



The PORT SUNLIGHT Gazette

ISSUE NO. 39

SPRING
2025

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Port Sunlight
VILLAGE TRUST

Cover image: Bluebells by the Hillsborough Memorial Garden. Photo by Brian Pilkington

**An update from Paul Harris,
Chief Executive of Port Sunlight Village Trust**

Hello and welcome to this spring 2025 edition of the Port Sunlight Gazette, your quarterly magazine filled with the latest news, updates and events for everyone living, working and visiting in Port Sunlight.

While it's great to say farewell to the darker days and colder weather, the past few months have seen some fantastic moments and work taking place across the village. From the incredible turnout at the Lyceum Brass Band's Christmas Carols performance to the new Singing Café at the Bridge Inn going from strength to strength. From the work by our new Landscape Advisory Group and volunteers to rejuvenate the borders along Bolton Road to the impressive restoration of the lettering on the village's War Memorial.

It was also brilliant to welcome over 100 residents to our recent resident meeting at Hulme Hall last month, where we shared updates on some of our current and upcoming projects - I'd like to thank everyone again for attending and for your continued passion for Port Sunlight.

There's plenty to look forward to this spring, not least the usual displays of colour made possible thanks to the continual care by our Landscape team. Following a great deal of work both behind the scenes and with stakeholders including residents, we're gearing up to launch Port Sunlight Village Trust's new Strategic Plan, which will set out what we will do over the next three years. We're excited to share their direction we will be taking to make Port Sunlight a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Finally, we've had a few staff changes recently, and I would like to say farewell and good luck to Russell Fielding (Visitor Experience Team Leader), Geraldine George (HR Officer) and Amelia Cadman (Collections Curator).

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of the Port Sunlight Gazette. You will find a nomination form for the refreshed Maggie Sparks Sunlighter of the Year Awards has been delivered with this issue. I hope many of you will take part and nominate someone in the community who you think deserves recognition.

*Paul Harris, Chief Executive,
Port Sunlight Village Trust*

THE PORT SUNLIGHT LOTTERY

BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN £10,000 IN MARCH'S SUPERDRAW AND SUPPORT PORT SUNLIGHT'S PRECIOUS MONUMENTS

Are you a Port Sunlight Lottery player? If not and you're passionate about this special village, then now is the time to join. The Port Sunlight Lottery is an easy and fun way to directly support our work to care for the village's important monuments, including our important project to repair the Boating Pond.

In 2024, we raised an incredible £7,590.60! And over 30 of you won a cash prize!

For just £2 per week you could be entered into the weekly draw, with a chance to win one of 30 cash prizes, plus entry into quarterly Superdraws where you can win £5,000 or £10,000. Sign up now to make sure

Could you be the 2025 Port Sunlight Photographer of the Year?

*Have you got a good eye for the perfect photo?
Handy with a camera? Love Port Sunlight?*

After last year's inaugural competition, we're excited to be bringing the Port Sunlight Photographer of the Year competition back for 2025. This year's theme is 'your favourite view' – whether it's the iconic view of the Dell Bridge and Lyceum or something a bit more unusual, here's your chance to capture your unique perspective on Port Sunlight.

The competition is aimed at photographers of all abilities, and this year there is a separate Young Photographer of the Year category for those aged under 18.

There is an entry fee of £15, with all money raised directly



Scan here to watch a video about our work looking after Port Sunlight's monuments and memorials

you're in with a chance of winning March's Superdraw of £10,000.

Sign up at giantcashbonanza.online/portsunlight or complete a leaflet which can be picked up at the Port Sunlight Museum.

The Port Sunlight Lottery is administered by Giant Cash Bonanza. All money raised will, after the deduction of prize money and reasonable administration expenses, be donated solely to PSVT to support our monuments conservation work. Have a question? Email admin@portsunlightvillage.com



supporting our work to protect Port Sunlight's monuments including the Boating Pond project.

What's the prize? The winning photograph will be featured on the cover of the Port Sunlight 2026 calendar, which will be available to purchase online and at Port Sunlight Museum. There will also be a runner-up prize. The competition is open until 11am on Wednesday 3rd September, so get snapping and enter now!

Go to portsunlightvillage.com/poty for the full terms & conditions and how to enter.

CONSERVATION CORNER

*Are you an owner-occupier?
Make the most of PSVT's
advice service*

Did you know Port Sunlight Village Trust provides support for all residents on the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of their listed homes? Yes, that includes owner-occupiers.

One of the most exciting aspects of Port Sunlight village is that it is an occupied heritage site, and a vibrant 21st-century community. Our objective is to help you live comfortably in a well maintained and conserved heritage property that can be enjoyed for generations to come. As residents and owners, you are the stewards and caretakers for these historically important houses.

In 2024, PSVT supported 64 owner-occupiers with free private advice and support, and while we are a small team, we welcome more residents to get in touch.

Email conservation@portsunlightvillage.com, call PSVT's Reception on 0151 644 4800, or alternatively you will find plenty of information at portsunlightvillage.com/caring-for-your-house





Main: Maggie planting her tree with CEO Paul Harris
Left: The front cover of Port Sunlight News, May 1999
Above: Maggie meeting Prince Edward, Duke of Kent on his visit to the new Port Sunlight Museum in 2006
Below: Maggie at the Road Race in 2017



Celebrating Maggie Sparks, the woman who helped shape Port Sunlight Village Trust

Maggie Sparks' deep connection with Port Sunlight began in 1993 when Family Housing, the small housing association she worked for, were approached by Unilever to purchase a property in Circular Drive. Little did she know that this would mark the start of her three-decade long journey to securing the preservation of Port Sunlight's heritage and community spirit.

By the early nineties, many Port Sunlight cottages had been converted into flats, and some of them were providing unsuitable living conditions for their tenants. Impressed by Family Housing's work, Unilever offered Family Housing the opportunity to purchase 60 of these flats. Maggie took on the challenge, securing an agreement with a contractor to refurbish the properties in areas including Lancaster Close and Lodge Lane.

By 1999, the work was completed, which happened to coincide with when Unilever were looking to establish a new independent charitable trust to take over the management of the village. Port Sunlight Village Trust would soon be born.

Recognising the impact of Family Housing's work, Unilever approached Maggie and asked her to join Graham Bell and John Taylor as a trustee of Port Sunlight Village Trust. Their visions aligned, and Family Housing embraced the opportunity to contribute further. Maggie describes how this was welcomed by residents as long-standing tenants appreciated the continuity and care they had received from Family Housing.

Maggie became Chair of the Board of Trustees at Port Sunlight Village Trust in 2007 following the passing of Graham Bell, and she served until 2017 before continuing as Honorary President until 2023. Throughout her role as Chair, she remained committed to protecting the village's heritage, ensuring that repairs were carried out efficiently and by the right people. "I was really driven by a desire to protect the heritage and the community," Maggie says.

Looking back at her memories of her time in the village, there are almost too many to count, but she does recall the privilege of meeting Lord Leverhulme with her fellow trustees when

the Trust was first set up. More than anything, Maggie takes pride in how Family Housing association helped set the benchmark for the village's housing standards, with Port Sunlight Village Trust going on to acknowledge and adopt some of the same practices.

Maggie is now retired, having recently planted a tree on the green opposite Port Sunlight Museum alongside Port Sunlight Village Trust staff to commemorate her legacy. Despite being retired from an official role in the village, her connection to Port Sunlight still remains – the balustrades surrounding the Hillsborough Memorial Garden hold a special place in her heart as they are made from Portland stone, reminding her of her Dorset roots.

Reflecting on her time in Port Sunlight, Maggie recalls being introduced to residents at an initial meeting with the words, "This is Maggie Sparks – what you see is what you get". Even today, some older tenants still fondly refer to her as their landlady. To Maggie, "It's the people that make a village".



MEET JOHN SHEDDEN, PORT SUNLIGHT'S OWN SPORTING LEGEND

In the 1967 edition of the Port Sunlight News, there was a story of a young man from the village who had bagged himself a job as chief instructor at a ski school in Scotland. Now, over five decades later, John Shedden is not only a proud Port Sunlight resident but also a recent Lifetime Achievement Award winner at the UK Coaching Award for the revolutionary impact he has had on snowsports.

John currently lives same house that he grew up in on Greendale Road, inheriting it from his father who was a supervisor at Lever Brothers' factory and his mother who also worked there in the liquids department and as a tour guide. "Port Sunlight was a wonderful place to grow

up," he says fondly. His interest in skiing began on a trip to Switzerland with his school, Wirral Grammar, and soon John was learning the languages he needed to return to Europe and learn the slopes.

While in college, he even made his very own metal skis. This passionate interest in skiing led him to develop an incredible career spanning several decades and countries, particularly the UK.

In the mid-1970s, John transformed snowsports by pioneering the UK's first National Coaching Scheme and founding the English Junior Ski Squad. His innovative 'Skilful Performance' PET model—integrating sensory perception, emotional state, and motor output—introduced a more individualised approach to athlete development.

One of John's biggest impacts was to drive forward the introduction of artificial slopes, providing opportunities for children to learn to ski and pathways to both personal growth and international success. His coaching and influence has helped shape the careers of athletes such as Dennis Edwards, Nick Fellows, Sarah Lewis, and Hayden Scott.

Over the years, he has inspired and guided hundreds who have become exceptional athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers in the sport, even supporting coaching in other sports such as cycling, where he worked with Sir Chris Hoy's coach.

Most importantly, John's legacy is helping to make skiing a sport for everyone – after all, as he is quoted in the 1967 edition of Port Sunlight News as saying, "anyone with legs can learn".

In December 2024, John was invited to the UK Coaching Awards where he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award – an awards ceremony, John points out, he actually helped to set up many years ago.

While John doesn't ski much nowadays, he continues to contribute to the coaching community through the award-winning Locked In Shed podcast and has authored five books, along with numerous educational resources that have shaped the sport of skiing.

He is also actively involved with village life, recently joining PSVT's new Community Development Advisory Group. John describes how "the ethos of the village informed who I am. William Lever wanted to create an environment for people to realise their full potential." Perhaps through his continuing work, John might inspire future Port Sunlight sportspeople to realise their potential too.



Above: John receiving his Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024

Left: John featured in the Port Sunlight News in 1967

Bottom Left: John's first time skiing in 1958

Bottom Middle: John's sister Ann with his homemade skis

Bottom Right: Still skiing at the age of 77 in 2020





A Stitch in Time

A celebration of Port Sunlight's heritage through fashion



Annie Bebbington with fellow factory employees in 1914 (above, in colour) and here later as a factory nurse.



Last autumn, Port Sunlight Village Trust successfully applied for funding from Wirral Council to celebrate Wirral Borough of Culture 2024. This funding enabled the Heritage team to launch a brand-new historic community programme called A Stitch in Time.

Over the past several months, members of Wirral residents and schools explored Port Sunlight's untold stories of people and place through the creation of costumes inspired by historical photographs, Lever Brothers publications and ancestors' stories.

A JOURNEY INTO THE ARCHIVES

Participants of the programme took part in regular sewing workshops led by fashion lecturer Anita Rochford, exploring a range of themes including The Great War and workwear to school days in the village and the infamous carnival wear competition, where fashion garments were historically made from Lever Brothers' product packaging. This programme

Donate an object

Do you have a special object from Port Sunlight's past? Port Sunlight Museum's collection is filled with thousands of objects that together tell the story of this unique village, which we care for and protect for future generations. We're always looking for relevant objects to grow our collection, so we would love to know about any objects you would like to donate to us.

However, we unfortunately can't accept everything. As an Accredited Museum with limited storage, we must ensure that any objects we acquire are relevant and meet the criteria of our Collections Development Policy. That means we have to undertake a review of your object before accepting it as a donation.

To begin the process of donating an object to us, go to portsunlightvillage.com/donate-an-object to complete an enquiry form.



of workshops also included visits to Port Sunlight Museum's archives and Wirral Archives to delve deeper into the history and lives behind the garments that participants were creating.

SCHOOL CREATIONS

Two local schools also got involved in the project. Rock Ferry Primary School took a step back in time to the Edwardian era where they were joined by Mr Turner, Park Road School's first headmaster, and Miss Slater, head of the infants class at Park Road School and later Church Drive Primary School when it was built. Students were guided around the museum and the village on a historical costumed day out.

Year 10 students at Bebington Co-op Academy also took part, working with Anita Rochford and PSVT's Audience Development Officer Claire Bates to design their own carnival inspired costumes, made entirely from paper.

STORIES UNCOVERED

One of the stories uncovered as part of the 'A Stitch in Time' project was Annie Bebbington (pictured on opposite page). Annie was born in 1897 and was the daughter of a milk dealer from Wales. Together with her parents and two sisters, they followed work around and came to settle in Bebington. It was here that Annie and her sisters, Georgina and Elizabeth gained employment at Lever Brothers, in the Monkey Brand department. Through her employment, Annie also had the opportunity to gain further skills and went on to become a factory nurse.

During Annie's time at Lever Brothers, she met her future husband and had one child. She enjoyed holidays with the Port Sunlight history and art groups and took herself to millinery classes in the Girls' Club. Annie later became a book binder.

When the team spoke to her great granddaughter Christine, who now lives in Port Sunlight, she told of how Annie always liked to wear a nice lace collar and took special care of the collections she had. So, as a nod to Annie, the team sourced original Edwardian lace collars to adorn the workwear uniforms that had been made.

This is just one of a dozen fascinating stories uncovered alongside the creation of the period costumes, which are on display in the Fire Engine Station and other spaces this spring.

Share your stories

Have a story from Port Sunlight's past that could help improve our understanding of this special village? Your experiences and memories could help to bridge knowledge gaps in the village's history and enhance other areas, and may help contribute to future engagement and oral history projects.

We're looking for any stories or memories ranging from living and working in Port Sunlight to village clubs and societies to significant events, both in the distant past or recently.

To share your story with us, go to portsunlightvillage.com/share-your-story to complete the form.



Port Sunlight Singing Café

*First and third Wednesdays of the month,
10.30am – 12pm, Bridge Inn*

The Singing Café is a musical event hosted in collaboration with Home Instead and Involve Northwest for members of the community to come together, sing and enjoy lovely homemade refreshments. We have been overjoyed with the response from our residents, with over 40 enjoying each event... and it's only going to get bigger! These local partnerships have also ensured this is a free event for all to attend.

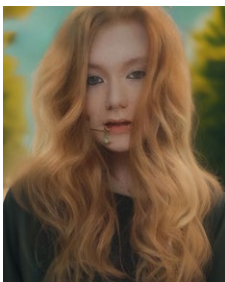
Port Sunlight Village Allotment Group

The Port Sunlight Village Allotment Group are going from strength to strength, and are currently developing their own constitution. The friendly and passionate group are in the process of developing a constitution with a Committee consisting of a Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. This has been led by residents and supported by PSVT to enable the group to take ownership of their plot and improve access to community grants.

YOUR Port Sunlight

Your Port Sunlight is a chance to celebrate the varied and wonderful things Port Sunlight's community do to make the village an inspiring place to live, work and visit.

If you would like to be featured in the next issue or know someone who might, we'd love to hear from you. Please email admin@portsunlightvillage.com



GAGE GOSLING...

on paying tribute to Pete Burns' legacy

Between September and January, I have been a volunteer steward at Total Stranger in Bridge Cottage. The exhibition celebrated the early years of Dead or Alive, and the iconic Pete Burns. It was a dream opportunity for me. As a fan of Pete for the past eight years, I felt so honoured to be part of something that paid tribute to his legacy.

My role involved greeting visitors, sharing information about Pete, the band, and Port Sunlight. It was wonderful to meet so many lovely people from all around the world. Some locals had their own stories about Pete and his early days, which made the experience even more special. There was a great atmosphere about the place and being able to chat with everyone made each shift unique.

What stood out the most was the warmth of the Port Sunlight community. The village was the perfect setting for this exhibition, and I loved seeing how many people shared a mutual love for something I hold so close to my heart. Whether they were hardcore Dead or Alive fans or just discovering Pete's music, everyone seemed to leave with a smile.

For me, this wasn't just a volunteer role – it was something truly personal. Being surrounded by Pete's history and introducing others to his story was a surreal and unforgettable experience. Total Stranger was a fantastic celebration of a unique artist, and I feel so lucky to have been a part of it.

JOIN THE HESKETH HUB

Residents from Hesketh Hall have formed a new social group called 'The Hesketh Hub'. They are hosting monthly quizzes, games and activities for Port Sunlight residents and encourage others to lead their own. The group are passionate about creating a warm environment that is easily accessible, and PSVT is supporting them to build this. Email community@portsunlightvillage.com to register your interest in getting involved.

AN UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP

One of PSVT's new resident advisory groups, the Community Development Advisory Group meet monthly with the aim of shaping a new approach to the delivery of activities in the village and increasing external investment into the community.

Look out for their stall at the Sugar & Spice Festival on 18th & 19th April to say hello and share your suggestions, interests and views on:

- ◆ Community events & facilities
- ◆ A neighbourhood volunteer scheme
 - ◆ Youth opportunities
 - ◆ Intergenerational activities

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DIGITAL CHAMPION?

Digital Champions offer advice, information and support to adults who want to learn how to use a digital device (e.g. computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile) for the first time or improve their confidence with the basics. You don't have to be an IT whizz to be a Digital Champion – you just need some basic digital skills, a bit of spare time, and an enthusiasm to offer support.

As a Digital Champion you will support others to learn the basics about digital devices and the internet in a relaxed, informal environment.

If you would be interested in becoming a Digital Champion in Port Sunlight or would like a helping hand with your device (laptop, mobile etc), please get in touch today.

Get in touch

To find out more about any of the above opportunities in the community, please get in touch with Emma Clewett by email to e.clewett@portsunlightvillage.com or call 0151 644 4800.



What's
On

Spring Events

IN PORT SUNLIGHT



FIRING UP BRIDGE COTTAGE

Saturday 5th April until late June

Wednesday–Sunday • Bridge Cottage, 23 Park Road
• Pay what you think

Bridge Cottage's latest exhibition showcases a range of ceramic artists work including established artists, early careers and well-known artists within the ceramic 'space'.

The exhibition will be supported by Emma Rodgers, artist in residence, who will use her new studio at the nearby Fire Engine Station to connect to the work on show and invite artists to demonstrate their practice. The exhibition will animate the area of the village around Greendale, the Lyceum and the Dell.

Watch this space for more information and follow us on social media @PortSunlightVillageTrust



PORT SUNLIGHT'S EASTER TRAIL

18th & 19th April

10am–3pm • £8 per child

Can you help Hatter find all his teacups in time for his Mad Hatter Tea Party? Venture down the rabbit hole on 18 & 19 April in Port Sunlight's fun-filled family Easter Trail around the village. Tickets include a trail map, white rabbit ears headband, pencil and chocolate reward (vegan options available). Pre-booking essential at portsunlightvillage.com/whats-on

SUGAR & SPICE FESTIVAL – SPRING EDITION

18th & 19th April, 11am–4pm

The Diamond & Village Green • Free entry

Explore a host of stalls filled with locally-made food, drink and little luxuries in a second spring edition of this popular new festival for Port Sunlight. Browse stalls filled with chocolate, cakes, ice cream, coffee, gifts, crafts, and a range of hot & savoury treats from around the world, all in the colourful and tranquil surroundings of the Diamond.



PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE MARKET

First Sunday of every month

The Stables (by the Gladstone Theatre) • 9am–1pm • Free entry

Discover dozens of artisan stalls in the new monthly Port Sunlight Village Market, starting on Sunday 6th April. Explore the finest fresh produce, including farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, high-quality meats from the butcher, jams, honey and chutneys, as well as breads, pies and cakes.



SPRING ADVENTURE ACTIVITY TRAIL

£2 per trail

Go on a spring adventure with our self-led activity trail around the village. Enjoy spring-themed challenges around the village. Trails are available to purchase from Port Sunlight Museum, open Wednesday–Sunday.

FRESH PERSPECTIVES AT LADY LEVER ART GALLERY

Until 27th April

The artistic talents of students from five Wirral secondary schools are celebrated in this new exhibition at Lady Lever Art Gallery. Fresh Perspectives proudly celebrates the creativity of young people aged 14-18 years and features an impressive selection of artwork exploring a wide range of themes across a variety of different media.

PORT SUNLIGHT 5K/10K ROAD RACE

Sunday 8th June

It's back! For the 12th year, BTR Liverpool present one of the UK's most picturesque running events, sponsored by Unilever Port Sunlight. Sign up now at btrliverpool.com if you're up to the challenge, or simply join the community in cheering on the participants. As usual, most of the village's roads will be closed between 7am and 2pm on the day – look out for more information coming soon.

GLADSTONE THEATRE

Aled Jones – Full Circle

Saturday, 29th March, 7.30pm

Join the beloved Aled Jones for a one man show as he celebrates 40 years in the business. From his iconic rendition of Walking in the Air to his roles in West End musicals and his success as a broadcaster, Aled reflects on his incredible career with music and stories that will warm your heart. This intimate performance offers fans a chance to hear from Aled in his own words.

MANIA: The ABBA Tribute

Friday, 11th April, 7.30pm

Relive the glory days of ABBA with MANIA, the world's number one tribute show. Featuring all the hits you know and love - Mamma Mia, Dancing Queen, Super Trouper, this spectacular concert will have you dancing in the aisles. It's the perfect way to party and reminisce to the tunes of one of the most iconic pop bands in history.

The Frog Prince

Saturday, 12th - Sunday, 13th April, 2.30pm

Hop into spring with The Frog Prince, a lively and hilarious pantomime from TaleGate Theatre Productions. Join the princess on her Mardi Gras adventure with all the fun of traditional panto - slapstick comedy, audience participation, and fairytale magic.

Totally Tina

Friday, 2nd May, 7.30pm

Get ready for an electrifying night of Tina Turner's greatest hits with Totally Tina. This award-winning tribute show features Justine Riddoch as the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll, recreating the iconic performances that made Tina a legend. From Proud Mary to Simply the Best, this spectacular concert celebrates Tina's unforgettable career.

From No Parlez to The Secret of Association - An Intimate Evening With Paul Young

Saturday, 3rd May, 7.30pm

Join Paul Young for an intimate acoustic evening as he reflects on his remarkable career. From Wherever I Lay My Hat to Everytime You Go Away, Paul will share stories and perform classic hits in a relaxed, personal setting. It's a chance to hear the man behind the music and relive some of the 80s' most iconic tracks.

The Drifters

Friday, 23rd May, 7.30pm

The legendary Drifters are back with a UK tour performing their classic hits like Under the Boardwalk, Saturday Night at the Movies, and Kissin' in the Back Row. With a legacy that spans decades and includes performances for the Royal Family, this iconic group continues to bring their timeless sound to the stage.

Book your tickets for all these events via The Gladstone Theatre Box Office on 0151 643 8757 or gladstonetheatre.org.uk



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Port Sunlight Lawn Tennis Club

New Members Day

Sunday 13th April 12-5pm

Lots of fun for the whole family!
Rusty Rackets and beginners of all ages welcome.

Free tennis taster sessions for juniors and adults, games for kids.
Chance to try Padel. On the day only offers.

Drinks & snacks available. Bar will be open. Raffle. Sportsville stall

And more! Come along and join the fun!!

Book your free space at [Clubsparq](#) / [Port Sunlight LTC](#) / [Port Sunlight LTC / Events](#)
or register interest on our facebook page.

BIG TENNIS WEEKEND
Get Tennis Active!

FAIRS AT HULME HALL 2025

MONTH	FLEA MARKET	ANTIQUE & VINTAGE FAIR	CRAFT & GIFT FAIR	CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
JANUARY	12th	19th		
FEBRUARY	2nd	16th		
MARCH	2nd/30th	16th		
APRIL			13th	
MAY	4th	18th		
JUNE	1st	15th	22nd	
JULY	6th			
AUGUST	3rd	17th	24th	
SEPTEMBER	7th	21st		
OCTOBER	5th	19th	26th	
NOVEMBER	2nd			23rd
DECEMBER	7th			14th

DOORS OPEN

Stalls: 8.00am Public: 9.30am - 2.00pm

Refreshments at the cafe

0151 6448797

enquiries@hulmehall.com

23, Bolton Road, Wirral CH62 5DH

Web: <https://hulmehall.com/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/www.functionsuite>



The story of the 'Seven Sisterly Sunlighters'

To mark Women's History Month, we uncover a glimpse of the varied – and perhaps surprising – role female employees played at Lever Brothers' Port Sunlight factory in the early 20th century.

In August 1924, Port Sunlight News reported on the emigration of 'a clever band of girl operatives' from Port Sunlight to Fredrikstad, Norway, to train the workers of a newly-opened Lever Brothers factory in stamping and soap packing.

The group was made up of Florence May Carpenter, Eliza McAllister, Nellie Burrows, Nora Croshaw, Dorothy May Horstman, Jeanie Quail, and Forewoman Jessie Philips.

When they arrived in Norway, they sent a cablegram home, assuring they were 'feeling fit and full of determination to uphold our Sunlight traditions'.

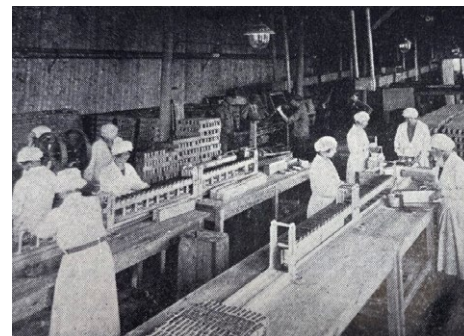
Later in the year, Port Sunlight News updated its readers on the group's work and published additional photographs. 'The girls had a happy

time', it wrote, 'and were well received by their sisters in Norway – and brothers, too, we should imagine'.

Laden with evangelical language, describing the women as 'missionaries of soap-wrapping' and their new environment as an 'Adamless Eden', the piece invokes Port Sunlight's colonial

legacies just as much as it details the history of its female workforce.

Discover more stories from the village built on soap at portsunlightvillage.com/stories or search #PortSunlightStories on social media for fascinating snippets of history.



Have you got a story for a forthcoming issue of the Port Sunlight Gazette?

Contact the PSVT office by phone on 0151 644 4800 or email feedback@portsunlightvillage.com

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