

Chapter 2: The History of Port Sunlight

‘The History of Port Sunlight’ is just one chapter of Port Sunlight Village Trust’s Conservation Management Plan. The document describes the history and importance of the village, outlines the challenges facing stakeholders in the preservation of the internationally-significant landscape and buildings, and sets out to how those challenges will be met.

This chapter describes the history of the village from its foundation by William Lever up to the present day.

2.1 Introduction

William Lever (1851-1925) and his brother, James Lever (1854-1910), built Port Sunlight village to house the workers of their soap factory. Though the company was named Lever Brothers, James never took a major part in running the business. He fell ill in 1895 and resigned his directorship two years later.

The village was built in three main phases; 1888-97, 1898-1910 and 1911-21, with alterations and developments continuing until the present day. Port Sunlight holds a unique place in the history of town and country planning, and encapsulates Lever's vision of providing factory workers with decent and affordable housing in a considered architectural and picturesque setting.

Following subsequent expansion, amalgamations, acquisitions and mergers, Lever Brothers eventually grew to become the global manufacturing giant, Unilever.

2.2 Designations

Port Sunlight extends over 130 acres of maintained parkland and gardens, with trees forming an integral part of the landscape. Designated a conservation area in 1978, Port Sunlight contains 1,100 structures (including houses, apartments and public buildings), almost all of which are Grade II-listed for their special architectural and historic interest.

In 2002 The Dell and The Diamond and The Causeway were registered at Grade II in the 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England'. There are a number of important monuments and memorials eleven of which are Grade II listed, one is Grade II*-listed, and the War Memorial - one of the largest of its kind in the country - is Grade I-listed.¹

2.3 History of Port Sunlight village

From the late 19th century

William and James Lever started their first soap works at leased facilities in Warrington in 1885. Despite expanding and altering the Warrington factory the success of Lever Brothers meant that by 1887 the firm had outgrown the site. The two brothers developed the idea of building a new factory with associated housing for their employees.

At the end of 1887, Lever purchased his first tracts of land in Bebington.² The land had been improved over time, and was the site of a small number of cottages, Bebington Cement Works, a farm house known as Woodland Villa, Pool Bank farm house (all now demolished) and key thoroughfares such as New Chester Road, Bebington Road and Ellen's Lane (now Greendale Road). The Chester and Birkenhead Railway bordered the site to the south-west, and there was a small but functioning pier to the north-east.

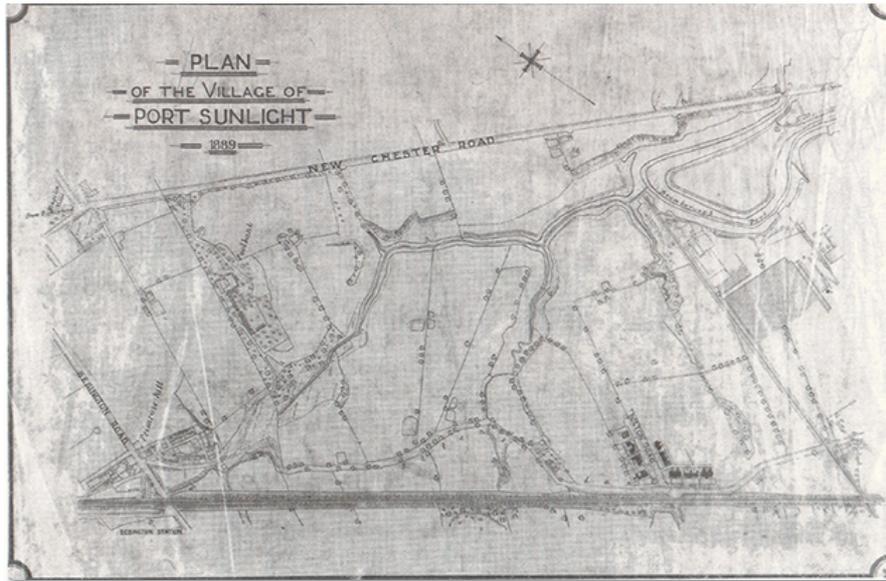
Port Sunlight's early development: 1888-97

Lever Brothers purchased 24 acres of land on which to site the business and works, and 32 acres for the village. The site might have appeared a poor choice; marshy farmland criss-crossed by tidal inlets. However, it was accessible by river, rail and road, and there was unimproved land nearby on which to expand. There was also a ready supply of labour from the nearby communities of New Ferry and Birkenhead.

William Lever was interested not only in town planning, but also in providing a healthy and attractive environment in which his employees could work and live. His ambition can be compared with New Lanark, created in Scotland by Robert Owen in 1793. Edward Ackroyd, a fabric manufacturer, later built a model town at Copley, Yorkshire and one in 1859 at Akroydon near Halifax. More famously, Titus Salt developed his factory for processing alpaca wool in the Aire Valley from 1853. The factory village, Saltaire, included houses, almshouses, a wash-house, an institute, public baths, chapel and church.

Lever would have known of the factory villages at Barrow Bridge (c. 1850) and New Eagley (c. 1835) in his home town of Bolton. He would have also seen the successful factory village developed by William Wilson and Benjamin Lancaster, founders of Price's Patent Candle Company, at Bromborough Pool, to the north of Port Sunlight between New Chester Road and the River Mersey. By 1858, Price's had built more than 140 terraced houses, a church, an institute, a shop and a library for its employees.³

William Lever's wife, Elizabeth (nee Elizabeth Ellen Hulme (1850–1913)) cut the first sod at Port Sunlight on the 3rd March 1888. Work on the factory commenced soon afterwards, to the design of William Owen (1846-1910), with the first boil of soap coming off the production line in 1889. The first houses were built in the south-west corner of the site⁴ and included an entrance lodge and 28 cottages designed by William Owen on Bolton Road and Greendale Road.



1889 plan of Port Sunlight Village – William Owen (Reproduced with kind permission from Unilever plc from an original in the collection of Unilever Archives and Records Management.)

The site was predominantly marshland, divided at this time by what Lever described as ‘ravines’.⁵ The development grew towards the east in 1890-92 when larger houses, more cottages and a shop were built to the designs of architects William Owen, Grayson & Ould (George Enoch Grayson (1834–1912) and Edward Ould (1852–1909)) and Douglas & Fordham (John Douglas (1830-1911) and Daniel Porter Fordham (1846-1899)). Owen also designed the village’s first community building, Gladstone Hall, which opened in 1891.

While on a world tour in 1892, William Lever made plans to expand the village. Additional tracts of land were purchased, and the Port Sunlight estate eventually amounted to c. 130 acres. This newly purchased part of the village was laid out around a drained and landscaped tidal channel which became known as The Dell. Lever is believed to have collaborated with William Owen on the layout of the village, but it is not clear to what extent Owen was involved with the landscape design. However, it is known that Douglas & Fordham were responsible for the design of Dell Bridge (1894) which spans The Dell, connecting the two sides of Park Road. They were also commissioned to design a number of community facilities at the heart of the village including the Lyceum (1894-96) and the Employees’ Provident Stores and Collegium (1894, demolished by enemy action during World War 2).

Several architects were involved in planning footpaths and planting beds on original site plans and block layouts, including Jonathan Simpson (1851-1937), James Lomax-Simpson (1882-1977), and Bradshaw & Gass (John Bradshaw Gass (1837-1912) and Jonas James Bradshaw (1855-1939)). Planned landscapes are evident in early photographs of the cottages on Greendale Road, showing them fronted by grassed areas with shrub beds and well-defined footpaths edged by low, loop style garden railings.



Victoria Bridge. Illustrated in a paper read by WH Lever at a meeting of the Architectural Association, 1902

During this period the roads to the ferry, railway and factory were designed to follow the most immediate routes around the ravines.⁶ Lever stipulated the general width of the roads to be 40 feet: 8 yards wide with 8 feet each side for footpaths, although some roads were 12 yards wide with 12 feet paths.⁷

As the turn of the century approached, development continued with the construction of Victoria Bridge (1897) designed by William and Segar Owen to span the large tidal inlet which ran from the pier head to the current museum green. The bridge improved access to the eastern section of the site.

Expansion: 1898-1910

By 1900 business was booming, so Lever Brothers was able to further expand the village, introducing recreational facilities and housing including Hulme Hall (1901) which was built as a men's dining room, an open-air swimming baths (1902) and terraced houses along Bebington Road (1898), New Chester Road (1898-1900), Greendale Road (1899-1902) and The Causeway (1901). Major civil works at this time also improved prospects for developing the site. Following drainage, a dam was built between the tidal inlets and Bromborough Pool in 1901-02, with the intention of creating parks and recreation grounds in the basins of Port Sunlight.

In 1902, William Lever gave a lecture to the Architectural Association entitled 'The Buildings Erected at Port Sunlight and Thornton Hough', later published with a Port Sunlight site plan. The plan showed proposals for new areas of housing and numerous features such as the 'new schools' (as opposed to the earlier school rooms at the Lyceum), a church, the auditorium, Bridge Inn, a site reserved for an isolation hospital, separate playgrounds for girls and boys, drained areas described as 'ravines', a bowling green, a tennis lawn, a football ground, and a formal open space described as The Diamond which formed the central feature of the layout, with allotment gardens to the east and west.

By this time, despite displaying great variety in traditional materials and revival-style designs at the exterior, housing in Port Sunlight had established a standard layout with repeated plan forms. The terraced cottages were built in outward-facing blocks with allotments to the rear, forming what is commonly referred to in Port Sunlight as 'superblocks'.



Port Sunlight allotments illustrated in a paper read by WH Lever at a meeting of the Architectural Association, 1902



Even by 1902 the trees showed maturity, suggesting that standard trees were used when the infrastructure was planted. Photograph of Greendale Road from a paper read by WH Lever at a meeting of the Architectural Association, 1902.

Internally, the houses were either 'kitchen cottages' with a kitchen and scullery on the ground floor and three bedrooms on the first floor, or 'parlour cottages' with a parlour, kitchen and scullery on

the ground floor and either three or four bedrooms above. The houses had hot running water on ground level for bathing, and a toilet in an outhouse in the paved yard behind the house.

Much of the vision presented in the 1902 plan was completed by 1910, including extensive housing development along Central Road (1906-07), Boundary Road (1904-05), Lower Road (1906-07) and Pool Bank (1906-07), and community facilities such as the gymnasium (1903), open-air theatre at the auditorium (1903), the Men's Social Club (1903), Christ Church (1902-04), the bandstand (1906) and the girls' dining room (1910). Aside from Christ Church, which was built as a gift from Lever himself rather than an investment from Lever Brothers and had a grander boundary, each complex was bordered by simple loop railings and overlooked lawns and shrub beds. The footpaths were planted with regularly spaced standard trees.

The basins created in 1901-02, when the tidal inlets were dammed, were filled in and levelled between 1909 and 1910.



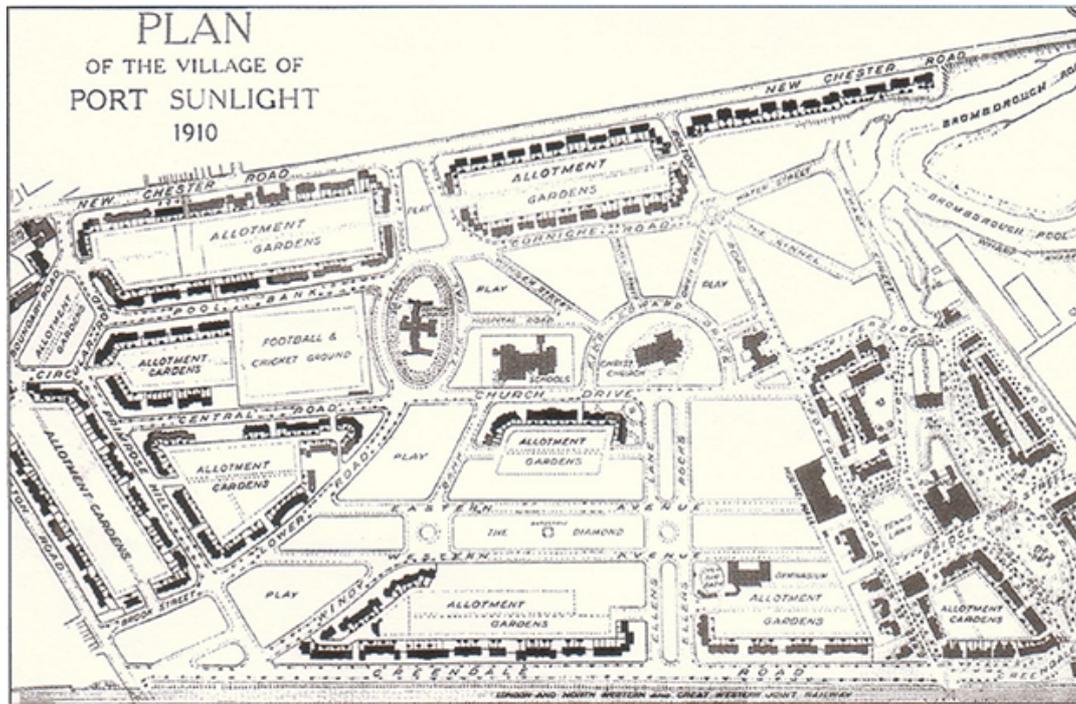
The Dell illustrated in a paper read by WH Lever at a meeting of the Architectural Association, 1902.

This work flattened the site and made possible future development, in particular axial or grid-like development. It was also at this time that Victoria Bridge was buried (it remains in situ beneath Bolton Road).

A new plan: 1910-21

Until 1910, Port Sunlight had expanded to follow the topography of the landscape, as the ravines and tidal inlets divided large sections of the village. The decision to fill in the tidal channel basins coincided with the decision to hold a competition at the Liverpool School of Architecture and Civic Design to create a revised plan which would see the village through to completion. (Lever had taken an active interest in the school, founding the Department of Civic Design in 1909.)

Ernest Prestwich (1899-1977), an architectural student at the School and pupil of Professor Charles Reilly (1874-1948) and Thomas Mawson (1861-1933), who was the first university lecturer in landscape architecture there, won the competition. Revisions were made to his design before work began, and some features were not included, but the École des Beaux Arts-influenced layout, with its strong axial emphasis which was in keeping with town planning style of the period, still forms the centrepiece of the village today.



1910 plan of Port Sunlight village by Ernest Prestwich (Reproduced with kind permission from Unilever plc from an original in Unilever Archives and Records Management).

The Diamond was extended to the south, and the curved band of land on Ellen's Lane that it crossed was straightened to become The Causeway. This provided a dramatic vista from the railway line to Christ Church. Views could also be taken along The Diamond, north towards a neo-classical-style bandstand (demolished c. 1932) and south to a bowling green. Four new roads radiated east from Christ Church, allowing views at intervals from Corniche Road and Bolton Road circus. James Lomax-Simpson designed cottages to be built along the roads but they were not constructed. (Lomax-Simpson was the son of Jonathan Simpson and godson of William Lever. He would later go on to head the Architectural Department of Lever Brothers and become a director of the company itself.) A square formed by civic buildings, including an art gallery, was also proposed south of The Causeway, but was not executed.

The final alteration to the landscape was made in 1914 when the channel, which lay between Bolton Road and Water Street, was filled in and The Ginnel was built over part of the area.

On the 3rd December 1921, the War Memorial was officially unveiled by Sergeant TG Eames, assisted by Private Cruikshank VC and Lord Leverhulme.⁸ (Lever had been made a peer in 1917 and had added his wife's maiden name to his own surname to form his title.) Located in the centre of the village (on the former gymnasium site), the memorial was designed by Sir William Goscombe John on the theme of 'The Defence of the Home', and commemorated the 512 Lever Brothers employees who died during the Great War.

The interwar period

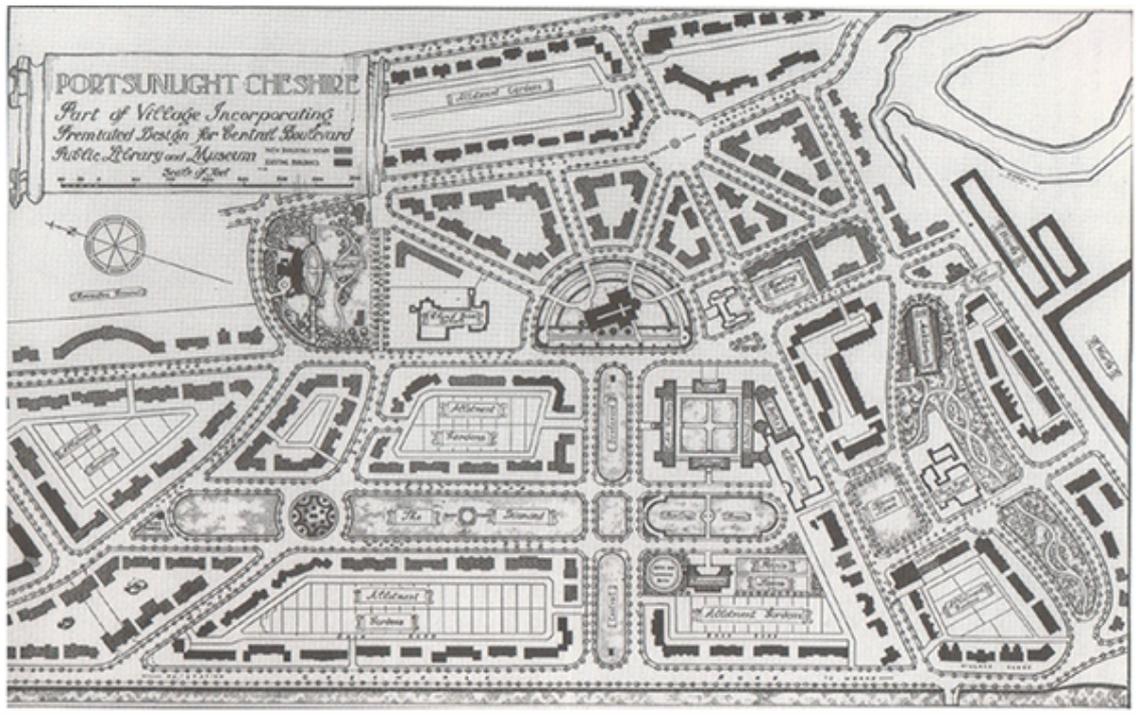
As life returned to normal after the First World War, the residents themselves started demanding more freedom to grow flowers, to brighten up their gardens, and to take advantage of the open spaces. In July 1923, Lever Brothers wrote to every resident asking them to look after their front gardens, and in August the Best-Kept Front Garden Competition was introduced. Rent reductions were awarded as prizes at the end of every July⁹ in the hope that this would stimulate interest and encourage everyone to cultivate their spaces. Residents were also encouraged to grow flower borders where paths to their houses allowed, but the cutting of shrubs, trees and climbers was still done by the estates department.

The interwar period really saw the village in full bloom, as residents competed for horticulture awards and the village trees reached maturity. Photographs of the period indicate that some roads had their railings removed at this point.



Mowing the lawn, flower borders and climbers at 97 Greendale Road, 1920s.
Port Sunlight Museum Collection.

On 16th December 1922, the Lady Lever Art Gallery was opened to the public by HRH Princess Beatrice. It was constructed to house Lever's own art collection and named to honour his wife who had died in 1913. It was built to the designs of William and Segar Owen and stands at the north end of The Diamond where a clock tower had been intended.



1911 Port Sunlight, Cheshire. Part of village incorporating award-winning design for the Central Boulevard, public library and museum - Thomas Mawson.

In its first year, the gallery welcomed more than 100,000 visitors, and was very popular with both residents and visitors.

On 7th May 1925, shortly after returning from a six-month tour of West Africa, William Lever died. He was entombed next to his wife in a narthex at Christ Church, completed to the designs of William Owen in 1914. The Leverhulme Memorial, created in 1930 by sculptor Sir William Reid Dick and architect James Lomax-Simpson, was built on a site to the west of the art gallery which had been redeveloped by Lomax-Simpson in 1924-26. The redevelopment opened up views towards the Lady Lever Art Gallery from Greendale Road and the railway line, and the setting was further improved with the demolition and construction of cottages between Windy Bank, Primrose Hill and Greendale Road.

In 1933-34, the monumental arch and adjacent terraced garden at the south end of The Diamond, designed by Lomax-Simpson, were completed. More cottages were built between Brook Street and Primrose Hill, and Jubilee Crescent was built in 1938 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Port Sunlight works and village.

Despite the on-going development and maintenance work in the village, the 1930s were witness to some of the village's most dramatic alterations. Major landmarks were demolished including the bandstand in The Diamond (1932), the auditorium in The Dell (1937), and Shakespeare Cottages, a reproduction of Shakespeare's birthplace built on Poet's Corner to the designs of Edmund Kirby in 1896 (1938).

The impact of the Second World War

Port Sunlight did not escape damage during the Second World War. It is not known whether its proximity to the docks of Liverpool and Birkenhead or the fact that Lever Brothers was given over

to munitions production was the defining factor, but many of the houses in the village suffered damage and a major repair and restoration strategy continued until 1951.¹⁰ The Collegium, on the corner of Bridge Street and Bolton Road, was destroyed and never rebuilt, although 8-16 Bolton Road, 8-13 Church Drive, 8-14 Bridge Street and 1-13 Boundary Road were all reconstructed.

A lack of man power during the war meant that the village landscape also suffered. In 1946-47, a five-year plan was drawn up by Lever Brothers' Chairman, George Nairn, and a new head gardener, Charles Goldsmith, was appointed. Areas of the village landscape were reconstructed, with many new trees and shrubs planted and 'open plan' front lawns introduced. The company maintained front lawns but tenants were responsible for planting 'front-of-cottage' flower beds.¹¹ Formal bedding displays were also introduced to the village, and the Front Garden Prize Scheme was revived. This all led to a period of landscape excellence in the village throughout the 1950s and early 1960s.



Corniche Road, 1950s. Port Sunlight Museum Collection.

In 1950, the centenary of the birth of Lady Lever was marked with the commissioning of a bronze sculpture, 'Sea Spirit' by Charles Wheeler, which was sited in the open basin in front of the art gallery.¹² From 1954, building control applications were filed to provide indoor toilets or first floor bathrooms for individual houses throughout the village.

Modernisation and sale: 1965-98

By the 1960s, Unilever companies on Merseyside alone had grown to such an extent that only 10% of their employees could be housed in the village. Given that the company was now a vast multinational with workers in every corner of the globe, Port Sunlight no longer represented an intimate link between Unilever and its workforce. As a result, a new company was set up to manage Port Sunlight; Unilever Merseyside Limited (UML).¹³

In April 1965, nearly all of the houses and community or commercial buildings in the village were nationally listed at Grade II. Christ Church was nationally listed at Grade II*. In the foreword for the listing, the unknown authors for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's paper note *"that when one sets foot over one of these [village] boundaries it is to enter a complete and*

*virtually unaltered museum-piece of planning and architecture, unique of its kind, in the country.*¹⁴” However, shortly after the buildings were listed, change came to Port Sunlight.

From the 1960s through to the 1980s, UML carried out an extensive programme to modernise Port Sunlight properties (carrying out works shown in the 1950’s building control applications), with minimal alterations to the frontages. The old sculleries were converted into modern kitchens, where possible part of the third bedroom became a bathroom and inside toilet, and in some cases an extension was built to provide a downstairs kitchen and an upstairs bathroom.¹⁵ More than 700 houses were improved. At the same time, allotments were sub-divided to provide back gardens for the houses or space for garages.

Port Sunlight was designated as a conservation area in March 1978 and the principal planning objectives for the area were later included in the Council’s Unitary Development Plan.

By the early 1980s, Unilever was the 26th largest business in the world and was undertaking a ‘bold strategy of change for the company where it decided to refocus on core product areas with strong markets and equally strong growth potential’.¹⁶ This strategy included the divestment of non-essential businesses and assets, including the sale of Port Sunlight village houses. UML and Unilever made the decision to sell the Port Sunlight houses for several reasons, one of which was that the village only benefitted a small fraction of Unilever’s workforce in the UK; this could not be justified given the cost of managing, maintaining and improving the village. UML’s housing allocation policies and tied tenancy agreements could also be challenged by the Rent Act of 1976, which questioned the relationship between employment and tenancy. Meanwhile the issue of social engineering, an inevitable outcome of managed waiting lists and allocation priorities, was a growing concern for UML.

In 1979, Unilever announced that tenants would be given the option to buy their properties, and many decided to buy immediately. Others continued to rent, but by 1987 a third of the houses had been sold.

The 1970s saw a downturn in the quality of the village landscape. Labour costs rose nationally and Unilever’s profit margins were squeezed. The landscape workforce of 40 people was reduced to just 12. A new plan of action was drawn up by UML, but before it could be implemented Dutch elm disease hit the village, decimating the tree stock.¹⁷

It was the mid-1980s before tree numbers were replenished, and at the same time naturalised bulb areas and formal bedding displays were reintroduced. A ‘Britain in Bloom’ committee was formed in 1988, and between then and 1994 the village won five awards for horticulture excellence.¹⁸

In August 1989, UML rededicated the Jubilee Gardens as the Hillsborough Memorial Gardens, in remembrance of the 96 Liverpool fans who lost their lives at the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield during an FA Cup semi-final that year. The memorial was the first of its kind and was created for the many UML employees affected by the disaster.

Unilever transfers ownership: 1999-2017

From as far back at the 1960s, Unilever had been considering how best to manage the village. The increasing costs of maintaining a historic village and residential community, combined with the demands of running a global business were often in conflict. In April 1999, Port Sunlight Village

Trust (PSVT) was set up by UML with the responsibility of preserving and promoting the Port Sunlight Conservation Area. Everything within the village that was still in Unilever's ownership was transferred to PSVT including all the parks, gardens, monuments and memorials, as well as the majority of public buildings and nearly a third (just under 300) of the houses. In 2002 English Heritage (now Historic England) registered The Dell and The Diamond and The Causeway Grade II in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.

PSVT also inherited some building works and new developments started under UML's management. PSVT set about finding new uses for empty sites including Osborne Court, a complex of 40 sheltered apartments with communal facilities across five lodges sited between Pool Bank and Central Road. Completed to the designs of local architects, Paddock Johnson in 2000,¹⁹ the apartments are on a site previously occupied by a Georgian farmhouse named Pool Bank, (demolished before 1903), and later a football ground. (The football ground was opened in 1903 with a game between Port Sunlight and Everton FC reserves, and demolished by c. 1980.²⁰) Unilever sold the land for development to Bovis, who began work on the site in 1999 before the formation of PSVT. Osborne Court is currently managed by Retirement Security Ltd. The neighbouring Philip Leverhulme Lodge apartment blocks on the corner of Lodge Lane and Pool Bank were completed in 2003 by Paddock Johnson Partnership.

Plans to develop on the open sites on Wharf Street and Water Street, and to redevelop the eastern end of Wood Street, initially faced opposition from local residents because of the density of housing units and the plans for a factory-style complex of apartments. As a result a revised planning application was submitted in 2007 for a scheme more in-keeping with Port Sunlight's Arts and Crafts-inspired character. Designed by Paddock Johnson, Woodhead Row was completed in 2009. In 2012, a new landscape depot at the eastern end of Wood Street, also by Paddock Johnson, was completed. In October 2015, the Sanctuary Group officially opened Darcy Court, an affordable housing scheme consisting of 58 apartments on Wharf Street. Unilever had earmarked this land for sale and development prior to the formation of PSVT.

2.4 Change of use and the refurbishment of community and commercial buildings and public art

Since its formation, PSVT has strived to find suitable uses for all of the community and commercial buildings in its ownership, both to support the commercial sustainability of the charity and also to contribute to the visitor experience and the health and wellbeing of the community. It has also restored and conserved some key pieces within the village's public art collection.

Key achievements include:

- **Sea Piece Fountain works**
Restoration and repair works were conducted by Andy Mitchell Sculptures and Burleigh Stone Cleaning and Restoration Co. Ltd in 2001. The bronzes were cleaned and rewaxed, the boating pond was cleaned and levelled, and the stone wall was cleaned. Further repairs were conducted by Fordwater Pumping Supplies Ltd in 2008. See Appendix 6 for more information.

- **Landscape management**
The care of Port Sunlight's landscape was brought in-house in January 2006 to improve the quality of management and maintenance.
- **War Memorial works**
A complete restoration of the memorial was completed in 2010. A new patina was applied to the bronzes, the stone work was cleaned, and the lead lettering was renewed. In 2015, Andy Mitchell Sculpture trained PSVT staff on how to rinse and re-wax the bronzes. See Appendix 6 for more information.
- **The Cottage Hospital**
In 2002, the Care Quality Commission closed down the former Cottage Hospital (which was being used as a nursing home) and the nearby Nurses' Lodge. The Lodge was converted into Manor Lodge in the same year, and now contains seven apartments. Inspiration from a trip to the World Heritage Site at New Lanark led to the transformation of the Cottage Hospital into a luxury hotel by the Contessa group in 2008.
- **Hulme Hall**
One of PSVT's biggest refurbishment projects saw the complete re-roofing of Hulme Hall in 2002. The roof was stripped, insulated and replaced, and the exterior oak work was maintained.
- **Gladstone Theatre**
In 2006, PSVT contributed £140,000 to major external repair of the building, and the creation of improved toilet facilities.
- **Girls' Club**
In 2006, PSVT opened Port Sunlight Museum in the former Girls' Club building. The £1.1 million scheme, partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and European Regional Development Fund, included permanent exhibitions, a dedicated film room, a learning centre and offices for PSVT staff. The learning centre was converted into the Tea Room in 2011.
- **Hillsborough Memorial Garden**
The memorial was vandalised in 2009 which caused extensive damage to the balustrade wall. Following a public appeal, funds were raised to reinstate the wall in Portland stone and a re-dedication ceremony was held.
- **Holiday cottages**
In February 2006, 21 and 22 King George's Drive were converted into holiday cottages. In May 2017, 21 King George's Drive was converted back into a residential property for long-term letting, and 22 King George's Drive was converted into a worker's cottage experience in April 2017 to form part of Port Sunlight Museum. 59 Lower Road was converted into a holiday cottage in February 2013 and still operates as such.

- **The Lyceum**
This former church and school underwent extensive external refurbishment in 2008-09. A partial conversion of the interior saw the creation of an architect's office, and a multi-use space in which PSVT can develop its formal and informal learning programmes.
- **Hesketh Hall**
A decline in membership forced the Port Sunlight British Legion to surrender its lease. The building was in a poor state of repair and needed a new use to secure its future. Hesketh Hall was converted into 14 senior apartments, with the work completed to the designs of Paddock Johnson Partnership in 2014.
- **Wharf Street development**
Minor building work commenced in 2016 for a scheme of town houses (piles were driven into the ground) however, to date, no further work has been completed.
- **Bridge Cottage**
PSVT purchased 23 Park Road, which William Lever and his family occasionally used when staying in Port Sunlight, from Christ Church in 2015. Following a pilot project with visitors and residents to determine its future use, PSVT adapted the house into a residents' hub. The work was funded by an Arts Council England grant, and the hub opened in May 2017.
- **Rebuilding following an explosion**
In March 2017, an explosion at 1 Boundary Road significantly damaged properties in New Ferry and more than 30 listed houses in Port Sunlight, including 2-8, 3-11 and 13-31 Boundary Road, 45-55 Bebington Road and 2-16 Circular Drive. PSVT and Wirral Borough Council together compiled master plan listed building consent applications for the worst affected terraces, with a view to streamlining and clarifying consent for replacement windows, doors, roof finishes and rainwater goods. The consents included specifications for materials and designs to be followed for each superblock affected, and were the result of research into the original designs using Wirral Archives and Unilever Archives.



Properties affected by the explosion, 25th March 2017.

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- ¹ The War Memorial was upgraded from Grade II* to Grade I listing in October 2014.
- ² Ian Boumphrey & Gavin Hunter, *Yesterday's Wirral: Port Sunlight A Pictorial History 1888-1953*, (Great Britain: Ian & Marilyn Boumphrey, 2002) p.3
- ³ Standish Meacham, *Regaining Paradise Englishness and the Early Garden City Movement*, (London: Yale University Press, 1999), p.12
- ⁴ E Hubbard & M Shippobottom, *A Guide to Port Sunlight Village*, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2005), p.9
- ⁵ WH Lever, *The Buildings Erected at Port Sunlight and Thornton Hough: paper given to The Architectural Association, London, 2nd March 1902*, (England: Port Sunlight, 1902), p.7
- ⁶ Ibid
- ⁷ Ibid
- ⁸ Ian Boumphrey & Gavin Hunter, *Yesterday's Wirral: Port Sunlight a Pictorial History 1888-1953*, (Great Britain: Ian & Marilyn Boumphrey, 2002) p.56
- ⁹ Port Sunlight News, 1923, *Beauty in Village Gardens*, December 1923, vol. 1, no. 14, p.18
- ¹⁰ Sue Sellers, *Sunlighters: The Story of a Village* (London: Unilever PLC, 1988), p.33
- ¹¹ Port Sunlight News, 1952, *In Praise of Gardeners*, May 1952. p.108
- ¹² Ian Boumphrey & Gavin Hunter, *Yesterday's Wirral: Port Sunlight a Pictorial History 1888-1953*, (Great Britain: Ian & Marilyn Boumphrey, 2002) p.107
- ¹³ Sue Sellers, *Sunlighters: The Story of a Village* (London: Unilever PLC, 1988), p.34
- ¹⁴ "Port Sunlight," Addenda to the Provisional List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest for Consideration in Connection with the Provisions of Section 32 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1962, Ref. No. 907/11/A
- ¹⁵ Ian Boumphrey & Gavin Hunter, *Yesterday's Wirral: Port Sunlight a Pictorial History 1888-1953* (Great Britain: Ian & Marilyn Boumphrey, 2002) p.35
- ¹⁶ Unilever Archives and Records Management, *1980-89 Focusing on the Core* <<https://www.unilever.co.uk/about/who-we-are/our-history/1980-1989.html>> [accessed 20 January 2018]
- ¹⁷ JF Kelly, *Outline of the History of the Landscape of Port Sunlight*, January 2001 (unpublished) p.11
- ¹⁸ Ibid, p.12
- ¹⁹ Unilever, *Port Sunlight Village, Information Guide No. 1* (Port Sunlight: Unilever Archives & Records Management, no date), p.3
- ²⁰ Ian Boumphrey & Gavin Hunter, *Yesterday's Wirral: Port Sunlight a Pictorial History 1888-1953* (Great Britain: Ian & Marilyn Boumphrey, 2002) p.24