

PORT SUNLIGHT GAZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE TRUST



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Image courtesy of @scottmwoolley

ISSUE NO. 25
FEBRUARY 2021

Life in a time of Covid

Update on the Historic England commission

We have recently completed phase 1 of our Historic England project, 'A Village In Lockdown', to document the impact of Covid-19 on our village. Thanks to all residents, village groups and local businesses who have taken part in our surveys and interviews, capturing your thoughts and views as of autumn 2020.

WE HAVE LEARNED LOTS, INCLUDING:

- **Community profile:** Our community (last surveyed in 2016) remains a largely older, white, single or double occupancy household population. However, there is a growing family population, and along with young professionals in the area this group expressed strong opinions.
- **Covid-19 impact:** While we are a mainly healthy population, so far Covid-19 has affected 18% of the population (tested positive or suspected). While benchmarking Covid-19 rates is challenging, this seems like a significant proportion.
- **Wellbeing:** This has seen a big impact with 46% of residents negatively affected, citing worry for others and social isolation as key causes. One demographic reported new or worsened mental health issues due to the pandemic, while others said that they were not proactive in seeking the healthcare they needed. These issues will have long-term impacts on the community.
- **Employment:** The biggest impact was felt by those working from home. Some in our community have experienced an increased workload while others have been furloughed, however, there have been relatively few redundancies.
- **Businesses:** Village companies have felt the effects, with many expecting a long road to recovery. Areas such as supply chains, employees' health, cash flow and having to adopt new processes were key concerns. There were recommendations about the role of PSVT in supporting businesses, ranging from rent reductions to better promotion of the village.
- **Tourism:** The lack of visitors to Port Sunlight, and how that might impact on the sustainability of the village, was a concern for many respondents. However, challenges bring an opportunity for change and the potential to improve Port Sunlight's visitor offer. This may help address the concern expressed by some stakeholders that Port Sunlight is insular and not future-facing; a critical issue in a volatile socio-economic landscape.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE ALSO SOME POSITIVES HIGHLIGHTED:

- **The great outdoors:** The main plus was the village's green spaces and the support they gave so many during the pandemic, profoundly contributing to their physical and mental health. Our outdoor spaces should be seen as a vital resource for the future.
- **Community spirit:** Many reported wanting to keep and capitalise upon the cohesion and community spirit that Covid-19 fostered. This prompted a discussion about how to make use of the village's green spaces and significant cultural organisations, and the possibility of an imaginative events programme for residents and visitors.
- **Innovation:** There was also discussion around how the village could become more enterprising and commercial. For some this meant better amenities and an expanded hospitality offer. For others it's about enhancing the business potential and capitalising on the village being a great place to work or base a business.

In the next edition of the Gazette we'll outline how we plan to address some of the issues raised.

THE NEXT STEP

We will shortly be launching a website for 'A Village In Lockdown'. It will feature photos by local photographer Scott Woolley and will host 'Hear and Now', a programme of four podcasts where members of the community and local business talk about local architecture, culture, the economy and the environment. Accompanying the podcasts will be a contemporary collecting project that will invite members of the community to contribute images, films and reminiscences to an online presentation which will hopefully become a physical exhibition in the future.

In the next edition of the Gazette we'll provide more information about the website we'll be launching and outline how you can contribute.



Historic England





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

This is the first Gazette of 2021 – a belated Happy New Year to you all!

The announcement of a new national lockdown in January was not the start to the year we were all hoping for. However, we remain hopeful that the lockdown, combined with the vaccination programme, will hasten us towards better times – including the full reopening of the village.

Our offices, visitor and community facilities remain closed to the public for the time being, but we are continuing to work away behind the scenes to care for the village, engage with our community and plan for the future. We've some exciting projects in the pipeline which we'll share with you in the next edition of the Gazette.

There have been a few personnel changes at Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT) over the last 10 months; Covid-19 has certainly got us all thinking about our lives and how we want to spend our precious time on this earth. In the early summer we said 'goodbye' to longstanding member of our gardening team, Tom Pilling, who has started his own business, and also to Kate Daly, our Visitor Experience Manager, who joined Irish Community Care. In early February, Volunteer Manager Chris Fittock also left the organisation to return to freelancing. Ian Carter, our Asset Management Officer (Maintenance) has taken a well-earned retirement, while Sarah Saxton, our Learning Assistant, has left us to take up a full-time job. Two of our colleagues, Heather Alcock and Donna Pearson, have recently begun PhD studies but I'm pleased to say that both will continue to work for PSVT. We welcomed Jen Head to the Operations Directorate as Business Support Officer at the end of 2020. We wish all of them well in their new endeavours. If you would like to join our team keep an eye on our website and social media channels for the latest job opportunities.

Even though the offices are closed you can still get hold of us. Here are some of the most useful numbers:

- PSVT residential and commercial tenant enquiries, including issues relating to maintenance, repair and conservation: 0151 644 4800 or admin@portsunlightvillage.com
- Community engagement: Claire on 07592 035 923 or c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com
- Group and education bookings, events and guided tours: Marie on 07514 648 571 or m.gibbons@portsunlightvillage.com
- Fundraising enquiries, including commemorative benches, the Port Sunlight Lottery, legacies and donations: Sarah on 07592 035 051 or s.preston@portsunlightvillage.com

Thanks to all who have contributed to the environmental sustainability survey. Having completed a baseline audit of PSVT, we are now working with The Environmental Partnership to develop a vision for PSVT, some targets and an action plan. I hope to be able to share more information in the next edition of the Gazette.

Finally, we are playing around with the Gazette format; experimenting with shorter and more regular editions to keep you better informed, and also making better use of digital marketing. For those who prefer their news in print, do not despair. We will continue to print the Gazette and hand deliver it to your door (if you're a village resident that is).

Until next time, stay safe and stay well!

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



HELP US TO HELP YOU

A plea from Liam English, the PSVT Landscape Supervisor

“The roads, garages and green fields that exist behind many of the houses in Port Sunlight are private areas for our residents, away from the public gardens that so many visitors come to admire. Originally, many contained allotments for residents to grow vegetables, but with increasing car ownership in the mid-20th century most were converted into the rear access areas we see today.

Unfortunately, the condition of these areas has deteriorated, leaving some in a sorry state. We see severe damage to the grass from cars and vans, and a consistent problem with fly tipping and littering. One of the main causes of the damaged grass is inconsiderate parking, leading to vehicles having to drive onto lawns to get past. Small areas of damage start a vicious circle of decline, which I’m sure we would all like to stop.

During the spring, members of the PSVT gardening team will be making repairs to the lawns and tidying up these areas as best as they can. Help us ensure that these efforts do not go to waste by parking in appropriate places, making sure that rubbish is not left in these areas, and by reporting any recurring problems to PSVT. With these improvements, the ‘backs’ can return to being the private areas that all residents can use and take pride in.”

You have to be in it to win it!

Join your neighbours in the Port Sunlight Lottery

The Port Sunlight Lottery has been running for six months now, with many wins among our residents. If you are interested in the chance to win one of 30 cash prizes each week for just £2/week then sign up at <https://giantcashbonanza.online/portsunlight/> The draw takes place every Friday and winners are announced on the Port Sunlight Village Trust website (in the ‘Support Us’ section) and across our social media platforms.

Don’t forget that there is the annual Jackpot Draw on March 26th which is for a whopping £10,000!



Sign up before 12th February to ensure you are entered into this year’s draw. Fingers crossed for you all!

For further information, or if you have any questions, contact Sarah Preston, Fundraising Officer, at s.preston@portsunlightvillage.com or 07592 035 051.

The Crown Green Bowling season that never was - or was it?

Port Sunlight Village and Works Bowling Club in 2020

Back in March 2020, bowlers across Wirral were eagerly anticipating the reopening of their bowling greens and preparing for the forthcoming season.

The Port Sunlight greens are open April to September, and while a few hardy souls braved the winter and found other greens to play on, most members play in the spring and summer, renewing friendships and sporting rivalries at the Port Sunlight Village and Works Bowling Club.

A busy year was planned - participation in both the Birkenhead & Wirral and the Bebington & District leagues with four evening teams, veterans afternoon team and two pairs teams. Also, in partnership with the Port Sunlight Ladies Club, a Bowl for Health recruitment scheme was planned.

Anticipation grew as spring arrived, but then so did Covid-19, and the greens remained closed. Frustratingly, members could walk around the

village and inspect the greens but could not bowl on them.

Eventually, the restrictions were relaxed and members could at last move back onto the green. Gatherings were no more than six people and the rules were adapted to maintain social distancing, but at least members could bowl again and, perhaps more importantly, meet up and chat.

The season progressed and larger gatherings were allowed, but still no league bowling. Port Sunlight Village and Works organised social bowling which evolved into a season-long round robin competition, and while the full Bowl for Health



HALF TERM FUN!

Between the bad weather and yet another lockdown, things haven't been much fun for families recently. However, help is at hand with a half term activity pack from PSVT.

Why not create your own mini-village? Our activity pack contains everything you need – four delightful building replicas created by artist, Stephanie Cole; a blank template so your kids can get creative and design their own buildings; plus glue, scissors, colouring pencils and a tube of bubbles.

You can order your pack here:

www.portsunlightresidents.com/noticeboard/february-half-term-activities/

and it will be posted to you in time for half term. The packs are free but donations would be appreciated – visit www.portsunlightvillage.com/support-port-sunlight

programme could not take place, a reduced scheme resulted in ten new recruits to the club.

The highlight of the season came in September with the 'Tommy Hall Memorial Shield' in memory of a former member. Played over a morning and afternoon, the competition included 53 players and culminated in a fascinating final, won by Craig Edwards who beat Alan Dunbar by 21 shots to 20.

While official records will show that the 2020 bowls season did not take place, the 40 plus members of Port Sunlight Village and Works Bowling Club took part in hundreds of social and competitive games, enjoying gentle exercise and interaction with like-minded people.



Like to join this growing community of bowlers?

Contact Kevin Turner on 07840562392.

The Ice Breakers

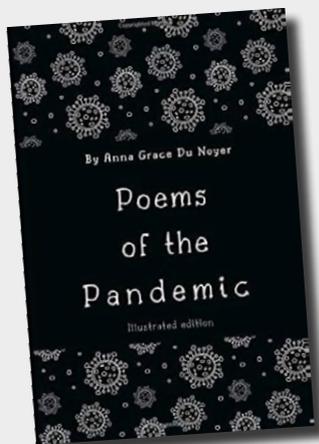
Supporting each other, one laugh at a time

It may be chilly outside but Port Sunlight's very own Ice Breakers group is far from frosty. This warm and friendly group has continued to meet and support one another throughout lockdown. Whether it's by meeting in a member's garden or public space, phoning each other, or catching up at the Bridge Inn when restrictions have allowed, they've supported each other throughout the pandemic – with lots of laughs. They have also been very active in raising money for other groups such as Dementia Together Wirral, Involve North West and Cancer Research.

The Ice Breakers have also been working with students from Liverpool School of Performing Arts on a project called 'Learning from

Lockdown', in partnership with Wirral Council. Members of the group have related their experiences of being older Wirral residents during lockdown, the students have written poetry in response, and The Ice Breakers will be recorded reading the work for inclusion in a digital art piece in the spring.

If you'd like to become an Ice Breaker contact Claire on 07592 035923 or at c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com



POEMS OF THE PANDEMIC

Like many others who found inspiration in isolation, Port Sunlight resident Anna Grace Du Noyer spent much of the first lockdown writing poetry.

In her second published book, Poems of the Pandemic, Anna captures the human response to the global crisis through poems about loss, grief, loneliness and hope.

Published in illustrated paperback, e-book and audiobook, the collection has been included in the Museum of Liverpool's Covid-19 collection, aimed at future generations seeking to learn more about the virus and its effects on society.

Find out more or buy the book by searching for Anna Grace Du Noyer on Amazon, or visit www.annagracedunoyer.com



Get active with Natalie Johnston



Exercise those blues away

Feeling the winter/lockdown blues? Check out the Port Sunlight Community Hub Facebook group for weekly exercise classes led by local instructor, Natalie Johnston of Movement and Bloom. (You may have seen Natalie in the village pre-lockdown with one of her exercise groups.) The workouts will be streamed live each Tuesday at 10am throughout lockdown, and we hope that as restrictions ease the classes will continue outside in one of our wonderful green spaces.

We also have a series of live classes brought to you by Graeme Waterfield, who you may remember from tai chi classes in the Dell last summer. Now you can join Graeme from the comfort of your own home as he leads wellbeing sessions each Thursday morning at 10am on the Facebook group. Join Graeme for meditation, chair-based chi-gung sessions and tai chi. All live sessions remain on the group page so can be viewed at any time.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/483691748649116>

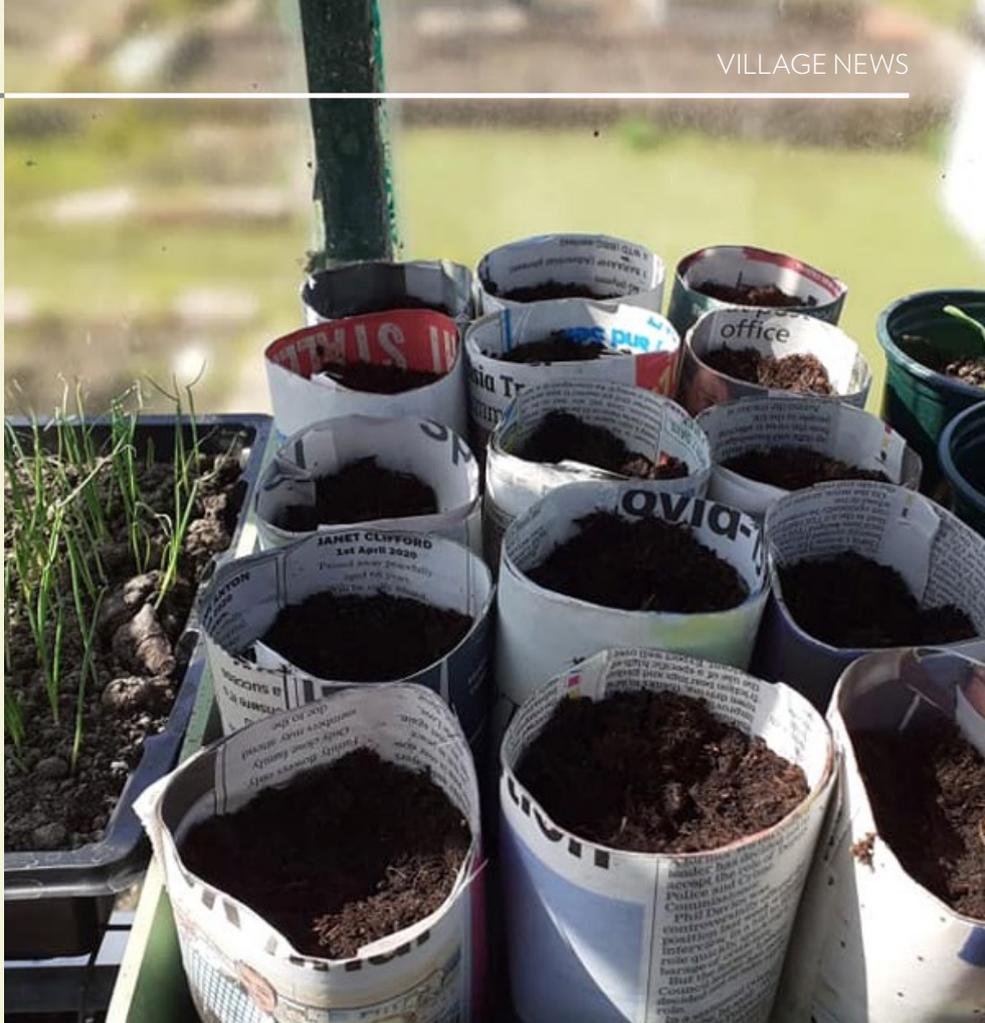
Grow at home

Since March 2020 there has been a huge upswing in the popularity of gardening, and it's not surprising as many of us have embraced the great outdoors and tried out new hobbies.

Studies show that fruit and vegetables were the most popular, with seed companies struggling with the demand, and it's fair to say we were all eagerly awaiting the re-opening of the Port Sunlight Garden Centre once restrictions were eased.

Our own Community Engagement Officer, Claire Bates, ran a series of 'Grow at Home' video tutorials live on our Community Hub Facebook page, sharing tips on how to make your own paper plant pots and how to save and sow seeds from items you have in the fridge. These videos were hugely popular and Claire will be returning in the spring once the growing season begins.

Bridge Cottage Community Hub has also put together some great free gardening activity kits for residents. If you would like to grow your own veggies or flowers at home, get in touch with Claire on 07592 035923 or at c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com.



#LovePortSunlight

We know that Port Sunlight is an amazing place to live, work and visit, but what do you love about the village? What makes this place so special to you?

During February, Bridge Cottage Community Hub will be working with local photographer and village resident, Dan Bentley, to capture the lives of Port Sunlight residents on their doorsteps. We want to flood Port Sunlight with love this month and we're looking for residents to take part. You simply have to allow us to photograph you and your household on your doorstep and share with us what you love about Port Sunlight. We'll share the photos and the love on our social media channels.

If you don't fancy having your picture taken but would like to contribute towards flooding Port Sunlight with love this month, you can request one of our creative activity packs. They are suitable for all ages and include a make-your-own-heart-shaped sunlight catcher for your window. They also contain materials and instructions for creating your own textile heart which can be included in our village-wide yarn bombing display which we're running with The Sunlight Stitches.

To register your interest in taking part in the photography project, or to receive a #loveportsunlight activity kit, contact Claire on 07592 035923 or at c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com

Port Sunlight Spring Watch

Would you like to take part in our first ever village spring watch? Bridge Cottage Community Hub has purchased a trap camera - an outdoor wildlife camera used to film the movements of wildlife at night. We're inviting residents to take part by allowing us to set up the camera in their gardens. The camera will be placed in different locations across the village and each week we'll share our findings with the community.

For more information or to take part please call Claire on 07592 035923 or at c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com



A FEAST OF FAIRS!

Hulme Hall dates for your diary

If you're a fan of antiques, crafts or a good rummage then the Hulme Hall fairs are for you. Dates for the coming year are as follows, with the Antiques & Collectors Fairs and Flea Markets starting at 9:30am, while the Craft & Gift Fairs open at 10am.

If you have goods to sell why not book a very reasonably priced table? They are just £18 for the Flea Markets and £20 each for the Craft and Antiques Fairs. More details on the Hulme Hall website – www.hulmehall.com – at enquiries@hulmehall.com, or by calling 0151 644 8797.



Month / Fair	Flea	Craft	Antiques
February	14th	-	-
March	7th	-	21st
April	11th	25th	-
May	2nd	31st (Monday)	16th
June	6th	-	-
July	4th	-	18th
August	1st	30th (Monday)	29th
September	5th	26th	19th
October	4th	24th	17th
November	7th	28th (Christmas Fair)	-

SUNDAY SERVICE DIRECT TO YOUR LIVING ROOM

If lockdown means you cannot go to Christ Church for Sunday service then Christ Church will come to you! A 30-minute Sunday service is available via Zoom (see the panel for details) at 10:30am each week, except on the second Sunday of the month when the service will take place at 3pm. The services include music, responsive prayers, a Bible reading and reflection.

You can access the service through your computer, tablet or smartphone, but don't worry if you don't have any of these as it also available through an ordinary landline telephone (again, see the panel for details).

The church produces a Weekly Bulletin which is distributed to its congregation by post and email, with excerpts on Facebook.

You can also find the Bulletin on the Christ Church website under 'Blog' - <http://www.ccpsurc.info/>

Messy Church Activities from Christ Church

Are you looking for activities for your children?

Do you want to include an element of faith and spirituality in your child's activities at home?

Every week Christ Church Messy Church Team sends out faith-based activity sheets, then on the first Saturday morning of each month the team holds a Messy Church 'Zoom' Session for families. It includes songs, stories, an art gallery of the children's crafts and blowing out the birthday candles.

Over recent months the sessions have explored birds and bugs, with activities including making paper birds, a bee hotel, and a birds and bugs headband. In preparation for Christmas the team made stained glass jars, an advent ring and nativity finger puppets.

The theme for January was 'Acts Of Kindness'.

If you would like to receive the activity sheets, along with details of the 'Zoom' Messy Church sessions, then send an email to Liz at bulletin@ccpsurc.info, with your details and your children's names. The Messy Church activity sheets are also available in the Blog section of the Christ Church website (www.ccpsurc.info) and in the Weekly Bulletin on its Facebook page.

Joining Sunday Worship from Home

We continue to offer our Sunday Worship on Zoom. You can either join Zoom with video on a PC, Tablet or Smart Phone, or you can phone in on a landline of mobile phone and simply listen to the service.

The stream will open at approximately 15 minutes before the start of each service, if you arrive early, you will be placed in a waiting room and then admitted when everything is ready.

Joining with video on a PC, Tablet or Smart Phone:

Option 1

- click on the following zoom link: [Christ Church Sunday Worship Zoom](#)
- Please select 'Speaker View'.

Option 2

- open the Zoom website or app and enter the Meeting ID and Password:
Meeting ID: 984 9741 4236
Meeting Password: 674153
- Please select 'Speaker View'.

Joining with audio on a landline or mobile phone:

- Choose and dial any one of the phone numbers listed below (if the phone number you choose is engaged try another phone number).

Dial-in numbers:

0203 481 5237	0208 080 6592
0203 481 5240	0131 460 1196
0203 901 7895	0330 088 5830
0208 080 6591	

- Key in the **Meeting ID: 984 9741 4236**, followed by '#'
- When asked for Participant ID press '#'
- Key in the **Meeting Password: 674153**, followed by '#' again.

Stay and Chat:

- Following the service there will be an opportunity to stay on Zoom and chat with others. You will be invited to unmute.

Christ Church Website Address

For more information about Christ Church visit www.ccpsurc.info



Have you got a story for a forthcoming issue of the Port Sunlight Gazette? Contact the PSVT office by phone 0151 644 4800 or email feedback@portsunlightvillage.com

Port Sunlight Village Trust

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