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Hello and welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of the Port Sunlight Gazette. It's been a busy few months since our last edition, with some wonderful summer family filled events including our Acoustic Afternoon in the Dell which brought families and music lovers together. Here's to doing it again next year!

One of the brilliant additions to our existing museum offering this Summer was our Peaky Blinders exhibition which opened to the public on 24th June and welcomed 2653 visitors! The exhibition was well received with many new visitors welcomed to the village.

I would like to say a massive congratulations to all our village residents, volunteers and PSVT staff involved in achieving the Green Flag Award for the sixth consecutive year! The Green Flag Award is presented across the UK in recognition of well-kept parks and gardens as well as the Green Heritage Site accreditation for the management of its historic features. Conducted in July, the mystery shopper was impressed with our signage throughout the village and overwhelmed by the 'delightful ambience' and a 'well-cared for village.' Great work team!

You may have already seen our consultation boards for the early stages of the Lyceum hub concept that were on display at Bridge Cottage. Chambers Conservation Ltd assisted us with the creation of ideas, and we are still compiling the feedback from residents, social media and the wider public. The evaluation from the feedback will support the next stage of the process to hopefully secure funding for the venture. You can view the vision boards on our website.

In September 2023, Port Sunlight was rated the joint third best UK inland location to visit by Which? Magazine sharing the spot with Corfe Castle. More than 9,000 Which? Members rated the inland towns and villages they had visited. Port Sunlight scored 80% for destination and four stars as a visitor attraction. What a great village accolade!

Finally, during the month of September we said our goodbyes to our Honorary President Maggie Sparks who stepped down after a massive 26 years with PSVT and the Chair of the Board Rob Young who has been involved with PSVT since December 2016. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside them both and they will be sadly missed by everyone at PSVT. We wish Rob and Maggie all the best for their next chapters!

Paul Harris, Chief Executive, Port Sunlight Village Trust

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

We've recently welcomed a few new starters to the PSVT team. Join us in giving a warm welcome to:

- GARY KELLY-HARTLEY Casual Visitor Services Assistant
- LUCY KELLY Casual Visitor Services Assistant
- EVA GAYNOR-SMITH Casual Visitor Services Assistant
- LEWIS GRETTON Casual Visitor Services Assistant
- AMELIA CADMAN Collections Curator

We'd like to give a fond farewell and good luck to:

- SARAH PRESTON Business Development Officer
- LYNNE JONES Visitor Services Assistant Team Leader

GETTING TO KNOW...

Amelia Cadman

Let's welcome Amelia, who joined PSVT in September 2023 as the new Collections Curator.

Hello! I am the new Collections Curator at PVST. Previously, I was an Assistant Collections Manager of Archaeology at The British Museum.

What interested you in the Collections Curator role?

I was intrigued by the Collections Curator Role at PVST as it collated both my collections management and curatorial experience into one role. Furthermore, I knew the role would present some challenges for me which would push me to progress my skills and knowledge of the Museum and Heritage world. Finally, I have had local connections to Port Sunlight since childhood, and thus thought it would be a great opportunity to give back to a place that I myself have gained so much from.

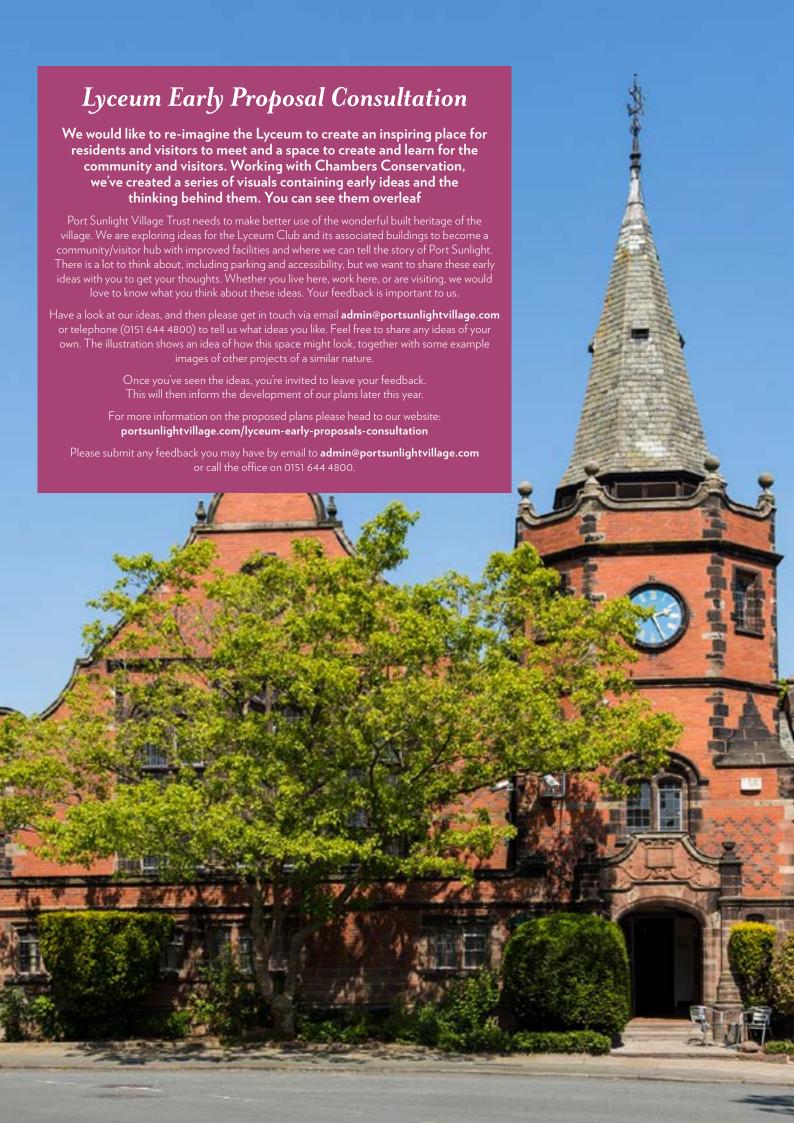
What is your favourite part of the village? Or collection?

My favourite part about the village at the moment are the outdoor spaces. I thoroughly enjoy being able to sit/walk through the green spaces, and admiring landscape and varied architecture.

Tell us one surprising fact about yourself

Surprising fact is that I am an avid rugby player and have played varying levels for the past 12 years, including representing Lancashire and the North of England.













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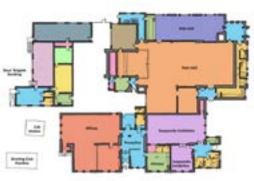


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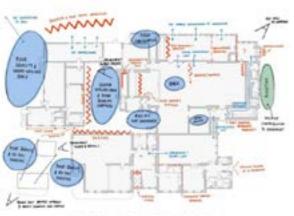








EXISTING GROOMS PLOOF PLAN



GROUND FLOOR ARALYSIS PLAN







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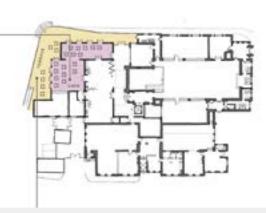
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(No Beed Streets)







You may recall from previous issues of the Gazette, that a programme of conservation work on Port Sunlight's War Memorial would take place this year. Over the summer, the first phase of this conservation work was successfully completed. The bronze figures and features have been carefully cleaned, repaired and waxed which provides a protective finish which will help to ensure that future generations can enjoy the bronzes.

In addition to the conservation of the bronzes, an essential survey of the Memorial's stone structure has also been completed over summer. This survey included specialist contractors carefully lifting selected sections of the stone around the monument to better understand its condition.

The next phase of conservation works this year includes carefully cleaning and repointing the stonework on the monument, which should make it less vulnerable to water penetration.

As you may have spotted, to protect the public and the War Memorial, fencing has been placed around the site, which means it will be inaccessible while the work takes place. We understand this isn't ideal and we're sorry for any disappointment, but the safety of everyone must be our top priority.

If you would like to discover more about the War Memorial, why not visit Port Sunlight Museum to explore a special display about the War Memorial including fascinating artefacts and a searchable database of names listed on the Memorial. You could also follow PSVT on social media to enjoy behind the scenes updates of the War Memorial conservation work and related items in PSVT's collections.

We'd also love to hear from you if you have any stories, memories or photographs relating to the War Memorial you would like to share by contacting admin@portsunlightvillage.com.

We'd like to thank you for your patience while this essential maintenance work is taking place. It is an important part of our long-term strategy to maintain and look after Port Sunlight's monuments, and this conservation work has been fully funded by Port Sunlight Village Trust.





CHERRY PICKER VIEW OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

A cherry picker was used to provide safe access to clean the War Memorial. While this work was taking place, our Conservation & Maintenance Manager, Gareth, was able to snap some birds eye views of the War Memorial and the village.



BRONZE BAYONET RETURNED

We recently had some great news related to the War Memorial. Some of you may be aware that one of the bronze bayonets has been missing from the War Memorial. We were delighted to hear from Kev who had discovered the missing bayonet and contacted PSVT recently to ensure that it was safely reunited with the monument.

The bayonet requires some conservation work, but once this is complete, it will be re-attached to the monument, with the other bayonet that PSVT holds in store, on significant occasions such as Remembrance Sunday events.

Let's Talk Engagement

Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT) is looking to improve how we engage with our residents to make sure we are delivering the right services for you, and that you are involved, informed and able to influence how we do things.

To help us we have appointed two local independent consultants, Catherine Simmons and Paul Kelly, to work with PSVT and local residents to shape a new Resident Engagement strategy for the organisation. Catherine and Paul have been working in the housing and community development field for over 30 years and have lots of experience of developing practical resident engagement tools to improve the way the voices of local people are heard.

Let's Talk is their approach to engaging with Port Sunlight Village Residents and they need your help to get this work right for our unique community. Here are some ways you can get involved.

October 2023 will be Let's Talk month. Catherine and Paul will be gathering as many views as possible from local residents about how you would like to shape the work of PSVT. There are a number of ways they will do this;

- A confidential survey has already been shared with all residents
 of Port Sunlight Village in early October which they would like
 you to complete and return in confidence. It will be in paper form
 as well as online via the PSVT website for those who wish to
 complete it digitally. The deadline for the survey to be returned is
 the 27th of October 2023.
- Lets Talk Workshop sessions Two sessions have already taken place in October that explore what's important to you and how you might want to be involved. These were promoted in your survey packs open to any Port Sunlight Village residents to attend and took place on:
 - Tuesday October 10th from 2 4 PM and
 - Wednesday October 11th from 6 8PM
- Drop-Ins and Door Knocking Door knocking will take place over October.
- Focus Groups Two focus groups will take place in late October, one with the Port Sunlight Village Residents Group and one with a wider group of invited residents. Personal invites will be made.



During November they will then run a series of events outlining ideas and proposals that they would like to test with you before putting proposals to PSVT. Full details of these events will be shared at a later date. So please, get involved in this important process for Port Sunlight Village Trust and Let's Talk.

Updates will be provided via our website (portsunlightvillage.com), Facebook (PSVT link), Instagram (@portsunlightvillagetrust) and twitter (@PortSunlight) but don't hesitate to get in touch with Paul or Catherine via email: paulk.caths@gmail.com or phone: 07484 380319 to speak to Paul if you want to check out how to be involved.



PORT SUNLIGHT LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The club is over 125 years old and started in Port Sunlight Village. It is now on the Leverhulme sports field in Bromborough, just around the corner but still proudly associated with Port Sunlight.

The club offers LTA accredited coaching for adults and juniors. Superb playing opportunities including social tennis, competitive League tennis, weekly box leagues, winter tennis in our floodlit league and a lively friendly social scene. If you fancy a try at tennis contact us by Email: portsunlightltc@hotmail.com or visit our website https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PortSunlightLTC Or visit us on Facebook. For Padel visit padeluniteduk.com/the-wirral-padel-club/

All ages and abilities are very welcome.

LYCEUM BRASS BAND

Port Sunlight Lyceum Brass (PSLB) celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Gladstone Theatre last month, Jane Grimes recounting the journey the band has taken since 1973.

A fanfare written specially by renowned composer Edward Gregson provided a dramatic opening to a varied programme conducted by PSLB Musical Director Simon Hartharn-Evans and young band member, Dominic Werne.

Special guest soloist Les Neish, himself a product of PSLB, now an internationally renowned Tuba player, took to the stage with the band's 18 year old Charlie Cresswell who recently earned his place at the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music. They played The Parting, a world premiere Tuba duet written by Gareth Bowman and the 1st movement of a Tuba Concerto written and conducted by Edward Gregson.

Mr Gregson, a cousin of Ralph Peters (one of the founder members, now secretary of the band) spoke fondly of his summer visits to Port Sunlight. Les went on to play Czardas in his own inimitable style, followed by a 1 fingered solo performance of Hungarian folk tunes!

During the varied second half Ralph Peters was awarded life presidency of the band in recognition of his faithful service. A rousing finale brought the programme to a close on a thoroughly enjoyable celebration!

PSLB would like to thank all who sponsored this event and came along to support. A great turnout allowed a significant contribution to The Rotary Club and Les Neish asked us to make a donation to Cancer Blows, a charity close to his heart, in lieu of expenses which the band counted a privilege to do.

SUNLIGHT UKES

Sunlight Ukes is Port Sunlight's community ukulele group, formed by residents and locals in the summer of 2022 after PSVT hosted beginners' workshops that were fun and accessible. None of the group - which numbers around twelve musicians and spans a wide age range - had ever been involved in playing music of any kind before the original workshops but now are collectively playing songs by the Beatles, the Mavericks, Neil Diamond and Chuck Berry among others. The group is even tentatively preparing to make its first recording!

Sunlight Ukes meet Wednesday evenings fortnightly in the church hall and this has become as much a social event as a musical one where new friendships have been forged and neighbours brought together.

Although the group is not strictly open to newcomers - as complete beginners would find it difficult to keep up - anyone who can already competently change between 3 or 4 chords on the ukulele and would like to see what all the fun is about can contact Ronnie Brandon at ronnieb216@googlemail.com

SUNLIGHT SKETCHERS

Do you paint or draw? Would you like to be part of a social art group here in Port Sunlight. The Sunlight Sketchers formed in 2018 and have been going strong ever since.

The group is now looking to expand by welcoming new members, you do not need to be a professional artist, this can be your hobby or interest, it doesn't matter how good you are at painting or drawing, it's about spending time together with like-minded people. The group meets every Wednesday from 11am-12.30pm in Port Sunlight Church Hall, it's free to join and you will be met with a warm welcome.

Over the coming months, the group will be inviting guest artists to lead creative art sessions once a month. To find out more, simply pop in during a session or give our community engagement officer a call on 07592 035923.

SUCCESS ON THE BOWLING GREEN

As the temperatures drop and the days become shorter Port Sunlight's Village and Works bowling club move towards the end of our Summer season. This year's season has been marked with a number of successes both on and off the green.

Back in July the "B" team achieved their first cup final for 5 years succumbing only to Bebington Park in a fine game played around the corner at the Levers Club on a rather damp Saturday night.

The "A" team have also had a triumphal season by winning top spot in the 3rd Division of the Birkenhead and Wirral league and in doing so achieving promotion at the first opportunity following last year's disappointment. Their record shows them winning 20 games and losing only 1 with 1 left to play.

Success can be measured in many ways and for us here at the club, perhaps the biggest success is the simple enjoyment and pleasure that the sport provides to our members, many of whom live in the Village. To that end it has been pleasing to note that our membership continues to grow, this season the range of ages trying Crown Green Bowls for the first time extends from teenagers to an enthusiastic 95 year old.

We also welcomed back to the green our friends from Wirral Metropolitan College with a group of student refugees, many of whom showed great promise in the game. As the league season comes to an end the club will be holding our annual Presidents Cup competition for members, the origins of which can be traced back to the cup first being presented by the first Lord Leverhulme back in 1908.

If you would like to try your hand at the sport, we hold practice sessions most Wednesday or Sunday evening between April and the end of September, all ages and abilities are welcome.

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF MUSIC AND SONG WITH THE NORTHERN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Northern Chamber Orchestra visited Port Sunlight this October, during their time here in Port Sunlight, the talented musicians of the NCO held four mini concerts aimed at the community ahead of the final large concert with the first that took place on the 3rd of October 9am – 12pm in Church Hall. Their main concert took place in Hulme Hall on the 13th October.

THE ICEBREAKERS SURPRISE SUNLIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Winning group of the Sunlighter of the year award, The Ice Breakers recently surprised fellow Sunlighter of the year Kearry Humphreys with a cheque for £150, which the group has raised for the much-cherished Enchanted Book Corner at Church Drive Primary School, set up by Kearry Humphreys. Kearry plans to spend the money on a friendship bench, which will sit pride and place beside the entrance to the school. A wonderful example of the community supporting one another and future generations.

If you would like to join a fun social group in Port Sunlight, and like the idea of the Ice Breakers, then pop along to the Bridge Inn on a Tuesday morning from 11am and ask for the group, they have over 30 members who meet each week and enjoy games, meals out and coach trips.

Dates for your Autumn diary

Go to portsunlightvillage.com/whats-on for more information

All activities are by donation and take place at the Church Hall (CH42 4UP)





COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER

Creative Connections Free Writing Workshops

Launching Tuesdays 10th of October, Creative Connections is a unique, five-part workshop for adults, offering up creative writing, community mapping, story sharing, and reflective discussion.

Soap Box Creative Walk Shop

for ages 16 – 25 – 23rd to 25th of October to explore creative activism, make their voices heard, and gain paid work experience in the cultural sector.

Pumpkin Carving Competition

Tuesday 31st October from 6pm

NOVEMBER

Warm Welcome

7th November

Warm Welcome at the Church Hall, 9am – 12pm. Free tea, coffee, toast and winter themed activities

DECEMBER

Christmas Craft and Create Sessions

Friday 1st, 8th and 15th of December, 11am - 1pm

Email c.bates@portsunlightvillage.com or call 07592 035923 to get involved with any of the community activities above

HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

AUTUMN MAKE AND TAKE (CRAFTS)

Thursday 26th of October - 10am, 11.30am

Join us for some autumnal and creepy crafts at our children's Halloween craft workshops, create your own nature bats, Halloween lanterns and more. Our 10am session will be tailored to early years crafts. Tickets to be booked in advance £3 per child.

SPOOKTACULAR SOAP AND SLIME

Friday 27th of October - 10am & 12pm

Step into the lab with Professor Suds to take part in a spooktacular soap and slime workshop this Halloween half term, add spooky critters to your sudsy experiments and create concoctions that make your cauldrons that ooze with slime in our 1-hour workshop this half term. Tickets to be purchased in advance. £6 per child. Recommended age 5 - 14 years.

HAUNTING TALES OF PORT SUNLIGHT TOUR

Saturday 28th & Tuesday 31st of October, 5pm - 6pm

Behind the beautiful architecture and wonderful green spaces lies a hidden history of spooks in sunlight. Join our tour guides as they take you on an exclusive Spooky Tales of Port Sunlight tour this Halloween. Recommended for ages 14+.

FAMILY FRIENDLY TRAILS

To top that all off, we'll be launching two themed trails this October including an Autumnal journey around the village and for those Halloween fans a creepy creatures of Port Sunlight scavenger hunt. Trails will be sold from our Port Sunlight Museum. Details to be announced on our What's On Page.

WHAT'S ON IN PORT SUNLIGHT THIS

AUTUMN

AUTUMN ENTERTAINMENT AT THE GLADSTONE THEATRE

Hocus Panto - Saturday 28th October 2023:

Talegate Theatre are flying back into the Gladstone this Halloween with their spooktacular parody pantomime! With a wave of a wand, the three witches you love to hate are back and more magical than ever with the perfect treat (or trick) that will leave you spellbound!

Ray Quinn - King Of Swing - Saturday 11th November 2023

Join Ray Quinn for a concert spectacular celebrating the fabulous golden era of music. Telling the incredible story of the world-famous Rat Pack, the show will feature timeless classics from the stars of swing Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin Sammy Davis Jr, and more!

Father Christmas Comes Up Trumps - Sunday 3rd December 2023

Father Christmas is back, and this time he's had three helpings of sprouts! As he tries to deliver the presents, his tummy rumbles, gurgles and groans, but Father Christmas knows he must keep it in – he doesn't want to wake anyone up! TaleGate Theatre Productions hit the perfect combination of witty humour, fantastic music and the extra sparkle.

Beauty and the Beast Panto – 8th – 31st of December 2023

Dreamworld Entertainments highly anticipated pantomime production of 'Beauty and the Beast' is heading to The Gladstone Theatre. This enchanting show promises to captivate audiences of all ages, with its magical transformations, popular songs, and hilarious comedy.

Book your tickets for all of these events via The Gladstone Theatre Box Office on 0151 643 8757 or www.gladstonetheatre.org.uk

CHRISTMAS AT HULME HALL

Christmas Party Nights

December 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd

New Years Eve Party

New Years Eve Party at 7.30pm. Dress to impress, entry £35, 18+ DJ David NYE in House, pure vibes and electro beats. International buffet by Chef Kush.

FLOWER FAIRIES AT LADY LEVER ART GALLERY

Immerse yourself in the enchanting world of illustrations from the Flower Fairies books by Cicely Mary Barker. To mark the centenary of Barker's first book, Flower Fairies of the Spring, this exhibition features around 45 exquisite and botanically-accurate original illustrations, with digital projections and costumes inspired by the fairies. Explore the inspirations behind Barker's paintings, as well as the flora and fauna featured in the work, through National Museum Liverpool's botanical collections.

Flower Fairies is open 15th April until 5th November. Tickets are free, with a suggested donation. Visit liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/flowerfairies

CHRIST CHURCH

Special Services

12th of November, 10.45am: Remembrance Service

Events

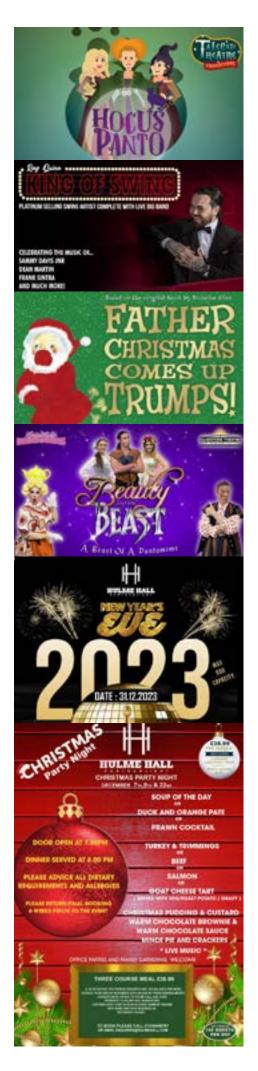
12th of November, 6.30pm: Liverpool Bach Collective Choral Evensong and Cantata

Messy Church meets first Saturday of each month from 10am - 11.30am.

A morning of crafts, activities and worship. Children of all ages and their parents and / grandparents are welcome. Children must bring an adult.

Next dates are 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December.

No charge, just a donation if you are able.



The Edwardian Workers Cottage

The Edwardian Worker's Cottage provides an opportunity for visitors to Port Sunlight Museum to step back in time to experience everyday life in the village over a century ago.

The cottage, at No. 22 King Georges Drive, was built in 1913 as the village expanded around the wide boulevard known as The Diamond. The cottage is part of a block which included a new Girls' Club, now Port Sunlight Museum. It was designed by James Lomax-Simpson, son of Jonathan Simpson, a childhood friend of William Lever who had also designed housing blocks in the village. Lomax-Simpson was appointed head of Lever Brothers Architectural Department in 1910 and was responsible for much of the village's appearance from this period.

The cottage was also the home of James and Gertrude Carr, who moved into the newly built cottage on 23rd July 1913. James had arrived in the area from mid-Cheshire when he took up a job as a soap maker at Lever Brothers but it took a few years before he was able to rent a home in the village. He worked for the company until his retirement in 1951, and his

children, Florence and Allan, also worked for Lever Brothers.

We were recently visited by Lynette, who is the granddaughter of James and Gertrude Carr. Lynette brought with her a treasure trove of family photos to show us, and was kind enough to spend some time with us going through each image, sharing family anecdotes and memories. We were delighted to learn more about the Carr family, which play such a central part in the story of the Worker's Cottage.

Here are just a few of the many images Lynette brought; we would like to thank Lynette for her donating both her time and her collection of family photographs to our museum collection for future generations to enjoy.

If you have any memories, objects or photographs of living, visiting or working in Port Sunlight you would like to share, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact admin@portsunlightvillage.com for attention of Catherine Downey, Heritage Manager if you would like to discuss further.





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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