



## **Brief: Commissioning a Bronze Conservator for the War Memorial, Port Sunlight**

### **1. Introduction**

Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT) seeks to commission a bronze conservator for the on-site treatment of the bronze sculptural elements of the War Memorial, Port Sunlight. The specialist contractor ideally would be a conservator with ICON Accreditation, or significant equivalent experience.

The aim of this treatment is to undertake maintenance work on the bronzes by cleaning, stabilising and providing a protective coating on the bronze works to ensure that their condition does not deteriorate.

PSVT is seeking a conservator who could potentially work with the organisation for the long-term care of the many outdoor bronze statues and plaques in the conservation area, but this contract is solely for the work described herein.

### **2. The War Memorial**

The War Memorial is a Grade 1, outdoor monument in Port Sunlight village. It is owned and maintained by Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT).

The War Memorial is recognised as one of the most significant war memorials in the country and is one of the largest in the UK. The memorial was commissioned by Lever Brothers Ltd as a monument to the employees who lost their lives in the First World War, with later inscriptions to commemorate Unilever employees and village residents who died in the Second World War.

The monument was designed by Sir William Goscombe John, and was completed in 1921. It consists of a granite cross on an octagonal podium with eleven surrounding figures and twelve relief panels. All the figures are depicted larger than life, and were cast at Thames Ditton Foundry. The theme for the sculpture was 'Defence of the Realm'.

The War Memorial is located at a prominent crossroads near the centre of the village, at the junction of The Causeway, Jubilee Crescent, King George's Drive and Queen Mary's Drive. In 2014, the village war memorial was re-designated from Grade-II to Grade I-listed. It is located within the Grade II registered landscape / garden formed by The Dell, The Diamond and The Causeway and is within the Port Sunlight Village Conservation Area.



### 3. About Port Sunlight

Port Sunlight was founded in 1888 by the industrialist William Lever. He wanted to provide the employees of his new Lever Brothers soap works and their families with decent and affordable housing and a wide range of facilities, services, policies, and incentives to ensure their well-being and 'betterment'.

Port Sunlight is not the first example of an industrial worker village, but it is one of the finest surviving examples in the world. It was an immediate precursor to and a model for the Garden City movement and influenced the design of planned worker settlements, garden villages and garden suburbs around the world from the turn of the twentieth century to the present day.

Most residential properties, public buildings and monuments are listed at Grade II. Two sections of the landscape are included in Historic England's register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The village, set in 130 acres of parklands and gardens, is protected by conservation area status and covenants.

Today the village is home to just over 2,000 residents, a mixture of owner-occupiers and private tenants, and under normal circumstances attracts in the region of 300,000 domestic and international visitors each year. There are a variety of community organisations and businesses operating in Port Sunlight, from the village school and Grade II\* listed church to two pubs, a hotel, conferencing and events space, a garden centre, and a theatre.

There are other important stakeholders in the village too, namely:

- Wirral Council provide certain statutory services including for planning, waste management and highways and transport.
- National Museums Liverpool is responsible for the Lady Lever Art Gallery, which was founded by William Lever and continues to house one of the UK's finest collections of fine and decorative art, usually attracting in the region of 200,000 visitors each year.
- Port Sunlight is the historic home of Unilever in the UK; Lever Brothers became Unilever in 1929 following a merger with the Margarine Union. The company's rich history is documented in extensive and nationally Designated archives held on site in the Unilever campus.



#### 4. About Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT)

PSVT is an independent charity founded in 1999 by Unilever Plc. Our vision is to make “Port Sunlight, an inspiring place to live, work and visit.” Our mission “We are guardians of a unique and beautiful village, working with its community to ensure a great quality of life for residents and to celebrate William Lever’s amazing legacy through cultural and learning experiences for all.”

PSVT is responsible for:

- A diverse group of monuments (listed and unlisted), the museum collection, and the village archive.
- The landscape within the Conservation Area (except individual back gardens of houses).
- 292 of the Grade II-listed houses, 323 garages and 22 commercial and community buildings.
- Port Sunlight Museum & Gift Shop, including the Edwardian Worker’s Cottage and family interactive experience SoapWorks.
- Tackling social issues and promoting community cohesion.
- Managing the visitor destination and raising its profile through partnership working, marketing activities, visitor services, product development, and events.

PSVT employs 50 members of staff to discharge its charitable objectives and works with 18 volunteers across all areas of our operations from landscape gardening to building conservation. We are governed by a Board of Trustees with expertise in housing, surveying, finance, conservation, landscape, planning, museums, and heritage.

In 2019, PSVT launched its first [5-year strategic plan](#) articulating five strategic objectives for the organisation and village:

1. Conserve and promote Port Sunlight’s unique heritage in a sustainable way
2. Be a financially strong and well-managed, independent charity
3. Deliver high quality services across the estate
4. Realise the potential of Port Sunlight as a leading visitor attraction
5. Be a brilliant place to work

The [Conservation Management Plan \(CMP\)](#) was adopted for the village at the same time. Since then, the organisation has been working hard to lay solid foundations to realise its new vision and ambitions for the site.



## 5. The Project

The Memorial has been the subject of a number of repair and conservation projects. Information on the past treatment of the bronzes can be found in a report by Antique Bronze 2021 and in the Port Sunlight Village Trust CMP, Appendix 6 (Monuments and Memorials Survey, February 2017) as well as PSVT records. Information about previous work should be consulted during the preparation of detailed specifications for any new repair and conservation proposals.

The bronze sculptures and plaques, and the painted lead lettering of the War Memorial were inspected by bronze conservators in 2021. The stonework and structure were inspected by conservation architects in the same year. The findings and recommendations from both assessments were included in report which have been used to create a programme of works for the War Memorial.

The overall remedial work to the War Memorial will consist of three phases:

1. Treatment to the bronze works (this phase and this commissioned work)
2. Treatment to the stonework (this phase, but not in the scope of this commissioned work)
3. Treatment to the inscriptions and recasting of lost bayonet (future phase)

The bronze work is currently scheduled as the first phase of work for the War Memorial. The targeted completion date for the bronze conservation work is July 2023. The stone cleaning and conservation work will follow after the bronze work. Once the stone conservation and remedial works are completed, there will be minor works to address any surface coatings damaged by the stone works.

The overall project involves at least two different skilled trades or conservation disciplines and your work may need to be coordinated with these conservators or trades.



## 6. Scope of Works

Below is a summary of the scope of works for the bronzes. A more detailed breakdown is available in “**PSVT.02 War Memorial Bronze Conservation Report 2021**” and a list of works to be priced is included in the excel spreadsheet “**Works Overview, PSVT War Memorial (Bronze)**”

The methodology you develop as part of your tender submission must address the necessary conservation work as outlined below:

### Cleaning

- Remove all dirt, grime, guano, and cobwebs using super-heated water system.
- Undertake light cleaning of the stonework immediately adjacent to the bronze friezes with super-heated water

### Aesthetic re-balancing

- Aesthetic Re-balancing: where disfiguring tracks have formed on faces, repatinate in localised areas to match the brown/bronze shade of the monument’s existing patina.

### Protective wax coating

- Apply two coats of micro-crystalline wax, hot as a protective coating.

### Corrosion and localised repatination

- Take corrosion samples where active corrosion is suspected.
- These samples need to be analysed by RAMAN spectroscopy. Please specify in your tender response if you are able to undertake this analysis or if you need the analysis to be completed by PSVT client advisor, Lucy Branch ACR. If you are able to undertake the analysis, please itemise the cost for undertaking this service separately from the taking the corrosion samples.
- Blend and harmonise stable corrosion products across the surfaces by hand.
- Removal of corrosion around small cracks, filling of small cracks with hard wax or epoxy resin putty
- Undertake localised repatination around areas where corrosion has been removed in preparation for filling.
- Undertake peening/air-abrasion treatment to active corrosion in one area

### Mock ups

- Provide a mock up for each of the above works on one of the friezes. Mock ups should include light cleaning of the stone surrounding the friezes, cleaning of the bronzes using super-heated water, aesthetic rebalancing, wax coating, blending and harmonising corrosion, removal of corrosion and wax/putty filling, localised repatination, peening/air abrasion to active corrosion.
- Each mock up must be approved by PSVT and relevant consultants before further works begin. The mock ups should be protected and kept available on site for reference for the duration of the works.



#### Record keeping and reports

- Provide conservation report documenting all works carried out, including before/after images of works.

#### Post-stone conservation work

- Allow costs for an additional visit of up to two days to revisit the sculptures after stone works have been carried out to provide a light clean and attention to any localised areas where stone works might have compromised protective coating.
- You are invited to tender for these works as detailed in the enclosed documentation. We strongly recommend that you visit the site to ascertain the full scope of the works.
- Your Tender should include for all labour, plant and material including scaffolding (please see below under 'Budget' for more details).

#### 7. Skills and Experience

We believe that to deliver this piece of work successfully you will require the following skills and experience:

- ICON Accreditation or significant equivalent experience. ICON accreditation will be favourably considered in the application process.
- Training in the conservation and treatment of bronze works
- Experience in conservation work to historic bronzes
- Awareness of recognised standards, guidelines and regulations for heritage assets
- Project management skills, including organisation of project schedule, deliverables and team
- Strong communication skills
- Demonstrable methods for creating and maintaining records
- Evidence of appropriate insurance, including Public Liability Insurance

#### 8. Equality Diversity and Inclusion

PSVT is actively working to be a diverse and inclusive organisation. As part of PSVT's commissioning practice, we strongly encourage applicant submissions from people who are from the Global Ethnic Majority, Disabled, Neurodiverse, D/deaf, LGBTQ+, and/or from working-class backgrounds.



#### 9. Budget

The total cost of the works presented to PSVT as part of the tender process should include all costs of delivery such as labour, plant, materials, scaffolding, security measures, any additional welfare facilities, documentation, meetings and travel/accommodation. The Tender Response Form should be used to document your costings.

Please separate out the scaffold costs from the rest of the works. The scaffolding should include monoflex around the scaffolding, plus toe boards, it should be self-supporting not be fixed to the War Memorial, and relevant protection for the public/security (such as Heras fencing) should be in place.

PSVT can provide welfare facilities in PSVT offices which are located a short walk from the War Memorial. A small area will also be available for tools and equipment to be left at your own risk.

#### 10. Reporting relationships

You will report to Catherine Downey, Heritage Manager at Port Sunlight Village Trust and you will also need to liaise with the wider PSVT project team as needed. In addition, if the contractor nominated is not ICON accredited then PSVT client advisor, Lucy Branch ACR, will be involved to help and assist all parties.

#### 11. Application method

You are invited to submit a proposal that must demonstrate the following:

- Your proposed approach and programme schedule to deliver the scope of work described above, including a method statement for the works (60%)
- Examples of previous relevant projects, the names of two referees who have experience of working with you on similar projects and CVs for your team and ICON accreditation (where achieved) (20%). Please note PSVT will not contact references unless your application is likely to be shortlisted.
- Breakdown of costs by scope of work (20%)

Proposals will be evaluated on a quality-and cost basis.





## 12. Timescales

The brief will be issued on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 and responses must be submitted to Port Sunlight Village Trust in accordance with the guidance below **by 3pm on Friday 21st April 2023**. Interviews for short-listed parties will be conducted during the week of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The target date for commencing the project is 22<sup>nd</sup> May and the target date for completion is 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 so that works to the stone can commence from 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.

Please note that Port Sunlight Road Race event will take place on Sunday 11th June 2023, and the running track will include the roads directly next to the War Memorial.

### Guidance for submitting tender response:

Your tender response must be received in accordance with the following format and conditions:

1. Prices must be provided for each stage of works using the ***Tender Response Form***. Tenders returned not fully completed may be treated as void.
2. Hard copy to be submitted in a sealed envelope which does not mention the name or can be used to identify the Tenderer. Envelopes for tenders can be supplied by Port Sunlight Village Trust if needed. Tenders should be addressed to:  
**Catherine Downey**  
**Port Sunlight Village Trust**  
**23 King George's Drive, Port Sunlight**  
**CH62 5DX**
3. Your return tender must be received at the address above not later than **3pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023**.
4. Failure to meet the Closing Date or if a tender is returned electronically it will be considered void.

You are recommended to visit the site prior to submitting your tender to fully understand the works to be completed.

### **Timescales**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Tender process opens	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023
Tenders due	3pm Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2023
Interviews	Week commencing 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Target date for bronze works to commence	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023
Target date for bronze works to be completed by	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2023 (to allow for stone works to commence on 3 <sup>rd</sup> July)





### 13. Further Information

Please contact Catherine Downey, Heritage Manager, by calling 0151 644 4800 or emailing [c.downey@portsunlightvillage.com](mailto:c.downey@portsunlightvillage.com). Any email enquiries should have the subject heading **'Tender: War Memorial Bronze'**.

PSVT's 5-year strategic plan and 10-year Conservation Management Plan are available to download from PSVT's websites [www.portsunlightvillage.com](http://www.portsunlightvillage.com) and [www.portsunlightresidents.com](http://www.portsunlightresidents.com).

Please note the Conservation Management Plan includes a summary of past treatments to the War Memorial in Appendix 6 (Monuments and Memorials Survey, February 2017).

A link to the Historic England entry for the War Memorial, is below:

[Port Sunlight War Memorial, Non Civil Parish - 1343491 | Historic England](#)

PSVT has commissioned reports, including those listed below which will be made available on request:

- ***PSVT.02 War Memorial Bronze Conservation Report 2021***
- ***PSVT.02 War Memorial Lettering Conservation Report 2021***
- ***PSVT.02 War Memorial Condition Survey 2021***