



The PORT SUNLIGHT *Gazette*

ISSUE NO. 31
WINTER
2022

IN THIS ISSUE

Christmas events

Activities for the New Year

Port Sunlight in Bloom winners

World Heritage Status update

The changing face of Port Sunlight

Coping with the cost of living crisis



The World Reimagined

This autumn, PSVT was proud to be part of *The World Reimagined* project - a national art campaign exploring how we understand Transatlantic Slavery and its impact on UK society. Artworks brought to life journeys of discovery across seven UK cities, reminding us all how Transatlantic Slavery is not just 'Black History' – it's everyone's history.

Ten large Globe Sculptures formed a trail around Liverpool City Region, and PSVT was proud to sponsor Wirral's globe (right), decorated by artist, Jioni Warner, and situated at Birkenhead Priory. Our globe was selected as one of only six to be viewed by His Majesty the King during his recent visit to Leeds. With the project now ended, all large Globe Sculptures are being auctioned to raise funds for UK anti-racism projects.

Port Sunlight also played host to a smaller Learning Globe (below). Schools and community groups across the UK decorated these globes, which imagined a future world where racial justice is a reality. Port Sunlight's Learning Globe was created by pupils from West Kirby Grammar School, with support from artist, Roz Shabazz-Johnson. It celebrated Black histories of resistance and resilience, and took pride of place in SoapWorks.

The World Reimagined has been an important opportunity for visitors, residents and staff to think about Port Sunlight's links to the injustices of colonialism. It inspires us all to acknowledge the complex, harmful legacies of the past, as we work to shape a brighter future.



Residents' Card

If you are a village resident, and you've not got one already, now is the perfect time to get your Residents' Card. It entitles you to 10% off Museum Gift Shop purchases and walking tours, and free entry into the Port Sunlight Experience. To get yours simply pop into the PSVT office with proof of address.

Two cards maximum per household.

Calling all makers!

Are you a local creative? Fancy seeing your products sold in Port Sunlight Museum's Gift Shop? We're looking to support local artistic talent while giving visitors the chance to buy unique items only found here.

So, if you're a maker of quality products email s.preston@portsunlightvillage.com with a bit about who you are, what you make and any relevant photos or links.



The World Reimagined
© Sahar Beyad, 2022

Movers and shakers

There are lots of new faces to welcome to PSVT and some goodbyes. Hello to...

- ♦ **Heritage team** - Russell Fielding (Visitor Team Supervisor), Charlie Dean (Volunteer Coordinator), Brian Pilkington (Marketing and Communications Manager), Jean Milton (Director of Heritage, Temporary), Charlene Davies (Public Programme Manager), Barry Parsons, Marie Moate, Susan Davidson, Debbie Bray and Simone Peters (Visitor Services Assistants), Barry Parsons, Terry Jones, Sue Smethurst, Janet Goodwin and Alison Walker (Tour Guides).
- ♦ **Operations team** - Cheryl Ellis (Customer Service Administrator), Eric Anderton (Gardener/Driver), Gareth Dean (Conservation and Maintenance Manager)
- ♦ **Corporate Services team** - Geraldine George (HR Officer) and Elaine Chatterton (Finance Assistant)

'Thanks and good luck' to Chris Pimlott and Steve Finn (Gardeners), Claire Brereton (Finance Assistant) and Marie Gibbons (Museum Officer). And congratulations to Martine Gibson (PA to Paul Harris) and Kath Lynch (Director of Heritage) who are taking maternity and parental leave respectively.

Board changes

The PSVT Board of Trustees has also seen changes. 'Thank you and goodbye' to John Jones and Stuart Barnes and 'welcome' to Louise Parnell who joined PSVT in October. Louise is a Chartered Accountant with 15 years' experience at board level in the charity sector.

Louise is currently the Finance Director at Autism Together, a care provider supporting adults with autism.

Having lived on the Wirral for most of her life and previously worked at Unilever, Louise has many links with Port Sunlight and sees the village as part of her heritage.

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



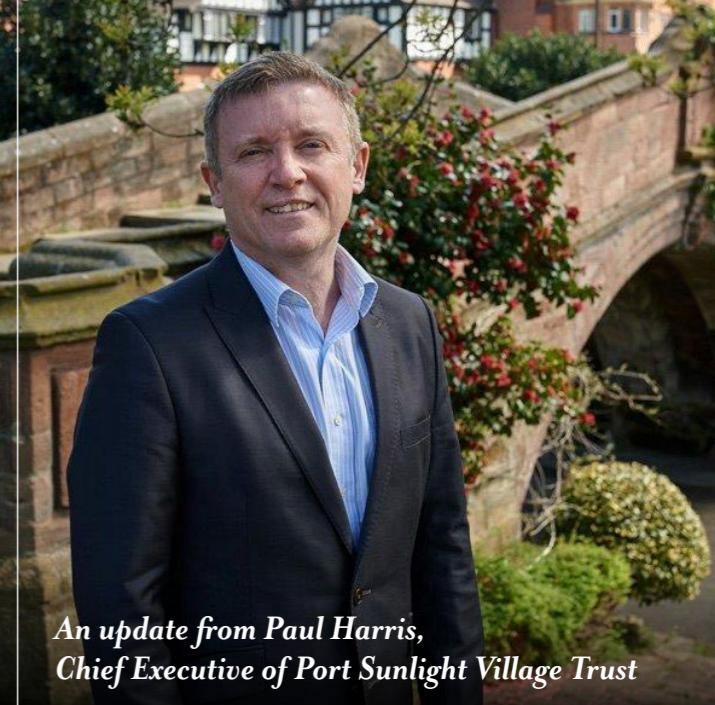
Christmas opening hours

The PSVT office will close on Friday 23rd December at 5pm, re-opening on Tuesday 3rd 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 in the village, contact Custodian Guarding on 0845 519 5890.

Port Sunlight Museum is open Wednesday - Sunday, 10am-5pm until Christmas Eve when we will close at 1pm. We will be open on Wednesday 28th - Saturday 31st December, closed Sunday 1st January, and then open as usual from Wednesday 4th January.



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

Season's greetings, one and all, and welcome to the final Gazette of 2022.

In this issue we've details of the Christmas celebrations in the village and look forward to the new year with activities to help banish any winter blues.

We also look back to the summer and applaud the winners and runners-up in our Port Sunlight in Bloom Garden Competition. Your skill, commitment and energy really enhance our village over the summer months and we are all very grateful.

It's been another year of contrasts in Port Sunlight, possibly best captured by the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June followed by her funeral in September. In recognition of Her Majesty's relationship with Port Sunlight we are publishing a special commemorative issue of the Gazette with photographs and memories of the times our village celebrated the Queen's visits and life events.

The cost of living crisis is hitting us all, but some more than others. On page 11 you'll find a useful list of resources that we hope will be of help, and details of the Warm Hub that PSVT and Christ Church are opening from 17th January.

Once again, 'Merry Christmas' to everyone living, visiting and working in Port Sunlight. It would be great to see you and your family and friends at our Christmas in Port Sunlight event on 23rd December. Details on page 8.

Paul Harris, Chief Executive, Port Sunlight Village Trust

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh during a visit to Port Sunlight in July 1957
Reproduced with the kind permission of Unilever plc and group companies





World Heritage bid update

You will remember that earlier in the year, PSVT submitted an application to the UK Government's Tentative List for Port Sunlight to be recognised as a World Heritage Site, with support from strategic partners Wirral Council, National Museums Liverpool and Unilever. We would like to thank residents, businesses and visitors for their invaluable contributions to the bid. Your questions, queries and comments were very welcome and we were delighted that the consultation survey indicated that 84% of people who responded felt that World Heritage Site status would be good for Port Sunlight.

We have been advised that the government will announce the results of the Tentative List

review process in early 2023 (this schedule may change if the process is delayed). We will update you when we learn more, but in the meantime will be publishing a report that sits behind our bid. This includes the results of the stakeholder consultation and the research undertaken into Port Sunlight's global value. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for more information.

Achieving World Heritage Status is not guaranteed or a quick process. Inclusion on the UK's Tentative List is competitive, and if Port Sunlight is accepted it would be the beginning of a nomination journey which would involve community consultation, more extensive

research, and a review of our management plan. Then over the following decade the government will nominate sites from the UK's list to UNESCO. The earliest Port Sunlight could become a World Heritage Site would be 2025, but more likely 2027 onwards.

If Port Sunlight is not selected for the Tentative List, we will continue to work collaboratively to better understand the history and legacies of Port Sunlight and to make the village an inspiring place to live, work and visit. If you have any questions, concerns or opportunities you would like to raise with us, please contact feedback@portsunlightvillage.com.

Monuments update

As you may recall from previous issues of the Gazette, following recent condition surveys, we are undertaking a rolling programme of maintenance and conservation work on key monuments in the village. In 2023, the Grade I listed War Memorial will be the first monument addressed in this programme. The work will include repointing deteriorated joints between stonework and stabilisation, cleaning and waxing of the bronze figures.

We also wanted to update you on the Boating Pond. As you may know, its original design and the early use of materials like concrete and cement are causing significant problems for the

monument. The stonework is deteriorating due to saturation and water is continually leaking. To save the pond, prevent contamination of the ground, and stop the wastage of water, PSVT took the very difficult decision to switch the fountain off and drain the pond of water while a solution is found.

PSVT has been actively working with conservation architects to identify the most appropriate course of action. The options ranged from repairing the stonework and relining the basin to complete reconstruction. The work involved is substantial and will cost hundreds of thousands of pounds. We are therefore

delighted to receive a grant of £20,000 from the Movement for Good fund. The grant will kick start fundraising to enable the pond to be used once more, and for the fountain to flow again. There are still significant funds to raise and we have a long journey before the repair work is complete but we will keep you up to date with progress on both the Boating Pond and War Memorial.



Conservation Corner

My name is Gareth Dean, and I joined PSVT in August as the Conservation and Maintenance Manager. I am responsible for the repair and maintenance of PSVT's village buildings. I also offer support and guidance to homeowners in the village. The majority of properties in the village are Grade-II listed and of national importance, sitting within a Conservation Area. National legislation exists to protect them from harmful changes, including the Town and Country Planning Act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) 1990 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Further protection comes from Wirral Council which has policies to care for Port Sunlight and the 25 other Conservation Areas in Wirral. The Council is working on a local plan which will further set out its approach to the care of heritage in Wirral, which together with legislation affects what you can do to a listed building.

Making changes to a listed building

If you want to alter your listed property - including changes to windows, doors, roofs and chimneys, and gutters, signs and house numbers at the front of the property - you must apply for Listed Building Consent as set out on Wirral Council's website <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning/listed-building-consent>.

For the rear of the properties, PSVT worked closely with Wirral Council to develop a Local Listed Building Consent Order (LLBCO); a set of pre-agreed templates for windows, back doors and gates. Application is through a simple form <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/port-sunlight-local-listed-building-consent-order>. There are also specific colour schemes for painting your house - we can give you all the information you need.

People often ask about the role of PSVT in the care of the village. We are advisory and follow the same rules and regulations for listed buildings and Conservation Areas as everyone else. Caring for these buildings can be challenging but we are here to provide support for all residents. To further structure our care for the village, PSVT developed The Conservation Management Plan <https://www.portsunlightvillage.com/about-psvt/conservation-management-plan/> which was adopted by Wirral Council. This sets out a ten-year plan for managing, maintaining, conserving and enhancing the heritage of the village.

For specific conservation or maintenance questions contact us at conservation@portsunlightvillage.com.



Remembrance displays

'Thank you' to Church Florist Debbie Stott and her team of helpers for the beautiful Remembrance displays both inside and outside Christ Church.

Many hours were obviously spent knitting and then creating the displays. School children from Church Drive Primary School also contributed with large poppies hung from the columns and the pulpit.

The village post box also underwent a Remembrance transformation thanks to the Sunlight Stitchers with their Poppy Topper.



Left: One of the Christ Church displays

Right: A Poppy Topper on our village post box

Port Sunlight Community Allotment

It's been a very successful year on the community allotment, with new members joining the group which meets every Monday morning and enjoying the fruits of their labours. You might remember that we lost our greenhouse in a storm early in the year, but despite this set back a new greenhouse with toughened glass was installed in early spring and it wasn't long before it was filled with seedlings.

The community allotment group has also been active in the wider community, supporting Church Drive Primary School's Summer Fair by giving plants, hanging baskets and containers they had made, as well as regularly donating gluts of fruit and vegetables for the community to enjoy. If you would like to find out more about volunteering with Port Sunlight Community Allotment, please email c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com or call 07592 035 923.

We also hold regular gardening classes at the allotment, covering everything from making bug hotels and terrariums to using herbs and edible flowers in meals. These workshops normally start in early spring, so keep a look out on village notice boards and on the residents' website for a full list of what's on. All of our workshops are paid for by donation, ensuring they are accessible to as many people as possible.



Victorious Veronica!

Every year members of the Port Sunlight Ladies Bowling Club play for the Nan Sheldon Memorial Trophy, an award in memory of a club member who did so much for bowling locally. This year Veronica Thompson was the winner. As Nan's daughter and son live nearby it was only fitting that they be invited to the Green to present the cup to Veronica. Congratulations!



Best overall display winner - Mr Harold Koffman

Best Hanging Basket
Winner - Ms J McGinn, Lower Road
Runner-up - Mr Lister, Wood Street
Highly commended - Paul Burgess, Queen Mary's Drive
Best Front Border or Container
Winner - Ms K Kearney, Central Road
Runner-up - Ms Karen Hughes, Bolton Road
Highly commended - Mrs E Cochrane, Corniche Road
Best Overall Display
Winner - Mr Harold Koffman, Lower Road
Runner-up - Ms Alexandra Rendell, Queen Mary's Drive
Highly commended - Mr Derek Sibthorpe, Greendale Road
Best Community Garden
Winner - Hesketh Hall
Runner-up - Neighbours at 38, 40 & 42 Primrose Hill
Highly commended - Lancaster Close
Best Allotment
Winner - Judith Bond
Runner-up - Margaret Eastman & Barbara Connolly
Highly commended - Greg Martin
People's Choice Winner
Harold Koffman - Lower Road



Best front border or container winner - Ms K Kearney

Port Sunlight in Bloom Garden Competition Winners 2022

Port Sunlight is well known for its outstanding, award-winning green spaces and immaculate floral displays, thanks in no small part to our dedicated residents. Each year many create eye-catching beds, borders and baskets in front of their homes, delighting visitors and the community alike.

This year's Port Sunlight in Bloom Garden Competition judge, Vicki Smith of PSVT's landscape team, is herself responsible for the stunning floral displays in the village. Equally challenging though was the job of choosing the winners and runners-up with so many excellent entries to choose from. Vicki particularly wanted to recognise the many neighbours who clearly worked together to create outstanding displays, and a row of gardens was actually named runner-up in our Community Garden category. We hope to see more neighbours working together next year, but in the meantime the 2022 winners were...



Best community garden - Hesketh Hall



Best allotment winner - Judith Bond



Best hanging basket - Ms J McGinn

A VILLAGE Christmas

There are lots of festive events and activities taking place in Port Sunlight this Christmas, with more in the new year to help banish the winter blues.



CHRISTMAS IN PORT SUNLIGHT

Gather your neighbours, family and friends to celebrate Christmas in Port Sunlight. This special pre-Christmas community get together is super popular and guaranteed to get you in the festive mood. The Lyceum Brass Band will be performing from 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome - free mince pies and sweets for all!

Friday 23rd December
(NB Not Christmas Eve) from 3:30pm
The Diamond and outside Port Sunlight Museum

PAINT YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS WINE GLASS WORKSHOP

Wow your friends and family with your own personalised, hand-painted Christmas wine glass. Cheese and wine will also be provided.
To book your place, please text 07592 035 923.
Tuesday 13th December at 6-8pm
Port Sunlight Church Hall - entry by donation



CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH

LITTLE STARS CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
featuring *Cantemus at Caldy Choir and the Christ Church Port Sunlight Handbell Ringers*
Tuesday 13th December at 6.45pm
Tickets £8 (in aid of Wirral University Hospitals Trust Charity) from wuth.charity@nhs.net or 0151 482 7788

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN MEMORY OF JUNE BERRY
featuring John O'Connell, Dave Nicholas, SingMe Merseyside Choir, Belcanto, Silvertones and Accord Singers

Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm
Tickets £10 (in aid of Wirral Hospice St John's and Christ Church Port Sunlight) from 07796 131250

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

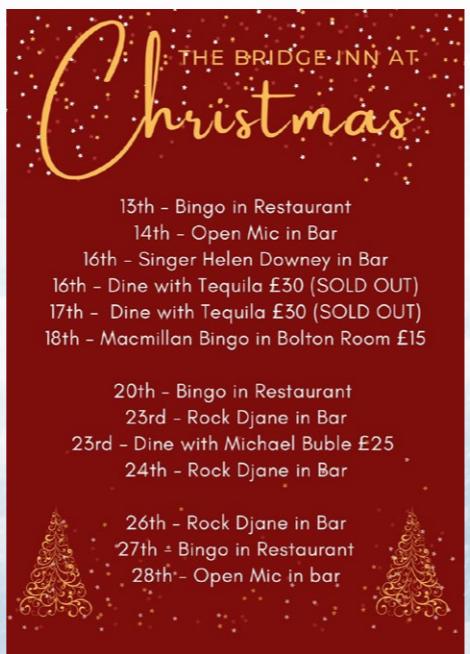
Saturday 24th December at 6-7pm

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday 24th December at 11.30pm-12.30am

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday 25th December at 10.30am



Fancy winning £1,000?

Play the Port Sunlight Lottery and be in with a chance of winning one of 30 cash prizes every week.

For just £2/week you will be entered into the weekly draw, plus an additional entry into the annual grand draw with a jackpot of £10,000. To play visit <https://giantcashbonanza.online/portsunlight/>

You can play up to six lines each week and can pay monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly. You must be 16 years of age or older to take part.

The Port Sunlight Lottery is administered by Giant Cash Bonanza. All of the money paid by you will, after the deduction of prize money and reasonable administration expenses, be invested back into the village, and will help support the delivery of special community and heritage projects.

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Preston at s.preston@portsunlightvillage.com or on 0151 644 4802.



New Year activities

NEW YEAR WALK AND TALK, WITH NATURE ART AND MINDFULNESS SESSION

Clear those cobwebs and new year blues by joining us for a refreshing new year walk. This short walk includes a nature art activity and a guided meditation.

To book your place, please text 07592 035 923.

Saturday 7th January at 10.30am-12.30pm
Port Sunlight Church Hall - entry by donation

MOVEMA DANCE CLASSES

- ◆ Chinese fan dancing - Thursday 26th January at 11am
- ◆ Ceilidh dancing - Thursday 2nd February at 11am
- ◆ Reggaeton - Thursday 9th February at 11am
- ◆ Flamenco - Thursday 16th February at 6pm
- ◆ Bollywood - Thursday 23rd February at 6pm
- ◆ Carnival - Thursday 2nd March at 6pm

Back by popular demand, our one-hour dance classes at Port Sunlight Church Hall aim to give you a taster of styles from around the world.

These classes are full of energy and suitable for beginners and all ages.

To book your place, please text 07592 035 923.

PORT SUNLIGHT COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

Come and join our friendly community allotment group. No previous gardening skills required - we're all learning as we go and having fun. No booking required - just turn up and bring some gardening gloves.

Weekly from Monday 27th March at 10.30am-12.30pm

Port Sunlight allotments behind Corniche Road

Fruit and veg donated for free to the community by the allotment group





A typical example of fly tipping in Port Sunlight

Fly tipping

The PSVT office is often contacted about rubbish left on service roads behind village properties. This is land owned by PSVT and so Wirral Council cannot be approached to remove these items. Clearing such waste comes at a considerable cost to PSVT – money better spent elsewhere in the village.

This is fly tipping - the illegal discarding or deposit of waste materials and rubbish products on land or water. Fly tippers can be prosecuted, so if you see anyone fly tipping please report it immediately to www.wirral.gov.uk/flytipping or call Streetscene on 0151 606 2004.

If you need to dispose of waste please do so responsibly. Here are links to useful information on Wirral Council's website or call 0151 606 2000.

Bulk collections

£32/visit for up to six separate items. Collection is usually within ten working days. Collection day for Port Sunlight is Monday. www.wirral.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling

Local tips and recycling centres

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

Skips

A skip must not be placed on the road - including rear service roads - without a valid permit which ensures it is not disrupting traffic, is sited safely and is properly signed, lit and guarded. If you hire a skip confirm with the rental company that a permit has been obtained.

www.wirral.gov.uk/businesses/licences-and-permits/roads-and-pavements/skip-permit

Managing condensation in your property

Condensation is by far the most common cause of damp in Port Sunlight properties. It can lead to mould growth, make paint blister and wallpaper peel. There are some simple steps you can take to limit condensation and prevent these problems:

- ◆ **Make less moisture**
open windows, wipe wet surfaces with a dry cloth and turn on the extractor fan
- ◆ **Increase ventilation**
try to open at least two windows in different rooms for at least 30 mins per day
- ◆ **Keep your home warm**
- ◆ **Clean away mould as quickly as possible**

For further information and advice contact us at admin@portsunlightvillage.com or 0151 644 4800.

The cost of living crisis

Life is increasingly difficult for many in our community. Many organisations offer advice and assistance to help people make ends meet - we've listed some here. If you are a PSVT tenant and are having difficulty making your rent payments, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss your problem.

- ◆ **helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk**
- covers income support, childcare costs, energy bills, transport and a discounts section
- ◆ **www.turn2us.org.uk** - use the simple Benefits Calculator and Grants Search tools to check what you can apply for
- ◆ **www.stepchange.org** - free online debt advice with a personalised debt action plan

- ◆ **www.moneyhelper.org.uk** - cash and pension help
- ◆ **www.citizensadvice.org.uk** - support can include a fuel hardship fund and temporary credit on gas and electricity meters
- ◆ **www.fuelbankfoundation.org** - emergency financial support for people on prepayment meters via a network of partners
- ◆ **www.trusselltrust.org** - find your local foodbank
- ◆ **www.nationaldebtline.org** - free debt advice
- ◆ **www.foodcycle.org.uk** - free meals and support across England
- ◆ **www.which.co.uk** - the consumer group's money-saving tips include energy efficient ways to cook and grow your own veg
- ◆ **www.energysavingtrust.org.uk** - how to save money on power bills
- ◆ **www.bbc.co.uk/food/budget** - from affordable traybake dinners to cheap slow-cooker recipes, some of the best healthy recipes that you can make on a budget
- ◆ **www.wirral.gov.uk** - Sustainable Warmth Funding is available to help almost 500 households across Wirral to make their homes greener and warmer.

WARM HUBS

Warm Hubs are popping up all over the Wirral, offering people a space to warm up and socialise at this time of soaring energy bills. Christ Church URC, together with PSVT, is opening a weekly Warm Hub in the Church Hall from Tuesday 17th January. Doors will be open 9am-12pm. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in attending please contact Christ Church directly on 0151 645 3870 or email c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com. Alternatively, check village noticeboards for news. There are a number of Warm Hubs already running nearby:

◆ **St Mark's Church, New Ferry** - every Friday morning you are invited to enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee in a space which is warm, welcoming and safe.

◆ **St Andrew's Church, Bebington** - 9am-12 noon every Thursday at the Church Hall (Highcroft Avenue), providing free refreshments, newspapers, jigsaws, books, games, warmth and company.

◆ **For a full list of Warm Hubs across the Wirral, support with food, fuel or finances, visit www.wirralinfobank.co.uk or call 0151 644 4516.**

The Gladstone Theatre

Tickets are available now. Call the Box Office on 0151 643 8757 or book online at www.gladstonetheatre.org.uk

THE HISTORY OF SOUL

Immerse yourself in the classic hits of the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s! Featuring hits from Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, James Brown, The Temptations, Ray Charles and many more.

Saturday 28th January at 7:30pm

THE KILKENNYS

The best traditional Irish folk and ballad band around. This is an energy-filled, toe-tapping and hand-clapping night of entertainment you won't want to miss!

Sunday 5th February at 7:30pm

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Join Alice on her magical wander through Wonderland. Laugh as she meets the Mad Hatter in the wildest tea party and help rescue the White Rabbit from the evil Queen of Hearts or it'll be "off with your head". The perfect Easter family pantomime.

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th April 2023 at various times



Dates for your 2023 diary

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, cheered and ran in the 2022 Port Sunlight Road Race. We also really appreciate the patience of residents for this event.

Next year's race has already been pencilled in for Sunday 11th June 2023 so get training!

Also, Folksy Theatre is returning to Port Sunlight for its annual summer visit in 2023. We've *The Ugly Duckling* on Sunday 13th August and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* on Wednesday 16th August.

Check www.portsunlightvillage.com/whats-on/ for ticket updates





© Steve Daniels (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Changing times in the village

You may have noticed that the Port Sunlight branch of NatWest Bank closed in September. The block housing the bank, 93-95 Greendale Road, has had a varied history since it was built in 1896. It first served as a dormitory for single women working in the Lever Brothers factory, and though the hostel provided convenient and affordable accommodation it was not a success and closed sometime between 1898 and 1903. Next the block housed a women's dining room, a confectionery shop, estate office and caretaker's room. The dining room closed when a larger facility was opened at Hulme Hall in 1900. By 1902, the block was also being used to provide additional classrooms for Park Road Schools.

In August 1903, the Lever Free Library and Museum opened there. The ground floor stocked 3,500 books and had both a lending and reference library. Upstairs, a museum held part of William Lever's collection of tribal weapons, masks and native costumes, assembled during his round the world trips. The museum was transferred to Hulme Hall in 1911.

The library was also not long in its original position. In 1919, the Manchester & District Bank moved into the left-hand side of the block while the other side of the building may have already been the location of the Levers Brothers Ltd Employee Savings Bank, thought to have opened before the First World War. The library appears to have been moved upstairs in 1910-20 to accommodate the banks.

There was more movement in 1948 when the Lever Bank was relocated to the General Offices. The first floor was set aside for the new Commercial and Technical Library while the lending library took over the vacated Lever Bank premises.

Meanwhile, in 1924 the Manchester & District Bank was renamed the District Bank Ltd. Following the merger of the District Bank, National Provincial Bank and Westminster Bank in 1970, it became the National Westminster or NatWest Bank.

Another recent change has involved the old stables behind the Gladstone Theatre. Horses were used for pulling goods wagons and vans until well into the 20th century, and Levers also had horse-drawn steam fire engines at one point. The stable building originally contained two separate stable units with more than a dozen stalls in each, as well as a coach house, harness room, sick room and hospital box. Eventually, the horses were retired and replaced by motorised transport. Some of the men who had worked with the horses were transferred to the vans while others got jobs in the factory itself.

From the late 1990s, the old stables housed the EPF staff shop where foreign versions of well-known Unilever products were sold. However, this business moved to premises at Dock Road, Bromborough this summer.

James Hayes

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

Port Sunlight Village Trust 23 King George's Drive, Port Sunlight, Wirral CH62 5DX
T 0151 644 4800 F 0151 645 8973 admin@portsunlightvillage.com portsunlightvillage.com

Port Sunlight Village Trust is a registered charity (no. 1074713) and a registered company in England and Wales (no. 3719976)



This newsletter is
printed on paper
from responsible
sources

