have been replaced by online facilities. When you contact these companies no-one knows who you are, you'll have to provide proof of identity each time and you may be talking to an AI bot. It's as though you're trying to find your way round in a foreign country. Strangely, we have become used to this feeling of otherness and not expecting any real relationship with the people we are dealing with. But there used to be another way of communicating and we have given it up. Has it been worth it?

What do readers think? If you have a gripe about something, do please drop us a line at birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk

SPAR





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







BUTCHERS' OPENING HOURS
Mon to Sat 8am - 6pm. Sun 10am - 4pm



STORE OPEN

7am - 11pm **EVERYDAY**

SPAR



There for you

Festive Rocky Road (sent in by Jill Jones)

These make a wonderful gift. Package your rocky road pieces in a gorgeous festive box. They'll delight everyone you give them to!

Makes around 16 chunks

You will need:

8" square cake tin – lined with baking parchment

INGREDIENTS

100g butter

100g good quality plain chocolate

2tbsp golden syrup

75g dried cranberries

100g white chocolate chips

100g mini marshmallows

200g chopped biscuits (ie amaretti, shortbread or digestive etc)

METHOD

Place the butter, chocolate and syrup in a pan and melt gently.

Stir until smooth, then allow to cool.

Stir in all the remaining ingredients and then tip it all into the baking tin.

Chill in the fridge for a couple of hours until set (or overnight) .

Turn out and cut into chunks.



Grosvenor Jazz

Birkdale United Reformed Church, Grosvenor Rd, Birkdale

— 17th January 2026 @ 7:30pm —
Phil Shotton
and the Cafe Society Jazz Band

— 21st March 2026 @ 7:30pm —
Trio Ney

Admission by Ticket Only **£12.50** inc Light Supper
Bring your own drinks (glasses available)

— **Brian** — — **Iain** —
07817 540 133 **07860 902 061**
Email: grosvenorjazz.mcnaire@gmail.com

Southport & Birkdale Sports Club



Running up to the New Year, there are numerous events being held at the Club to which both members and non-members are welcome.

The **Junior Christmas Party** is on **Saturday 6th December**, where you can expect games, music, a raffle and more. It is one of the highlights of the Club's family calendar. Put your knowledge to the test at the monthly **Quiz**, which will be held on **Thursday 18th December**, the recent quizzes have proved very popular.

Get your dancing shoes ready for the Club's **Adult Christmas Party Night** on **Friday 19th December**. A night of festive tunes, good food, and great company. The ideal way to celebrate the season, with friends and colleagues, as the holidays begin.

Christmas Eve is always a great time at the Club, pop in on **Wednesday 24th December** for all the usual festivities. To bring the year to an end in style there is **A Family Friendly New Year's Eve Knees up**, expect music, laughter and a great atmosphere as the Club counts in 2026.

As a non-member you may wish to consider joining the Club, as an active sports member; on offer are cricket, hockey, snooker, squash and tennis, and you can play either competitively, or, in the case of squash and tennis, just socially. There is also a non-playing annual social membership available for those who just wish to avail themselves of the amenities.

All these functions are detailed on the Club website or you can telephone to get more information, see below

Contact: Claire Crew, Honorary Membership Secretary, email - clcrew36@gmail.com

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

Tel. 01704 569951 web site www.sandbsportsclub.co.uk

Email: social@sandbsportsclub.co.uk

DYSONS

BATHROOM & PLUMBING SUPPLIER

For all your bathroom/panelling and plumbing needs

Very competitive prices

Well established, over 40 years' experience, family owned & still independent

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

59 BRIGHTON ROAD, BIRKDALE SOUTHPORT PR8 4DD

01704 563693

dysonswholesale@gmail.com



R & B Clinical

We are local, experienced doctors offering private GP consultations in a clinical setting, or in a patient's home if required, allowing you the time and space to discuss any health needs or concerns you may be experiencing. When necessary we can refer to either the private or NHS sectors for specialist care depending on your preference. The benefits of using

our services are flexibility, short waiting times and longer consultations. We have full access to blood tests, imaging (X-rays, scans etc) and pathology.

Additional services available are: HGV/taxi medicals, minor surgery, vasectomy (minimally invasive technique), steroid joint injections, weight management, menopause management, sexually transmitted infection screening, well person checks and aesthetics.

To book an appointment call **01704 773229**,
or visit **www.randbclinical.com/book**

www.randbclinical.com / randbclinical@gmail.com / Facebook [randbclinical](https://www.facebook.com/randbclinical)

WANTED Vinyl Records

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SELL YOUR VINYL?
CONVERT RECORDS INTO CASH!



LOW COST LEGAL SUPPORT

SPECIALISTS IN FAMILY LAW

Specialist Family Court Support / McKenzie Friend Services from a
qualified Paralegal with over 20 years' experience

- *Assistance with agreeing child arrangements following divorce / separation
- *Preparation of court applications and statements
- *Advice in relation to the family court process
- *Attendance at court hearings

Contact Caroline on 07814 258 958 or email
caroline@lowcostlegalsupport.co.uk

CHECK OUT OUR 5* REVIEWS ON TRUSTPILOT

Pet Corner

Paul Crowther

In my last article I mentioned that I am part of a dog-walkers WhatsApp group. Its function is mainly as a platform to moan about the state of the Birkdale dunes but on one occasion last year it was used to coordinate a search and rescue operation. Sadly, Damian and his dog Bella have both passed away since but I'm certain he would approve of this story being told. It began with a message from Damian saying that Bella, his elderly Dalmatian, had gone missing in the dunes while he was walking her. Within ten minutes of him posting, five people, myself included, had messaged back saying they were on their way to offer help.

It was like the superhero film Avengers Assemble but with a touch more glucosamine. We all knew the dunes well, so we decided to search the many paths individually, starting from the car park at the bottom of Weld Road. I picked one of the main routes parallel to the coast road and the sea (I would say the beach but that has long since packed its bags and moved elsewhere). I reached the first little bridge over the oily stream that flows from under the coast road when something caught my eye further along the stream. I left the path and battled through the undergrowth towards what was starting to look like a dog in the water. But this was a black dog not a white dog with black spots. Closer inspection confirmed the obvious - it was Bella but she was covered in very unpleasant dark mud. She also appeared to be completely stuck.

I immediately messaged Damian and the group with the good news and requested their help in dislodging her from the primeval pickle she had wandered into. Unlike Damian's initial call for assistance, mine was met with total radio silence, so I made the decision to climb down into the brook to free Bella from the mire. This involved me getting both absolutely filthy and, quite literally, dog-tired. I managed, with some difficulty, to carry Bella out of the stream, back through the undergrowth and onto the path, whereupon all the other Avengers instantly assembled.

Fortunately, Bella was none the worse for her adventure and Damian was relieved that all she needed to restore her to normality was a good hosing down. On the other hand, I was left looking like a Victorian chimney sweep, smelling like a pig-farmer's vest and feeling slightly mystified as to how my friends, so conspicuous by their absence in my moment of need, had now miraculously appeared. Such negative thoughts were soon banished by the elation of a mission successfully completed. The Birkdale Dunes Avengers have now returned to hibernation, primed and ready for their next mission!

Printing and Copying Services at Birkdale Community Hub and Library

Do you know that Birkdale Community Hub and Library offers printing and copying services at the Station Master's House? You can print from your phone or from one of the computers at the library for just 10p per page, in colour or black and white, single or double sided. Photocopying is the same price. We also offer a laminating service at 50p per page.

Birkdale Common and the New Golf Hitting Tee – an update

Simon Shaw, Lib Dem Councillor for Birkdale Ward writes:

In the last edition of the Birkdale Buzz I wrote about my concerns over the proposal by the R&A to take over part of the southern Birkdale Common to create an extended Practice Ground in advance of next year's Open Golf Championship at Royal Birkdale.

I turn to this issue again: a Planning Application had been submitted back in May. Normally the next step would have been that it was considered by the 15-strong Planning Committee, probably in September. I made a submission, particularly about my concerns over the proposed permanent six-foot high metal fence extending over much of the area between the current fence to Hillside Golf Club and the Greenbank High School boundary.

However, the full Planning Committee never got to consider the Application. Instead the decision was handed to a special three member "Urgent Referrals" committee which met in the summer break on 18th August, and they approved the Application.

Work on site started in late September, but there was an immediate problem: the construction site fencing obstructed the metalled track towards Hastings Road. This is a Public Right of Way with all the legal protections that involves. Residents contacted me and fortunately I was able to get the fencing moved within a couple of days.

Nellius Consultancy

With hands-on experience and industry know-how, we offer practical, tailored support for retail and hospitality businesses to sell more and run more smoothly.

Our Services Include:

- ▀ *Leadership Training*
- ▀ *Sales Growth Strategies*
- ▀ *Cost Reduction*
- ▀ *Health & Safety Compliance*
- ▀ *HR & ER Support*
- ▀ *Marketing Solutions*

Whether you're a small local business or managing multiple locations – we're here to help your business thrive.

Ring us on **07792 738350**

or email us at

Nellius.consultancy@gmail.com

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
- Trial stays to ensure compatibility
- Full 24/7 support and advice
- A playmate for your own dog
- Flexible doggy visitors to suit your schedule

Companionship, friendship and fun guaranteed!

Contact Kathy to find out more

07802 443467 | 01925 599388

barkingmad.uk.com

kathy.doherty@barkingmad.uk.com

COME IN FROM THE COLD!

**Friendship
and a cuppa
~ waiting for you**

Your **WARM SPACES @ Birkdale Community Hub & Library**
► **Every Thursday from 10am to 4pm** ◄

- Drop by for warmth, company and a chat
- Free hot drinks, snacks, newspapers and more
check our noticeboard in the library
- We are fully accessible *lift, disabled loo
and baby changing facilities*

Here's what some of our visitors say ...

"A great little place to socialise, make new friends and fill moments of loneliness"

"The kindness of the volunteers shows how neighbourliness is essential in these troubled times"

"There should be more places like our Hub – a lifesaver"



"Come and join us – we look forward to meeting you"



What's happening at Birkdale Community Library?

The Birkdale Community Library is situated next to Birkdale station. The original Station Master's House has been converted into a library downstairs with meeting rooms for hire and a computer room upstairs.

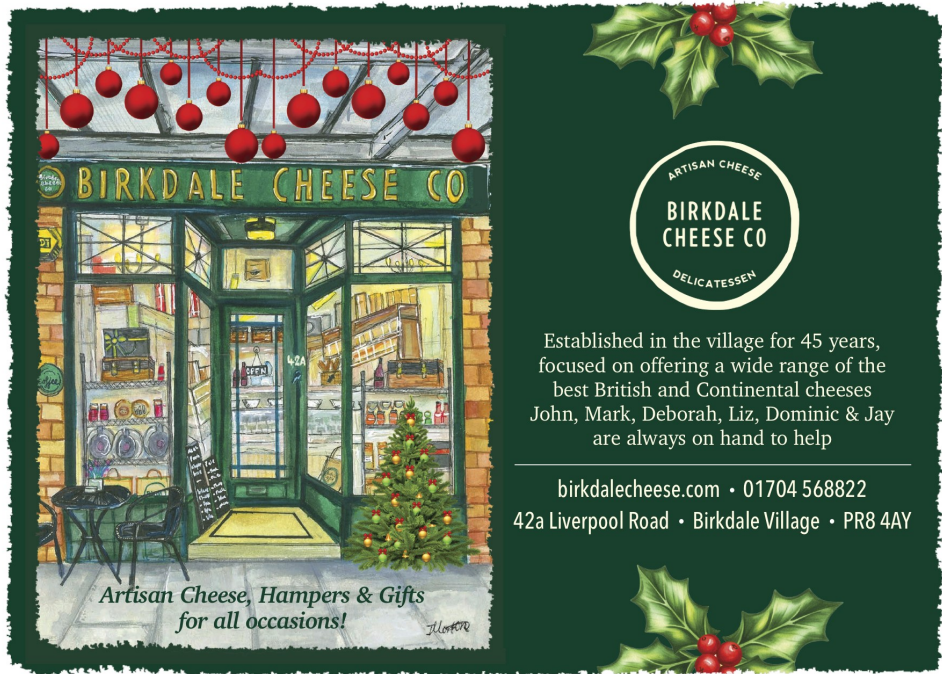
Groups that meet here on a regular basis include: Rhyme Time, Story Time, Shared Reading, Knit n' Natter, Lego Club, Computer Club, and Junior Chess Club. We also host drop-in sessions for local councillors and Merseyside Police.

The library charity organises fundraising events every few weeks with all profits helping to support our activities. Two December events are the **Christmas Floral Workshop** on the afternoon of **Friday 12th December** at Liverpool Road Methodist Church (tickets on sale at the library) and our **Open Morning on Saturday 13th December** (books, cakes and children's knits for sale) at the library.

For information about what is happening at the library and details about our fundraising events and group activities, please call in to the Station Master's House and speak to our volunteers or contact us on:

T: 01704 566 992 E: contact@thestationmastershouse.co.uk
www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk





Values, Friendliness and Flags

Thoughts from John Pugh, LibDem Councillor for Dukes Ward

Regular readers might recall I finished my last piece for the Buzz by asking the question “*What are Birkdale’s values?*”. I wrote a piece that suggested that what defined a community is not people who come and go, but the values that a community lives by.

I like to think of Birkdale as a neighbourly, welcoming place where people from all over the country and further can settle, bring up families and retire. Some other parts of Southport are more traditional with ancestry going back to Edwardian days with fishermen’s cottages and Lancashire traditions and pride. Birkdale, because of its housing mix, is a bit more cosmopolitan with plenty of people in the public and private sector having moved in from choice, with connections and relatives beyond Southport. That makes ‘outgoing friendliness’ a key feature, underlined now more than ever in the café culture of Birkdale village. It perhaps works for a more unprejudiced and rational view of the world. Birkdale people knew how to live and let live.

We’ve not been great flag-waving people hitherto outside Royal visits etc and possibly are a little puzzled by the recent displays put up with professional skill on lamp posts. Flags are used in many ways - in joyous celebration, on commemorative occasions, or on battlefields to mark out territory in an exclusive way.

Which do we think is the Birkdale way?

Gardeners' Corner

My name is Wendy. I am a volunteer at Birkdale Community Library and I love everything to do with plants, both indoors and outdoors!

The Annual Community Sunflower Summer Challenge ran for its third year. Thanks to everyone who collected their seeds and gave it a go. The Sunflower was *Earthwalker*, boasting multi-headed flowers in fire-flame colours of terracotta and rich, reddish brown. Many congratulations to our three 2025 winners and to our two highly commended entrants who were presented with their winning certificates and book tokens or book prizes at the Station Master's House.

Winners	Name	Age	Height
First Prize:	Abigail Goodchild	6	2.77 m
Second Prize	Susan Fantom	Over 21	2.72 m
Third Prize	Leanne Exley	Under 21	2.24 m
Highly Commended	Sam Billinge	7	2.04 m
Highly Commended	Olivia Goodchild	4	1.9 m



Enjoy our beautiful winter display of colour at the Station Master's House. Liz, one of our volunteers, has once again performed her magic with the pots, window troughs and boat planter, enough to keep us all going till spring. Thank you, Liz.

Although it's winter I hope you, like me, continue to enjoy your garden. Here are a few things you could be getting on with outside:

- Hard prune overgrown shrubs and hedges while they are dormant, much easier as you can see their shape
- Move plants in pots to a sheltered spot as their roots are more exposed to the elements and pile straw around the base of tender shrubs and climbers to protect them from low temperatures
- Hang bird feeders to attract hungry birds and provide them with a water source.

Thinking of Christmas makes me think of Christmas trees. If you are lucky enough to have a porch or garden, do you have room for a small Christmas tree? A tree that is already there, or a tree you might add, which you can decorate. Add a few subtle cream LED lights, or go full-on with multi-colour flashing LEDs and it will be there for you next year. What could be better?

You could also bring in berry branches and evergreens for festive decorations and wreaths. And why not borrow a gardening book from the library and start planning your 2026 garden? **Happy Gardening!**

Peter Rimmer is helping to form a **Friends of Carter's Piece** (that's the green on Blundell Drive). We are looking for people who are interested in joining. No firm plans as yet but if people want to get involved, they can contact him on **07973 623210**.

SEFTON NEWS

Sonya Kelly, Labour Councillor for Birkdale Ward writes:

SOUTHPORT PIER

I was privileged to meet Chancellor Rachel Reeves, who was welcomed to Southport seafront by Patrick Hurley MP, together with the leader of Sefton Council and Metro Mayor of Liverpool. The chancellor was here to confirm funding of up to £20 million to repair our iconic attraction. Hopefully the pier will be open again by 2027.

FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Sefton Council is working closely with other councils across the Liverpool City Region to introduce new weekly household food waste collections. New legislation across England will mean all local authorities will be required by law to collect food waste from households. The goal is to reduce the amount going into landfill, cut greenhouse gas emissions and turn food into green energy.

We will hopefully see the scheme introduced from Spring/Summer 2026. When recycled, food waste can be turned into something useful and generate natural forms of energy, such as biogas, an excellent alternative to fossil fuels and a fertiliser which can be used in farming.

999 REUNITE SAFEGUARDING WRISTBANDS

Sefton council, in conjunction with Sefton Carers, have launched an innovative tool for safeguarding vulnerable residents and supporting unpaid carers and families. A free wristband, containing vital information that can be accessed by emergency services should the person being cared for become lost and confused or require urgent assistance. The wristband is a brilliant initiative designed to support those caring for loved ones, but please note this is not a tracker.

Carers and families living in Sefton can collect their free wristband by contacting Sefton Carers Centre directly on **0151 288 6060**

WARDS FUNDS

Sefton Council allocates a fund to each of the 22 wards across Sefton to facilitate actions requested by local people. The funding must be used on projects to improve the area and be of benefit for the wider community. Since becoming a councillor of Birkdale ward, I have made sure monies have been spent in our green spaces, making improvements for park users eg bins, benches and play equipment in our playgrounds as well as bins on our highways. The money has been allocated to various groups to help with their Christmas displays, lights and planters and flowers. St Peter's Church has a quiet garden which needed some funds to help make improvements. Our local primary schools, the local foodbank and the Mayors Toy appeal have benefited from donations. I helped secure ward funds across Southport to help Southport Hookers Crochet Group provide the fantastic displays we see all over the town. Please email your local councillors if your group needs financial help with a project.

Sonya.kelly@sefton.gov.uk

INCLUSIVE PLAY EQUIPMENT

I was delighted that we were able to use ward funds to help purchase a piece of inclusive play equipment in Compton Park on Compton Road. An inclusive roundabout is a very welcome addition to the play area that has seen small improvements over the last couple of years as I have pushed for more play equipment.

NEW SECURITY MEASURES

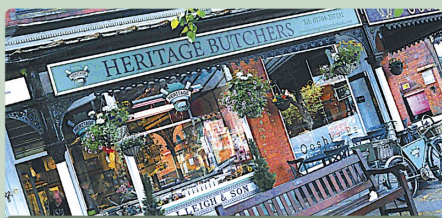
We have found it necessary to look at introducing new security measures after one of the security posts at Carr Lane playing fields was damaged. I asked for extra measures last year and Green Sefton had boulders placed along the boundary which have worked well. Green Sefton have agreed to install an overhead barrier as well as two speed humps. The monies for this will hopefully come out of ward funds

PARKING AT BIRKDALE TRAIN STATION

I have received enquiries about parking at Birkdale Station, especially overnight. There are signs up in the car park that advise that overnight parking is not permitted but it doesn't explain what that term means. Overnight is considered to be 15 minutes after the last train and 15 minutes before the first train. I have asked that this additional information is displayed on all car park signs at railway stations.



Heritage Butchers Birkdale proudly upholds a longstanding tradition of excellence in the profession of butchery, coming from a rich lineage of skilled butchers. Our dedicated team, consisting of Morgan, Faye, Steve, Emily, and Jack, are always ready to assist you.



We invite you to visit us at:

20 Liverpool Road, Birkdale Village, PR8 4AY
01704 337131



THE BOWDEN LODGE

**Southport Guest House
with Private Function Room**

**Book Now:
Pre-Christmas Buffet**

Also Suitable for:
**Birthdays
Family Gatherings
Wakes
Anniversaries
Baby Showers**



01704 543531 • Albert Road, PR9
www.bowdenlodge.co.uk



DO YOU WANT TO LEARN OR
IMPROVE YOUR

GERMAN?

Experienced German tutor
teaching all levels

Face to face or ONLINE
lessons available

Native Speaker

Contact UTE:
07933 712632
deutschmitute@zohomail.eu

Powers *Home Improvement*

- Carpentry
- Kitchens
- Tiling
- Wood and Laminate Floors
- Flat Packs
- Decking and Gazebos
- Painting and Decorating
- Household Repairs

Fully insured

CALL WARREN

01704 566704 / 07929 944573

Refs supplied

Computer Corner by Adam

The End of Windows 10 Support: A Guide to Staying Safe

You may or may not be aware that Microsoft stops supporting Windows 10 in mid-October. This means that, if you're still running Windows 10, your computer won't be receiving critical security updates, leaving it vulnerable to hackers and malware. Think of it like living in a house where the locks stop working properly over time.

Don't panic, there are lots of options....

Upgrade to Windows 11 if your computer meets the hardware requirements. Check by searching "PC Health Check" in your start menu. If compatible, this is often the simplest solution.

Buy a new computer with Windows 11 pre-installed. While costly, this ensures everything works smoothly and gives you several more years of support.

Buy time with security updates if Microsoft offer Extended Security Updates for a fee. Check Microsoft's site or ask a trusted technician.

Continue using Windows 10 carefully by avoiding suspicious emails, only visiting trusted websites, and keeping antivirus software active. However, this becomes riskier over time.

Consider switching to Linux (Linux Mint would provide a familiar desktop) or ChromeOS Flex if you're adventurous. They're both free and secure but require learning new ways of doing things. However, they provide a great way to breathe new life into perfectly good equipment. You might ask a tech-savvy family member or friend to help.

Given these choices, start by checking if your current computer can run Windows 11, then explore your options. Some shops that sell computers offer free consultations to help you decide what's best for your needs and budget.



What's On in Southport

Jack and the Beanstalk (19 December—4 January) SDC Little Theatre, Southport

Beauty and the Beast (5-31 December) The Atkinson

Open All Hours (23-31 January) SDC Little Theatre, Southport

Southport Jazz Festival (30 January—1 February) The Grand, Lord Street, Southport

The Girl on the Train (13-21 February) SDC Little Theatre, Southport

Our Day Out (18-21 March) SDC Little Theatre, Southport

154th Open Golf Championship (16-19 July) Royal Birkdale



UPHOLSTERY

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

**Chairs, Sofas, Headboards, Beds
Curtain Tracks, Foam Replacement**

**Unit 1, 50a Everton Road, Birkdale PR8 4BT
Phone: 07770 616398**



Financial
Trust us for life

Insurance Brokers &
Financial Advisers

www.rigbyfinancial.co.uk —

We Provide

INSURANCE & FINANCIAL ADVICE

Whether its your car or executive home, your fleet insurance or business insurance, your investments, pensions or life insurance

...We've got it covered!

Call Us on

01704 565 900

3 Upper Aughton Rd, Southport PR8 5NA

Birds of the Winter Wood

by Hillside Birder

*I will fledge you a Jay that will plant
you a thousand acorns that will each
grow a thousand oaks that will each
live a thousand years that will each
fledge a bright-backed, blue-winged,
forest-making Jay.*

From The Lost Spells by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris (pub. Hamish Hamilton)

Winter is a good time to see woodland birds that are often hidden in the canopy during the rest of the year, their presence then only betrayed by calls or song.



An excellent example is our most colourful large corvid, the Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*).

Blue, grey, pink, brown – all are colours which can be seen as it flies. Harsh screams are a signal to look out for one, or a small group. It caches nuts, especially acorns, in soft ground in

autumn, retrieving them to eat in the winter cold. Some, of course, are not recovered so these birds are among our greatest means of reviving native woodlands.

At the other end of size spectrum, one of our very smallest birds the Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) will be found jumping and flying with incredibly fast-beating wings among branches, its call so high-pitched that those of us with older ears may find it inaudible! Its Linnaean name means “little king” and it was often referred to as the “King of birds” in folklore across Europe, while its common name derives from a beautiful golden crest.

December I-Spy: birds to watch out for in parks and gardens this month

Now is the time to look out for migrant thrushes that visit us in winter. Both are nomadic and roam around in small flocks, occasionally containing both species.



The Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) is like a small song thrush.

Distinguished easily by an orange-red patch on its flank and a bright, creamy stripe above the eye, the redwing feasts on berries in bushes and hedgerows. Its call is a very simple high-pitched “tseep.”

The Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) resembles the mistle thrush in stature, with a grey head, white belly and dark tail. A noisy bird with chuckling or cackling calls, it moves in a distinctive hopping manner criss-crossing the ground.



Get ready for the **Big Garden Birdwatch 2026** – on 23rd-25th January. “Sit back, relax and watch your garden birds for an hour. Whether you’re a newcomer or a regular – welcome! It all counts, and we’d love to know your sightings. You may even get some surprises.” Register at rspb.org.uk

Motoring Perspectives

John Sharp

I run **SHARP Automotive**, a small independent car dealership based in Southport, specialising in good-quality, low-mileage, used cars. After spending 22 years in the franchised Main Dealer world, working my way up from salesman to dealer principal, I've seen the motor trade evolve dramatically.

The biggest change has undoubtedly been the internet. Customers now have access to more information than ever before, along with a huge choice of vehicles available nationwide. Right now, with all the uncertainty in the electric car market, I'm finding that many customers are sticking with what they know - good petrol and diesel cars. However, electric car sales are rising and that's a topic I hope to cover in more detail in another article.

But the thing I've noticed: even with all this technology, people usually prefer not to buy a car without *seeing it* and *feeling confident in the service they receive*, particularly if buying second hand. Several companies have tried to make the car-buying process completely online, but it hasn't really taken off. At the end of the day, a car purchase is usually the **second-biggest purchase of your life** – and it needs to be the right one.

For me, that's what makes this business exciting. It's not just about selling a car – it's about guiding people through one of their most important buying decisions, making sure they drive away happy and confident. And that's something that no website or algorithm can replace.

We want your car



We pay more than most online valuation services*

*T&Cs apply.



✓ FREE valuation

✓ Sell local - buy local

✓ Quick, easy process

✓ More money, less hassle

Give us a try - we are always looking for locally well loved vehicles

SHARP
AUTOMOTIVE



79 Rufford Road
Southport PR9 8LL
01704 331341
info@sharpautomotive.co.uk
www.sharpautomotive.co.uk

Albert Pierrepoint and Ruth Ellis

by Henry James

The executioner Albert Pierrepoint, whose connections with Birkdale were featured in the September 2023 edition of the Birkdale Buzz, has featured in the ITV drama shown earlier this year: *A Cruel Love – The Ruth Ellis Story*. Ellis had been sentenced to death after being found guilty of the murder of her lover, David Blakely. Pierrepoint executed Ellis, who was the last woman to be hanged in this country for murder.



The drama investigates how Ellis was abused by Blakely and suffered a miscarriage after being hit in the stomach by Blakely in January of 1955. Toby Jones plays her solicitor, John Bickford, who argues that the murder conviction should be challenged as Ellis faced provocation. However, Ellis wanted to play no part in this defence approach.

There has been some speculation of what Ellis was like in the moments before her death at Holloway Prison on 13th July 1955. Pierrepoint spoke about this in a 1977 Thames TV documentary, excerpts of which can be seen on YouTube. Pierrepoint said: *"The press said she wept and cried when she went to the scaffold, and they said she said something to me just before she died. But that was just the press. Actually, she never spoke to me. I can see her now and she puckered her lips, like she tried to smile. She was a brave woman."*

Ellis's execution caused huge controversy and was discussed by the cabinet. Just seven months after her execution Pierrepoint resigned, although he would later write that Ellis's execution *"had absolutely no connection with my resignation..."*. Capital punishment for murder was abolished in 1969, and Ellis's execution is said to have played a major part in this decision.

In his autobiography Pierrepoint surprisingly speaks out against capital punishment as a deterrent. He wrote: *"All the men and women whom I have faced at that final moment convince me that, in what I have done, I have not prevented a single murder."*

Editor's Note: another local connection with the Ruth Ellis story is that actress Miranda Richardson, who was born in Southport, played the part of Ruth Ellis in the 1985 film 'Dance with a Stranger'.

Sefton Councillor Surgeries

Lib Dem 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 **Birkdale Community Hub & Library** on the **3rd Tuesday of every month between 6 and 7 pm.**

The Labour Councillor also representing Birkdale Ward will hold midday surgeries at **Birkdale Community Hub & Library** on the **first Wednesday of every month between 1 and 2 pm.**

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

Burglary Prevention Advice – Merseyside Police

Merseyside Police provides clear and practical advice to help residents protect their homes from burglary. Their guidance focuses on reducing opportunities for criminals and enhancing the overall security of your property.



Secure Entry Points: Ensuring all doors and windows are properly secured is essential. Use high-quality locks and consider upgrading older fittings. Always lock doors and windows when leaving the house, even for short periods. Don't forget to secure garages, sheds, and side gates, as tools stored there can be used to gain entry. Patio doors and older UPVC fittings may benefit from additional locking mechanisms or security bars.

CCTV and Alarms: Visible security systems are a strong deterrent. CCTV should be positioned to capture clear facial images and ideally be linked to mobile devices for real-time alerts. Merseyside Police recommends using accredited installers to ensure systems comply with privacy laws. Burglar alarms are also highly effective—installing alarm boxes at both the front and rear of the property increases visibility and deterrence. Dummy boxes can also be used to supplement real systems and add another layer of deterrence.

Distraction Burglary Awareness: Distraction burglars often pose as officials or tradespeople to gain entry. Always ask for identification and verify credentials before allowing anyone into your home. If you're unsure, keep them outside and contact the organisation they claim to represent. Never feel pressured to let someone in. Genuine callers will understand your caution.

Neighbourhood Vigilance: Being alert to suspicious activity and reporting it promptly can help prevent crime in your area. Joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch group is encouraged, as it fosters community awareness and cooperation. If you're in Birkdale, you can find your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme and get involved via:

<https://www.southporthomewatch.org.uk/events>.

Keyless Car Theft and Faraday Pouches: Modern vehicles with keyless entry systems are increasingly targeted by criminals using signal amplification devices. These devices can intercept and boost the signal from your car key, allowing thieves to unlock and start your vehicle—even if the key is inside your home. To prevent this, Merseyside Police recommends storing key fobs in Faraday pouches or boxes. These are specially designed containers lined with signal-blocking material that prevents radio frequency signals from escaping. Avoid leaving keys near doors or windows, as signals can be easily intercepted through glass or thin walls.

Final Tips: Avoid leaving valuables in plain sight, especially near windows. Use timers on lights when away to give the impression someone is home. Consider marking valuable items with a property marking system to aid recovery if stolen. Keep ladders out of sight, and ensure bins are not positioned to assist climbing over fences.

By following these steps, residents can significantly reduce the risk of burglary and contribute to a safer community.

Drop-in Community Police Advice Surgeries

Luke Holden, an officer from Merseyside Police, or another officer if he is away, holds regular drop-in community police advice sessions at the Station Master's House. The surgery offers local residents the opportunity to meet the officer 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 get guidance if you are worried about any approaches you've had that you think may be a scam.

The surgery takes place at the library every three weeks on Tuesday evenings from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. As this is a drop-in service, no appointment is needed. Please contact the Station Master's House (tel: **01704 566 992**) for the next surgery dates.

A Little Christmas Story

by Anon

Once upon a time, there lived a farmer named Bob who had a peculiar pet—a talking sheep named Woolly. Woolly wasn't just any sheep; he had a knack for telling jokes, often leaving the entire village in stitches. One frosty morning, Bob decided to enter Woolly into the village Christmas show. "We'll dazzle them, Woolly," Bob declared. Woolly replied, "Just don't make me wear a tutu again."



The day of the show arrived, and the villagers were buzzing with excitement. Bob and 'Woolly the Wonder Sheep' were up after the juggling grandmas and a dog that could play the piano. Woolly stepped up to the microphone, cleared his throat, and started, "Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field!"

The crowd erupted in laughter and amazement. Woolly continued, "What do you get when you cross a sheep and a kangaroo? A woolly jumper!" Even the vicar couldn't help but chuckle. Then came Woolly's grand finale. "Why don't sheep take up knitting? Because they're afraid of unravelling"

Bob and Woolly won first prize—a year's supply of carrots and a golden turnip trophy. Bob patted Woolly on the head. "You did great, Woolly. Who knew a sheep could have such a sense of humour?" Woolly winked and replied, "Well, Bob, I guess I'm just shear genius." And with that, they both laughed all the way back to the farm.

More Books....

Most of the books in Birkdale Community Library are given to us by the public. But that's not the whole story. In addition to donated books, we allocate over £2,000 from our funds for newly-published books, with guidance from our expert team of librarians. Young adult readers are a challenging group to attract into every library. Recently Birkdale Library was lucky enough to win £1,000 from a Tesco Blue Token store poll, and we will spend this on new books for this age group of readers, in the hope that we can stimulate their interest and keep them coming back for more.

Home Visiting Opticians

Free NHS Eye Tests in Your Own Home

At AU Eyecare we are committed to providing you with the highest quality of care. We pride ourselves on being knowledgeable, experienced and friendly, as well as simplifying the process.

- Get in touch to see if you're eligible for Free NHS Eye Test, including Free Glasses.
- Visits in Care Homes or private homes.



		
NHS FREE EYE TEST	NHS FREE GLASSES	HOME VISIT

Katie Short (Administrator) **07834 584 666**
 Email: info@au-eyecare.co.uk
www.au-eyecare.co.uk



AU EYE CARE @ Home




CLAIRE WILLIAMS

PIANO & VOCAL TEACHER

E: cwmusic@btinternet.com
 T: 07766 515 780

W: cwpianoandvocaltuition.co.uk

On Being a Sefton Councillor

Iain Brodie-Browne, LibDem Councillor for Birkdale Ward

In the last edition of the Birkdale Buzz I outlined some of the issues that residents bring to councillors. I want to continue that theme and tell readers about another case I have been involved with. It concerns a young family who were served with a section 21 no-fault eviction notice. This family has already faced tragedy when one of their young children died. The remaining child faces significant medical challenges. Quite properly Sefton has a statutory obligation to house people in these circumstances. As I write, the eviction is due to take effect, and the situation has not been resolved, despite the best efforts of colleagues.

I promised in my last article to look at some of the ways that councillors can, on your behalf, hold to account the small group of councillors who comprise the cabinet and who make all the important decisions.

I am a strong believer that openness and transparency is the first step to better decision making. It is more that fifteen years since live-streaming the key decision meetings of Sefton Council was proposed. To date, this has not been achieved. Across the country large County Councils and small Parish Councils have had streaming in place for years. I hope soon that Sefton will join them, and you will be able to see for yourself what is going on.

"At last we have a map showing Birkdale's boundaries for the only time that it was independent"



EXCEPTIONAL FUNERAL CARE IN SOUTHPORT

FJ Gibb Funeral Directors

Taking the greatest care in and around Southport

6a Clarence Road, Southport, Merseyside PR8 4BH

01704 551666

We're here for you anytime. Whatever your wishes or budget,
we can provide a funeral to suit you.



dignityfunerals.co.uk/local



WeDo Electrics

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

From a new socket to a full re-wire to an electric
vehicle charging point

Friendly efficient service & great rates

For a FREE quote call Adrian

07511 522850 | 01704 551762



Drawing out the moment

by local artist Graham McQuade

Even in our free time it can be hard to step off our cultural conveyer belt and take time to focus on what's around us. Meditation is a sure way to slow the pace; another, between bites, might be angling. I would imagine patient bird-watching would also deliver a degree of mindfulness. For me though, it is sketching. Generally, sketching with watercolours; sometimes just pencil and paper. On a still summer's morning, pausing to enjoy a scenic view, you can almost feel your blood pressure fall.

I remember sitting sketching at a world-renowned tourist destination. I had positioned myself just up off the footpath and started to apply the first washes of my sketch when I heard someone approaching. A few moments later a figure came marching along the path below, mobile to ear, free hand gesticulating like a flag in a gale, loudly bewailing the shortfalls of a car that he had just purchased. And all the while, the calmness and sheer beauty of his surroundings passed unnoticed. Perhaps it is a Protestant work ethic that makes us pack as much as we can into the moment? Multi-tasking, our feet on the ground but the rest of us scattered in separate time zones?

Sketching, for me, locks me into the immediate, shuts out niggling worries of unfinished business and forces a closer look at what's around. The more you look, the more you see and the more you see the more interesting it can get.

If you try this, don't be put off by your output. It is just a sketch after all - a record of your period of contemplation and should carry with it the pleasure you had in sitting and enjoying your surroundings. I might develop my sketches later, but there is no pressure to. Carrying a small sketchbook will allow you to build up a personal record of places and moments dear to you.

Vulnerability and self-consciousness can also be a deterrent, but most passers-by will ignore you, particularly if you don't make eye-contact. Start with simple objects, trees, parts of buildings, small boats or a few flowers. Good tonal contrasts also help, with strong areas of light and shade. Skies can be a good subject also, but they do change and move, as do people and animals. But who cares? You just finish up with a collection of incomplete cameos.

So, why not take time to pause, look and enjoy yourself in the moment and later, in quiet reflection, relish a personal record of contented times?

grahammcquadeineart.com / grahammcquade.wordpress.com



**Mrs Jones
is delighted!**



she's got
**Attendance
Allowance**



Grey Matters
Consultancy
SOUTHPORT

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

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

07946 304426



grey-matters-consultancy.com/southport

Dabs Tattoos & Body Piercing

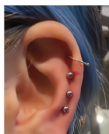
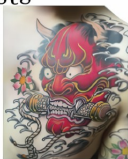
Award winning artists

Custom designs

Bespoke tattooing

Fully licenced, trained

& insured



Needle
only
piercing
Female
piercers



**Warhammer
Stockist**

Counselling sessions available

@dabstattoo - Instagram and Facebook

- 78b Eastbourne Road PR8 4DU
- 01704 566665 EST. 2005



CREATIVE
COURAGE
FOR LIFE!

ENROL TODAY STAGECOACH SOUTHPORT

Singing, dancing and acting classes
for 4 - 16 year olds. Join our weekly
classes & let your child discover the
magic of performing arts!



www.stagecoach.co.uk/southport



[southportstagecoach.co.uk](https://www.instagram.com/southportstagecoach)



07877185273



Housing Perspectives: a professional view from Karen Potter

I'm delighted to be asked to contribute to Birkdale Buzz. Having lived in Birkdale most of my life, I appreciate the value and enjoy the content of a magazine for our local community.

As we draw towards the end of another buoyant year in the property market, Birkdale continues to shine as one of the most sought-after locations in the region. We've seen strong interest from both local buyers and those relocating from across the UK, all drawn by what Birkdale has to offer.

We sometimes forget what an unusual range of housing we have here: from grand, characterful Victorian villas to striking architect-designed modern homes, and with a large range of sizes and types of accommodation, the quality and variety of housing is exceptional. This, combined with the vibrant atmosphere of Birkdale Village—with its outstanding selection of shops, bars, and restaurants—makes the area highly desirable. Add in excellent schools, renowned golf and sports clubs, and convenient rail links to Liverpool, it's easy to see why demand remains high.

The high demand is reflected in Land Registry data which continue to show steady growth in sale prices locally. However, Rightmove's statistics show that, across Southport, around 150 to 180 asking prices are reduced each month. This contrast highlights the importance of accurate pricing —properties initially priced above market expectations often require adjustments to secure a sale. For those looking to plan, the market is still active yet will gradually quieten as we approach Christmas. The new year always attracts plenty of new movers.

Focus on Architecture: Art Deco

Editor: this is the first of an occasional series on architectural styles that we can find around Southport.

The term Art Deco came to define design in the period spanning the 1910s through to the late 1930s. But the earliest designers of that period would not have used that term; it took its name, short for Arts Décoratifs, from the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes held in Paris.

There are many versions of the Art Deco style in Europe and the USA, but the common theme is a clear intent to be “modern” and “streamlined”, a new and daring concept from a generation whose parents had lived in the Victorian age.

We tend to think of the Chrysler Building in New York as an impressive example of Art Deco architecture, with its gleaming chrome façade. However, a stroll around Southport reveals our own Art Deco delights including: the Garrick Theatre, The Grand, the sadly -missed Floral Hall, Leo's Bar on Neville Street, the Round House at Hillside, the Municipal Links building, the Royal Birkdale Clubhouse and the old Co-Op/ McDonalds building on the corner of Eastbank Street and King Street.



The Round House

Apollo Care Southport maintain your loved ones' independence by keeping them *in their own home*.

- ✓ Companionship
- ✓ Personal Care
- ✓ Respite Care
- ✓ Dementia & Alzheimer's Care
- ✓ Palliative Care
- ✓ Night Care
- ✓ Home Help

Our pricing options are affordable, with no hidden costs.



We are a family run care company and our carers are dedicated to help you and your loved ones to maintain your independence and dignity.

**1 TICKET.
100s OF
ADVENTURES.**

Day Saver

Hop on and off as much as you like
Unlimited off-peak travel,
plus children travel for half price. T&Cs apply, visit the website.



Merseyrail

Discover more with Merseyrail
merseyrail.org/discover

Christmas Services at St Peter's and St James' Churches

Date	Service	Location
13 th December - 7pm	Alistair Lee – A West-end Christmas	St Peter's
14 th December - 11.15am	Cake and Carols	St Peter's
17 th December – 2pm	Christmas Bingo	St Peter's
18 th December - 10am	Christmas @ Footprints toddlers	St Peter's
20 th December - 11am	Carol Singing in the village	Meet by Heritage Butchers
21 st December - 6pm	Christmas by Candlelight	St James
24 th December - 4pm	Christingle Service	St Peters
24 th December - 11.30pm	Midnight Communion	St James
25 th December - 10am	Joint Christmas Celebration	St James

Every December, we're reminded to "keep Christ in Christmas." Which sounds easy—until you realize you've just elbowed someone in ASDA over the last roll of wrapping paper. Let's face it, the season gets loud. Between Christmas playlists that start before Summer ends and inflatable Santas the size of small cars, it's easy to forget that Christmas didn't start with reindeer — it started with a *Redeemer*.

Over 2,000 years ago, in a quiet corner of Bethlehem, the King of Kings showed up in the humblest way possible—as a baby in a feeding-trough. And that's really what Christmas is: *God stepping into our mess*. Not to sell us something, but to save us. The angel said it best: "*I bring you good news of great joy, a Saviour has been born!*"

So yes, enjoy the hot-chocolates, laugh with family, and rock those matching pyjamas. But in between the wrapping paper and the parties take a moment to remember that the greatest gift wasn't under a tree — it was hung on one. Merry Christmas — and may your heart make more room for Jesus than your fridge does for leftovers.

Rev Sam and all at St James' and St Peter's Church



Professional, patient driving tuition
covering Southport & surrounding areas

Driving Lessons – Motorway Driving – Pass Plus



For more information call / text **07748 841534**
or visit **www.jhdrivertraining.co.uk**



Reading block ... a book-lover's survival guide Lindsey Martin

Many of us are familiar with writer's block, the struggle to put words on paper or screen. Less well known but probably much more widespread is reading block - reading burnout. Reading becomes a chore. It's no longer a passion, and it feels grim if, like me, you've been a voracious reader for as long as you can remember. During Covid I found it increasingly hard to concentrate on reading for pleasure, and very strange when, for the first time in memory, I had all the time in the world to read. I started to research tips on Dr Google on how to fall back in love with reading again. Here is what I have learned ...

Just start reading – it seems obvious, but you need to start somewhere. A tip that worked for me was to re-read a few old favourites – sometimes the familiar is your friend. Maybe read a Young Adult or Thriller novel as they are engineered to hook your interest almost instantly. Look for recommendations from friends, reader reviews on Amazon and other online bookshops. Ask in your local library – staff will be only too happy to help.

There are no rules when it comes to reading for pleasure. If a book isn't enjoyable, move on and find one that is. Indulge your guilty-pleasure reading whether it is chick lit, cosy crime or fan fiction as a way of easing yourself back into the reading routine.

Speaking of routine, find time to read regularly, even if for five minutes. Making time is key to actively making reading a habit - but only start that new book when you know you can read the first few chapters without being interrupted. Read before bedtime, with your morning coffee, or listen to an audiobook on car journeys, cooking or when walking.

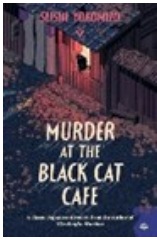
Explore different ways to read if you are in a rut. Audiobooks are still books (honest!) or try a Kindle. Sefton Libraries have a huge selection of e-books, e-audiobooks and magazines for its members to borrow for free with Borrowbox <https://sefton.borrowbox.com/> For those with a print disability there is also Listening Books, a charity that offers an audiobook lending service for an annual fee, currently £25 <https://www.listening-books.org.uk/>

There you have it – four tips to help you bounce back from book burnout. Good Luck!



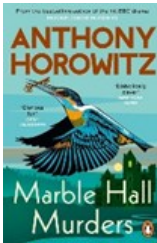
New books in Birkdale Community Hub and Library

Murder at the Black Cat Cafe (Detective Kindaichi Mysteries). Seishi Yokomizo



Tokyo, 1947. The Pink Labyrinth is one of the bomb-scarred city's most shady neighbourhoods. There, in the dead of night a patrolling policeman catches a young Buddhist monk digging in the back yard of The Black Cat Cafe, a notorious brothel. In the shallow grave at his feet lie the dead body of a woman, her face disfigured beyond recognition, and the corpse of a black cat. Who is the murdered woman, and how was she connected to the infamous establishment? And where did the dead cat come from, given that the cafe's feline mascot seems to be alive and well? The brilliant sleuth Kosuke Kindaichi investigates, but as he draws closer to the truth, he finds himself in grave danger...

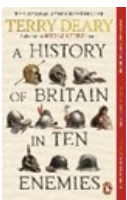
Marble Hall Murders. (Magpie Murders Series). Anthony Horowitz



Susan Ryeland has had enough of murder. She's edited two novels about the famous detective, Atticus Pünd, and both times she's come close to being killed. Now she's back in England and she's been persuaded to work on a third. The new 'continuation' novel is by Eliot Crace, grandson of Miriam Crace who was the biggest selling children's author in the world until her death exactly twenty years ago. Eliot believes that Miriam was deliberately poisoned. And when he tells Susan that he has hidden the identity of Miriam's killer inside his book, Susan knows she's in trouble once again. As Susan works on Pünd's Last

Case, she suddenly finds that she has become a target herself. It seems that someone in Eliot's family doesn't want the book to be written. And they will do anything to prevent it.

A History of Britain in 10 Enemies. Terry Deary



Ah, Britain. So special. The greatest nation on earth, some say. And we did it all on our own. Didn't we...? As it happens Britannia got its name from the Romans, and for the past two centuries we have been ruled by Germans. As *Horrible Histories* author Terry Deary argues, nations and their leaders are defined by the enemies they make. You might even say those enemies made Britain what it is today...

Don't miss out on a good book ...

We've currently got 50 books on our new titles list and it is updated regularly as we add more. Unsurprisingly, new titles are very popular with our library members so to secure that new bestseller, why not log into your library account at <https://thestationmastershouse.slls.online/>, search a list of new books, search the library catalogue, and reserve the book you want. For the digitally terrified, our volunteers will be happy to place reservations for you. We'll also let you know when your reservation is ready to collect.

Important Numbers and Information

Birkdale Community Hub & Library: 01704 566 992

BCHL website: www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk

Station Master's House: 2 Liverpool Road, Birkdale, PR8 4AR

Liverpool Road Methodist Church: Liverpool Road, PR8 4PD

Fire, Ambulance, Police emergency	999
Police (non-emergency)	101
NHS Health Advice	111
Out of Hours GP service	01704 395 755
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 484 950
Southport Citizens Advice	0808 278 7841
Benefits Enquiry Line	0151 934 3660
Job Centre Plus	0800 1690190
Passport Advice Line	0300 222 0000
Samaritans	116 123
RSPCA Southport	01704 567 624

Defibrillators in Birkdale

- in the Merseyrail Ticket Office
- on the side wall of Samuels & Co
- on the side wall of Morrisons Daily
- St Peter's Church
- Busy Bees Nursery, Lulworth Road
- Bedford Park
- Salvation Army, Shakespeare Street
- S&B Sports Club Trafalgar Road
- The Lifeboat Shop
- Birkdale Primary School
- Between Hillside Pharmacy and the Grasshopper, Sandon Road

Social Media Links



@Birkdale Community Hub and Library



@birkdale_hub_library



Birkdale CH&L



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

