

**Birkdale**  
A Community Magazine **Buzz**



*Aintree Legend Red Rum leading the way to work on the beach in 1974.  
Read more about him on page 21.*

**Sponsored by Birkdale Community Library**

**Find out what’s going on at the Library and around Birkdale village and enjoy contributions from a range of local writers**



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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.



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## 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 **December** 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 **December** edition is **9th October**.

For further information and advice please email us at:

**birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk**

## Hello Readers

Welcome to the September edition of the Birkdale Buzz, produced quarterly by volunteers at the Birkdale Community Library charity. Birkdale Community Library is located in the Station Master's House next to the station and also at Liverpool Road Methodist Church.

We produce the magazine to help keep locals in touch with people and events around Birkdale and provide an interesting read on all sorts of topics. We distribute copies to over 3000 homes in the Birkdale area and a further 1000 copies to local shops.



This edition has many of the usual topics: autumn gardening tips, library news, housing perspectives, motoring advice, pet stories, a foreign travel report, a puzzle, new computer resources, a medical viewpoint, new books coming on sale and in the library and local news and views. For this edition you will also find an article on memories of Red Rum (p21) a look back at Birkdale in 1900 (p34), a look forward to Halloween (p7), news of Birkdale Community Library winning another award (p9) an introduction to line dancing (p13) and some reflections on the 2026 Open Golf (p12). We are also looking to promote small businesses, see our offer on page 16. Happy reading everyone.

**Phil Margham** (Editor)

If you would like an online copy of this edition of the Birkdale Buzz magazine, please go to: <https://thestationmastershouse.co.uk/birkdale-buzz/>

### Drop-in Community Police Advice Surgeries

Merseyside Police hold regular drop-in community police advice sessions at the Station Master's House. The surgery offers local residents the opportunity to meet an 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.

### What's On in Southport

**Heritage Open Days (11-20 September)**

**WLYC 24 Hour Yacht Race (12-13 September) Marine Lake**

**British Musical Fireworks Championship (26-27 September) Victoria Park**

**Southport Comedy Festival (2-18 October) Victoria Park**

**Books Alive!—a reimagined literature festival for families and young readers turning Southport into a living storybook (24-31 October)**

**Dick Whittington (18 December—3 January) Little Theatre, Southport**



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# THE SORCERER

By W.S. GILBERT & ARTHUR SULLIVAN



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## Gardeners' Corner

My name is Wendy and I'm a volunteer at Birkdale Community Library.

I love gardening and I have made a radical decision regarding grass for 2027. Our garden has no grass at the back and I love it. It's full of tall shrubs, rose and clematis-covered trellis, and no weeds can survive as there is simply no room. In the front, there are two pathetic patches of grass that just do not thrive in this sandy climate. What to do you may well ask? Well, I am going to get rid of all the grass and replace it by extending the existing beds and filling them with evergreen and tough sun-loving perennials, plants and bulbs.

Sun loving shrubs on my list are:

**Thuja Occidentalis "Smaragd" Emerald Cedar:** it's slow growing and maintains its compact conical shape

**Lavender:** a gem in full sun, with silvery-evergreen foliage and fragrant summer blooms, great for attracting bees too.



*Hydrangea paniculata*

**Hydrangea Paniculata:** this hydrangea loves the heat and puts on its best, boldest show when bathed in sunlight, so I am hopeful.

**Cistus Rock Rose:** another shrub that I know thrives in scorching sun, coastal winds, and dry soil, perfect for Southport.



*Cistus Rock Rose*

So that's my 2027 project!

### Autumn things to do

**Dahlias:** To lift or not to lift your dahlias. I am pleased to report that despite the persistent damp last winter all my dahlias planted in the ground and even those in pots have survived (six years plus now) and thrived this year. So, as last year, my advice is yes, take the risk and leave them in. Worst scenario is we have to choose some dahlia replacements in 2027.

### Planting for Spring 2027

My bulb catalogue is already out, and I will focus on tulips and narcissi for my porch pots. Last year I did not plant bulbs until late January, and they still came up, but I think that October or November is a far more pleasant month to be potting up bulbs.

For inside, you may consider hyacinths or amaryllis for a cheery December windowsill display.

Whatever you do in your garden or outside space, enjoy it.



## When Is the Best Time to Change Your Car?

**John Sharp**

With manufacturers now offering warranties ranging from three years to seven years, there is no single age at which vehicles should be replaced. Many motorists believe the ideal time to change their car is when the manufacturer's warranty expires. However, at Sharp Automotive in Southport, we often find that changing your vehicle around six months before the warranty ends can make far more financial sense. It provides reassurance for the next owner and allows you to market the vehicle as one that still enjoys manufacturer backing. Buyers value that peace of mind, and this can help to achieve a stronger price.

The same principle applies to MOT testing. If you decide to sell your vehicle when the MOT is about to expire, many buyers wonder whether there are repair costs or maintenance issues waiting around the corner. Selling with a long MOT in place can make your vehicle far more appealing.

Market demand also plays a huge role in determining the best time to change your car. Right now, older, small automatic vehicles are achieving exceptionally strong prices. This is for two reasons: the growing number of learner drivers choosing automatic licences and the increasing popularity of electric vehicles, which are automatic by design.

Unfortunately, there simply aren't as many small automatic cars available compared with manual models, creating a supply shortage and driving values higher. If you own a small automatic in good condition, and are considering selling, please feel free to contact us.

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## Trick or Treat: Heaven or Hell?



No-one is totally sure where this unique – some may say weird – concept of Halloween “celebration” originated. Some sources say in Ireland going back over 2,000 years to the ancient festival of Samhain. People disguised themselves to ward off ghosts and went about praying and offering food to all the dead souls floating around in the ether. Whilst the tradition of carving pumpkins for Halloween is a blend of ancient Celtic rituals, Irish folklore, and 19th-century American adaptation. It seems that there are widely differing thoughts on the modern take on an old tradition.

**An Adverse Opinion:** It’s more than distressing to many, especially those living alone, or housebound, to have strangers, often young children, hammering on their doors demanding “trick or treat”. We bring up our youngsters to be aware of the perils of “stranger danger”, and there we are on 31st October, dressing them up as ghouls and witches and propelling them up the garden paths of neighbours, where they are instructed to demand confectionery in exchange for them not to behead the garden gnome, kidnap the cat, or pop dog poo through the letterbox. Okay, I may exaggerate a tad there.

All quite odious though, what with Halloween being a whopping Big Business for retailers, selling everything from costumes and cupcakes to quite realistic severed fingers. Lock your doors and switch off your lights – oh, and hide the cat.

**The Optimist Responds:** Let’s look at this from the kids’ point of view. What’s not to like about dressing up, putting on make-up, going out in the dark with friends or Mum and Dad and being given loads of sweets? And then there’s the trip out with the family to harvest the pumpkin, bring it home and learn the knife skills of carving out the inside of the fruit for the candle, deciding whether it’s a happy or sad face. It’s all a build-up to thinking about the winter coming on, with November and Guy Fawkes night round the corner when the same costumes and make-up can be re-used. And then, it’s all about Christmas.....

I think Halloween gives youngsters a real feel for the changing seasons, a little bit of independence and a lot of fun. And perhaps Trick or Treat is a chance to connect with those neighbours that we see hardly anything of, even though they live close by.

*Editor: what do you think readers?*

### 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 drop-in surgeries at **Birkdale Community Library**, next to the railway station, on the **third Tuesday of every month between 6 and 7pm**.

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



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## Michael Braham reflects on becoming a Sefton Councillor

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of contributing a few words to the Birkdale Buzz as a newly-elected Councillor for Dukes Ward.

As many of you know I have been a Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside for twenty-five years which prevented me from active political involvement. It was only following my retirement as a DL that I have been eligible to stand for election in Dukes Ward, which covers not only shoreside Birkdale but also the town centre and Promenade.



Having been elected as a LibDem councillor last May, I have been appointed to the Planning Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) and I hope to be able to tell you a little more about these Committees in future editions of the Birkdale Buzz.

Attending Council Meetings is only a part of the work of a Councillor. Since being elected I have taken up numerous issues on behalf of Dukes Ward residents. I can be contacted by email at [Michael.Braham@Sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Braham@Sefton.gov.uk)

**Along with my fellow Ward Councillors John Pugh and Danny Howard, Ward Surgeries are held at the Birkdale Community Library on the third Tuesday in each month, between 6 and 7pm.** We also have Surgeries at the Community Café on Lord Street on the first Saturday in each month. Please feel free to drop in. There is no need to make an appointment.

## Another Award for Birkdale Community Library

Last year the Birkdale Community Library was honoured to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service. Recently we gained first place in the Most Enhanced Railway Spaces category, in the 2026 Community Rail Awards. The awards celebrate grassroots projects that bring stations to life and strengthen connections between railways and the communities they serve, with judge, Daniel Wright saying of the library *"Definitely a great re-use of a redundant space for ongoing community benefit."*



Our thanks go to Merseyrail for nominating us. Sally Ralston, Head of Community & Engagement at Merseyrail, collected the award on our behalf at the awards evening and says *'This achievement is a great example of what can be achieved when passionate volunteers, community partners and the railway work together'.*

The picture shows Sally presenting the award to Phil Margham, Chair of Trustees.



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## Reflections from our local MP, Patrick Hurley

One thing I've noticed since becoming Southport's MP is that people often expect me to take one of two positions about the town. Either I'm supposed to be talking Southport up, or I'm supposed to be complaining about what's wrong with it. I've never really felt comfortable with either approach.

The truth is that I love Southport, and I always have. That's why I wanted to represent the place in Parliament. We live in a remarkable, magical place. We've got a beautiful coastline, a proud history, a thriving arts scene, brilliant volunteers and community organisations, and some of the most passionate local people you'll find anywhere.

But I don't think loving a place means pretending it's perfect.

If our rail links aren't good enough, we should say so. If the town centre needs investment, we should say so. If services have been lost over the years, we should be honest about that too. Not because we're talking Southport down, but because you can't fix problems by pretending they don't exist.

For me, the job has always been to do both things at once: to champion Southport and also to try to improve it. That's one reason I've become interested in the future of local news in our town. When I was growing up, most towns had a newspaper that everybody read. In Southport, people had the Visiter and later, the Champion. Whether you agreed with everything they wrote or not, they gave the town a shared conversation.

With local newspapers you knew what was being built, who'd won an award, what was happening at the council, which local group was fundraising, and which issues people were arguing about. More morbidly, you could read the deaths column and see who wasn't around any longer.

We don't really have that anymore. Like many towns, Southport has Facebook groups and social media pages. Some are excellent. Others much less so. But what we don't have is a single place that helps the town understand itself.

That's why I've been interested in the idea behind a new project for Southport led by a former Liverpool journalist. A free daily email that goes out across the town, to anyone who's signed up. A couple of stories a day, a match report, a list of who's up in court, and a few links to other news outlets to help share the love a little. Something that focuses on a single town and covers everything from planning applications and local politics to restaurant openings and community events.

I don't know exactly what the future of local journalism looks like. The old model isn't coming back, we know that much. But I do know that towns work better when people know what's going on around them. A town needs people who celebrate its successes. It also needs people who ask awkward questions from time to time. And it needs somewhere for those conversations to happen.

That's why I'm supporting this being created in Southport, to take the place of the social media groups that spread lies and rumour, and to help recreate the sense of a town with its own identity, and its own sense of self. There'll hopefully be more on this in the months to come, so keep an eye out.

**Office of Patrick Hurley MP** House of Commons, SW1A 0AA

Email: [patrick.hurley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:patrick.hurley.mp@parliament.uk)

## Celebrating our Heritage



Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture. The aim of the **Heritage Open Days** festival is to offer the public an opportunity to discover hidden places and try out new experiences. There are more events being added to the local programme all the time, with confirmed events taking place at the Masonic Hall, the Lawnmower Museum, Bowden Lodge Guest House, St Philip & St Paul with Wesley Church, and more!

To view our ever-expanding festival line-up, and to book onto an event, go to <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/whats-on.html> and search for 'Southport' in the location box. The festival will run from **11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026**, with the full line-up of events launching in mid-August. We hope to see you there!

## The 2026 Open – Looking Back

by Henry James

Visitors from all over the world came to Southport for the 154th Open Championship at Royal Birkdale Golf Club. The tournament went down to the wire with New Zealand's Ryan Fox holing a birdie putt on the 18th to take the famous Claret Jug and the first prize of \$3.2 million.

Southport's very own Tommy Fleetwood had been the galleries favourite, and he finished tied fourth, only three shots behind Fox. This was another top ten finish for the popular golfer at The Open and hopefully it won't be long now until he wins a major championship.



The town was blessed with sunshine during the tournament. Organisers have said more than 300,000 people came to the event, which is estimated will have brought in £200m for the region.

Merseyrail trains brought spectators to the golf and huge numbers of people could be seen at the start of the day walking from Hillside station to the event. Residents, both young and old, were working on the course, or in the tented village. Pupils from Greenbank High School and Birkdale High School were operating the famous massive manual yellow scoreboards on the 18th hole.

Away from the course, Birkdale village's cafés and shops were busy during the day, and the bars were packed at night with people enjoying a drink after a day at the course.

Many who came to The Open commented on the warm welcome they received from residents. All in all, we can look back and remember a truly spectacular event.

### Birkdale Community Library: more children's books.

In selecting new books for the children's library, we are very keen to help children with special educational needs who need encouragement and support to develop their reading skills. Last year we were given a collection of books for **neurodivergent** children, and these have proved to be very popular.

This year we are fortunate to have received a donation of over forty books for children with **dyslexia**. The selection comprises books to suit age ranges from pre-school to young adult. These have been donated by Helen Vernon (centre of picture) and her sister Hannah, in memory of their mother, Janette Collins who had been a children's librarian and who loved encouraging young children to read. Receiving the books were librarian Liz Rea and Phil Margham, a Library Trustee. We hope that these will benefit many children.



## Line Dancing: fun for all

Hello, my name is Wendy. I signed up with the U3A Southport, intent on improving my Spanish and ending up at a weekly line-dancing class for beginners.

Three months in, and I am absolutely loving it. As long as you can count to eight, know your left from your right, recognise the difference between the four walls in the hall and love music, you will have a ball - guaranteed!

The beauty of line-dancing is that you can pick up a new dance from scratch very quickly. Everyone encourages you and, if you make a mistake, you just catch up and carry on. It is such a laugh and, of course, you get your step-count in at the same time - two for the price of one. If I can remember the name of the dance (for example "*House of Bamboo*" by Andy Williams), I often go home and find it on YouTube and dance around the kitchen.



The great news is that Birkdale Community Library plans to hold a **Line Dancing Social** for beginners on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Birkdale & Southport Sports Club on Trafalgar Road. Watch out for final details on our website [www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk](http://www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk) and from the Library.



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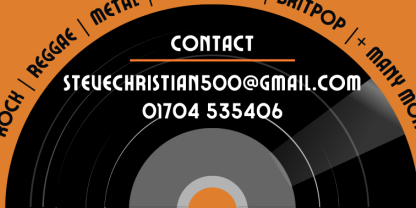
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## What's happening at Birkdale Community Library?

Groups that meet here on a regular basis include: Rhyme Time, Story Time, Shared Reading, Knit & Natter, Lego Club, Computer Club and Junior Chess Club, most of which are free to join. We also host drop-in sessions for you to meet local councillors and Merseyside police officers.

The library charity organises **fundraising events** every few weeks with all profits helping to support your local charity, Birkdale Community Library. These include music nights, regular quiz evenings, open mornings and special events we host around Birkdale during the year. See page 13 for information about the Line Dancing Social on 8th October.

**Our information board**, just inside the library, displays posters of what is happening in the library and elsewhere in the area, eg U3a meetings, singing groups, talks, walking groups, etc.

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 (next to the station) and speak to our volunteers or contact us on:

**Phone: 01704 566 992 Email: [contact@thestationmastershouse.co.uk](mailto:contact@thestationmastershouse.co.uk)**

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



## Pet Corner

by Paul Crowther

In one of my first Pet Corner articles, I wrote about my parents' cat Doris getting stuck up a tree, and I feel she deserves an encore.

In a scenario familiar to many, once my sisters and I had moved out, my parents decided to put their four-bedroomed house on the market and eventually moved to a more appropriately sized abode - a bungalow on the outskirts of Warrington. Great care was taken to minimise the stress that Doris would experience in the transition. To this end, she was put in a cattery for a couple of days prior to her being introduced to her new home. Doris was then confined indoors for a week or two so that she could acclimatise to her surroundings before venturing outside. Happily, in common with most adult cats, she displayed caution when exploring her new territory, not straying outside of the garden and coming in when her dinner dish was bashed.

However, one evening, she was nowhere to be seen, and my mum resorted to shouting her name loudly, alongside rattling her food bowl. This produced two results. The first was the appearance of Doris. Unexpectedly, the second was also the appearance of Doris, but in this case, Doris our next-door neighbour. Indeed, the lady over the fence shared the same name as our cat, and it quickly became a running joke on the close where they lived.

Doris thrived in her new environment. However, her love of a nocturnal wander to find the perfect sleeping place created an issue in that she repeatedly set off the house alarm. The answer was to shut her in the kitchen overnight away from the motion detectors. Doris became wise to this and, as bedtime approached, she would disappear. When engaged in a battle of wills with a feline, you have to match their cunning, and my parents came up with a brilliant solution. Doris loved fish cooked in the microwave, always appearing on hearing the telltale 'ping'. All my parents needed to do was reproduce the sound and Doris would materialise, unable to resist checking for fish even though she knew that it was invariably a hoax. The trick was to occasionally cook some fish just to keep her interested. Peaceful nights with no alarms resumed; Doris sleeping peacefully in the kitchen, dreaming of that next ping!

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## Garden Celebrations at Connell Court Care Home

**Connell Court Care Home** in Southport, one of the UK's oldest purpose-built residential care homes, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a Summer Garden Party bringing together residents, families, staff and friends. The special event at the Weld Road home featured live music, games, stalls, homemade cakes and a fish and chip van, creating a memorable day of celebration.



## CALLING ALL SMALL LOCAL BUSINESSES

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# Housing Perspectives: a professional view from Karen Potter

## *Why Accurate Pricing Is the Key to a Successful Property Sale*

Setting the right asking price is one of the most important decisions when selling a home. While it can be tempting to market a property at an ambitious figure, an unrealistic price often has the opposite effect—reducing interest, prolonging the sale and, in many cases, leading to a lower eventual selling price.

Today's buyers are well informed. With instant access to property portals, sold prices and local market data, they quickly recognise when a home is overpriced. The strongest interest in any new listing is usually generated within the first few weeks, making it essential to attract buyers from day one. If a property remains on the market for too long, it can become "stale", prompting buyers to question why it hasn't sold.

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When a person recovers, the Carer can miss the routine of care and have a sense of no longer feeling useful. Recovering from illness is a good news story but a Carer who has walked alongside their person through the toughest times may feel left behind and no longer part of the story. A small gesture to support those whose caring role is ending can be very beneficial; having the coffee they never had time for, having conversations about them, their opinions and ideas, can help shift their focus and aid navigation to their new life, reaffirming their needs and wishes, and putting themselves first. Welcoming them back into a friendship group can be a step forward in their own recovery.

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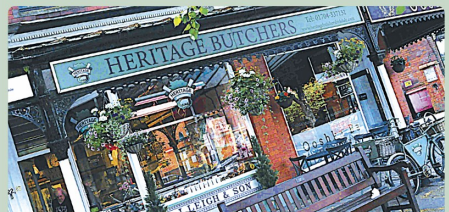
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The next issue of the Birkdale Buzz will be out in **December 2026**

Advert requests, contributions, questions or feedback should be submitted to the

Editor by **9th October 2026**

[birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk](mailto:birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk)



## Books at Home

Birkdale Community Library runs a **Books at Home** visiting service for local residents who are unable to get to a library and would like to borrow from our extensive range of books. The service is free and working well. At the moment, our six volunteers visit around 70 readers, some at home but most in residential care homes.

Our volunteers find out what type of books are of interest and provide a selection from which to choose. The readers like a mixture of large print and regular print. One of our first clients is an avid reader and, so far, has borrowed well over 300 books. Some readers are asking for audio books too as their eyesight starts to fail and we are planning to lend CD players for listeners in the near future.

We are keen to expand the service to those living on their own at home who like to read, would be interested in a new range of books, but find it difficult to get out. So, if you are living on your own, or know someone living on their own or in a care home who would like to receive a visit from our volunteers, please email us at:

[homevisit@thestationmastershouse.co.uk](mailto:homevisit@thestationmastershouse.co.uk) or call the library on 01704 566992



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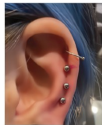
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**STAGE COACH**

## Red Rum: An Aintree Legend by Christina Bird (née Langhorne)

*Breeding for Red Rum: Dam: Mared (Bay: 1958) Sire: Quorum (Grey: 1954)*

Foinavon, Aldaniti and Red Rum are names among many legends of the Aintree Grand National, one of the supreme tests of rider and horse from its inception in 1839 when it was known as the Grand Liverpool Steeplechase. Their stories of triumph in the face of adversity are remarkable.

I joined the yard behind Ginger McCain's second hand Car Sales business on Upper Aughton Road in the early 1970s as a stable lass. Red Rum was purchased at Doncaster Bloodstock Sales in August 1972 for 6,000 guineas for Noel Le Mare, owner of Norwest Construction, who owned another horse with Ginger called Glenkiln.

Red Rum's career as a steeplechaser began as a two-year old. When he was seven he was found to be lame on Birkdale sands. It turned out he had pedal osteitis, inflammation of the coffin bone inside the hoof, one of the causes being excessive trauma; including overwork on hard surfaces and excessive racing. This affliction was miraculously cured by a combination of the expertise of Bob Marshall a talented blacksmith, who had a small forge in Belmont Street, and a new training regime, paddling in the seawater, and galloping on a pre-prepared, harrowed strip of sand on the beach.

Ginger dragged a set of weighted harrows behind an old milk wagon, breaking up the sand, making it softer and ensuring no hazards were left to cause injury. He knew the tides, often harrowing the night before, knowing the strip would not be washed away. Steeplechasers have to perform over longer distances, so he would harrow a longer strip and double harrow the last portion, where the horses would increase speed to a gallop. When he finished harrowing, he tossed the harrows on to the van, driving back to where the waiting horses were getting ready to work. You could hear the rattling of the harrows a mile off and the circling horses used to leap and plunge with excitement on hearing the noise.



Following his first unexpected win in the 1973 Grand National, beating the favourite Crisp, in the last 100 yards, McCain's humble yard in Birkdale received national and later international attention, when Red Rum became an Aintree legend.

The new training regime, so different from his past experiences, gave him a new lease of life. Red Rum knew he was special and relished the change of scenery, wide open spaces, the sea and exercising through the sandhills at the back of Hillside Golf course. Free from pain and enjoying the bracing surroundings really made him shine. He was relishing his new life on the Birkdale sands and showed it by prancing around and bobbing his bottom, not really bucking. He never tried to unseat his rider and was a true gentleman.

Red Rum is best known for his record **three wins in the Grand National** at Aintree finishing first in 1973, 1974, 1977 and in second place in 1975, 1976. His other major victory included first place at the 1974 Scottish Grand National at Ayr

Red Rum died on **18 October 1995** at the age of **30**. He was buried at the winning post of Aintree Racecourse, where his grave remains a popular place for racing fans to visit.

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## Waterstones Southport Book Reviews

Southport Waterstones has had a busy summer of bookselling. Expert Bookseller Sharon Ovenden hopes you enjoyed their summer book review and highlights three books for the autumn:

**The Quiet Girls by Dorothy Koomson:** Dr. Kez Lanyon gets a knock at the door in the middle of the night. It's her old work colleague, M.J. Hudson. M.J.'s daughter attends a prestigious boarding school. A teacher is dead and a pupil is missing and M.J.'s daughter and her circle of friends are right at the heart of the scandal. When Dr. Kez Lanyon takes up a post as the new school's therapist, she realises there are some seriously well-connected and powerful forces at work. Can she uncover the truth without putting her own family at risk? A dark and gritty thriller from the author of 'The Ice-Cream Girls.'

***Published in paperback, 27.08.2026***

**The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet:** The Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul opened in 1969 as a symbol of hope in Afghanistan. Five decades later, it is a war-ravaged, dilapidated shell. Lyse Doucet, the BBC's Chief International Correspondent, has reported from there since 1988. Through the stories of the people who work there, like Hazrat, the octogenarian receptionist and Abida, the first female chef to work in the hotel's famous kitchen, Doucet paints a history of the people of Afghanistan that is both moving and hopeful. Winner of the Women's Prize for non-fiction 2026.

***Published in paperback, 03.09.2026***

**Peck & Peck by Bonnie Garmus:** 1982, New York City. Baxter Grey is searching for his life's calling. All his degree seems to have qualified him for is 'having an ear for poetry'. Suddenly, his life is turned upside down when he is hired by the most prestigious, secretive and dysfunctional poetry journal, Peck & Peck, run by twin brothers who hate each other. Baxter finds himself privy, not only to their affairs, but to the affairs of the 39 editors, whose mission is the same: find originality, reward creativity and burn the rest! This spectacular, highly original novel from the award-winning author of 'Lessons in Chemistry' is not only an ode to the written word but also reminds us of what it is to be deeply human.

***Published in hardback, 31.10.2026***



### 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](mailto:volunteers@thestationmastershouse.co.uk) or pop into the library to request an application form.

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## Kes - or the Windhover

## Hillside Birder

*I caught this morning morning's minion, kingdom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding*

*Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding*

*High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing*

*In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing.....*

(from "The Windhover" by Gerald Manley Hopkins)

The Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) is a small raptor (bird of prey) often seen hovering



over field or roadside. Speckled underside, brown to slate-grey upper parts and a broad fanned tail are distinguishing features. It has an extraordinary ability to maintain its head completely still as its body and wings flex to the airflow around it – hence windhover, a colloquial name. Another ability to aid its hunting prowess is acute eyesight that stretches into the ultraviolet, enabling it to spot urine

trails from small animal prey such as mice and voles that show up strongly at those wavelengths against the ground.

A common bird in the early twentieth century, the kestrel has seen sharp declines in numbers over recent years. The reasons are still not fully clear but changes in farming practice may be contributing, and research is in progress on this RSPB Priority Species.

"A kestrel for a knave" – the kestrel was a lowly member of the falconry hierarchy; only fit for the commoner. This term was the origin of the title of Barry Hines' 1968 novel later adapted by Ken Loach into the classic film "Kes".

### I-spy – what to watch out for in parks and gardens

The Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*), hedge sparrow or hedge accentor is one of those small brown birds often overlooked, but in fact an interesting species. Its common name derives from Old English, brown (dun) and small (ock). Among birders it would be noted as one of the LBJs = little brown jobs. It is, however, not a sparrow at all but rather the only UK member of the accentor family. Despite its dull



appearance and skulky manner, this bird has one of the most complex of breeding partnerships; males often mate with several females and help raise more than one brood. In some cases there are multiple relationships for both males and females so, when you see a dunnock, it is worth looking out for where it goes and whether others go with it!

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# Autumn Crossword by Dandyman *Answers on page 38*

|     |  |    |     |     |  |     |     |     |  |     |  |     |
|-----|--|----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|--|-----|
| 1.  |  | 2. |     | 3.  |  |     | 4.  | 5.  |  | 6.  |  | 7.  |
|     |  |    |     |     |  | 8.  |     |     |  |     |  |     |
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|     |  | 12 |     |     |  |     |     |     |  |     |  |     |
| 13. |  |    |     |     |  |     | 14. | 15. |  |     |  | 16. |
|     |  |    |     |     |  | 17. |     |     |  |     |  |     |
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| 21. |  |    |     | 22. |  |     |     |     |  |     |  |     |
|     |  |    |     |     |  |     |     |     |  |     |  |     |
| 23. |  |    |     |     |  |     | 24. |     |  |     |  |     |

## ACROSS

- Colour of the autumnal Michaelmas daisies. (6)
- An armed robber and a chocolate bar from the 70s and 80s. (6)
- What one may do when a coin is thrown in a well. (4, 1, 4,)
- First word in title of the Wetherspoon's pub on Lord Street? (3)
- Bailey, property agents in Birkdale, sells this. (4, 6)
- Latest information. (4)
- They need to be put back on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> October this year. (6)
- A dark, solid shape seen against a lighter background. (10)
- The number before 7 Down. (3)
- Celebrated on October 31<sup>st</sup>. (9)
- Holiday area. (6)
- A patriotic hymn or song. (6)

## DOWN

- A fruit of the gourd family, used for carving. (7)
- Used to collect leaves in autumn. (4)
- They change colour in autumn. (6)
- Remains of a bonfire. (5)
- Mileage. (8)
- The number after 21 Across. (5)
- Holy book. (5)
- Birds that migrate in autumn. (8)
- Deflate. (3, 4)
- Opposite of antonym. (7)
- Can be heard coming from many Birkdale churches. (5)
- An Indian stringed instrument. (5)
- Alternative. (5)
- Netting. (4)

*Editor: thanks to Sonya for continuing our regular Sefton updates.*

**Food waste collections** are not going to be introduced now until the winter. Here in Southport we are still waiting for the new food caddies, but Sefton council are also still waiting for the new collection wagons. The council is hoping that food waste collections will reduce the amount of grey bin waste going to incineration by up to 25%. Along with the new caddies, the council will provide liners for the smaller caddy.

**Carr Lane playing fields** had travellers recently who gained access by following council workers on to the field. There are strict legal guidelines to move on such visitors. If there are no welfare issues the council can serve a section 77 directive on those encamped to leave the land and then this can be followed by a section 78. This process can take up to a week and cannot be rushed through nor ignored.

**Weed spraying** commencement was delayed by a couple of weeks because of poor weather conditions in the spring. The weed-sprayers finally started in the south of the borough and finished in Southport. Next year there could be two separate teams, one for the north and one for the south so that there is not the same issue with the weeds that we are now facing on our highways in Southport.

**Refuse bins** on our highways: do we have enough? The council is frequently asked if more bins can be placed in the local area; there are approximately 269 bins in Southport, 44 of which are in Birkdale. The crews that collect them are at capacity, unfortunately, but are more bins the answer to the litter problem or should people simply use the bins provided?

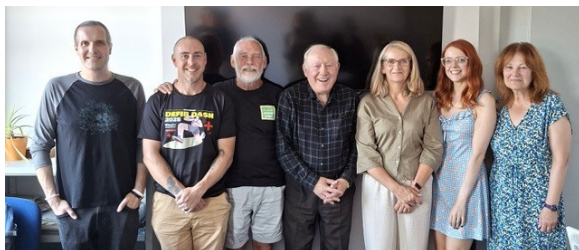
*Editor: if you would like to raise a query about Sefton council, please drop a line to the Editor at [birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk](mailto:birkdalebuzz@thestationmastershouse.co.uk) and we'll try to get an answer for the next edition.*

### Local Authors talk about their work

Birkdale Community Library was pleased to host a group of local authors in July. The public event, held in conjunction with Waterstones, Southport, gave an opportunity for the authors to talk about their writing and their recent books, mentioned below.

The authors, from left to right:

James Parker: *"The Pier"*, David & Richard Moore: *Never the Same: A Survivors Story"*, John Keith: *"The Shankly Conspiracy"*, S.M. Bretherton: *"Desiderium"*, Nicola Robson: *"Dizzy Izzy"*, Emily Fairfax: *"Things Bad Begun"*.



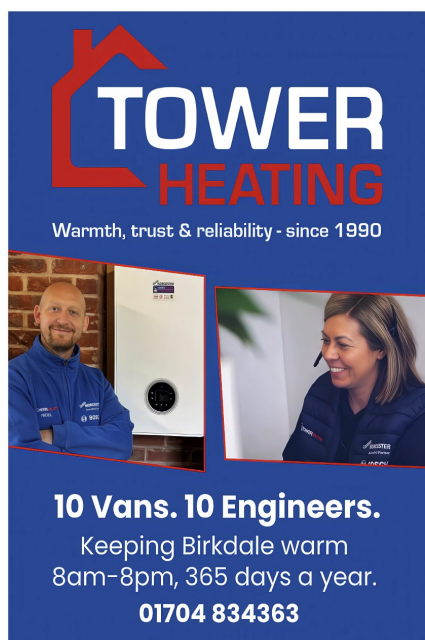
## SOPOT? Where? I hear you ask! A travel report from Jill Jones

Looking for a city break, or even a cheeky weekend lying on a beautiful beach? Well, the Polish Riviera town of **Sopot** has it all! You can fly to Gdansk from Manchester (e.g. Ryanair). Gdansk itself is well worth a visit, I think you may be pleasantly surprised, but Sopot is my preferred choice!

Here's why: the Baltic Sea spa town is smack between Gdansk and Gdynia, just a few miles from each. A retreat for the rich and royal for centuries, Sopot's exclusive air remained even through the Communist era. Boasting a vibrant shopping experience and ritzy resorts, Sopot is also known for its Wooden Pier (the longest in Europe), the lovely mid-woods Forest Opera and lively Monte Cassino Street. To cap it all there is a magnificent, clean beach!

Sopot has accommodation to suit all tastes and all budgets – from small beach front hotels to the 5\* luxury Sheraton or Sofitel, all right on the beach! There are restaurants galore - again I think you may be surprised. If you want to splash out why not try the tasting menu at the L'Entre Villes – superb food/presentation/service in a beautiful, over 100-year-old villa where a unique atmosphere is combined with top-class cuisine and professional service. A place that you can't forget!

There are of course more traditional Polish restaurants in Sopot itself, all within easy walking distance. You don't need a car. The Polish Riviera is well worth a visit. So Happy Travels!



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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**

## Computer Corner with Adam

### Discovering Treasures Online at archive.org

Imagine a vast free online library that holds millions of items and keeps on growing. This is archive.org, often called the Internet Archive. It is a free, online treasure trove and, just like the Birkdale Community Library, it's open to all!

For those who love music, archive.org offers a remarkable collection of recordings. The **Great 78 Project** is a great place to start and includes over 180,000 78 records, many of which were never restored onto LP or CD (<https://archive.org/details/georgeblood>). If you have 78s at home you can even donate them and they will be digitised, preserving for future generations. There is also a great **Live Music Archive**, where you can listen to concerts captured over many decades, including a famously large collection of Grateful Dead performances (<https://archive.org/details/GratefulDead>).

There's plenty to enjoy as well for radio enthusiasts. The archive's **Old Time Radio** collection holds thousands of plays, comedies, and dramas from when the wireless was king. True-crime enthusiasts might enjoy episodes of The Black Museum, first broadcast in the US in the early 1950s, with Orson Welles famously hosting each episode ([archive.org/details/OTRR/Black Museum Singles](https://archive.org/details/OTRR/Black_Museum_Singles)).

Hard-to-find books and texts can sometimes be traced via the **Open Library**, so it's always worth remembering this source if you are looking for titles that are long out of print, as they may have been digitised and available for digital lending here ([openlibrary.org](https://openlibrary.org)). There's also an enormous amount of historic newspaper content from across the globe. Try searching within The News Stand for something that interests you.

The content of archive.com is seemingly limitless and many files can be downloaded for easy viewing or listening. Have fun exploring!

### Events sponsored/hosted by Birkdale Community Library

17<sup>th</sup> September, Heritage Talk: Keith Hick: *Railway recollections around Southport*

23<sup>rd</sup> September, Quiz Night

8<sup>th</sup> October, Line Dancing Night

19<sup>th</sup> October, In conversation with Benjamin Wood, Award winning author of *Seascraper*

29<sup>th</sup> October, Talk: Jill Newsham, *Take three stores - Boothroyds, Broadbents & Bobbys*

26<sup>th</sup> November, Talk: David Hearn, *Great photographs and the stories behind them*

9<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas 'Fun and Games Night' Bingo and lots more!

All the events will take place at Southport & Birkdale Sports Club, Trafalgar Road

More information about these events will be available from the library and on our website [www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk](http://www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk)

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HOME VISIT

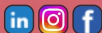
Katie Short (Administrator) **07834 584 666**

Email: [info@au-eyecare.co.uk](mailto:info@au-eyecare.co.uk)

[www.au-eyecare.co.uk](http://www.au-eyecare.co.uk)



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## **A Local Doctor writes:**

### **Breathe Better: Small Changes That Can Make a Big Difference**

We do it around 20,000 times every day, yet most of us hardly give it a second thought. Breathing is automatic, but the way we breathe can influence everything from our energy levels and sleep to our concentration and sense of wellbeing.

Most of the time, breathing should be quiet, gentle and through the nose. Nasal breathing warms, filters and humidifies the air before it reaches the lungs. It also produces nitric oxide, a naturally occurring gas that helps improve oxygen uptake and supports healthy blood flow. When we are stressed we often switch to rapid, shallow breathing through the mouth. This can leave us feeling tense, dry-mouthed and even a little light-headed. The good news is that a few simple habits can help.

Try slowing your breathing for a few minutes each day. Breathe in gently through your nose for about four seconds, then breathe out slowly for six seconds. A longer out-breath encourages the body's natural "rest and digest" response, helping to reduce stress and lower your heart rate.

Good posture also makes a difference. Sitting or standing tall gives your diaphragm more room to work, allowing your lungs to expand more efficiently.

Finally, don't forget to stay active. Walking, swimming or cycling all strengthen the muscles involved in breathing and improve overall lung fitness.

The next time you catch yourself taking a breath, pause for a moment. Slowing down, breathing through your nose and allowing your diaphragm to do the work may seem like small changes, but repeated 20,000 times a day, they can have a surprisingly positive effect on your health and wellbeing.

### **Raspberry and Liquorice Jam (sent in by Jill Jones)**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

1 kg of raspberries  
60g soft liquorice, cut into 1cm pieces  
600g caster sugar  
Juice of 1 lemon



#### **Makes 5 x 220g jars (or should!)**

Place the raspberries and liquorice in a large saucepan and set over low heat. Cook for five minutes to release the juices and partially melt the liquorice, stirring so that the liquorice doesn't stick to the bottom of the pan. Slowly add the sugar and lemon juice and bring to the boil. Cook for 10 minutes or until the jam reaches setting point – 105°C on a thermometer. Pour into warm sterilised jars and seal immediately. Store in a cool dark place.

## A Day in Birkdale, circa 1900

by Anonymous

Morning in **Birkdale** begins not with the hum of cars but with the soft clatter of hooves along **Liverpool Road**. A milk cart rattles past the neat redbrick villas, its driver calling out greetings as he lifts metal churns with practiced ease. The air carries the scent of coal fires just being coaxed awake, drifting from chimneys of homes built during the village's confident Victorian expansion.

Shopkeepers along the village centre open their shutters one by one. At the corner, the grocer arranges apples in a pyramid, while the butcher sharpens his knives behind a window fogged with the morning chill. A few early commuters wait at the **Birkdale railway station**, its ironwork still new and gleaming. The train from Southport hisses into view, steam billowing like a small cloud drifting across the platforms. Children in stiff uniforms walk to school in small, chattering clusters. Soon they will be able to cross the rail via an underground subway, due for completion in 1905.

By midmorning, the village is fully alive. A postman pedals past on a heavy red bicycle, sorting letters as he goes. Ladies in long skirts stroll along **Birkdale Common**, parasols angled just so, exchanging news about church events and the latest gossip from the grand houses near the dunes. Away in the distance towards the sea they could make out golfers playing on the newly constructed 18-hole course for the Birkdale Golf Club.

The dunes themselves are quieter, visited mostly by dog walkers and the occasional artist setting up an easel to capture the shifting light over the Irish Sea. The beach stretches wide and pale, dotted with wooden bathing machines that can be rolled toward the water for modest seaside dips. Out in the shallows, the horse-drawn shrimping boats could be seen trawling for their catch.

At midday, the pubs and tea rooms fill. Gentlemen from local businesses gather for lunch, discussing business, politics, and the latest marvels of the new century. Electricity is beginning to appear in some homes, though many still rely on gas lamps. Talk of motorcars circulates with equal parts excitement and suspicion.

Afternoons are slower. Delivery boys weave through the streets with baskets of bread or parcels wrapped in brown paper. A horse-drawn tram rattles toward Southport, carrying shoppers heading for the grander stores along Lord Street. In quieter lanes, gardeners tend to rose beds, and the sound of a piano drifts from an open window where a young woman practices scales.

As evening settles, lamps glow warm behind lace curtains. Families gather around polished dining tables, sharing meals of roast beef, potatoes, and seasonal vegetables. Afterward, some stroll to the station to meet returning relatives; others settle by the fire with newspapers discussing Queen Victoria's long reign and the changing world beyond Lancashire.

By nightfall, Birkdale grows still. The sea breeze cools the streets, and the village rests — confident, orderly, and unaware of the century of transformation ahead.

*Next Issue: A Day in Birkdale circa 1925*



# Welcome Spaces

a friendly place this Summer  
*for everyone*

at Birkdale Community Hub & Library  
every Thursday from 10am to 4pm

Come and enjoy a friendly chat and a cuppa, our kind volunteers are always here to welcome you

-  Free tea, coffee, biscuits and fruit
-  Free newspapers to read
-  Friendly conversation

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## Printing and Copying Services at Birkdale Community Library

Do you know that Birkdale Community 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**.



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## Southport & Birkdale Sports Club



S&B Sports Club is the leading multi-sports club in the area. Sporting members have the option to concentrate on one sport, or take part in all five, cricket, hockey, snooker, squash and tennis. There is coaching available, for squash and tennis, either personally, or in groups, plus training for cricket and hockey with an emphasis on the development of Junior members.

During the autumn and winter the hockey section provides training for Junior, Men and Women players. The Senior teams take part in the North-West Adult leagues in various divisions and the Juniors play regular games and festivals in the South Lancashire Hockey Tournaments. Junior, Men and Women train every Tuesday (Sept to April) with an additional weekend session for Juniors on a Sunday morning (Sept to June). Why not try hockey for free before joining? We also have a scheme where U7s train for free. Contact us for more information: [southporthockeyclub@hotmail.com](mailto:southporthockeyclub@hotmail.com)

Alternatively, you may wish to take a social membership. This allows you to use the club facilities to have a drink, at discounted prices, watch the cricket, or take a meal supplied by the renowned D'vine catering. Watch out for the many S&B functions that will be taking place, including quizzes, wine tasting and the Christmas Party Nights.

All these functions are detailed on the Club website or phone for more information.

Contact: Claire Crew, Honorary Membership Secretary:

email - [clcrew36@gmail.com](mailto:clcrew36@gmail.com)

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

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## Autumn Crossword Answers

### ACROSS

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Purple       | 18. Silhouette |
| 4. Bandit       | 21. Two        |
| 9. Make A Wish  | 22. Halloween  |
| 10. Sir         | 23. Resort     |
| 11. Real Estate | 24. Anthem     |
| 13. News        |                |
| 14. Clocks      |                |

### DOWN

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Pumpkin  | 12. Swallow  |
| 2. Rake     | 15. Let Down |
| 3. Leaves   | 16. Synonym  |
| 5. Ashes    | 17. Bells    |
| 6. Distance | 18. Sitar    |
| 7. Three    | 19. Other    |
| 8. Bible    | 20. Mesh     |

### Young people and Birkdale Community Library: Jane Wallis

What's been happening recently with young people and the library?

We hosted work experience students from all the Southport Secondary Schools over the last weeks of the academic year. The students have brought new perspectives of life to us, as well as gaining new skills. Hopefully we have given them an insight into team working and what our library offers the community. They have tried to play everything, from chess and dominoes to learning how to crochet. But the chance to talk with people of different generations was especially highlighted by students and volunteers.

On one morning in June, five intrepid Storytime volunteers took sacks of books, musical instruments and puppets to Farnborough Road Infants School. Usually, the team joins a rota, reading stories to children at the Library on Saturdays, but this was a new venture that had been requested by staff at the school.

As part of the "Year of Reading", volunteers Anna, Caitlin, Christine, Helen and Jean spent time with each class, reading stories and talking about the library. They brought the stories to life with interactive pictures and puppets joining in. A special mention must go to the new bubble machines taken into the classrooms which brought the sessions to a very successful end! After the morning's fun, there was a well-earned coffee for our volunteers and a chance to discuss their experience and compare their techniques!

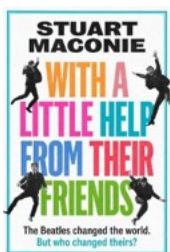
Our volunteers bring a mixture of life experiences to library activities and all are DBS checked. Together we are pleased to host school visits and those from local groups, such as cubs and brownies. Hopefully we will be making more visits out to local primary schools to promote the reading habit.

We are always happy to meet new volunteers interested in joining our various Young People's teams. Why not come and have a chat?

## New books in Birkdale Community Library

Here are three of our recommendations for lovers of non-fiction.

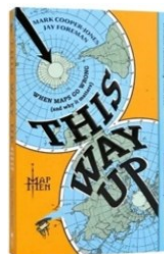
**With a Little Help from Their Friends: The Beatles Changed the World. But Who Changed Them? Stuart Maconie.**



The Beatles narrative has helped shape the world we live in today, re-imagining the music industry in their own style. These four diverse personalities managed that revolution, not in isolation, but with more than a little help from their friends. All the most compelling elements are included: ambition, power, triumph, disaster, heartbreak, tragedy, intrigue, and inevitably....., *all you need is love*. Bestselling writer and broadcaster Stuart Maconie relates their epic tale, showing the Beatles as you've never seen them before.

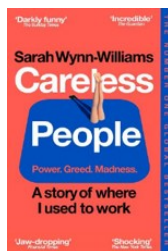
**This Way Up: When Maps Go Wrong (and Why it Matters). Map Men**

Cartographical nerds, the Map Men, have selected the very best "wrong maps". Many are decades or even centuries old. Others so recent they're being published today (or yesterday, if you're reading this tomorrow). The sheer diversity of this book's contents is amazing. Whether you're an avid map junkie or simply 'map-curious', you will uncover a unique tale of adventure, error and unexpected humour throughout, as they attempt to answer the question: 'What on earth happened here?'



**Careless People: A Story of Where I Used to Work. Sarah Wynn-Williams**

*Shortlisted for the British Book Awards Non-Fiction Narrative Book of the Year 2026*



Rising to the Company's top echelon, Sarah believed Facebook could change the world for the better. Though, inevitably, things turned out differently. Covering schemes cooked up on private jets to risking prison abroad, *Careless People* exposes both the personal and political fallout when boundless power and a rotten culture take hold. Wynn-Williams rubs shoulders with Mark Zuckerberg, Sheryl Sandberg and world leaders, revealing what really goes on among the global elite – and the consequences this has for all of us.

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

New titles are popular so to secure that new bestseller, why not log into your library account to see a list of new books, search the library catalogue, 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. Scan the QR code to go straight to the library catalogue.



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

|                                   |                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Birkdale Community Library:       | 01704 566 992                                                                          |
| BCHL website:                     | <a href="http://www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk">www.thestationmastershouse.co.uk</a> |
| 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           | 0345 748 4950                                                                          |
| 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
- Liverpool Road Methodist Church next to the entrance to the main hall
- Salvation Army, Shakespeare Street
- S&B Sports Club Trafalgar Road
- The Lifeboat Shop
- Birkdale Primary School
- Between Hillside Pharmacy and the Grasshopper, Sandon Road
- St James' Church, Lulworth Road

## **Social Media Links**



@Birkdale Community Hub and Library



@birkdale\_hub\_library



Birkdale CH&L

