

The PORT SUNLIGHT Gazette

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AUTUMN
2025



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Port Sunlight
VILLAGE TRUST



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

Hello and welcome to this autumn 2025 issue of the Port Sunlight Gazette, your quarterly magazine filled with the latest news, updates and events in the village.

This summer has been a whirlwind with plenty going on in our special village. From the Road Race and the opening of the brilliant new Nettle Café to the Independents Biennial taking over several spaces in the village, there's been a real buzz in the air – and I don't just mean from the bees enjoying the 100 metre-long lavender border planted by our advisory groups!

Our work for Port Sunlight has forged ahead with great progress across a number of areas. One particular highlight is the news that our plans to restore the Boating Pond and Sea Piece fountain have been submitted for planning and listed building consent, with works expected to be completed by autumn 2026. Also, not only has Port Sunlight Museum been awarded a coveted Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award but we've been successful in retaining its Accreditation – a lot of work has gone on behind the scenes to achieve this, so well done to our Heritage Directorate for this achievement.

In sadder news, PSVT and the community recently mourned the loss of Andy Durney, a long-standing member of our Landscape team. We will all miss Andy very much and our thoughts remain with his wife, family, friends and colleagues.

As I shared in the last Gazette, I will be stepping down as CEO from March 2026 to begin my retirement. Following a rigorous recruitment process, I am delighted to share that Mike Ward – who is currently our Chief Commercial Officer & Deputy CEO – has been successful and will take up the position of CEO from the 1st April 2026. Mike and I will be continuing to work closely together over the coming months to manage the transition, ensuring that we forge ahead with the successful delivery of our new Strategic Plan.

I'd like to say farewell to Emmanuel Short who is leaving us as Business Support Officer - Operations, and give a warm welcome to Mike Westcott, our new Fundraising Manager.

Thank you for reading our latest issue of the Port Sunlight Gazette, I hope you enjoy it.

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

THE PORT SUNLIGHT LOTTERY

BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN IN SEPTEMBER'S £10,000 SUPERDRAW AND HELP US PROTECT PORT SUNLIGHT'S 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.

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

Getting to know: Mike Westcott

*We had a chat with Port Sunlight Village Trust's new
Fundraising Manager to learn more about him.*

Why did you want to work for Port Sunlight Village Trust?

I grew up in Rock Ferry and Port Sunlight has always been a really important place for me to visit from a young age. I remember playing with my remote control boat in the Boating Pond as a kid, me and my wife always walked around here when we were teenagers just enjoying how peaceful it has always been. To get to work in such an important and historic place, not just locally but worldwide, and contribute to looking after such amazing landscapes, monuments and stories really means a lot to me.

Do you have a favourite part of or thing about the village?

I really enjoy walking through the Dell and it wasn't until working here that you really appreciate how unique and diverse the architecture is and I always see something new, like the grotesques on top of some of the houses or the different European styles of houses but they all seamlessly work together to make a really great, scenic village.



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

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



Enjoy free access to a treasure trove of stories, behind-the-scenes content and audio tours on the Bloomberg Connects 'arts and culture' app. Featuring hundreds of other museums, galleries and cultural sites, this unique app includes exclusive new guides to Port Sunlight Museum and the village.

Download the Bloomberg Connects app now by scanning the QR code or visit bloombergconnects.org



Port Sunlight Museum retains Accredited status

Following months of hard work behind the scenes, Port Sunlight Museum has successfully retained its Accredited status. This involved ensuring all aspects of our work including conservation care, collections management, programming, marketing and security were at a good standard. Being an Accredited museum helps us in applying for funding and ensuring we're caring for our objects properly. The work doesn't end now that Accreditation has been renewed however – one of the key areas of focus in the future is to develop our collections management and new volunteers have been recently recruited to support this.

Why not join us in celebrating the good news by visiting Port Sunlight Museum and the Worker's Cottage? Entry is free for Port Sunlight residents.

What are you working on at the moment?

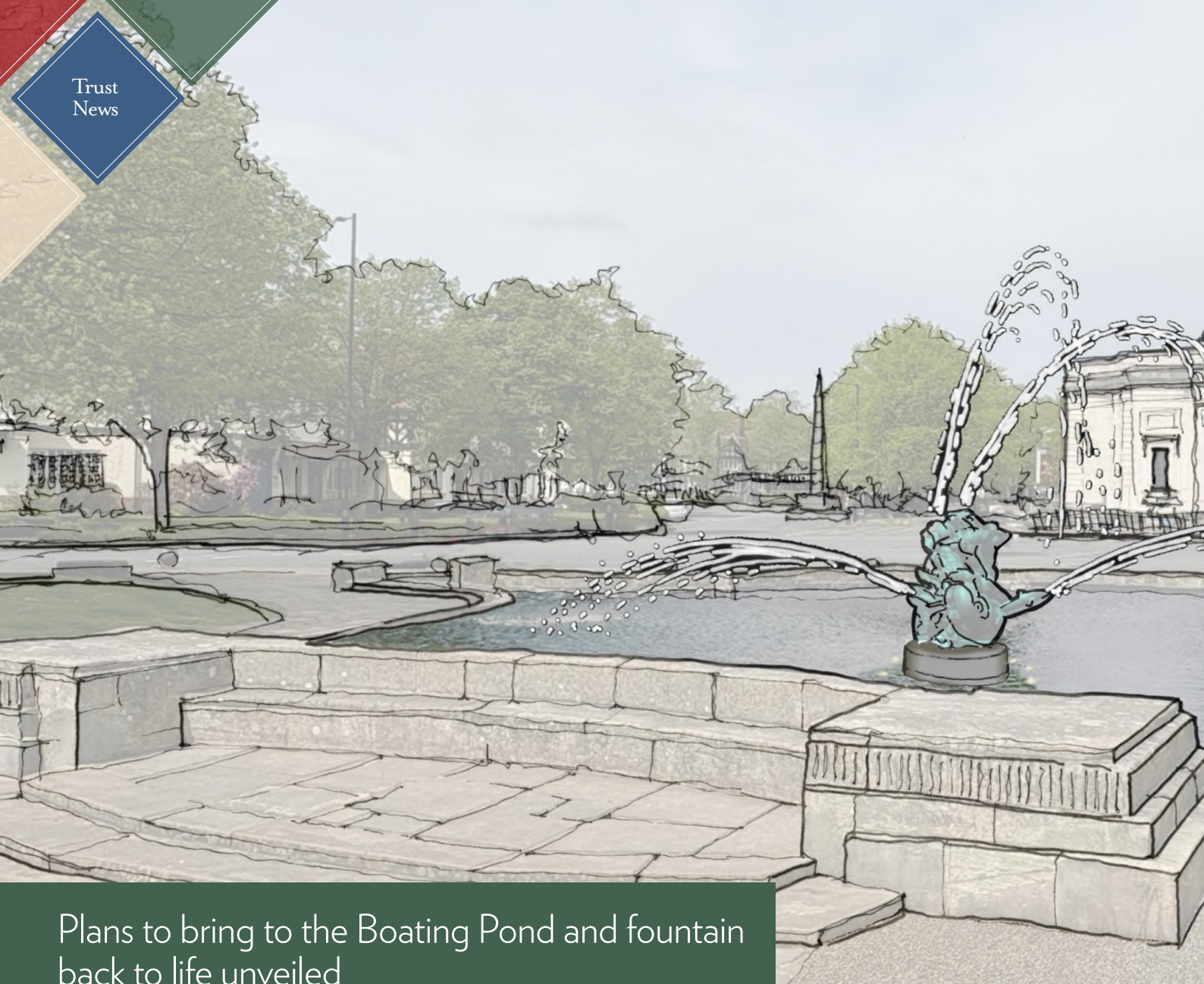
I'm proud to be tasked with funding the repairs and restorations of Port Sunlight's beloved monuments, starting with the Boating Pond. It will mean a lot to see it in all its glory. I am also enjoying spreading the word about the conservation and restoration we do, not just for the monuments and landscape but the stories and histories we look after while getting to show how our team look after it all and how supporters can get involved and help Port Sunlight.

What do you get up to your spare time?

I have an awesome little 2 year old so most of my spare time is playing with him but I like to write fiction when I have the time and have a couple of short stories published, and also read and play my guitar when I can.

Would you like to support PSVT's work or have any ideas to share? Please email m.westcott@portsunlightvillage.com





Plans to bring to the Boating Pond and fountain back to life unveiled

For five years, the Boating Pond and Sea Piece Fountain in Port Sunlight have run dry due to significant structural issues. Now, a major restoration plan has been unveiled to get water flowing again through these two Grade II listed monuments, which have been delighting visitors and residents for nearly a century.

Following in-depth technical surveys and research, PSVT has worked with a highly experienced team of specialists to submit a planning and listed building consent application to carry out the work required. If approved, work is set to be completed by autumn 2026.

Andrew Bowden, Chair of Port Sunlight Village Trust, said: "The Boating Pond and Sea Piece Fountain hold a special place in the hearts of both local residents and visitors. This restoration is not just about physically repairing a structure, it's about preserving a vital part of Port Sunlight's unique heritage and ensuring that this iconic feature continues to bring joy for many years to come."

Originally constructed in the early 1930s as

part of the landscape design of the Diamond opposite Lady Lever Art Gallery, the Boating Pond was a key element of the vision William Lever had for this part of the village. The pond, with its central Sea Piece Fountain – designed by renowned sculptor Sir Charles Wheeler and installed in 1950 – has long been a focal point for both the village and its visitors.

Over the years, however, the structure has suffered extensive deterioration.

Investigations commissioned by PSVT since 2020 have identified serious structural issues with the pond's concrete basin and stone walls, resulting in significant water leakage. Additional safety concerns and potential environmental contamination led to the pond being emptied in 2021. Research has also discovered that the appearance of the Sea Piece Fountain has changed over the decades from a light green colour to brown.

Following extensive consultation with conservation specialists, Historic England and Wirral Council's conservation team, PSVT has developed an ambitious and sustainable

restoration plan. The proposals are to:

- Replace the compromised concrete basin with a modern, structurally sound equivalent designed to prevent future leakage – several options to retain and repair the existing concrete basin were evaluated, however these were found to be unsuitable
- Replace an area of 'crazy paving' around the Boating Pond with resin bound gravel to both improve accessibility and replicate the original surface
- Dismantle, repair, and rebuild the stone perimeter walls with local stonemasons to ensure long-term stability and authenticity
- Restore the Sea Piece Fountain to its historically accurate appearance, removing the modern brown patina and reinstating its original light green finish
- Upgrade the pumping and filtration systems in and around the Boating Pond to ensure safe operation and water quality



Drawing by Chambers Conservation showing what the completed project will look like



The structure of the Boating Pond's basin and walls are in need of significant repairs



PSVT's full application for planning and listed building consent, with detailed drawings and supporting information, will be viewable at Wirral Council's online planning portal.

Jennifer Chambers from Chambers Conservation, who have worked with PSVT to develop the plans, said: "Port Sunlight Village Trust has wisely taken a very considered approach as to the repair and restoration of the Boating Pond. They have taken the time to get as much information as possible on both the history and issues before making any decisions as to its future. As a result, this scheme does not simply add further patch repairs, knowing that they would inevitably fail; instead, the work proposed should hopefully last fifty years or more without major intervention."

The restoration project will cost in excess of £300,000, and PSVT is seeking support from several sources to strengthen its funding for the project.

Andrew Bowden continues: "A century since this special village was built, the task

of conserving Port Sunlight is becoming increasingly complex and costly, and the Boating Pond is a perfect example of this. With hundreds of Grade II listed properties, 130 acres of landscaped green spaces and several nationally-important monuments to care for, the public's support for our work has never been more vital."

Residents and visitors are also being asked to share their memories, mementos and photographs relating to the Boating Pond and Sea Piece Fountain. This is to strengthen PSVT's historical knowledge as well as to potentially be part of future interpretation panels, online content and exhibitions. Anyone with something to share is invited to get in touch by email to info@portsunlightvillage.com, call 0151 644 4800 or visit portsunlightvillage.com/share-your-story

For any enquiries about the plans, email conservation@portsunlightvillage.com

THREE WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A MONUMENTAL DIFFERENCE

1. Have fun playing the Port Sunlight Lottery for just £2 per week, in the knowledge you could be winning weekly cash prizes of up to £1,000 while a portion of every play goes to our monuments conservation fund. See page 3 for details on how to join.
2. Visit Port Sunlight Museum's shop to add your spare change to our donation box and collection tubs. Every pound helps! Alternatively donate online at portsunlightvillage.com
3. Submit your stories, memories and photographs of the Boating Pond to grow PSVT's research and collections, with support from the Heritage Advisory Group.



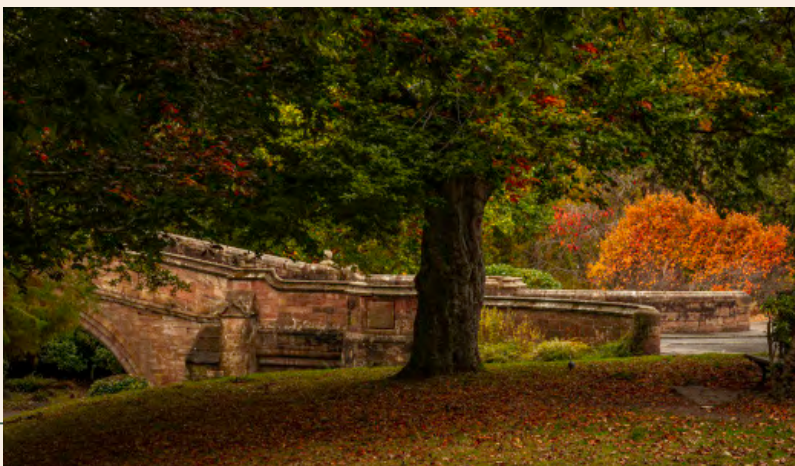
Garry Hodgson, *Night Traffic Around the War Memorial*

Photographer of the Year 2025 results

Your winner and runner-ups revealed!



Sandiyah Hutton, *Evening Bowls*



David Kelly, *Autumn in the Dell*

For the second year, our Port Sunlight Photographer of the Year competition received some fantastic entries, all aiming to capture this year's theme of 'your favourite view'.

Our judges this year are the village's artist-in-residence Emma Rodgers alongside curator James Lawler, who are both involved in the BOOM exhibition at the Fire Engine Station, part of the Independents Biennial and open until 14 September. They were both tasked with choosing a winner plus two runners-up.

The creative pair settled on Garry Hodgson's *Night Traffic Around the War Memorial* which uses a long exposure technique to create an exciting take on one of the village's most photographed features. Garry's winning photo will be appear on the cover of the new 2026 Port Sunlight calendar, which will go on sale this autumn at Port Sunlight Museum's gift shop and online.

Our two runners-up are Sandiyah Hutton's *Evening Bowls* and David Kelly's *Autumn in the Dell*. Both photos will also appear in the calendar, alongside a selection of other entries.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the competition. All entry fees and income received from sales of the 2026 Port Sunlight calendar will support our work to care for the village's monuments including the War Memorial and Boating Pond.

Autumn gifts inspiration

Our top picks from Port Sunlight Museum's gift shop

Did you know? The shop at Port Sunlight Museum is open daily, 10am-4.30pm and filled with books, homeware, stationery, quality food and drink, and of course, soaps and fragrances. You don't need to visit the museum to shop with us and everyone is welcome.



Agnes & Cat have the perfect gift for any occasion. Handmade in England using natural ingredients which are vegan friendly, all wrapped up in pretty eco conscious packaging.

Treat your body and mind with one of our luscious lip balms, or a quick aromatherapy experience with one of our essential oil roll-ons or how about a delightful long relaxing soak in the bath, using one of the bath salts range which comes complete with its own little wooden scoop.

If it's fragrance for your home you're after, Agnes and Cat's soy wax candles come in a handy kilner jar and have a lovely long burn time, or choose from the beautiful range of ever popular reed diffusers with eco-friendly black fibre reeds and delightful fragrances.

Were things always better in the olden days? Did Grandma always know best? With a range of **vintage cleaning products**, we think perhaps she did.

We've curated a fabulous range of household products which hark back to yesteryear, to bring those memories flooding back. As well as our best selling Sunlight Soap, you can choose from Antiquax furniture polish, Black Stove & Grate Polish, Old Craftsmen's White Ring, Brasso, and Silvo to name a few. Pop in and check the range out before rolling up your sleeves and getting to cleaning.



Keen gardeners regularly visit Port Sunlight to take in the landscapes and beautiful rose gardens, and they have also loved **A Blackbird Sang's** new range of nature inspired metal decorations for the garden or for indoor plants too. Inspirational leaf quotes make a lovely gift for any avid gardeners in your life, or the pot stems which depict natural seed heads and birds such as robins or blackbirds, are all beautifully crafted and make unusual thoughtful gifts. You could also choose from one of the quality tea towels, printed with inspiring gardening quotes or simply lovely nature inspired designs.

William Morris needs no introduction from us, and we now have a wide range of products in our shop celebrating this titan of design. From ceramic mugs and vases to keyrings, pretty umbrellas together with books celebrating Morris's textile designs and his life, his designs, characterised by their natural beauty and intricate patterns have such a timeless quality they will never go out of fashion and always be a delight to have around your home.

Our range of **books** has expanded to include a wider range of titles which will inspire you or a loved one, from The Herbal Apothecary and Rewild Your Garden or The Handmade Spa. If history is your thing then The Diary of Miss Ann Sykes or How To Be A Victorian are part of a range which capture a bygone era. We also stock books about the Beatles and the Titanic disaster, both of which have interesting and unexpected connections to Port Sunlight.



COMING SOON

Launching this September at Port Sunlight Museum's shop is a brand new range of delicious food and treats featuring bespoke illustrations of village landmarks by Deborah Nicholl-Timmins. From tea and jams to biscuits and vintage sweets, they will make the perfect Port Sunlight gift or souvenir. Bring your residents card or Wirral Spend Independent card to enjoy 10% off all products.



Our village remembers

Village poet Fliss Bardwell marks Remembrance Day

Sometime brothers, sometimes sons, sometime lovers, sometime friends
In the mud where blood and shrapnel flowed and flew they met their ends.
Our ordinary English Joes, they missed their destined fates
But their names live on in Sunlight as etched and gilded greats.
There in splendour wreathed by laurel, in striking words which shout:
Shrouded by bronzed angels, "Glory Shall Not Be Blotted Out".
Their renown writ large, our thanks a truly ornate display,
A constant, vivid touchstone – always Remembrance Day!
The boys and men and women from our village only yearned
To one day see their homes again, to safely be returned.
To them the humdrum round of family, factory, seemed divine
Bayonets and bombs, the Blitz, were the Hell that made them pine.
The graves, the tombs of those we mourn are scattered - or not found,
Some just picked out by poppies - scarlet blooms on broken ground.
To bring their names together, our battalions of the lost
The smallest gesture for their gift, the unimagined cost.
Beneath our fine memorial are buried no remains –
Instead a volume lies below, enshrining all the names
Of those tied to Port Sunlight who gave themselves to wars –
Exchanged their time for terror, to fight the freedom cause.
As we bow our heads to homegrown heroes from the past
At a distance of a stone's throw many glances will be cast
To the headstones and the posies laid for loved ones resting where
Our churchyard gives them shelter and hearts' ease for those who care.
With poppies pinned our recollections turn to peace and war
But ghosts of all our cherished ones slide too around the door.
Though eleventh month, eleventh day's official mourning time
A kindness kiss for all who grieve is woven with this rhyme.
For those you loved a tender thought towards you always bends –
Sometimes parents, sometimes young ones, sometimes lovers,
sometimes friends.

This year's Remembrance Service in Port Sunlight takes place on Sunday 9th November starting at 10.45am at the War Memorial.



Remembering Andy Durney

In June, it was with great sadness that we shared the news that Andy Durney, a valued member of PSVT's Landscape Team, passed away.

Andy was one of our longest-serving gardeners, having worked for UML before the formation of Port Sunlight Village Trust. He was deeply dedicated to his work, and his passion was clear – especially in recent months, when he continued to come to work despite his illness.

We know many residents were familiar with Andy and hope that you will join us in continuing to keep his family, friends and colleagues in your thoughts.

A funeral service was held on Monday 4 August at Landican Cemetery where many people came together to pay their respects and celebrate and remember Andy's life.



PORT SUNLIGHT'S PRIZE-WINNING POOCH

A big congratulations to Maisie who won Waggiest Tail and Prettiest Female at the New Ferry Dog Show recently. Resident Alan Cosgrove is a very proud dog dad.



THE SUNLIGHT GARDENING CLUB

Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a budding potter, or simply someone with a love for plants, there's a place for you at Port Sunlight's new gardening club. The group meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the Church Hall on Bridge Street, at 7pm.

Enjoy refreshments, raffles, guest speakers and more, while helping to nurture a thriving community of growers. Bring your curiosity, your passion, and maybe even your neighbour.

Have a question? Email thesunlightgardeningclub@gmail.com or keep up with the group by following them on Facebook (search The Sunlight Gardening Club).



BE PART OF PORT SUNLIGHT'S GINGERBREAD VILLAGE

The Community Advisory Group have a special plan for this Christmas and to make it happen they need the help of people of all ages from across Port Sunlight to create a village of gingerbread houses, which will be on display at Port Sunlight Museum over the weekend of 13th & 14th December. There will be awards voted by visitors to the exhibition.

Lesley and Helen from the group who are organising the event said: "We wanted something that was fun and Christmassy and that everyone can get involved with. From cake decorators to potential architects and all those who may have always wanted to replicate their house in gingerbread, we are keen to see lots of different designs. Some even may wish to represent their business or community group – it's the difference that makes our village so special."

Gingerbread house kits will be provided for free so residents, local businesses and community groups only need to build the houses and then get creative decorating them in any way you want.

Email community@portsunlightvillage.com to reserve a kit by the end of September – they will be available on a first come first served basis, so please don't wait.

A huge thank you goes to two local businesses for sponsoring the event, Paddock Johnson and Perfect Getaways.

"Paddock Johnson is thrilled to sponsor 'Let's Create a Gingerbread Village for Port Sunlight' – a delightful celebration of two of our favourite things: creativity and baked treats!"
Victoria Millward, Director at Paddock Johnson

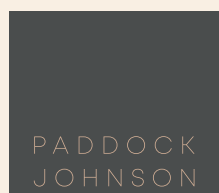
"We are passionate about our Bebington customers and businesses and are delighted to support the Gingerbread Village in Port Sunlight. We look forward to welcoming everyone from the area to our Bebington shop very soon to have a drink at our bar whilst looking through holiday brochures. Don't forget we have exclusive discount for our residents and an exclusive Facebook parents group if your child attends a school in the Bebington area."
Rachael West, Perfect Getaways

RESIDENT AWARDS EVENING

Port Sunlight residents, your time in the spotlight has come! On Wednesday 24th September at the Gladstone Theatre, you're invited to a special evening event to celebrate the winners and finalists in both the 2025 Garden Competition and the Maggie Sparks' Sunlighter of the Year Awards.

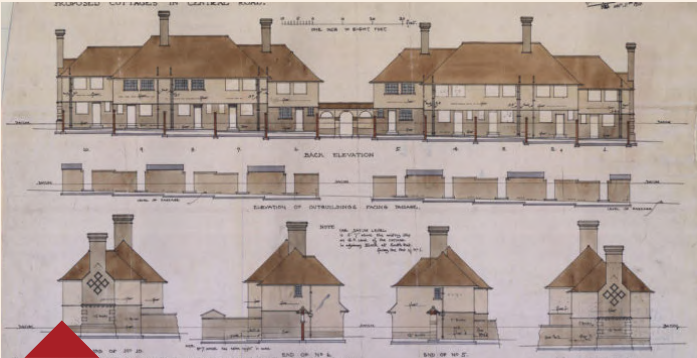
Hosted by Vicky Smith, Landscape Team Leader and Emma Clewett, Resident and Community Engagement Officer, alongside fabulous entertainment by Sing The Musicals Choir, everyone is welcome to come along and celebrate your neighbours.

It's completely free to attend and doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.



AUTUMN EVENTS

IN PORT SUNLIGHT



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

12th & 13th September

Join us in celebrating Port Sunlight's special heritage as part of the national Heritage Open Days festival.

On 12th September at 10am, join PSVT's Landscape Manager Liam and Conservation & Maintenance Manager Gareth for a free talk and tour exploring the history of Port Sunlight's architecture and landscapes. Pre-booking essential via portsunlightvillage.com

On 13th September, come to Port Sunlight Museum to delve into the Drawn Together exhibition featuring over 1,300 digitised plans and drawings, learn about the village's lost buildings, and discover the history of your house. There will be fun children's crafts. Entry is free.

SUGAR & SPICE FESTIVAL: AUTUMN EDITION

4th October, 11am–4pm

The Diamond & Village Green • Free entry

Explore a host of stalls filled with locally-made food, drink and little luxuries in an autumnal edition of this popular 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. Families can also enjoy a fun autumn trail around the village, £6 per child, pre-booking essential via portsunlightvillage.com



HALLOWEEN FUN

30th & 31st October

Your little ones will be defying gravity this half term with our fun wand and broom decorating workshop on 30th October (10.30am & 11.30am, £6 each) or a Wicked-themed crafty 'make and take' on 31st October (10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, £5 each). Adults and older children can discover the haunting tales of Port Sunlight on a Spook-tacular Tour on 31st October (6pm, £15-£6). Pre-booking essential via portsunlightvillage.com

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 monthly Port Sunlight Village Market. 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.



AUTUMN ADVENTURE ACTIVITY TRAIL

£2 per trail

Go on an autumn adventure with our self-led activity trail around the village. Enjoy autumn-themed challenges around the village. Trails are available to purchase from Port Sunlight Museum, check opening times at portsunlightvillage.com

WHAT'S ON AT CHRIST CHURCH

Upcoming services include Founders Day on Sunday 21st September at 10.30am, Harvest Service on Sunday 12th October at 10.30am, and Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November starting at 10.45am at the War Memorial. Special events include a Harvest Supper on Saturday 11th October at 6pm.

Christ Church is open to visitors Monday to Friday, 11am-4pm, closing end of September. The cafe is open Wednesday-Thursday 11am-4pm, closing for the season on 18th September.

REMEMBRANCE WORKSHOP

6th November, 11am-1pm, £8 per person

Learn more about Port Sunlight Museum's collections relating to WWI and WWII and get hands on with your very own remembrance poppy pin brooch to take home. Tea and coffee included. Pre-booking essential via portsunlightvillage.com

GLADSTONE THEATRE

AMERICAN FOUR TOPS

Saturday 13th September 7.30pm

This soul-packed show brings the hits of the Four Tops and Motown legends to life with slick choreography, powerhouse vocals, and irresistible harmonies. Get ready to dance the night away to classics like Reach Out and Loco in Acapulco.

BEATLES COMPLETE

Friday 26th September 7.30pm

Liverpool's Beatles Complete deliver an authentic night of Beatlemania. From Please Please Me to Let It Be, their musicianship, energy, and charm make this a must-see for fans of the Fab Four.

WHITNEY BY CANDLELIGHT

Saturday 27th September 7.30pm

Experience the magic of Whitney Houston's greatest hits in a stunning candlelit setting. Featuring a world-class live band and one of the UK's leading tribute artists, this show brings powerful ballads and dance anthems to life in an unforgettable way.

WOMEN IN ROCK

Friday 3rd October, 7.30pm

A powerhouse celebration of female rock legends, featuring hits from Janis Joplin, P!nk, Stevie Nicks, Alanis Morissette, and more. Expect soaring vocals, dazzling costumes, and pure rock energy from start to finish.

BEETLESPOOF

Saturday 25th October, 6pm

A hilarious Halloween half-term parody from the team behind Harry Panto. Join gothic girl and Dame Betty Bettle on a spooky adventure full of magic, music, and laughs. Perfect for all ages.

KING OF POP

Saturday 8th November, 7.30pm

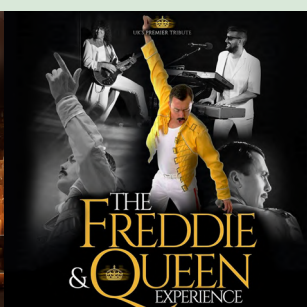
Starring Navi, Michael Jackson's official body double, this show is the ultimate tribute to the King of Pop. Featuring iconic hits and unforgettable moves, it's a night of pure MJ magic.

THE FREDDIE & QUEEN EXPERIENCE

Saturday 15th November, 7.30pm

The UK's premier Queen tribute brings Freddie Mercury's charisma and Queen's greatest hits to the stage in an electrifying, full-scale live concert experience. Complete with replica outfits, instruments, and all the magic of the 1986 tour.

Book tickets at The Gladstone Theatre Box Office: 0151 643 8757 / gladstonetheatre.org.uk



PLAY TENNIS

Fancy having a go at tennis or looking to take it back up? As a LTA registered tennis club we offer our members league and social tennis, tennis coaching, discount on padel (via our partner Padel United) and much more

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Interested?
 Contact us for more information
 E-mail: portsunlightlta@hotmail.com
 Website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PortSunlightLTC>
 Social Media: Facebook and Instagram

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

Follow us on Facebook to receive regular updates on our upcoming club activities and events

Port Sunlight LTC

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

JONES MARY A.
JONES T. E.
KING G. K.
KIRBY A. L.
LAMB J.
LANE D. W.

LEDSON E.
LONG W.
MATTHEWS J. H.
MCDONALD H. W.
MCGRATH FLORENCE
MCKAY W. H.
MCKEOWN J.

MEN
MER
MILI
MOL
MUR
O'DR

EDWARDS W.
ELLIOTT R.
ELLIS OLIVE M.
ELLISON C. H.
EVANS R.
FAREY H. B.
FARR R.

HAMILTON P. J.
HARRISON MARY C.
HELM W. O.
HUGHES H.
HUGHES W.
IVESON E. M.
JACKSON J. E.

JENNINGS H.
JENNINGS MURIEL
JOINSON S.
JOLLY K. F.
JONES J. E.
JONES K. S.

WHITTAKER J. W.
WILDRIDGE J.
WILLIAMS R. E.
WILLIAMS W.
WILLIAMSON FLORENCE
WOODWARD ANN D.

OLIVER H. J. G.
OSBORNE J.
OWEN F.
OWEN J. E.
PARKER LILY
PARNELL E. E.

PEPLER P.
POWELL S. G.
PRESTON S.
PRITCHARD A. E.
RICHARDS H.
ROBERTS J. E.
ROBERTSON D. L.

ROBINS FLORENCE R.
ROBINSON R. V.
SEAMAN W. "A.F.C."
SENNETT BERYL J.
SIDDORN J.
SIME W. J. D.
SIMPSON G. H.

The women of Port Sunlight's War Memorial

Genealogist Donna Pearson discovers the story behind the handful of names inscribed on Port Sunlight's War Memorial belonging to women.

Having stood in awe reading the names of over five hundred men from Lever Brothers' soap factory who lost their lives in World War I, and then reading the hundred plus men who gave their lives in World War II, did you notice the eleven women named in full?

Only those connected with the soap factory – which by the start of World War II was operated by Unilever – could be added to the War Memorial.

So, who were these women? What was their connection with the factory? Had they left their jobs to help with the war effort in some other way? Were they nurses or ambulance drivers, for example?

Well, no – all these women were civilian casualties of the War, dying in the Blitz attacks during the early 1940s in and around the port

of Liverpool. Their names are: Mary A Jones; Ann D Woodward; Florence Williamson; Doreen Smart; Lily Parker; Olive M Ellis; Muriel Jennings; Beryl J Sennett; Florence McGrath; Mary C Harrison & Florence R Robins.

Let's look at the life and death of one of the women, Mary Alice Jones, who died on 17th October 1940. Mary not only worked in the soap factory, but also lived in the village at 33 Pool Bank with her parents, John and Alice Jones. By the start of the war, Mary had moved departments, and was working as a statistical clerk for the soap and glycerine department. John had recently retired after fifty years of working for Lever Brothers. On the night of Thursday 17th October, Mary and her parents were all killed when a bomb landed on their home in the village.

All of these women have similar stories; Florence Williamson and Ann D Woodward were killed when a bomb hit the Ritz Cinema in December 1940. Muriel Jennings and her whole family (except for one brother who had been sent to safety in Wales) died when a bomb fell on Well Lane in Rock Ferry, March 1941. She is remembered on the War Memorial alongside her brother Herbert.

A fuller version of this research can be found by contacting Donna via email donna.pearson65@gmail.com

The research did not include trying to locate living relatives of the women, but if anyone has information about what happened to the remaining family members and would like to share it, please contact Donna.

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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