



The
PORT SUNLIGHT
Gazette

ISSUE NO. 28

WINTER
2021

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PSVT office Christmas closure

Closing on Christmas Eve at 12:30pm, re-opening on Tuesday 4th January at 9am. If you are a PSVT tenant and need emergency repairs during the closure period please contact Orbis on 0151 343 2764. If you experience any security issues please contact Custodian Guarding on 0845 519 5890.



PSVT Landscape Team with its electric vehicle fleet

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

We are excited that PSVT has launched its first Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS). This 10-year plan aims to reduce the impact that PSVT's activities have on the environment so that we might make our contribution to combatting climate change.

The new strategy has been developed by The Environment Partnership and part-funded by Museum Development North West. Based on the UN's Sustainability Goals, the strategy sets out our vision for environmental sustainability and describes key actions for improvements in energy, water, waste, transportation, business and greening the village.

A working group has been set up and is committed to taking this strategy forward. As part of the year one action plan an Electric Vehicle Point Policy will be developed, as will a strategy to improve the Energy Performance Certificate rating of all PSVT properties.



There's more on our ESS in this video:
youtube.com/watch?v=8HGSZq4dFG8



Part of our proud team outside Port Sunlight Museum

Green success — again!

For the fourth year running, Port Sunlight Village Trust has been awarded both the Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Site Accreditation.

These awards assess and celebrate sites which:

- ◆ Ensure a warm welcome
- ◆ Provide clean, well-maintained facilities
- ◆ Ensure excellent environmental management
- ◆ Demonstrate efforts to preserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and heritage assets
- ◆ Involve their local community
- ◆ Communicate and market events effectively

Well done to all the PSVT staff, volunteers and village residents who have contributed to another successful application this year.

Movers and shakers

We are pleased to welcome three new staff to PSVT. Julie Ebbrell is our new Business Support Officer (Conservation and Maintenance) and will be providing administrative support to the Operations Directorate. Our new Heritage Manager, Catherine Downey, has joined us to lead on the delivery of Port Sunlight's 10-year Conservation Management Plan. Finally, Cleaning Assistant, Charlie Gray Mansell, has joined our small cleaning team. We were sad to say 'goodbye and good luck' to Jen Head, Julie's predecessor as Business Support Officer. Jen has left to take up an exciting new position with the Civil Service.



Julie Ebbrell



Catherine Downey

Welcome on board

You might remember that earlier this year we put out an appeal for new board members. Well, we are pleased to announce that five new members have joined PSVT. They are:

STUART BARNES

A chartered town planner and urban designer with more than 25 years' experience in public sector town planning, heritage, housing, regeneration and renewal.

CAROLYN DALTON

The manager at Lancaster City Museums. She is also a Leader in Residence at the University of Central Lancashire and a Board member of the North West Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University.

ANNA THOMAS

Having worked at Unilever for 20 years and lived in the village since 2012 Anna knows us well. She is responsible for driving scientific and technical innovation on projects across the UK, Europe, USA and Asia, building multi-sector partnerships.

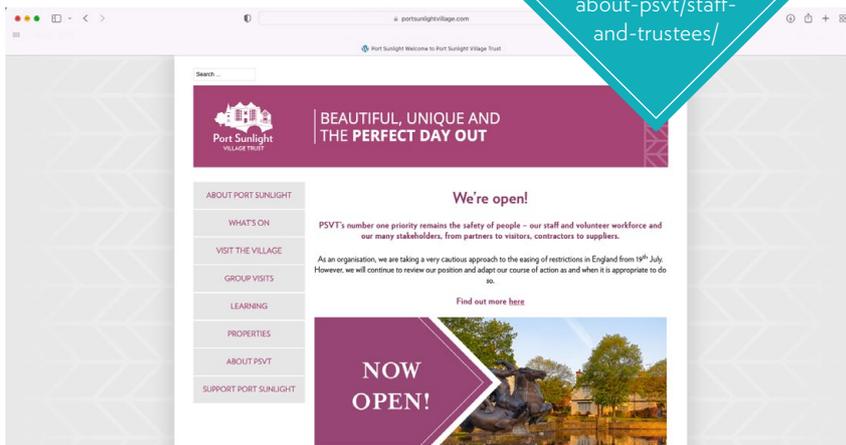
KELLY MULLEN

An award-winning entertainment strategist for global brands. Kelly currently leads Unilever Entertainment, the pop culture storytelling studio for Unilever's 400+ brands.

PETER SANDMAN

Having been appointed Head of Visitor Economy for Liverpool City Region in 2014, Peter has responsibility for the region's tourist board and specialises in strategy development, business case development and marketing.

See all of our trustees on our website: portsunlightvillage.com/about-psvt/staff-and-trustees/



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

Welcome to the winter edition of The Gazette.

It's been a busy few months since our last edition, with a lot of public activity but also much behind-the-scenes progress made on many important initiatives.

I have a lot of people to thank for their contributions to the village recently. First, many thanks to residents and village businesses for all of your support during our recent consultation processes around the Wharf Street development and our Public Realm strategy (see pages 4-5). Your contributions are both welcome and vital.

Secondly, it was good to see so many of you at the Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial. You may already know but it is soon the centenary of the unveiling of the Memorial – there's more on its history and the planned events on page 12.

Summer seems a distant memory now, but the great photos of our Garden Competition winners on page 7 are a welcome reminder. Congratulations to all of our winners and runners-up, and 'thank you' to everyone who makes Port Sunlight a horticultural delight each year. Similarly, 'thank you' to all of the 'Sunlighter' winners and nominees. Your efforts are appreciated more than you know.

Congratulations to all of the village residents, volunteers and PSVT staff involved in our winning the Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the fourth consecutive year. Together with our fledgling Environmental Sustainability Strategy they demonstrate our practical commitment to reducing our impact and tackling climate change.

Thanks also go to PSVT's outgoing trustees. Our governance policies state that trustees cannot sit for longer than nine years so it is 'farewell and thank you' to Emma Chaplin, John Cocker and Peter de Figueiredo who have had a huge impact during their tenures. Their departures, however, mean that we can greet new faces. Meet them opposite, along with our new staff – welcome to you all.

Staff and trustees who are representative of our audiences and the times we live in are a goal for PSVT and come under the consideration of the organisational review which has recently been undertaken by EMBED. The team at EMBED is helping us to make our business as inclusive as possible and recently presented their findings to us. Details on page 5.

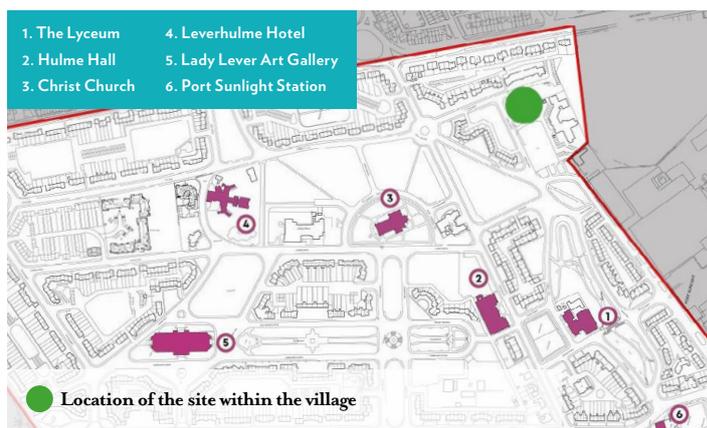
Finally, you may have seen our village Christmas tree outside the Museum, reminding me to wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. It's been another strange and at times challenging year, but there have also been many successes and much resilience, innovation and friendship. Here's to something approaching normality in 2022.

Paul Harris, Chief Executive, Port Sunlight Village Trust

Wharf Street development

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the public consultation on the future of the Wharf Street/Water Street site. Those who attended one of the sessions will know that there are plans to build 15 eco-homes on the site. The intention is that they embody the ethos that drove Lord Leverhulme and positively contribute to our built and natural environment. They should also represent the concerns and needs of our local community, hence our consultations.

Ideas and comments expressed in the sessions covered family housing, parking, building works, open space, future proofing, affordability, materials, accessibility and architectural design. Thanks for all of your thoughts. They are being taken on board for the next step of the process which will involve Paddock Johnson Architects working up the designs. This will be followed by another round of consultation with a wider stakeholder group, including the local authority. We will keep you informed of our progress.



During the consultation stakeholders were shown examples of new build designs and asked to rank them in order of preference

Conservation Corner

Satellite dishes: are they allowed in the village?

The simple answer is 'yes', but there are restrictions on where satellite dishes can be installed. This image provides guidance on suitable locations.

Formal written consent is required from Wirral Council before installation. The application process is called the Port Sunlight Local Listed Building Consent Order (LLBCO) and covers replacement back doors, back windows and yard gates as well as the installation/relocation of satellite dishes. The application is free and the relevant form can be downloaded from Wirral Council's website. You will need to provide photographs of the proposed location, marked with a red 'X'.

If your dish does not have written permission and is not located in one of the positions shown here, it is probably an enforcement issue and should be removed or relocated. There is more information on the LLBCO on both the Wirral Council and the Port Sunlight Residents' websites:

wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/port-sunlight-local-listed-building-consent-order

portsunlightresidents.com

Email admin@portsunlightvillage.com or call 0151 644 4800 for further advice.

A Public Realm Strategy for Port Sunlight

You will hopefully already know that PSVT is developing a new public realm strategy. The public realm is the space that we all share and it plays a fundamental role in how well places function and our perception and understanding of them. Urban designers and landscape architects, Planit-IE, have been appointed to develop this strategy for the village. The commissioning of this work (in partnership with Wirral Council) represents a significant step in PSVT's journey towards realising our vision for Port Sunlight to be *'an inspiring place to live, work and visit'*.

Thank you to everyone who attended our public and key stakeholders' events and contributed to the consultation process. Your thoughts and ideas are invaluable. We will be telling you more about the strategy and the next steps for its delivery in the next edition of The Gazette.

Promoting equality in Port Sunlight

In the spring edition of The Gazette we told you about PSVT's plans to undertake an organisational review of all aspects of our business to ensure we are as inclusive as possible. That covers everything from recruitment to fundraising, looking at our policies, plans, procedures and communications. We appointed EMBED and the Disability Collaborative Network to conduct this work and are pleased to report that EMBED has recently presented us with a range of recommendations.

The presentation covered:

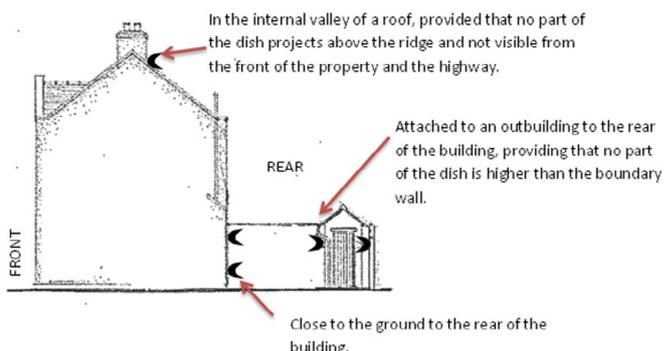
POSITIVES

PSVT's focus on health and wellbeing; our communications; our commitment to 'doing the right thing' and change; our 'whole village' approach.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

More diverse representation in our workforce; accessibility across the village; training and coaching for staff, volunteers and board; a more accessible website.

There will be more on how we are delivering on these recommendations in future editions.



Waste Collection

Many of us used lockdown to have a good clear-out and dispose of unwanted items. Most residents dispose of their waste correctly but the village has seen an increase in fly tipping and the misuse of skips. The cost of removing the rubbish falls to PSVT – the money would be better spent elsewhere in the village.

What is fly tipping?

It is the illegal discarding or deposit of waste materials and rubbish products on land or water contrary to the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Fly tippers can be prosecuted, so if you see anyone fly tipping please report it immediately to wirral.gov.uk/flytipping or 0151 606 2000.

There's lots of information on disposing of waste on Wirral Council's website: wirral.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling

Local tips and recycling centres

There are several local recycling centres with a variety of services for disposing of items that will not fit in your household waste bins. Details here: wirral.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/find-tip

Skips

Skips must not be placed on the road without a valid permit (this includes the rear service roads). A permit ensures that skips are not disrupting traffic, are in a safe position and are properly signed, lit and guarded in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations.

If you hire a skip you should confirm with the skip company that a permit has been obtained. Call Wirral Council for advice on 0151 606 2000 or visit: wirral.gov.uk/businesses/licences-and-permits/

Boating Pond

You may recall from the spring edition of The Gazette that a condition survey of the Boating Pond revealed that the pond's concrete basin needed considerable repair due to a flaw in its original design. It will take time to acquire the necessary funding and to undertake the repair work, and in the meantime the fountain has been turned off and the pond basin drained of water, which would be usual at this time of year.

We commissioned a survey of all the monuments in the village. The village is blessed with some beautiful and significant examples, and the survey sought to assess the condition of each and to suggest any necessary repair and maintenance treatments. With those detailed assessments in hand we can now draw up a programme of repair and maintenance based on urgency and the significance of the monument in question. We will keep you updated with our progress throughout the year.





Maggie Sparks presenting Judith Bond with the 'Sunlighter of the Year' trophy

Award season at Port Sunlight!

The Sunlighter of the Year Awards 2021

'His career was inspired by the highest ideals of public spirit and service to his fellow men' - Lever Brothers' Board of Directors, May 11th 1925

This description of Port Sunlight's founder, William Lever, highlights the value he placed on social consciousness, a value that we are proud to say persists today.

The Sunlighter of the Year Awards is an annual celebration of Lever's belief in public spirit. It allows us all to thank the extraordinary individuals and groups who make Port Sunlight such an inspiring place to live, work and visit. Last year we expanded the categories to recognise the incredible range of contributions we have witnessed around the village in 2020 and 2021. The categories and nominations were as follows – 'congratulations and thank you' to all of our nominees.

The Maggie Sparks 'Sunlighter of the Year' Award

This recognises the outstanding voluntary contribution that an individual has made to the Port Sunlight community.

Nominations: Dave Lay, Judith Bond, Barbara Birch and Donna Pearson.
The winner is Judith Bond.

Judith grew up in the village and, like her parents before her, has devoted her time to supporting others. Over the last 18 months, Judith has been an active member of several groups; helping to pick litter, collect shopping and medical supplies, and providing a friendly voice at the end of the phone or in person. Judith has also supported PSVT's community activity programme by leafleting and instigating community events such as the Flowerpot Men Competition and the Tuesday Table.

During lockdown, Judith supported fellow allotment holders who were shielding by maintaining their plots and delivering their fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as helping out on our community allotment by picking and packing fruit and veg each week. This was delivered to Bridge Cottage Community Hub so that residents could collect and enjoy the produce for free. The list of Judith's contributions to Port Sunlight goes on - congratulations!

The 'Sunlighters of the Year' Team Award

This award recognises the outstanding contribution that a group has made to the Port Sunlight community. This might be an organisation, a society, a community/social group, a school, or even a family.

Nominations: Lyceum Brass Band, Sunlight Stitchers and The Ice Breakers.
The winners are the Sunlight Stitchers.

The Sunlight Stitchers are well known in Port Sunlight, notably for their colourful and creative yarn bombing interventions that pop up around the village. However, this is also a group that really supports each other, and this came to the fore during lockdown when the members continued to meet, albeit via video calls. They also managed to fundraise for and support PSVT's community activity programme, as well as working on their own personal projects. The group is now able to meet in person in the Church Hall and is working on something special for Christmas...

COVID-19 Special Recognition Award

This award recognises the exceptional contributions that individuals and groups have made in helping our community to address the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Nominations:
Port Sunlight People Project, Anna Grace Du Noyer and Simon Evans.
The winner is Port Sunlight People Project.

The Port Sunlight People Project came about as a response to the developing pandemic and pending lockdown in March 2020. Resident, Anna Du Noyer, formed the group and signed up healthy, willing village residents to support those at risk in our community. With support they were able to give each household details of the help available, such as dog walking, food shopping, food parcels, prescription runs and mental health check-ins. The group had more than 60 community volunteers responding to up to 25 calls and requests for help each day - an incredible achievement under the circumstances.



Lana Garnett's Best Front Border or Container



Margaret and Barbara's allotment



Vicki and Anne's Best Overall Display



Viki presents Church Drive Primary School's award

Bloomin' marvellous!!

Port Sunlight Garden Competition returned in 2021 during an outstanding summer of horticultural displays. Port Sunlight is well known for its gardening excellence, however, it is important to recognise the contribution that the community makes, adorning their homes with outstanding floral displays for visitors and residents alike to admire.

Over the last year gardening has become a lifeline for some, supporting their wellbeing and mental health. People have come together, swapped plants, helped neighbours with their gardens and discovered a new-found interest in growing fruit and veg. It's no wonder that it was incredibly difficult for our guest judge and PSVT landscape employee, Viki Smith, to pick the winners, hence the addition of two 'highly commended' awards for each category.

Judging took place in the last week of July/first week of August, with awards presented in September. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold the annual 'Blow Your Own Trumpet' award ceremony, so instead surprised winners on their doorsteps. Special thanks to Port Sunlight Garden Centre for its continued support and generosity in donating prizes and enabling us to continue this village-wide celebration. Here are this year's winners and runners-up in full:

Best Overall Display

- 1st - Vicki Thompson and Anne Darby, Greendale Road
- 2nd - Jeanette Ruddock and Adrian Rickards, Riverside
- Highly commended - Mrs Tipping, The Causeway
- Highly commended - Harry & Sonia Koffman, Lower Road

Best Front Border or Container

- 1st - Lana Garnett, The Causeway
- 2nd - Peter James, Darcy Court
- Highly commended - John Dorward, Wood Street
- Highly commended - Diane Brown, Windy Bank

Best Community Garden

- 1st - Church Drive Primary School
- 2nd - Hesketh Hall
- Highly commended - Darcy Court
- Highly commended - Lancaster Close

Best Allotment

- 1st - Margaret Eastman & Barbara Connolly
- 2nd - Chris Sisson & Emma Davis
- Highly commended - Diane Ward
- Highly commended - Helen & Angie Parkinson

Best Hanging Basket

- 1st - Stephen & Jill Moran, Brook Street
- 2nd - Mr Lane, New Chester Road
- Highly commended - Alexandra Rendell, Queen Mary's Drive
- Highly commended - Kate Burrows, Brook Street



Stephen and Jill's award-winning hanging basket

Christmas is coming

and as ever there are gifts
galore at Port Sunlight
Museum gift
shop!



Museum
& gift shop
opening times:

Wednesday – Sunday,
10am–4:30pm

This festive season sees new and exciting gift ranges including the luxurious 'William Morris at Home' collection and 'In the Garden' body care products.

If you are looking for stocking fillers, we have a selection of our favourite retro toys, plus all our nostalgic soaps including Sunlight soap, Vinolia, Lifebuoy and Pears. And as ever there's our specially selected Port Sunlight souvenir gifts including chinaware, travel mugs, linenware and specialist Port Sunlight books.

Don't forget that village residents receive 10% off purchases, plus free entry into Port Sunlight Museum, Edwardian Workers Cottage and SoapWorks. If you don't already have a discount card, just bring along proof of address.



Closed from 1pm on Christmas Eve and all day
Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

The revamped education room



We're
expanding...
...well,
temporarily.

Something new for the new year...

Have you ever wanted to learn how to play the ukulele? Well, now you can in our FREE 8-week beginners' course. It will be led by Port Sunlight resident, Ronnie Brandon, who has more than a decade's experience teaching ukulele in schools, colleges and a host of other learning and community-based environments. Ronnie's fun and inclusive approach makes the ukulele an accessible and affordable gateway into music making. So, dig out the ukulele (or add one to your Christmas list) and join us in the new year! Donations welcome.

When: 12th January - 2nd March at 5:30-7:30pm

Where: Port Sunlight Church Hall

Suitable for adults and children aged 8 years and upwards - bring a ukulele with you

To book call or text 07592035923

(this number is only available Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm)

...and something old for the new year!

Re-use, remake, recycle

Start the new year with a resolution to reduce throw-away fashion and make better use of what we already own. Textile designer Sarah Randle from Instant Fashion Happiness will show you how to make your own reusable shopping bags and face wipes out of unwanted clothing, sheets and fabric.

Make your own reusable organic bamboo face wipes - Thursday 20th January at 6-7pm

Make your own re-usable shopping tote bags - Thursday 27th January at 6-7:30pm

Both sessions are at Port Sunlight Church Hall. Attendance is free but donations are welcome.

Booking is essential as places are limited - call or text 07592035923 (this number is only available Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm).



Given the ongoing social distancing requirements in Bridge Cottage and the fact that SoapWorks is now in the Lyceum building, PSVT has been a little short of community and education space. To remedy this we have entered into a temporary agreement with Christ Church to use the Church Hall. Huge thanks go to the Minister and Elders of Christ Church who have been really supportive and welcoming throughout the process.

Members of PSVT staff have been working hard over the past few months to get the Church Hall ready to welcome schools and community groups, and it's looking great. Even the outside has been spruced up with seasonal planters and a lick of paint.

Wirral Boys Grammar was the first official school to visit in mid-October. Five classes learned how historic documents can help us learn about William Lever and the village. More schools are booked for new sessions this year, and we now offer a loans service allowing schools to borrow artefacts for use in their own classrooms.

Our first family holiday activity was also in October when the Learning Team welcomed more than 100 children to make stick puppets and props from the ever-popular 'Room on the Broom' book by Julia Donaldson. Community groups that formerly met in Bridge Cottage Community Hub are also able to use the space, as are our public exercise classes, drumming sessions, and arts and craft workshops.

There's more on our learning service on our website: portsunlightvillage.com/learning/

Boxing Day trains

If you're visiting friends and relatives on Boxing Day, or maybe working, you'll be pleased to hear that Merseyrail will be running trains across Liverpool City Region. A special service will run between 9am and 6:30pm on Boxing Day, calling at selected stations across the network. Services will operate with six cars and run every 30 minutes. The Hooton - Liverpool service will stop at Bromborough, Bebington, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead Central, James Street and Liverpool Central.

There are full details on merseyrail.org/christmas

Are you looking for a fun social group?

If so, the Ice Breakers might just be the answer. Founded in 2018 in Bridge Cottage Community Hub, this group is full of fun and laughter! Since lockdown the group has continued to meet in The Bridge Inn, where you will find them every Tuesday from 11am-1pm. They are led by Barbara and Doris who arrange meals out and day trips to other attractions alongside their weekly game of bingo. If this sounds like your cup of tea (or maybe something stronger) get in touch: greatbarb@live.co.uk

The group also does its bit for charity with various fundraisers. They are currently raising money for a local boy who last year was diagnosed with Becker Muscular Dystrophy. If you would like to donate there's details here: muscular dystrophyuk.org/get-involved/family-funds/our-family-funds/roarsome-rorays-raisers



They don't always dress like this!
The Ice Breakers at Halloween



New exhibition at the Lady Lever

Indulge your senses with the extraordinary ceramics of William De Morgan in the Lady Lever Art Gallery's latest exhibition - Sublime Symmetry - on tour from the De Morgan Foundation.

Famed for richly coloured, lustrous glazed tiles and pottery with birds and dragon decoration, De Morgan's work is beautiful and iconic. Around 70

ceramic objects are showcased in this exhibition, alongside an exploration of De Morgan's career and the influence of William Morris and Islamic art on his work.

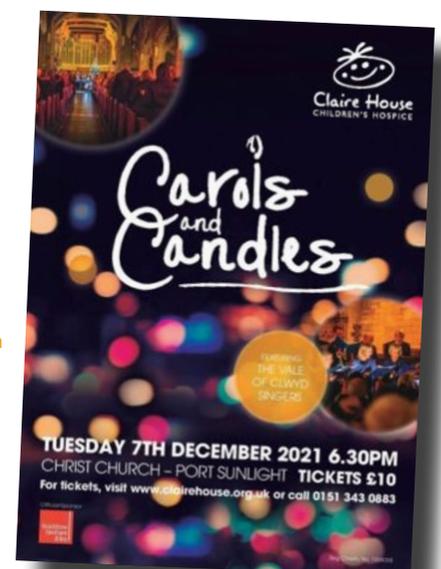
Open Tuesday - Sunday until 9th January 2022

A Pay What You Think exhibition: liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/demorgan

Christmas Services and Events at Christ Church

There is a very warm welcome for everyone at Christ Church this Christmas. Whether you are just popping in for a look or are searching for a place to worship, the team would be delighted to see you and invites you to join them for their series of festive events and services.

- ◆ **Tuesday 7th December at 6:30pm** Carols & Candles in support of Claire House Children's Hospice. Featuring the Vale of Clwyd Singers. Tickets are £10 and can be bought at clairehouse.org.uk or 0151 343 0883
- ◆ **Saturday 11th December at 10am to 1pm**
You are welcome to drop into Christ Church for a mince pie, music and fellowship
- ◆ **Sunday 12th December at 3pm** Memorial Service - Open to all who are missing a loved one at this time of year
- ◆ **Wednesday 15th December at 7:30pm** - Charity concert in support of KIND and the Church Appeal Fund. Featuring John O'Connell, Silver Tones, Fiddlestone and Wendy Dickinson. Tickets are £10 from Port Sunlight Museum or 0151 334 4588. Includes light refreshments.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve at 6pm**
Christingle Service
- ◆ **Christmas Eve at 11:30pm**
Candlelight Service
- ◆ **Christmas Day at 10:30am**
Family Service





The Bridge Inn at Christmas

Everyone is welcome at The Bridge Inn this festive season! Indulge in one of their delicious festive menus or join the team and raise a toast at one of their Christmas events:

- ◆ Breakfast with Santa
- ◆ Live music
- ◆ Party Nights
- ◆ Evenings in the Courtyard

Details at greeneaking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/merseyside/bridge-inn/christmas/

It's Panto Time!!!

(Oh no, it isn't. Oh yes, it is!)

The Gladstone Theatre is back this Christmas with a GIANT of a pantomime – 'Jack and the Beanstalk!' After its hilarious production of 'Aladdin' in 2019, Dreamworld Entertainments is back with its BIGGEST panto yet! Join Jack on the biggest challenge of his life - to climb the beanstalk, tackle the mean Giant and his evil side kick, Fleshcreeper, and save Princess Jill.

This year there is another star-studded line up: The X Factor's local talent, Jessica Jones as Jill; our resident villain, Emmerdale's Darren John Langford; our Sassy Dame Trott played by CBeebies star Ryan Towart; and back by popular demand is everyone's favourite funny guy and impressionist, Michael Alan Bailey as the hilarious 'Silly Scott'.

Will Jack and Jill get their happily ever after? Come along and find out.

Saturday 11th - Friday 31st December

Tickets from £13 - family tickets available - via the Box Office on 0151 643 8757 or gladstonetheatre.org.uk



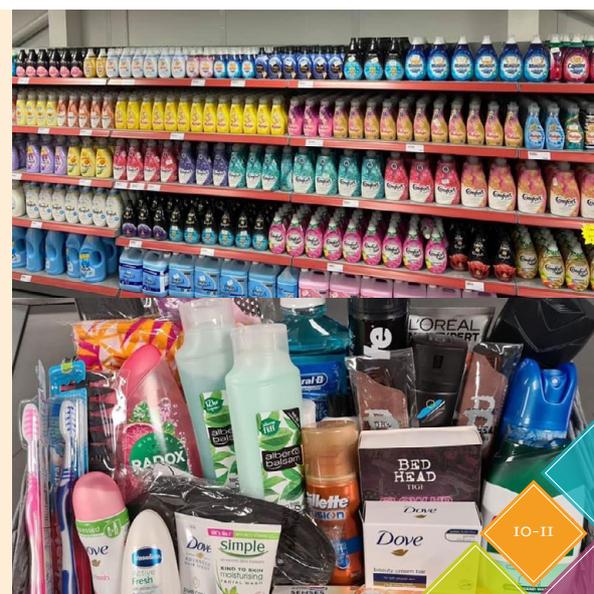
Bargains galore on your doorstep

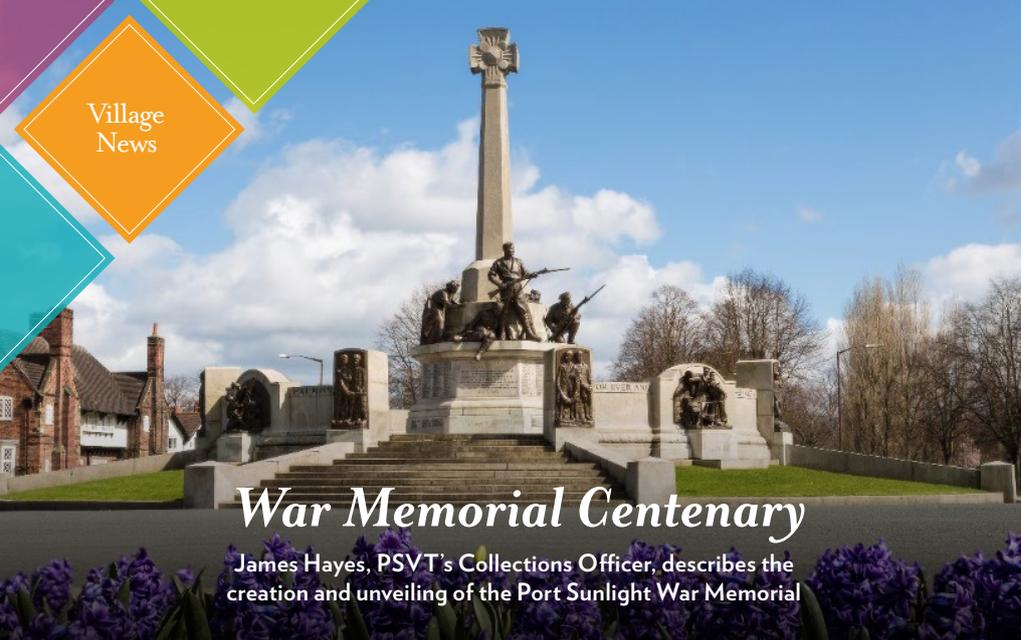
In the heart of Port Sunlight village there's what's been described as a hidden gem; the rather oddly named Employee Purchase Facility. The EPF is actually the former factory outlet shop for Unilever, and despite its name is both open to the public and sells other brands. There you will find everything from cleaning products to food, all at discounted prices.

Those in the know say it's a great place for a bargain, and with lovely staff to boot.

You'll find the EPF in The Stable Yard (behind The Gladstone Theatre). Opening times are Monday-Wednesday 10am-4pm, Thursday 10am-5.30pm and Friday 10am- 3pm.

Find them on Facebook - EPF staff shop.





War Memorial Centenary

James Hayes, PSVT's Collections Officer, describes the creation and unveiling of the Port Sunlight War Memorial

2021 marks the centenary of the unveiling of the Port Sunlight War Memorial. This expression of communal pride and sorrow was erected to honour the memory of 481 Lever Brothers employees who fell in the First World War and the 4,000 other employees of Lever Brothers and associated companies who fought in the war. At a re-dedication service in November 1947, the names of 118 Port Sunlight men killed in the Second World War were inscribed, together with Port Sunlight civilians killed by enemy action.

The magnificent Grade-1 listed monument was designed by Sir William Goscombe John R.A. He was a leading figure of the British New Sculpture Movement which espoused a naturalistic representation of the human body, evidenced in the figures on the Memorial. Goscombe John was approached by Lord Leverhulme about the Memorial as early as 1916; Leverhulme feared that by the end of the war sculptors like Goscombe John would have more war memorial work than they could execute. In May 1917 the design for the Memorial was approved. Money for its construction was raised through subscription, but it's unlikely that its cost (around £10,000) could have been raised without the company's help.

The finished monument stands 38-feet tall. Around the granite village cross at the centre are eleven life-size bronze figures representing the defence of the home. Soldiers are shown defending women and children from enemy attack. The parapet surrounding the platform has four bronze groups representing the Sea, Land, Air Forces and the Red Cross, while eight bronze panels show children offering wreaths in gratitude.

The official unveiling of the Memorial took place on 3rd December 1921 before 7,000 people. Special services had earlier been held in Christ Church and neighbouring churches before the various congregations processed to the Memorial. They were joined there by 1,500 school children while the Port Sunlight Brass Band played Handel's 'Largo', evoking an air of sadness on the cold bright winter morning.

Lord Leverhulme delivered a solemn oration in which he recalled the great contribution made by Port Sunlight to the war effort. He also spoke about peace and goodwill, love and fellowship, trade and commerce. He then joined ex-servicemen in unveiling the various panels of the Memorial, after which ex-service buglers sounded the 'Last Post' and a two minutes' silence was observed.

Ex-Sergeant Thomas Eames, who assisted in the ceremony, had worked for Lever Brothers since a boy in 1901. In September 1914 he was one of 700 volunteers who joined the 13th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment. After being wounded in France, he was transferred to the 15th Battalion, and while fighting with this unit lost the sight of both eyes at the Battle of the Somme. Eames was chosen to take part in the unveiling after a free vote by his comrades, indicating the admiration they felt for him and manner in which he set out to make the best of his life

James Hayes, PSVT's Collections Officer, will deliver a lecture on the Memorial at 2:30pm on 2nd December in the Church Hall. This illustrated talk will explore the impact of the war on the village, trace the Memorial's creation and look at some of the associated figures. The lecture is free but prior booking is essential via [eventbrite.co.uk/e/port-sunlights-war-memorial-tickets-214557536367](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/port-sunlights-war-memorial-tickets-214557536367)

Then on 3rd December at 11am a small ceremony will be held at the Memorial, conducted by the Minister of Christ Church, Ian Smith. The ceremony is inspired by the Order of Service from 1921 and will include music and wreath laying by Port Sunlight children. A two-minute silence will also be observed. The ceremony will be live streamed via PSVT's Facebook page.

Also, we will shortly be holding a soft launch of a new augmented reality app featuring a First World War tour and footage of the original Memorial unveiling ceremony. Details to follow.

The Port Sunlight Lottery

Fancy winning £1,000? It could cover your Christmas shopping, a trip to see the family or a treat for yourself. For £2 just per week you could be entered into the weekly draw, giving you a chance to win one of 30 cash prizes, plus entry into the annual grand draw with a prize of £10,000. Sign up before February 2022 to be included in March's Jackpot Draw.

You can play up to six lines per week. Sign up here giantcashbonanza.online/portsunlight/ or complete a Lottery leaflet which can be found in the Port Sunlight Museum or SoapWorks.

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 for the benefit of Port Sunlight Village Trust. Anyone over the age of 16 can play so please tell friends and family. Good luck!

Further information from Sarah
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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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