

PORT SUNLIGHT

GAZETTE

ISSUE NO. 44 - SUMMER 2026



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SUNLIGHT**
VILLAGE TRUST

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A WELCOME FROM MIKE WARD

CEO OF PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE TRUST

Hello and welcome to this summer 2026 issue of the Port Sunlight Gazette. It is a genuine privilege and honour to be writing my very first introduction to this magazine as CEO of Port Sunlight Village Trust, which is a role I have taken on with enormous enthusiasm.

Thankfully, having been part of the organisation's leadership team since 2024, it has been a relatively simple transition. I've been doing everything I can to learn and meet the people that make this village both what it is today and what it could be in the future. That has included residents of course, and I was delighted to see some new and familiar faces at my first residents meeting as CEO back in April. I've also been meeting with important stakeholders, from Unilever and National Museums Liverpool to our MP Justin Madders and local councillors Keiran Murphy, Jo Bird and Ruth Molyneux. The widely shared passion for this community and heritage site is a real asset that we need to build on.

It's been a positive start to the summer not only for myself personally, but for the village. In case you had somehow missed the hoardings, work has begun on bringing the Boating Pond back to life and I've been so impressed to see the progress that is being made. I hope the huge scale of the work involved gives everyone a sense of the equally huge amount of work our team has been putting into this project over the past few years. We've had some generous funding to make it happen, but we still need more support – if you (like us) want to see this village thrive for many more generations to come, please do consider donating or supporting us in other ways. Go to our website – portsunlightvillage.com – for more information.

There's plenty to look forward to this summer. The full opening of Cobble & Hay, a brilliant C.I.C., cafe and retail space that has transformed the Stables – a final step in the work I started back in 2024 to welcome new businesses to the village. Make sure to pop into Cobble & Hay for a coffee, cake or lunch soon! International Beatleweek returns to the village on 29 August, giving us all a chance to celebrate live music and the village's historic links to the Fab Four. Inspiring initiatives are also popping up across our community, from composting schemes to heritage and planting projects, all powered by our resident advisory groups. And that's just to name a few.

Have a question or suggestion? You are welcome to email me at m.ward@portsunlightvillage.com. In the meantime, from myself and on behalf of everyone at Port Sunlight Village Trust, I wish you a wonderful summer in this special village.

Mike Ward,
CEO, Port Sunlight Village Trust

WE'RE BRINGING BACK THE BOATING POND. CAN YOU HELP?

Our once-in-a-generation project to renew the Boating Pond is underway and by early autumn, the sight of the fountain flowing will be enjoyed by the community and visitors again. We've had generous funding from the Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust to make this work possible, but we still need more support. Here are five ways you can do your bit for Port Sunlight's future generations:

Make a donation

From £5 to £50, a one-off or regular donation to Port Sunlight Village Trust will help us not only get the water flowing again but maintain and protect this Grade II listed monument for many years to come. Thank you.

Donate a duck

Give your support to the project by taking part in our 'Donate a duck' interactive giving platform – simply click anywhere on the pond, choose the donation amount and add a personal message if you wish, and add your rubber duck to the raft (that's the collective noun for a group of ducks, if you didn't know).

Display your support

Emma Rodgers, acclaimed sculptor and resident artist at Port Sunlight's Old Fire Station, has designed a range of beautiful village-themed decorations including one featuring the Sea Piece fountain. Each decoration is hand-finished. Purchase from Port Sunlight Museum or online to support our project.

Play the Port Sunlight Lottery

Playing the Port Sunlight Lottery for just £2 per week is a fun and easy way to support our work. You'll be in with the chance of winning weekly cash prizes of up to £1,000, plus monthly gift hampers and quarterly superdraws of £5,000 or £10,000. Sign up now online or pick up a leaflet from Port Sunlight Museum.

Get involved with JustGiving

Our JustGiving campaign gives you the ability to make individual donations and rally behind our cause with your own fundraisers, helping us to continue protecting the Boating Pond for future generations to enjoy. If you have any fundraising ideas or plans, please contact us so we can give our full support.



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
[PORTSUNLIGHTVILLAGE.COM](https://portsunlightvillage.com)
TO SUPPORT TODAY



MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

We are delighted to welcome three new trustees to Port Sunlight Village Trust's Board – Aneesha Ray, Kate Johnson and Gemma Humphray – bringing a wealth of expertise in regeneration, heritage and placemaking to help shape the future of the village. To celebrate, here is a chance to get to know them.



ANEESHA RAY

Aneesha Ray

Aneesha Ray is an experienced town planning and regeneration professional with a wide range of experience across placemaking, development, regeneration and planning. Aneesha was recently Regeneration Manager at Liverpool City Council with a strong focus on delivering regeneration schemes on brownfield sites, and is now Equality and Anti-Racism Delivery Lead.

In addition to her passion for placemaking, Aneesha is Chair of Liverpool City Council's Race Equality Network and actively supports diversity in the workplace.

What inspired you to become a trustee at Port Sunlight Village Trust?

"Becoming a charity trustee is something I've been interested in for a long time. I've worked in public service for over ten years and am a strong believer in the value of the charity sector. When the opportunity came up to join Port Sunlight Village Trust, I was really inspired by the chance to be involved in caring for and shaping one of the UK's most significant heritage sites. Port Sunlight really is a special and unique place."

What does Port Sunlight mean to you?

"For me, it's a brilliant example of placemaking – a sustainable, cohesive community that has stood the test of time."

What most excites you about what PSVT is working on currently?

"The energy-efficiency improvements to tenanted properties. It's great to see work that looks after historic buildings while also tackling climate change and helping future-proof homes."

Any interests or hobbies outside of work?

"Singing – it makes me happy!"

Kate Johnson

Kate is a heritage leader with expertise in strategy, operations, and community engagement. She began her career in arts and heritage education and developed a strong belief in the power of museums and heritage to inspire curiosity, belonging, and understanding.

Over 20 years at National Museums Liverpool, she led teams, shaped strategy, and delivered major projects, including capital developments at the Museum of Liverpool.

Today, as CEO of Sefton Park Palm House Preservation Trust, she leads organisational transformation, strengthening governance and the prioritisation of community and commercial opportunities that bring maximum benefit for people, plants and place.

She champions collaborative, people-centred leadership and the power of heritage to bring communities together.

What inspired you to become a trustee at Port Sunlight Village Trust?

"I first came across William Hesketh Lever and the story the



KATE JOHNSON

industrial village of Port Sunlight during my undergraduate degree, followed by many very enjoyable years spent in part at the Lady Lever Art Gallery, working to develop and deliver educational programming for schools, early years and adults. I am delighted to reconnect with Port Sunlight, by contributing to the governance of the Village Trust, working alongside the other trustees and operational teams."

How do you hope to contribute to our mission and vision?

"I hope I can help to support the ambition of connecting people to and making relevant the unique heritage of Port Sunlight."

Which of Port Sunlight Village Trust's values most speaks to you?

"Collaborative – as this resonates with my personal leadership style but taking this approach is also crucial to working with communities, residents and stakeholders."

Any interests or hobbies outside of working/volunteering?

"I am picking back up a previous hobby of running – so I hope to make the Port Sunlight 10k in the not too distant future."



GEMMA HUMPHRAY

Gemma Humphray

Gemma currently works for St Helens Borough Council, delivering heritage-led regeneration projects across the borough. Beginning her career in architecture, she transitioned to the heritage sector where she discovered her true passion for the built environment. She is motivated to connect people to their heritage through place-based initiatives, ensuring that built heritage remains accessible, relevant and engaging for everyone.

How do you hope to contribute to our mission and vision?

"I hope to leverage my professional experience in heritage-led regeneration to support the Trust's strategic vision. By focusing on place-based accessibility, I hope to ensure that our heritage is inclusive and that the village continues to offer a high-quality experience for both residents and visitors."

What does Port Sunlight mean to you?

"Port Sunlight is a vital piece of England's national heritage and a case study in early urban planning. As an undergraduate student of architecture, I frequently visited the village to sketch its buildings and study its composition. These visits were instrumental in fostering my love for built heritage, and it is a privilege to now support the village in this capacity."

Which of Port Sunlight Village Trust's values most speaks to you?

"Collaboration. I believe that the best outcomes for all stakeholders are achieved when we work together as a collective. By ensuring that every voice is heard, we can effectively pool our expertise and passion to make the magic of Port Sunlight accessible to all."

What most excites you about what PSVT is working on currently?

"I am particularly excited by the delivery of the current Strategic Plan, especially the key capital projects like the Lyceum and the Boating Pond. I am eager to help unlock the potential of these assets to ensure they remain vibrant, central features of the village for years to come."



A NEW CHAPTER:
INTRODUCING
MIKE WARD
 AS CEO

Port Sunlight Village Trust is delighted to have welcomed Mike Ward as our new Chief Executive earlier this spring, taking over from Paul Harris who retired in March after more than a decade of leadership.

Mike brings significant experience in heritage and strategic leadership to the role, having joined the Trust as Chief Commercial Officer & Deputy CEO in spring 2024. Prior to that, he had a varied career spanning large organisations including Manchester Airport Group and Transport for London, alongside trustee roles at Tatton Park and the Silk Museum in Macclesfield. Mike welcomes all residents to get in touch by email to m.ward@portsunlightvillage.com with any questions or ideas.

A role built on strong foundations

Mike has spoken warmly of the legacy left by Paul Harris and of the strength of the team he is now leading. "I feel incredibly lucky," he says. "The work that Paul and the team have done over the last decade means I'm coming into an organisation with a very clear sense of purpose and direction. My job is to build on that and to keep pushing forward."

During his first two months, Mike has been busy speaking to residents at the residents meeting, engaging with important stakeholders from Unilever and Wirral Council to local councillors and MPs, and even judging at the Wheels Through Time Classic Car Show. "Being in the community is essential for me so that I can be the strong voice Port Sunlight Village Trust needs to grow support for this special village."

Vision for the future

Mike is clear that the current three-year strategic plan provides the roadmap for his priorities. Key areas include the work on renewing the Boating Pond, furthering plans for a reimagined Lyceum, growing investment in housing and landscape, and deepening Port Sunlight Village Trust's engagement with residents and visitors.

Mike is also keen to build on the growing creative and cultural life of the village that he spearheaded through bringing in commercial tenants to bring some of Port Sunlight's buildings back to life. "What's happening with the Old Fire Station Collective, at Cobble & Hay, at Nettle, and at School of Create is so exciting," he says. "Port Sunlight has always been a place that brings people together and that's something I want to nurture."

Getting involved

Mike warmly encourages residents and friends of Port Sunlight to engage with the work the Trust is doing, from reading the Gazette and attending events to coming along to resident meetings and engaging with our advisory groups. "We're lucky to have the thriving community we do and that is so essential to achieving Port Sunlight Village Trust's mission," he says, "which is to keep Port Sunlight relevant, working with residents and partners to tell stories, care for historic collections, buildings, and landscapes, and create an inviting place for people to live, work and visit."

MIKE WITH PREVIOUS CEO PAUL HARRIS



MEETING OUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS



SHOWING JUSTIN MADDERS MP OUR WORK ON THE BOATING POND

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS VOLUNTEERS' WEEK 2026

As part of Volunteers' Week 2026, we gave a huge thank you to the incredible people who give their time, energy and passion to Port Sunlight. So far this year, volunteers have contributed over 1,000 hours of their time!

Our volunteers play a vital role across so many areas of village life – from supporting exhibitions and leading walking tours, to bringing history to life in the Workers' Cottage, helping develop our archive, and supporting events, learning programmes, landscape work and community activities.

Quite simply, we couldn't do what we do or care for this special village without them.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, we'd love to hear from you. Volunteering is a great way to meet people, learn new skills and be part of something meaningful.

Find out more at portsunlightvillage.com, email volunteering@portsunlightvillage.com or call 0151 644 4800.



COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME

Port Sunlight residents are invited to get involved in a new Community Composting Scheme. You may have noticed three new compost bins recently installed in the rear access area between Bebington Road and Primrose Hill. They are part of a project run by Merseyside-based charity Compost Works, and it's completely free to take part.

By signing up to the scheme, you'll receive:

- A handy kitchen caddy for your raw food waste
- Access to the locked and pest-proof compost bins
- Invitations to community events where you can learn more about composting
- In around a year's time, some free compost to use in your garden.

While Wirral Council will be introducing a food waste collection service from July, this scheme is a great opportunity to keep things local, reduce waste and help create something useful for the community. And as a bonus, you get free compost at the end of it. To sign up, email l.english@portsunlightvillage.com or call 0151 644 4800.

TRANSFORMING BOUNDARY ROAD GREEN

You may have seen the recent work completed by some of our brilliant Landscape Volunteers in the green space on Boundary Road. Lots more work still needs to be done behind the scenes, developing plans and exploring funding opportunities to turn this into a more beautiful space for the community to enjoy.

If you would like to get involved in any capacity, please email l.english@portsunlightvillage.com



BOUNDARY ROAD GREEN

HELP CELEBRATE PORT SUNLIGHT STATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday 15 July, 2–3.30pm | Port Sunlight Museum
Calling all train enthusiasts! Come along to join a new working group to plan how the community can celebrate next year's 100th anniversary of Port Sunlight station opening to general passengers. All welcome, just turn up.



COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

BOATING POND ARCHIVE DROP-IN

Tuesday 21 July, 3–5pm | Port Sunlight Museum
The Heritage Advisory Group are encouraging residents and visitors to bring along their images and memories of the Boating Pond to help develop our archives. We are looking forward to seeing your pictures and hearing your tales. Whether you have a family snapshot, a vivid memory of toy boats on the water, or simply want to find out more about the restoration project, do come along. Everyone is welcome.

RESIDENTS AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

Tuesday 22 September, 7pm | Gladstone Theatre
Save the date for this year's Residents Awards Ceremony, celebrating the individuals and groups who make Port Sunlight such a special place to live. This year's awards will once again recognise the best-kept gardens in the village as well as our Sunlighter of the Year.

Full details and nomination information will be shared closer to the date – watch Port Sunlight Village Trust's social media channels and website for more information.

COULD YOUR HOME BE THE NEXT FILM LOCATION?

The setting of everyday life in Port Sunlight is exactly what film and TV productions are looking for. From distinctive period features to quiet surroundings, the village offers an authenticity that is difficult to recreate on set.

Port Sunlight has already featured in Peaky Blinders, Midas Man and Tolkien, and demand for locations like this continues to grow.

The village has also hosted programmes such as Michael Portillo's Great British Railway Journeys, Antiques Roadshow, Flog It!, Songs of Praise and Grand Designs: The Streets. With over 900 Grade II listed buildings, the village offers an exceptional variety of historic settings. Iconic locations such as Bridge Cottage, Hulme Hall and the Lyceum have provided remarkable backdrops for previous productions.

If you live in the village, registering your property on a film database could give production crews access to your unique home, making it a potential location for TV and film projects.

Why register your property?

- Be part of film and TV productions
- Earn additional income through location fees
- Support the local community
- Showcase your home

How does it work?

The village's filming is managed in partnership with Liverpool Film Office, with many residents already having registered their homes on their online location database. You can simply register your property, upload a few photos, and production teams will contact you if your home is suitable.

To register your location for filming, visit liverpoolfilmoffice.tv/locations



POET'S CORNER

In this issue's Poet's Corner, our village poet Fliss Bardwell celebrates the current May Morris exhibition at the Lady Lever Art Gallery – shining a light on the remarkable artistic legacy of William Morris's daughter, who ran the family firm and championed women's rights at a time when her talents were all too easily overlooked.

MAY BLOSSOMS

By village poet, Fliss Bardwell

The name William Morris is known across the land
Linked with the Arts and Crafts mode, they go hand in hand.
Twining leaves, flowers and fruits, they typify his style,
Subtly coloured, rich, with delicacy, guile

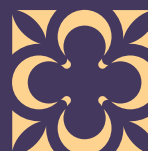
But at Lady Lever now a special display
Showcases the Morris art really done by May,
His younger daughter, overshadowed by her Dad,
Rarely given credit for the great skills she had.

History's bias towards men caused this woeful glitch –
Few realised May was such a doyenne of the stitch,
As well as dreaming up fine papers for the wall,
Attributed to Pa, she got no praise at all!

Honeysuckle, poppies, leaves, lovely garden blooms
Heartsease, roses, hedgerow flowers, adorn May's rooms.
Embroidered dresses, bags, hats, all were quite the rage
When May ran the Morris firm at such a tender age.

Use and beauty she held dear and in female rights
May was a pioneer, among the leading lights.
So very apt it is that now she's being feted
In Sunlight, where women's work is celebrated.

As May found it sad to be ignored by the world –
Bravo Lady Lever – her gifts are now unfurled!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM PORT SUNLIGHT MUSEUM'S GIFT SHOP THIS SUMMER

Our shop at Port Sunlight Museum is open daily, 10am–4.30pm, and is filled with gifts, homeware, books, cards, soaps and so much more. Every purchase supports Port Sunlight Village Trust's work – and don't forget to bring your residents card or Wirral Spend Independent card to enjoy 10% off.



Katie Tyson x Port Sunlight 2027 Calendar

Village artist and illustrator Katie Tyson has collaborated with Port Sunlight Museum's gift shop to create a special calendar for 2027. Filled with a curated selection of Katie's beautiful and colourful watercolour illustrations, the calendar is a perfect gift for yourself or a loved one. You'll be glad to have it on your wall when 2027 comes around.

Summer cleaning

Whether your thing is gardening, tinkering in the shed or you're simply houseproud, we have just the thing. Check out our three new ranges from The Workshop, The Gardener's Collection and The Scullery – perfect for the job in hand. You'll find wood and metal waxes, gardener's soaps with an essential quality barrier creams and hand repair wax. Pop in and check out our range of hardworking home essentials.

Beatles range

What's your favourite Beatles song? Well, here comes the sun – quite literally. Our new Beatles range is proving very popular this summer. Inspired by the Fab Four's most famous albums and iconography, the range includes tote bags, pin badges, ceramic coasters and notebooks, plus a classic Beatles mug for your morning cuppa. With the International Beatleweek event returning to Port Sunlight on 29 August, it's the perfect time for a bit of Beatlemania.

Nature-inspired ceramics by Kate Heiss

Relax into summer with our latest nature-inspired ceramics by Kate Heiss. A British printmaker, Kate is inspired by her love of nature and handmakes her designs from her garden workshop. Her pretty colours complement our Arts & Crafts range, which features the classic designs of William Morris and Charles Voysey. Choose from woven blankets, zip bags and trinket dishes, or magnets, mugs and vases.

TURN YOUR TREASURED PORT SUNLIGHT MEMORIES INTO GIFTS OF SUPPORT

From first dates to first homes, proposals or goodbyes, Port Sunlight has been there for countless special memories.

The village's picturesque environment, from formal tree-lined avenues to natural sunken gardens, is the perfect setting for your very own commemoration. Sometimes people like to buy a physical memorial to remember a loved one or cherished memory. Port Sunlight Village Trust has recently refreshed the opportunities we can offer you, working with you to choose something which meets everyone's wishes and to make sure we work together to care for our historic village for generations to come.

OUR COMMEMORATIVE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

£15 could buy a bug house in a chosen location for one year so insects have somewhere to call home. For **£30** you would also receive a bug house to take home to "twin" with the one in Port Sunlight.

£25 could buy a bird box in a chosen location for one year so birds have somewhere to nest. For **£40** you would also receive a bird box to take home to "twin" with the one in Port Sunlight.

£250 could buy a dedicated plaque on an existing Port Sunlight bench for 5 years. Longer time periods are available for commemorative plaques at additional costs.

£1,000 could sponsor a flowerbed or chosen area of the village for one year. Flowerbeds and areas dependent on availability and in agreement with our Landscape team.

£2,000/£2,500 could provide a dedicated bench in a chosen location in Port Sunlight for 10 years. Commemorative bench price is location dependent.

What will you receive?

You will receive a named certificate of thanks in accordance with agreed upon wording and your name recorded in a thank you book in our museum shop.

Where possible, you will be invited to visit your commemoration with a member of the Port Sunlight Village Trust team and learn how you are helping support the village. These are not only wonderful symbols of celebration, recognition or remembrance, but also contribute positively to the contemporary character and biodiversity of our historic village.

Get in touch today

If you would like to discuss one of our commemorative giving opportunities for yourself or for loved ones, please contact us by email to admin@portsunlightvillage.com, call 0151 644 4800 or visit portsunlightvillage.com/commemorative-giving

WHAT'S ON
THIS SUMMER
IN PORT SUNLIGHT

Book tickets at
portsunlightvillage.com/whats-on



**BEHIND THE EYE: A SELECTION
OF WORKS BY ANTHONY BROWN**

Behind the Eye: A selection of works by Anthony Brown
The Gallery at Bridge Cottage | Until 29 August
Bridge Cottage's latest exhibition features a range of mixed media portraits by Liverpool based artist Anthony Brown, celebrating individuals who have had an impact on his life and Liverpool City Region.

The exhibition is open Wednesday – Saturday, 11am–3pm. Entry is free, with donations to support Bridge Cottage welcome.

Adult Sensory Bags

Port Sunlight Museum has launched two new sensory bags designed for adults, designed to support accessibility and comfort in our museum spaces. The bags contain a range of resources to support engagement with the Port Sunlight Museum experience.

Summer Adventures Trail

Join Curt the Caterpillar for a self-guided summer adventure through Port Sunlight. This fun, interactive activity booklet encourages young families to explore, discover and engage with their surroundings through scavenger hunts, puzzles and crafts. Pick up yours for £2 each from Port Sunlight Museum.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT BEATLEWEEK



International Beatleweek: PS I Love You Part 2
29 August, from 12:00 | The Dell, Village Green,
Hulme Hall & Gladstone Theatre

It's back! International Beatleweek returns to Port Sunlight once again, bringing music lovers into this unique and atmospheric setting. This year's programme will make full use of the stunning outdoor surroundings of the Dell and the Village Green from midday, both free entry. This will be alongside indoor stages at Hulme Hall and Gladstone Theatre, both ticket holders only – tickets available at internationalbeatleweek.com

HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS MUSEUM TALKS

Discover a brand-new programme of regular lunchtime talks at Port Sunlight Museum launching this summer. Included with admission, free entry for residents (with proof of ID and address). Talks this summer include:

- 1 July, 1pm:** The Story of Mother Sunbeam and the Little Sunlighters' Club
- 7 July, 1pm:** The Suffragette and the Soap King: A Story of Protest and Fire
- 14 July, 1pm:** Tiny Treasures: Miniatures and Toys from the Archives
- 20 July, 1pm:** Selling Sunlight
- 27 July, 1pm:** Selling the Image: Art in the World of Advertising
- 5 August, 1pm:** From Past to Present: How Our Buildings Have Changed
- 10 August, 1pm:** Life as a Sunlighter: Growing Up in Lever's Model Village
- 17 August, 1pm:** The Way We Remember It: Childhood Tales from Port Sunlight
- 25 August, 1pm:** Changing Times: Port Sunlight in the 1960s

Hands on Heritage – every Saturday from June, 11am–2pm Port Sunlight Museum | Included with admission

Discover the chance to get hands-on with Port Sunlight's heritage with object handling sessions. Uncover the untold stories behind our collection with handling demonstrators, who will bring history to life by transforming objects from something you simply see into something you can touch, explore and experience.

A Summer Afternoon with Lyceum Brass Band 5 July, 2.30pm | The Dell | Free

Soak up a special performance by the Lyceum Brass Band in the magical surroundings of the Dell. Bring your picnic blanket for an afternoon of live music.

Victorian Play Day – 12 August | The Dell & SoapWorks £6 per child, adults free

Venture back in time to discover the world of play throughout Victorian times. Meet costumed characters of Port Sunlight's past, try your hand at authentic Victorian toys and playground games, and discover what a Victorian classroom was really like. Wet weather alternative: Church Hall, Bridge Street. See portsunlightvillage.com/whats-on for timings.

Folks Theatre: A Midsummer Night's Dream – 20 August, 7pm The Dell | Adults £15 / Children (3–16) £12 / Under 3s free*

Love, laughter and a little bit of lunacy – enter a world where fairies meddle, lovers quarrel and magic runs wild! Join us for a breathtaking open-air performance of Shakespeare's beloved comedy, complete with Folksy's twist of live music, audience interaction and frantic multi-rolling.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – 11 & 12 SEPTEMBER

Everyday Heroes Tour – 11 September, 12.30pm (approx. 1 hour)
Free, donations welcome*

Step into the stories of the past with our special Heritage Open Day guided walk. Discover the remarkable individuals who helped shape the village community as you explore its beautiful surroundings. Please note this tour is weather permitting. Booking essential.

Heritage Open Day at Port Sunlight Museum

12 September, 10am–4.30pm | Free entry, donations welcome
Meet costumed characters, enjoy hands-on heritage with fascinating objects from the collection, and take part in family-friendly crafts throughout the day.

The Story of Edith Smith – 19 September, 1.30pm & 6.30pm Free, booking essential*

Step into the remarkable story of Edith Smith, Britain's first female police constable with full powers of arrest. Presented by Oxton Playwrights CIC as part of Her Stories of Wirral, this moving site-responsive performance blends theatre, local history and community storytelling.

Straw Stories – Corn Doll Workshop – 16 September, 6pm Port Sunlight Museum | £20 per person*

Discover the art and folklore behind traditional corn dollies in this hands-on workshop. Explore the history of harvest-time straw craft and learn how these beautifully woven charms were once made to celebrate the changing seasons. Beginner friendly.

Lost Buildings Tour: 21 September, 11.30am–12.30pm Adults £12, Children £6*

Uncover the lost buildings of Port Sunlight. From the village's own replica of Shakespeare's birthplace and an underground bridge to an auditorium and swimming pool, join this hour-long tour to hear their fascinating stories. Starts at Port Sunlight Museum.

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER

Look out for the following events in October – more details will be shared in the autumn Gazette and on our website and social media:

Sugar & Spice Festival: Autumn Edition
3 October, 11am–4pm

Roots, Rituals & Soap: Folklore-Led Soap Making Workshop
12 October, 6pm | £20 per person

Silly Spooks in Sunlight
29 October, 10am & 11.30am | £8 per child

Little Werewolves of Sunlight
30 October, various times | £6 per child

WHAT'S ON AT SCHOOL OF CREATE

DAYTIME SESSIONS (9.45AM-4.30PM)

FROM MONDAY 29 JUNE

Morning:

- Beginner Sewing (4 sessions) – basics, machine skills, bag making, bunting
- Craftology – decoupage, clay, glass, mixed media, painting

Afternoon:

- Beginner Crochet (4 sessions) – casting on, stitches, granny squares

FROM WEDNESDAY 1 JULY

Morning:

- Confident Sewing (4 sessions) – patterns, garment making (incl. drawstring trousers)
- Handy Woman Programme – basic DIY, tools, painting techniques

Afternoon:

- Sewing Techniques – alterations, applique, homeware
- Nails by Abi – treatments from £10-£30

FROM FRIDAY 3 JULY

Morning:

- Sewing Techniques – quilting, patchwork, textile work
- Abi's Nail Bar (booking required)

Afternoon:

- Funky Furniture – upcycling and paint techniques

FROM SATURDAY 4 JULY

Morning:

- Kids Sewing Academy (7-13 yrs) – 4 sessions £99

Afternoon:

- Teen Sewing Academy (14-18 yrs) – 4 sessions £99

EVENING SESSIONS (5.45-9PM)

FROM MONDAY 29 JUNE

- Beginner Sewing – £30 (6-9pm)
- Furniture Upcycling – £30 (6-9pm)
- Yoga (Over 60s) – £10 (6:30-7:30pm)

FROM WEDNESDAY 1 JULY

- Craftology – £25
- Beginner Crochet (4 sessions) – £60
- Beginner Art (printing) – £30
- Yoga (Over 60s) – 6:30-7:30pm
- Sew Social – £30 (creative sewing projects)
- Nails by Abi – treatments available

FROM FRIDAY 3 JULY

- Sew Slow Social – relaxed hand sewing and social session



Find out more and book your place at schoolofcreate.com – or visit School of Create in the old Boys' Brigade Building to the rear of the Lyceum (access from Bath Street).

WHAT'S ON AT CHRIST CHURCH

Whether you're just having a look or are searching out for a place to worship, everyone is welcome at Christ Church.

Visit www.ccpsurc.info for more information.

If you would like to know more about the activities below, then please speak to the named person in the information. Groups are happy to welcome new members.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a different style of church for children and their parents, on the first Saturdays of every month at 10am. Speak to Sue Frowe for more info.

Christ Church Crafters

The Christ Church Crafters meet on Monday afternoons, from 2pm to 4pm. Speak to Judith Burgess for more info.

Bellringers

The Bellringers meet on Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 9pm in the Bell Tower. Speak to George Phillips for more info.

Choir

The Choir meet on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Speak to organist, Jonathan Bowden, for more info.

Manna Foods Bistro has opened at Christ Church, giving you more opportunity to grab a tasty bite to eat in this special building. It's open Monday-Friday, 8.45am-4pm, serving everything from school run coffee to afternoon meals.

WHAT'S ON AT LADY LEVER ART GALLERY

May Morris: Crafting a Legacy | Until 1 November 2026

Opening this spring, Lady Lever Art Gallery is celebrating the incredible legacy of May Morris, a true pioneer of the Arts and Crafts movement. Often remembered as the daughter of William Morris, May was so much more: a fearless designer, an advocate for women in craft, and a creative force ahead of her time.

The exhibition brings her story vividly to life, showcasing her exquisite embroidery, bold textile designs, and groundbreaking contributions that challenged conventions and inspired generations. Each piece is a window into her inventive spirit and extraordinary skill, a reminder that May carved her own path and refused to be defined by others.

Whether you're passionate about design, intrigued by history, this exhibition invites you to explore the artistry that made May Morris revolutionary.



part of

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Church Drive Primary

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MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

School Choir presents...

THE SUMMER 2026 CONCERT

Featuring favourite songs from
the Musicals

THE ULTIMATE BARRY MANILOW CONCERT EXPERIENCE

CELEBRATING BARRY

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU
BERMUDA TRIANGLE

COPACABANA
COULD IT BE MAGIC
I WRITE THE SONGS
MANDY

LET'S HANG ON
ALL THE HITS & MORE

★★★★★
"What a voice —
thought it was Barry."
BBC RADIO

FROM GOLD TO RIO

PERFORMING THE GREATEST HITS OF

Spandau Ballet
and
Duran Duran

THE AMERICANA REVUE

LIVE ON STAGE

WHAT'S ON AT THE GLADSTONE THEATRE

PQA Wirral West presents High School Musical Jr | 28 June
A youth theatre production of the popular High School Musical story performed by PQA students.

Church Drive Primary School Summer Concert | 3 July
A live music concert featuring a community or ensemble performance as part of the summer programme.

Celebrating Barry – The Ultimate Manilow Show | 11 July
A tribute concert celebrating the music of Barry Manilow with a full live performance.

1, 2, 3... Dance! | 12 July
A dance showcase featuring a variety of styles performed by local performers or groups.

Gladstone Cinema Club – An American in Paris | 16 July
A screening of the classic musical film as part of the theatre's regular cinema club.

The Americana Revue | 1 August
A live music show celebrating Americana genres including country, folk, and roots music.

High School Musical Jr Summer School | 3–15 August
A multiday workshop/summer school where young performers rehearse and stage a production of High School Musical Jr.

From Gold to Rio (rescheduled) | 4 September
A live concert celebrating the music of Spandau Ballet and Duran Duran with iconic 80s hits.

Book your tickets at gladstonetheatre.org.uk or call the Box Office on 0151 643 8757

WHAT'S ON AT HULME HALL

Hulme Hall's popular programme of markets and fairs continues this summer...

- Craft and gift fair: 31 August
- Flea markets: 5 July and 2 August
- Antique & vintage fair: 30 August

All events are open between 9.30am-2pm.

Don't miss the toys & trains collectors fairs on 12 July and 16 August (10.30am–2.30pm), and car boot sales on 20 June, 18 July and 8 August (9am-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

COLLECTIONS CORNER

Our collections team have been busy working behind the scenes processing some exciting new acquisitions to Port Sunlight Museum's collection.

We hope you enjoy the highlights below.



1. A donation to treasure

This watercolour painting of the Boating Pond and Lady Lever Art Gallery, created by Jenny Holland, was recently donated to Port Sunlight Museum by John and Sally Osman. We are very grateful for this wonderful addition to our collection.

2. York and District Farmers' Visit, 1937

This photograph, produced by Lever Brothers, commemorates the York and District Farmers' visit to Port Sunlight in 1937. Archive material from that year records official visits from many different groups and organisations – from Prince Chichibu of Japan to Miss Alice McIlroy from St Helens, who was the 100,000th visitor to Port Sunlight that year and won a casket of products from the factory.

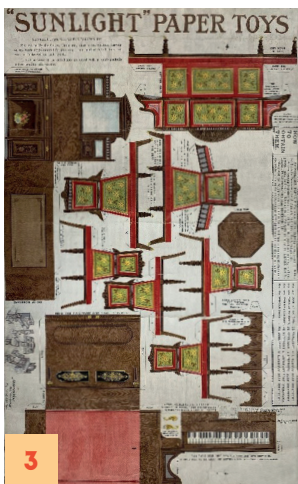
3. Sunlight Paper Toys

These beautifully illustrated 'Sunlight Paper Toys' were produced by Lever Brothers to promote their products. Offered in exchange for wrappers from Sunlight Soap and Lifebuoy, the range included paper dolls, furniture, a Punch and Judy show and even a village fair.

4. 1949 Royal Academy Exhibition Catalogue

As part of the ongoing research into the history of Sea Piece by sculptor Charles Wheeler, we have acquired a 1949 exhibition catalogue. Sea Piece was displayed prominently in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition that year, and Wheeler later became President of the Royal Academy. Once the exhibition was finished, Sea Piece was transported directly from the Royal Academy to Port Sunlight, where it was kept safely under one of the porches of the Lady Lever Art Gallery until it was ready to be installed in the Boating Pond in 1950.

If you have any memories, photographs or objects connected to the Boating Pond and Sea Piece Fountain, we would love to hear from you. Whether it's a family snapshot or a personal anecdote, anyone with something to share is invited to get in touch by emailing info@portsunlightvillage.com, calling 0151 644 4800, or visiting portsunlightvillage.com/share-your-story



NEED THE GAZETTE IN A LARGE PRINT OR ALTERNATIVE FORMAT? PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TO LET US KNOW.