

The
PORT SUNLIGHT
Gazette

ISSUE NO. 42

WINTER
2025



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

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

As we prepare for Christmas, it's that time when we look back at the year and appreciate the wonderful things that have happened in our special village. Some particular highlights for me have included completing the main phases of conservation work on the War Memorial, introducing a poignant new planting scheme in the Hillsborough Memorial Gardens, nearing completion on our £1.5 million project to improve energy efficiency in our tenants' properties, and seeing the wonderful things happening around the community driven by our Resident Advisory Groups. This year was also the launch of our new 2025-28 Strategic Plan, which showcases our ambitions to create an even more inspiring place to live, work and visit in Port Sunlight.

While winter is often seen a time to relax and hibernate, that certainly isn't what we'll be doing at Port Sunlight Village Trust. As you will read about in this latest Gazette, we'll be busy cracking on with beginning work to bring the Boating Pond (or Lake, as we know many call it!) back to life and filled with water again. This is a major project that will require effectively rebuilding the monument's structure, and we're incredibly grateful to have received funding from the Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust to make it happen. Elsewhere, the next chapters of the Stables and Boys' Brigade Building are about to be written by some exciting new commercial tenants – an important milestone in our project to reawaken some of Port Sunlight's special buildings.

I would like to give a warm welcome to new members of our team – Chris Rose, People and Business Support Officer, and Emma White, Business Support Officer – Operations.

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of the Port Sunlight Gazette, and wish everyone living, working and visiting in Port Sunlight a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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



Celebrating Trustees' Week

*An interview with Trustee,
Steve Connolly*

Port Sunlight Village Trust's Board of Trustees is made up of a range of passionate individuals who give their time and skills to guide our work as a charity. To mark Trustees' Week earlier in November, we took the opportunity to help you get to know one of Port Sunlight Village Trust's longest-standing Trustees, Steve Connolly, a little better.

Why did you become a Trustee?

As my career as a Quantity Surveyor was drawing to a close, I thought it would be fulfilling to join the board of a housing association many of which had been clients to my surveying practice. After several rejections I saw the advertisement for a position on the board at PSVT. Without any expectation I submitted my application and to my surprise was asked to join the board following an interview with the chair and chief executive at the time. I have been delighted with the role and met some amazing people.

What makes a good Trustee?

Someone who commits time to the Trust and engages with the people. It's all about people and excellent communication. The liabilities of a Trustee are not to be taken lightly and you must commit to your role or go home.

What do you do in your spare time?

I retired in 2019 and you would think I would have lots of spare time but life seems to get in the way! I spend a lot of time planning our lives such as travelling in our motorhome, walking, cycling, socialising with friends, attending live music concerts and sports events (The Open Golf, the Tour de France, the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe) and following my great passion, Manchester United, home and away.

What moments or projects have you most enjoyed being part of in your time at PSVT?

I miss work, most of all seeing my colleagues on a day-to-day basis, celebrating successes with them and helping people develop. We would always ask our people what their ultimate goal in life was and endeavour to help them achieve it. I am a team player and enjoy collaborating with others to achieve joint goals and being part of the



**SHOP LOCAL AND SAVE THIS
CHRISTMAS WITH A WIRRAL SPEND
INDEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP**

Port Sunlight
Museum

Gift shop
open

'PSVT family' helps to provide this feeling if only on a part time basis.

I enjoy our planning meetings and then hearing about the successes of the Trust be it a satisfied resident or a successful event. The resident engagement strategy has been the best thing to happen at Port Sunlight in my nine years as a Trustee and I am delighted to have contributed in a small way to this initiative by chairing one of the advisory groups and meeting residents.

What do you most admire about Port Sunlight and PSVT?

Port Sunlight appears to be a happy place to live, there is a tremendous village community spirit amongst residents and they know they live in a special place.

PSVT are an excellent company to work for with a high job satisfaction resulting in a strong team of dedicated professionals across a number of diverse disciplines.

What excites you about Port Sunlight's future?

I shall complete my tenth and final year as a Trustee of PSVT in 2026. I believe we have improved year on year in this time and are in a great position to develop in the future with an excellent team of knowledgeable, diverse and dedicated board members.

I am excited about our plans to redevelop the Lyceum building and all the initiatives in our Strategic Plan and beyond, including the breathing of new life into our commercial buildings. Before I end my term, I am looking forward to assisting in the early development of the Lyceum project and will follow its progress after I retire from the board.

As I said earlier, it is all about people and with the excellent team of employees and strong community spirit, I think Port Sunlight will thrive. I have no doubt that William Lever would approve of the way the village is developing. The future is bright.

Join our Board and help shape Port Sunlight's future

If you would like to help shape the future of Port Sunlight, we have a rare opportunity to join PSVT's Board. We're looking for people with the skills and passion needed to make a difference to our important work, and we're particularly interested in hearing from underrepresented groups. To find out more, visit portsunlightvillage.com/volunteering and apply by Friday 28 November.

THE PORT SUNLIGHT LOTTERY

BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN £5,000 IN DECEMBER'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.

For just £2 per week you could be entered into the weekly draw, with a chance to win weekly cash prizes, monthly gift hampers, and 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 December's superdraw of £5,000.

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

Fancy making your Christmas shopping go further?

PSVT has partnered with Wirral Spend Independent, a fantastic membership scheme you can join which gives discounts and offers at over 75 local businesses and makers across the borough, from coffee shops to music and entertainment venues. Port Sunlight residents can sign up for a heavily discounted price of just £5 (normally £12) for the year and receive a special Port Sunlight edition of the card featuring an exclusive village design.

What do you get with a Wirral Spend Independent card?

As a Port Sunlight resident, you will enjoy:

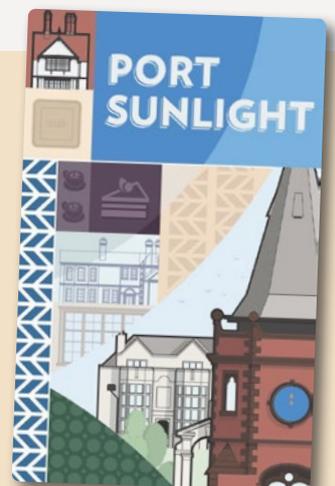
- 10% off in Nettle, Port Sunlight's new café and second-hand bookshop
- Exclusive offers and discounts at dozens of independents across Wirral, with local partners including Blooming Skull Coffee, Wylde Bakery, Snips Movies, Indigo Café, Beau's Kitchen and Well Fit Active

Download the Wirral Spend Independent app to explore all local businesses taking part.

To sign up and collect your residents' Wirral Spend Independent card, visit Port Sunlight Museum's gift shop (open daily, 10am–4.30pm). One card available per household, proof of address will be required to sign up.

Don't miss the special sale event at Port Sunlight Museum's gift shop on 13th December, where residents with a Wirral Spend Independent membership card will enjoy 20% off!

Bring your card or sign up on the day.





SCHOOL OF CREATE FINDS A NEW HOME IN PORT SUNLIGHT

The building previously home to the Boys' Brigade is transforming into a new hub of creativity for everyone to enjoy

Tucked away behind the Lyceum is a building previously known as Sunlight House and the Boys' Brigade Building. The youth organisation departed several years ago and it has been used by the Lyceum Brass Band until earlier this year, when PSVT began the search for a commercial tenant who could breathe new life into it and bring something special to Port Sunlight.

Enter School of Create, a professional training company run by Mandy Meaghan and currently based in Abakhan Liverpool. It is a place to learn a new creative skill, whether it be sewing, art, furniture upcycling, revamping clothes, beginner upholstery and women's DIY programmes. Having delivered creative programmes for over twenty years in Liverpool, the company is now looking to build a new creative life here in Wirral.

What you can expect

School of Create are busy preparing their new space to be filled with colour and joyful experiences, with a plan to open their doors by Christmas. They will be open during daytimes and evenings, including weekend intensives where learners can discover sewing, art, crafts, jewellery design, and painting furniture.

From an art and crafts room and a sewing room to a main hall for bigger events, Port Sunlight's new School of Create will be a hive of activity and events including Sip'n'Sew, Sip'n' Paint, Craft'n'Chat, alongside Sew Social evenings with free soup and Mindful Making.

For children, there will be sewing and arts clubs on Saturdays and after school, and whoever drops the kids off can indulge in some creative joy themselves. Youth programmes will start in the January, beginning with Passion for Fashion aimed at 13-17year olds.

School of Create will offer a range of paid classes as well as free programmes for those that are eligible. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook @schoolofcreate to find out more and get involved.

ARE YOU A COMMEMORATIVE BENCH DONOR?



We are updating our Commemorative Bench Policy and Maintenance Plan with each bench having a public life of 15 years to help us preserve the character and beauty of the village. All current benches are to be reviewed to ensure they are maintained to a safe and reasonable degree and in line with the new policy, which will be available to view on our website or a paper copy can be requested.

We're incredibly grateful for all our donor's support, which has helped us care for the village's benches, monuments, and landscape for generations to enjoy.

If you are a Commemorative Bench Donor and haven't received a letter in regards to this, please let us know you and that you are happy for us to review this bench and conduct any maintenance required if necessary.

If we don't hear from a donor within six months, we will assume responsibility for maintenance and potential redistribution of the bench to new donors.

Plaques will always be retained and stored by PSVT, however, and returned to donors wherever possible. If at any time a bench is considered unserviceable by PSVT it may be removed from use. We will make every effort to contact the original bench donor or family. If you have any questions or would like to chat through the options, please don't hesitate to get in touch by email to m.westcott@portsunlightvillage.com or call 0151 644 4800.

Introducing Cobble and Hay, the new future of the Stables

An exciting new use for Port Sunlight's historic Stables with community at its heart

In spring 2026, Cobble and Hay will open the Stables as a mix of dining, retail and community spaces with an identity inspired by the building's heritage. Cobble and Hay is a new CIC (Community Interest Company) and run by two well-known and experienced businesswomen from Port Sunlight.

You're invited to come along to pizza meet and greet nights in December to see the spaces and meet the owners, as well as Tasting Tuesdays in the new year where you can sample some of the food on offer.

Sign up to Cobble and Hay's mailing list at cobbleandhay.co.uk or using the QR code



below, and follow them on social media @cobbleandhay to stay tuned for a fuller announcement coming at the end of November.

The monthly village market will continue to open in the Stableyard.

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Following a thorough search and some fantastic proposals, I'm delighted that we have been able to find a business who will realise the Stables' potential as a valued part of Port Sunlight's business community, building on the success of the monthly village market. We believe Cobble and Hay's inspiring vision will make a positive impact on everyone who lives, works and visits here, particularly our local community.

MIKE WARD, CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER & CEO DESIGNATE



Be the first to receive updates from Cobble and Hay.



Funding and planning consent allows work to restore Boating Pond to sail ahead

Port Sunlight's much-loved Grade II listed Boating Pond and accompanying Sea Piece fountain have been out of action for five years due to significant structural issues that meant the water in the pond was leaking into the ground beneath.

Following a proposal put forward by Port Sunlight Village Trust earlier this summer (as detailed in the Summer Gazette) to restore the monument and fountain, it has been confirmed that both planning consent and funding have

been secured to complete the project and get water flowing through them again.

Following in-depth technical surveys and research into the Boating Pond, PSVT worked with a highly experienced team of specialists to submit the planning and listed building consent application to carry out the necessary work. Wirral Council have now consented to these proposals, allowing PSVT to sail ahead with the significant works required, which are due to begin very soon and be completed by

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Not only do we have the fabulous news that Wirral Council has given their support to our ambitious and sustainable proposals, but our charity has been able to secure much-needed funding from an external source to carry out the works. Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust's invaluable support will ensure our charitable funds can be spent where they are most needed, all whilst creating a meaningful legacy for the Boating Pond that keeps William Lever's philanthropic vision alive. We're so grateful and we can't wait to see the fountain flowing again in a year's time.

**ANDREW BOWDEN,
CHAIR OF PORT SUNLIGHT
VILLAGE TRUST**

autumn 2026.

PSVT can also announce that a substantial amount of funding has been secured from the Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust.

YOUR 2025 RESIDENT AWARD WINNERS REVEALED

Earlier this autumn, the community came together to celebrate the special green spaces that have been recognised in this year's annual Garden Competition, before Maggie Sparks recognised a new Sunlighter of the Year. We couldn't have asked for a better setting than the wonderful Gladstone Theatre, better entertainment than the incredible Sing the Musicals Choir, or better prizes than what was generously provided by the Garden Centre. Our resident and community engagement officer Emma Clewett even may have found a new career.

Judging took place earlier in the summer by Vicky Smith, who is part of PSVT's hard-working team of gardeners. As always, it was a difficult decision, but here are the results:

BEST ALLOTMENT

Winner: Community Allotment
Runner up: Christine Sisson
Highly commended: Eddie Flynn

BEST COMMUNITY GARDEN

Winner: Osborne Court
Runner up: 43-47 Corniche Road
Highly commended: Hesketh Hall

BEST OVERALL DISPLAY

Winner: John & Muriel Spencer
Runner up: Jean Taylor
Highly commended: Donna & Martyn Doyle,
Beverly Kelly & Greg Martin

BEST HANGING BASKET

Winner: Glen Penn
Runner up: Dale Scott
Highly commended: Linda & Neil Pedersen

BEST FRONT BORDER / CONTAINER

Winner: Harry Koffman
Runner up: Peter James
Highly commended: Valerie Paterson

MAGGIE SPARKS SUNLIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Individual Winner: Alastair Jones
Group Winner: Hesketh Hub
Nominees: John Spilletts, Dave Lay,
Marilyn Allen, Bala Croman, Helen Parkinson,
Community and Heritage Homes
Advisory Groups



YOUR Port Sunlight

It's time to celebrate another individual who is making a positive impact on Port Sunlight's community, and in this issue, we're taking the opportunity to hand over to our new Sunlighter of the Year, Alastair Jones.

ALASTAIR JONES... *on helping make Port Sunlight litter-free*

I was a steward at Christ Church on the afternoons for about seven years. I retired two years ago so I got more involved with the Church, and I'm an elder now. Alongside this, I decided to start picking up litter because I didn't like walking around the village and seeing it. I've been doing that for two years now. We get lots of coaches in the village and I don't think they should see litter. It's a beautiful village and living in it is great, it doesn't deserve any rubbish. So, I thought I'd pick it up. It gives me something to do and gets me out of the house.

Would you or someone you know like to feature in our next Your Port Sunlight column? Get in touch with your story.



Bowling with heritage

Earlier this summer, the Port Sunlight Ladies Bowling team held their annual competition, which awards the winner with a special cup named in honour of residents John and Ann Shedden's mother. This year's winner was Kathy Cavanagh, and John and Ann were delighted to present the cup, which they have been doing since 1997. The runner-up was Penny McDonald.

COULD YOU BE A GOVERNOR AT CHURCH DRIVE PRIMARY SCHOOL?

Do you care about education and want to help young people in your community reach their full potential? Church Drive Primary School is looking for enthusiastic and committed Community Governors to join the Local Governing Committee.

As a Co-opted Governor, you'll help to:

- ◆ Be a part of the future direction of the school.
- ◆ Support and challenge school leaders to develop the best outcomes for pupils
- ◆ Ensure the school remains a safe, inclusive, and inspiring place to learn.
- ◆ Share your perspective as a member of our community.

You don't need to be an education expert – just someone who's willing to listen, ask questions, and make thoughtful contributions. The time commitment is four meetings per annum, and full training and support are provided through Oak Trees Multi-Academy Trust, so you can grow skills and confidence in the role. Becoming a Governor is a rewarding volunteer opportunity that lets you make a real impact.

You'll gain valuable experience in leadership and governance while helping our local children to achieve, thrive and belong.

Find out more or apply today by contacting headteacher@churchdrive.wirral.sch.uk or visiting Oak Trees Multi-Academy Trust's website.

COMMUNITY SUCCESSES

The **Community Allotment** raised a whopping £100 at the Sugar & Spice Festival, which will go back into growing its future. They are also pleased to announce the winning name for 'Name the Witch' was 'Miss Cackle'. They hope to continue this competition with a 'Name the Scarecrow' next summer, so stay tuned.



Congratulations to **The Icebreakers** who hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning at The Bridge Inn in October. The group raised more than £300 for the charity! Well done to all involved, particularly Doris for all your hard work.



Singing Café goes from strength to strength

The Singing Café is a musical event hosted by PSVT in collaboration with Home Instead and Involve Northwest for members of the community to come together, sing songs from 1950s-1980s, and enjoy lovely homemade refreshments. Musical entertainment is provided by local musicians who give their time and talent on a voluntary basis.

Since launching nearly a year ago, Port Sunlight's Singing Café has quickly become a community staple with dozens of people of all ages enjoying each event. It's thanks to the support of Home Instead that this event can happen completely free of charge.

Fancy coming along?

The Singing Café takes place every first and third Wednesday of the month, 10.30am-12pm at the Bridge Inn.

Explore the Port Sunlight gingerbread model village

The Community Development Advisory Group have been delighted with the response from residents and local businesses to get involved with the Gingerbread Village.

We're expecting over 70 houses to be decorated!

Lesley and Helen from the group who are organising the event said: "We are so pleased that people of all ages are getting involved in this project and we are really looking forward to seeing all the houses displayed and people being proud of what they have created. They will all be different and it is all of us working together that makes our village such a special place."

Visit the Port Sunlight Gingerbread Village at Port Sunlight Museum on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December between 11am and 3pm. Entry is free and everyone is welcome to take part and vote.

There will be three awards:

- ◆ Best House decorated by children
- ◆ Best House decorated by an adult
- ◆ Best House voted by the public who visit the exhibition

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



Harkgate | **CHOWS**
Fish & Chips | STREET FOOD

FISH FRIDAYS
AT PORT SUNLIGHT

FISH & CHIPS

Harkgate Fish & Chips | CHOWS EATING HOUSE

CORPORATE, EVENTS, WEDDINGS, PARTIES

AWARD WINNING FISH & CHIPS

First Friday of every month, 5-8pm
Village Green
(opposite Port Sunlight Museum)



SING
THE MUSICALS

WIRRAL'S FUN, FRIENDLY MUSICAL THEATRE CHOIR

BRAND NEW DAYTIME CHOIR OPENING

Wednesday 7.30-9pm
Thursday 10.30-12pm
Thursday 7.30-9pm

Email to book a free taster

The Bolton Room, The Bridge Inn,
Bolton Road, Port Sunlight,
Wirral CH62 4UQ

www.singthemusicalschoir.co.uk
info@singthemusicalschoir.co.uk

Facebook: Sing The Musicals Choir | Instagram: @singthemusicals.choir

Stocking filler inspiration

Are you looking for something a little bit different this year? The team at Port Sunlight Museum's gift shop have put together a lovely selection of stocking filler ideas to help you find that special gift, with lots of choices under £15.

From Christmas soaps and hand creams to beautiful decorations, tea towels, toys and socks and our very own Port Sunlight 2026 calendar, your stockings might just be a little fuller than usual this year. Remember, Port Sunlight residents enjoy 10% off with a valid residents card.

Don't forget the special sale event on 13th December, where residents with a Wirral Spend Independent membership card will enjoy 20% off!



DISCOVER THE NEW PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE PANTRY

There is often a strong demand from many visitors to the village to take home a little piece of Port Sunlight, a special treat which reminds them of their memorable trip here. To satisfy this demand and explore new ways to increase income for Port Sunlight Village Trust's important work, the team at Port Sunlight Museum's gift shop sought the help of Deborah Nicholl-Timmins, Creative Director at Ideaz-Inc. Deborah was enthralled with the village and together with our Retail Buyer Jan discussed how creating new packaged goods could capture its special essence.

Deborah's love of watercolour painting resulted in a number of visits to Port Sunlight over the summer months, where she used her artistic talents to depict some of our iconic buildings, from the Lyceum to some of the village's most distinctive cottages, to produce a delightful series of illustrations.

These scenes have been developed into new Port Sunlight branded packaging for an exciting new range of products including biscuits, fudge, tea, hot chocolate, chutneys, jams plus a range old fashioned sweets.

Together, these items make up the new Port Sunlight Village Pantry range. Each one could make the perfect gift to treat yourself or a loved one to. Port Sunlight Museum's gift shop is open daily, 10am-4.30pm, so stop by soon to have a browse.



We had a lot of fun developing the packaging, creating a range of colours which co-ordinated well together but also differentiated each choice for customers. We added a sun logo to represent the village as the sun always (well, almost always) shines on Port Sunlight. We have exciting plans to develop further products in this range, so watch this space but in the meantime pop into the museum shop and choose your favourite.

JAN ARDITTI, RETAIL BUYER



Katie Tyson Christmas Tea Towels, £14*



Christmas Soaps, £3.25-£7.25

*Discounts do not apply to Katie Tyson products



Christmas Hand Cream, £8.95



Christmas Pudding Decoration, £6.95



Socks, £7.75



Mistletoe Decoration, £24



Christmas Card Packs, £7.50



Magical Winter Kaleidoscope, £5.00

Port Sunlight 2026 Calendar, £7.95



What's
On

WHAT'S ON IN PORT SUNLIGHT THIS WINTER

Margaret Calvert,
Women at Work, 2018



WOMEN AT WORK: UNILEVER CONTEMPORARY ART COLLECTION

The Gallery at Bridge Cottage • 22 November – 22 March

Port Sunlight's newest exhibition is a presentation of work by women artists from the Unilever Contemporary Art Collection. This is a unique opportunity for the general public to see work from a collection which is normally displayed in Unilever's offices across the UK, including paintings and prints by Bridget Riley, Lisa Milroy and Margaret Calvert.

The exhibition will be open Wednesday–Saturday, 11am–3pm. Entry is free, with donations to Port Sunlight Village Trust welcome.

PORT SUNLIGHT HAUNTED HUNT

Friday 28th November, 6pm & 8pm • £20 each

Step inside the haunted walls of Bridge Cottage and the Old School Room after dark with our expert paranormal host, who will help you explore the eerie hallways and connect to the unknown using ghost-hunting equipment. 18+ only.

PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sunday 7th December, 9am–4pm
The Stables (by the Gladstone Theatre)

Explore a special festive edition of the monthly village market with dozens of artisan stalls selling 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, plus lots of locally made crafts and gifts too. The Village Market will then continue to run on the first Sunday of each month, 9am–1pm.

FESTIVE SOAP MAKING, SHAMPOO BAR AND SALTS WORKSHOP

Wednesday 10th December, 6.30pm • £20 each

Get cosy this festive season with your very own hygge hamper in our merry soap making, shampoo bar and bath salts workshop.



STORYTELLING AND CRAFTS WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS

Saturday 6th December, 9.30am, 11.15am, 1.30pm, 3.15pm
£10 per child

Father Christmas is taking time out of his busy schedule to visit Port Sunlight for another year of storytelling and Christmas crafts. Story themed gift included.

COSTUMED CHRISTMASTIDE TOUR

Saturday 13th December, 1.30pm • £12 adult, £10 concession, £6 child

Journey back in time to a Port Sunlight Christmastide and join our costumed guide as she takes leads you on a merry family-friendly adventure through time. Discover festive tales from Port Sunlight's past and meet the characters behind them.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH THE LYCEUM BRASS BAND

Christmas Eve, 3.30pm

Port Sunlight's favourite festive tradition. Wrap up warm and come together as a community to enjoy Christmas carols by the Boating Pond. Mule Kick Coffee will be selling hot drinks and light snacks.

CELEBRATING THE GLADSTONE PLAQUE AND THEATRE

January 2026, dates TBC

Celebrating the restoration and installation of the Gladstone Theatre's plaque we're excited to welcome you to a free, interactive historical talk by our Heritage Conservation Manager exploring the rich history of the building alongside interactive drama activities bringing history to life.

There will also be a free drama workshop aimed at children and young people.

Check portsunlightvillage.com/whats-on for details coming soon.



Shakespeare Cottages, Port Sunlight.

PORT SUNLIGHT'S LOST BUILDINGS TOUR

Monday 5th January, 1pm • £15 adult, £10 concessions, £6 child

From the village's very own replica of Shakespeare's Birthplace to outdoor recreational spaces including an auditorium and swimming pool, join us on this hour-long tour to hear their fascinating stories of Port Sunlight's lost buildings.

VALENTINE'S DAY SOAP MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday 14th February, £20 each

Whether it's a crafty date night or a Pal-entines day with your besties, this melt and pour soap making workshop will allow you to make two of your very own handmade bars with customised scents, dyes and ingredients. Tickets on sale soon.

SUNLIGHT SOAP CHALLENGE EXHIBITION

19th – 21st February

Step into the world of science this February half term as SoapWorks is transformed by The Sunlight Soap Challenge – a vibrant and exciting pop-up exhibition designed and curated by local high school students as part of a months-long battle of the suds to create a winning new soap design. Discover how the students have reimaged and designed their own soap creations inspired by the village's history and Sunlight Soap through art, design and innovation.

PROFESSOR SUDS' SOAPY SCIENCE FUN

Thursday 19th February, 10am & 11.30am • £6 each

Professor Suds returns to ask for young scientists' help to create a new crowd-pleasing soap. Are you up for the challenge? Budding scientists will have the opportunity to watch and take part in fun experiments and create their very own soap to take home.

FIRST SOD CUT LANDSCAPE TOUR & WORKSHOP

Tuesday 3rd March, 1pm • £20 each

Mark the cutting of the first sod and founding of the village in 1888 by joining us on our landscape tour and planting workshop. Discover how landscape has changed over time in Port Sunlight and find out more about the hard working team behind keeping the gardens and greens culminating in a sit down planting activity that you can take home.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! INTERNATIONAL BEATLEWEEK IS RETURNING TO PORT SUNLIGHT

International Beatleweek, organised by the Cavern Club, brings fans and artists from all over the world to Merseyside to enjoy live music celebrating the Fab Four. As the place where Ringo Starr first performed as part of the band on 18th August 1962, this spectacular festival is set to return to Port Sunlight in August 2026 (dates TBC) after the fantastic turnout the event received this summer.

Look out for more details coming in 2026 and learn more about the festival at internationalbeatleweek.com

WHAT'S ON AT HULME HALL

Hulme Hall's popular programme of markets and fairs continues this winter with Christmas markets on 23rd November and 13th December; flea markets on 7th December, 4th January and 1st February; and antique & vintage fairs on 18th January and 15th February. All events are open between 9.30am-2pm.

You can also visit Hulme Hall's café for lunches or a coffee and cake, open daily. For more information about what's on, go to hulmehall.com

WHAT'S ON AT THE GLADSTONE THEATRE

Nativity! The Musical presented by the Port Sunlight Players
27th–29th November

Father Christmas Comes Up Trumps
30th November

Peter Pan (pantomime)
6th-31st December

It's a Wonderful Life Cinema Club
11th December

Beauty and the Beast
8th-11th January

Emilio Santoro as Elvis
17th January

Celine – My Heart Will Go On
31st January

Nashville Live
6th February

Twist & Shout – The Ultimate 60s Show
7th February

Tony Christie – The Farewell Tour 'Up Close & Unplugged'
13th February

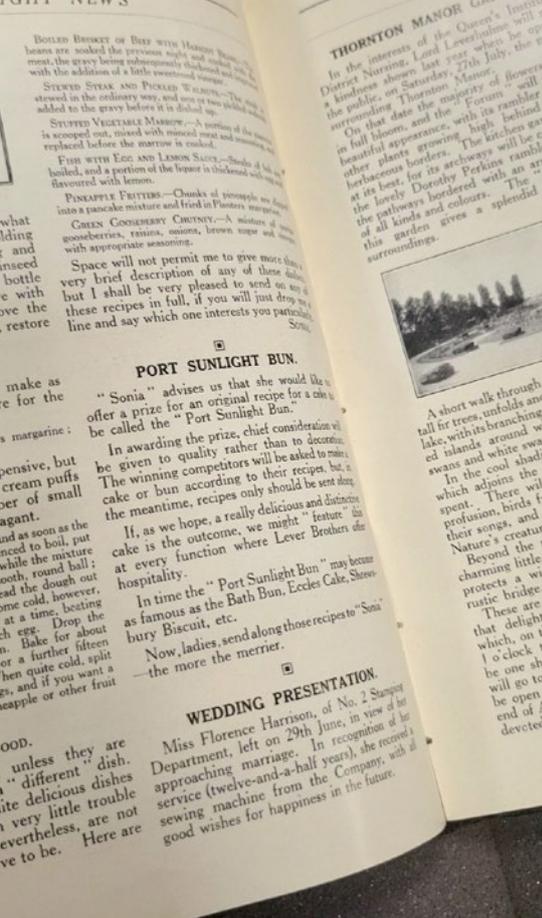
Legally Blonde
19th-21st February

Nearly Elton
27th February

Reflections – The Musical Legacy of Diana Ross
28th February

Book tickets via The Gladstone Theatre Box Office on 0151 643 8757 or at gladstonetheatre.org.uk





Rediscovering the Port Sunlight Bun

A forgotten 96-year-old cake recipe, once conceived to rival the iconic Eccles cake and other regional bakes, has been unearthed and recreated in the historic village it was named after.

The Port Sunlight Bun, a recipe written in 1929, was an idea originally published in the Port Sunlight News, a magazine for workers at the Lever Brothers' factory. Published within the 'Ladies' Page', the article asked for entries to a baking competition to find a rival to Lancashire's Eccles cake, to be called the Port Sunlight Bun. The eventual winner was a factory worker, known as Miss Lee.

An original printed copy of recipe was recently unearthed by Port Sunlight Village Trust's Heritage team, and now Miss Lee's winning recipe has been baked back to life by Port Sunlight's popular 'new' café Nettle.

Claire Bates, Audience Development Officer at Port Sunlight Village Trust, said: "From reading the magazine, it appears the baking competition was really popular amongst the

factory's workers, with lots of local ladies taking part. When we discovered Miss Lee's winning recipe, we knew we had to bring the cake to life in 2025 and give visitors to the village a little slice of life here from back in 1929. We gave visitors on our recent 'foodie tour' as part of the autumn Sugar & Spice Festival an exclusive first taste of the bun, and it was a big thumbs up all round."

"We've been having so much fun perfecting Miss Lee's winning recipe here in Nettle," the café's founder Julia Strelczuk said. "Her version of the Port Sunlight Bun resembles a traditional scone, with a crumbly texture. Her recipe included a lot of lard – not something you find a lot of today, but we've worked really hard to keep the recipe and method as authentic as possible. It's the perfect accompaniment to a cup of English Breakfast

tea and we hope it will take visitors on a culinary journey back in time, sampling a Port Sunlight Bun, surrounded by the beautiful backdrop of this historic village."

The Port Sunlight Bun is now on the menu at Nettle Café, open Wednesday–Sunday.



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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