



The
PORT SUNLIGHT
Gazette

ISSUE NO. 35
SPRING
2024

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Port Sunlight
VILLAGE TRUST

Cover image: © David Jones



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

Hello and welcome to this spring edition of the Port Sunlight Gazette, your quarterly magazine filled with the latest news, updates and events Port Sunlight's community should know about. This edition is a special one, not only because it marks the beginning of a year filled with some exciting plans (more on that shortly), but because you'll also find a separate publication celebrating the 25 years since Port Sunlight Village Trust was founded. I hope you enjoy reading it and learning more about the significant work we've been doing since 1999.

We start 2024 with a few exciting team announcements. Firstly, I'm delighted to welcome Andrew Bowden as PSVT's new Chair of the Board of Trustees. He'll be leading on guiding PSVT into a new phase of the charity's and village's development – read on to get to know more about Andrew. I'm also delighted to welcome back Katherine Lynch to PSVT after a period of parental leave, who has taken on a new role as Director of Projects and is already driving forward some of our biggest priorities. This also means we're lucky enough to keep Jean Milton who will be continuing as our Director of Heritage on a permanent basis.

In this edition, you can discover the brilliant events and exhibitions we've got coming up, from a Sugar and Spice food and drink festival and Easter trail to a nationally-significant photography exhibition. You can also learn about our work to insulate our tenants' homes, with some information I'm sure private owners will find helpful too. There's also an important invitation to attend open meetings with Paul Kelly and Catherine Simmons to hear about their proposals to change how PSVT engages with residents following several months of consultation.

Wishing everyone who visits, lives or works in this special village a happy and bright springtime in Port Sunlight.

Paul Harris, Chief Executive, Port Sunlight Village Trust

Fancy winning £1,000?

The Port Sunlight Lottery is a great way to have a flutter while directly supporting our village. For just £2 per week you could be entered into the weekly draw, with a chance to win one of 30 cash prizes, plus entry into quarterly superdraws where you can win £5,000 or £10,000. Sign up now and you can be part of our spring superdraw in March.

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.

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 PSVT - in 2023, we raised over £7,000 through the lottery! Anyone over the age of 18 can play so please tell friends and family. Good luck!

Have a question? Email admin@portsunlightvillage.com



GIVE A Port Sunlight WELCOME TO Andrew Bowden

Experienced housing sector leader Andrew Bowden has joined PSVT as our new Chair of the Board, after we said a fond farewell to Rob Young last year. Andrew brings with him over twenty years working within Local Government and the Third Sector prior to becoming the first Chief Executive Officer of a newly formed Housing Association in North Wales. There will be opportunities for residents to meet Andrew over the coming months, however to help you get to know him a better, we asked him a few questions.

What interested you in becoming PSVT's Chair?

I had visited the village a number of times over the last few years with my family and it always brought a smile to my face with the village layout, gardens and fantastic monuments. It seems so restful and good for the spirit – I've often thought about moving in!

Any hobbies or special interests?

I am a keen walker and sailor – I have a boat in Conwy, North Wales and I just love the sea and mountains. My father was in the Royal Navy and was the first radar officer to bring up the ships calling into Liverpool docks.

Favourite part of the village?

I think all of it really. How green and open it is, how you feel you can really breathe, how it was originally designed to provide the maximum open green space to its residents. This legacy of design, I believe, still demonstrates best practice that we can all still learn from.

How does Port Sunlight inspire you?

How things can be done, and how it really makes you think how to best design a housing development that becomes a vibrant community. The community spirit is very visible, and everyone wants to make a positive difference whether small or large – that's the future, and I want to play my part in this. I hope I can make a positive impact on village life in Port Sunlight, knowing it's your precious homes and open spaces that I and the trustees are responsible for, now and in the future.

LEAVE A LEGACY... FOR FREE!

Port Sunlight was an inspirational legacy left by William Lever for us all to enjoy.

By leaving us a legacy in your Will, you can help to inspire future generations, and ensure that they are able to enjoy this special place as much as you do today.

To make it even easier, PSVT has now partnered with FreeWills.co.uk to give you the opportunity to make your own fully comprehensive Will for free. You can make your personalised Will online in three simple steps, from the comfort of your own home and with live support from their Will specialists.

Go to portsunlightvillage.com or search 'support Port Sunlight' to find out more.

A LET'S TALK UPDATE

Join us for open meetings
on 4 & 5 March

As you will know, Catherine Simmons and Paul Kelly have been employed by PSVT to develop the first resident engagement strategy for the organisation. Over the autumn of last year, they undertook a survey of village residents and held workshops to gather people's views on how they would like to be involved in the work of PSVT.

Draft proposals were then developed which were tested out with residents at a couple of further workshops. Discussions were also

held with the committee of the Port Sunlight Residents Association.

A draft resident engagement strategy has now been produced and was discussed with PSVT's Board in January. We now believe we have some exciting proposals to share that will really be a game changer in how PSVT involves residents of the village in the work it delivers.

We would like to share more with you before the final strategy is approved for implementation by PSVT's Board later in March.

You are invited to attend one of our open public meetings on either:

- ♦ Monday 4th March at 6pm in the Church Hall, Bridge Street, or;
- ♦ Tuesday 5th March at 2pm in the Church Hall, Bridge Street



The new chair of PSVT, Andrew Bowden, will attend the Monday evening session. PSVT's Director of Operations Lin Whalley will also attend both meetings.

Please let us know if you can attend by calling 0151 644 4800 or emailing paulk.caths@gmail.com



INSULATING PORT SUNLIGHT

Earlier in January 2024, PSVT began an ambitious and important programme of work to improve the energy performance of our tenants' homes. With 292 properties in our care, most of them Grade II listed and with strict conditions in place to protect their historical significance, it's no easy feat.

WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE?

Port Sunlight was designated a Conservation Area in 1978 in recognition of its national importance, and so every owner of a property or building in Port Sunlight must adhere to a strict set of conditions. To make changes to a listed building, you must apply to Wirral Council for Listed Building Consent. PSVT's role is to provide advice and support to all residents on the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of their listed homes. This has included the creation of a long-term Conservation Management Plan for the village, which we're currently refreshing and will be launching in the next few months.

As many residents (both tenants and private owners) will know, keeping Port Sunlight's listed homes warm and energy efficient is a challenge. Many properties do not meet the expected grade C standard EPC rating. Significant investment is required to meet those standards and ensure they are comfortable places to live, and it's something PSVT knows we must do to ensure Port Sunlight continues to thrive as a heritage site and community. That is why we have begun this important programme to insulate our homes.

A WINDOW INTO A WARMER FUTURE

The first phase of this programme has involved 24 properties, all our longest-standing tenants. Each property has received new secondary glazing fitted by our chosen contractors Arctic Glaze, who have previously worked on similar commercial projects including Coventry Town Hall, the Corn Exchange in Manchester and many other heritage buildings. However, this is by far one of the biggest projects they have worked on.

Working closely with Wirral Council, PSVT was able to secure approval to fit the secondary glazing without Listed Building Consent. This is thanks to the impressively subtle look of the secondary glazing fitted by Arctic Glaze, which was judged to not interfere with the exterior aesthetic of the properties' listed windows.

Some of the properties have also had new loft insulation and boilers fitted. While the cost of this programme of work – over £120,000 – has

been significant, it is an important investment that will also reduce our tenants' energy bills.

Further phases to upgrade the energy efficiency of our tenants' homes will begin in the coming months, alongside our usual annual programme of cyclical building and maintenance work. If you have any questions, please email conservation@portsunlightvillage.com or call 0151 644 4800.



OUR FIRST HAPPY CUSTOMER!

The very first tenant to have their secondary glazing fitted was Mrs Ealden, who has been a tenant with Unilever and PSVT since the 1950s!



The guys who installed the glazing were extremely professional and were the cleanest contractors that we have encountered. They explained how to use the glazing and were patient with our questions. We couldn't recommend them highly enough... We waited to give feedback so that we could share the impact of the secondary glazing. We have noticed a huge improvement with the draughts that used to come through the windows and the biggest difference is in the kitchen. Not only is the property warmer but it has provided a level of soundproofing which is great."

**JENNY AND MICHELLE,
KING GEORGE'S DRIVE**



A MESSAGE FROM JONATHAN MOTT, ARCTIC GLAZE LTD MANAGING DIRECTOR.

PSVT initially approached us to discuss their development plans, which aimed to enhance thermal insulation and increase the EPC ratings of several properties located in Port Sunlight. After meeting with their team, we discussed how our Secondary Glazing system could help preserve the historical significance of the buildings while minimising heat loss.

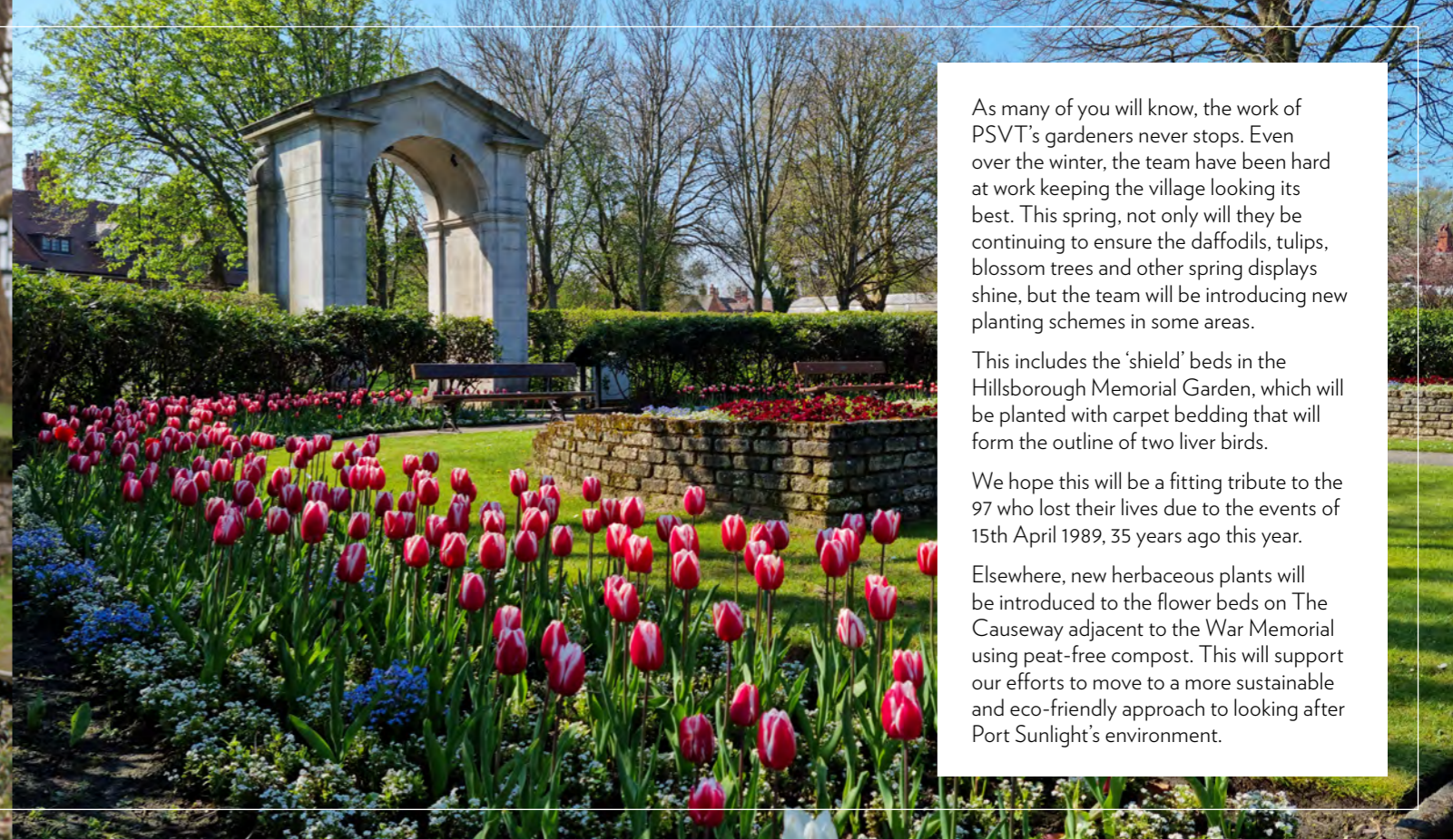
Our Secondary Glazing system is a discreet window system that provides an additional layer of insulation, helping to increase thermal insulation and reduce noise levels. We were thrilled to be selected as the approved Secondary Glazing contractor for the project and to be a part of one of the UK's largest Secondary Glazing initiatives. Working with the PSVT team and tenants was a seamless process, and we were able to specify, design, and install 181 Secondary Glazed windows in just 4 weeks.

As a result of the Insulating Port Sunlight initiative, we have already received requests from 8 non-PSVT homes for Secondary Glazing. We are happy to announce that we are offering a 15% discount for the installation of Secondary Glazing for all non-PSVT homes in Port Sunlight.

The feedback from the initial installation has been outstanding, and we are delighted to see that Secondary Glazing has significantly improved EPC ratings.



WHAT ARE OUR gardeners UP TO?



As many of you will know, the work of PSVT's gardeners never stops. Even over the winter, the team have been hard at work keeping the village looking its best. This spring, not only will they be continuing to ensure the daffodils, tulips, blossom trees and other spring displays shine, but the team will be introducing new planting schemes in some areas.

This includes the 'shield' beds in the Hillsborough Memorial Garden, which will be planted with carpet bedding that will form the outline of two liver birds.

We hope this will be a fitting tribute to the 97 who lost their lives due to the events of 15th April 1989, 35 years ago this year.

Elsewhere, new herbaceous plants will be introduced to the flower beds on The Causeway adjacent to the War Memorial using peat-free compost. This will support our efforts to move to a more sustainable and eco-friendly approach to looking after Port Sunlight's environment.

Feeding wildlife in Port Sunlight

Liam English, Landscape Manager

Supporting wildlife in and around our village brings enormous pleasure to many of our residents, and in an environment that is increasingly difficult for our native residents, doing what we can to support these fragile and interconnected ecosystems is vital for their continued survival.

With that mind, we have reached out to our local experts to find out the best ways we can help, without inadvertently causing more harm than good.

Hilary Ash from Wirral Wildlife told us we should support many of our native species, be it birds, mammals, or insects, without creating an overreliance and upsetting the natural balance that exists.

Hilary said: "We do a lot of feeding of garden wildlife in England, much more so than in Europe or US, perhaps because we have destroyed so much of our wildlife. However, even RSPB are now warning that it can have harmful effects, by encouraging disease spread, and by boosting population to a level where it causes other problems. For instance, our insect populations have fallen to perhaps a quarter of what they were 70 years ago.

All birds feed their young on insects, for the high protein. So, if winter bird numbers are boosted by people feeding them, then there is an impact on our already low insect numbers come spring. In urban areas this can



If you do like to see foxes in the garden, do not put too much food out, just enough for one fox to eat, and keep plates and drinking bowls clean."

HILARY ASH, WIRRAL WILDLIFE

be one reason why we find ourselves short of pollinating insects. So, if we want to feed the birds, we should be encouraging our insect populations as well." So, if any individual population gets too large, it can upset the natural balance and can even encourage the spread of diseases.

Gray Taylor from Wirral Fox Rescue, also advised: "There are valid arguments for both feeding and not feeding, but our view is, feel free to leave food out. They don't need us to, but it does help them, and it makes it easier for the likes of us to treat them if they become

unwell. If you wish to feed foxes, we advise to do so with some consideration towards neighbours, who may inherit discarded food.

Avoid large items as these are too easily removed and dropped elsewhere. Do this in moderation, try to be responsible when choosing food to put out and consider your neighbours. We would also recommend feeding with an eye to giving protein which is important to a fox's metabolism. Canned dog food and meat are fine, as are other small items that cannot be carried away."

Recycle, recycle, recycle!

Thanks to the artistic talents of a few Church Drive Primary School students, we're delighted to share three new posters promoting recycling in Port Sunlight. The students' designs were selected following a competition set by the school's Green Team to encourage people to use the three new recycling bins installed by PSVT last year.

Our community engagement officer Claire and gardener Vicki presented some special eco-themed prizes to the winners last summer.

You can now see the chosen designs on the bins outside Port Sunlight Museum, SoapWorks at the Lyceum and on Boundary Road.



A REMINDER ABOUT SERVICE ROAD ACCESS

Remember that the service roads behind housing blocks in the village should always be accessible for vehicles and bin lorries. While most residents already do, please park your cars responsibly and be mindful of how much space you are leaving for others. Any blocked roads could lead to a disruption in services.

YOUR Port Sunlight

Welcome to a new feature in the Gazette – Your Port Sunlight – where in each issue, you can share your unique perspective on village life. It's a chance to celebrate the varied and wonderful things Port Sunlight's community do to make the village an inspiring place to live, work and visit.

If you would like to be featured in the next issue or know someone who might, we'd love to hear from you. Please email admin@portsunlightvillage.com

MARILYN ALLEN

on volunteering at the Gladstone Theatre...

"I moved to the village in 2015 for family reasons and within a year or two I was volunteering not only with PSVT but also at the Gladstone Theatre. From helping run the Box Office and stewarding some of the theatre's fabulous shows and performances to selling ice creams, there are different things you can do. It's a great way to meet new people and get involved in village life. My niece thinks I know everyone in the village, but in some ways I do! You only need a few hours a week to spare, usually in the evenings, and you get to watch shows for free while volunteering. There's also no uniform – just something smart casual in black will do. Good things come from putting yourself out there, so get involved and come support your local theatre!"

To enquire about volunteering at the Gladstone Theatre, drop in to the theatre on Greendale Road on weekdays or call 0151 643 9223.



Fancy joining Marilyn as a theatre volunteer?

PCSO COLIN ANDERSON

on supporting Port Sunlight's community...

"I'm one of two dedicated officers for the electoral ward of Bromborough and work from Bebington Police Station as a part of the local policing team there. Tom and I cover the area incorporating Bromborough, Port Sunlight and New Ferry, which also includes part of Spital. We deal with a wide range of reports, many of them social issues and work with several partner agencies in the process.

Anti-social behaviour is a subject that is at the core of the neighbourhood policing and is a priority for local officers, but we are also involved in matters concerning mental health, drug & alcohol abuse, and victim care. We do community meetings, residents' groups, Police surgeries/drop ins and do talks in the local Primary and Secondary Schools. The list is not exhaustive and the role and responsibilities within the role change regularly."

If you require assistance from Merseyside Police, there are several ways you can contact them. For non-urgent matters call 101 or it's 999 for emergencies. There is also an online reporting facility via the Merseyside Police website.

BECOME A PSVT VOLUNTEER

Volunteering is at the very heart of PSVT. The energy, initiative and generosity of our volunteers is key to a successful, sustainable future. Our volunteers donate their valuable time right across the charity from supporting with our heritage offer to helping to maintain our parks and gardens, and so much more.

We currently have opportunities for Learning Activities Assistants, Events Assistants, Museum interactors and guides, Community Engagement Assistants and Marketing Assistants to join us. Everyone is welcome and we accept all levels of experience. In most cases, having the right attitude is the most important thing.

If you're interested, email volunteering@portsunlightvillage.com or call 0151 644 4800.



DAVE LAY

on running the Port Sunlight Village History Group on Facebook...

"While I didn't create the Port Sunlight Village History Facebook group, I was made an admin in October 2016 and was contributing before that time. I then took over the running of the group in September 2017 when the previous admin who created it stepped down. With me growing up in Port Sunlight, I have many memories from the past so the group means a lot to me. I enjoy seeing people reconnecting with old friends after many years. I also like seeing comments that jog my memories about people and places from the past."

Join the group by going to Facebook and searching 'Port Sunlight Village History Group'.

Dave dressed in character as William Lever as part of Port Sunlight's Heritage Open Days event in 2018

KEARRY HUMPHREYS

on creating the Enchanted Book Corner...

"Growing up in Port Sunlight was magical. Church Drive, the Boating Lake, the Art Gallery and secret paths between the houses made for such a special childhood. My favourite place however was The Lever Library – an endless cavern of books for me to escape into.

Time travel forty years later – the Library sadly no more and I am back working at "Churchy" (Church Drive Primary School) older and possibly wiser, and I thought how wonderful it would be to have a children's library outside the school for children to fall in love with books just like I did. So, The Enchanted Book Corner began and I never imagined it would become such a special place for so many people – grown-ups and little ones. I could write thousands of words or even my own book on all the lovely things that happen there, but just to see children sitting reading under Lord Leverhulme's cherry blossom tree fills my heart with joy. The little notes they leave in the visitor book make me smile every day and I hope they have memories as precious as mine of this beautiful village."

Visit the Enchanted Book Corner outside the front of Church Drive Primary School any day of the week.



Kearry won last year's Maggie Sparks Sunlighter of the Year Award for her efforts to create the Enchanted Book Corner

Spring Events

IN PORT SUNLIGHT



EASTER TRAIL

29th & 30th March, £6 each

Find the hidden bees around the village with your family to claim your chocolate (or vegan alternative) reward and special prize. Tickets include a bee headband, bee wings, a chocolate egg, trail map and a pencil.

Pre-booking recommended.
Buy your tickets at portsunlightvillage.com

SUGAR & SPICE FESTIVAL

29th & 30th March, 9.30am–5pm, Free entry

Visit the Diamond to take your pick from a range of sweet and savoury hot and cold food and drink vendors on offer and browse a range of local produce and artisan crafts.

This exciting new festival is presented by Port Sunlight Village Trust and The Chocolate Cellar.



MAY HALF TERM

Join us for a 'toys from the past'-themed craft activity and a session for mini masterchefs to take part in a pop-up 'make and munch'. Keep an eye on PSVT's website and social media for more information and tickets.

WARM WELCOME

Enjoy free hot drinks & toast, activities and access to information about support services at the monthly Warm Welcome sessions on the first Tuesday of each month at the Church Hall on Bridge Street, 9am–12pm. On 5th March, there will be a book sale, quiz and there will be an opportunity to make your own unique bookmark. On 2nd April, we'll be sowing sunflower seeds and micro greens as well as decorating pots.

EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

8th March, 11am–1pm

Learn the basics of hand embroidery in a relaxed environment of the Church Hall on Bridge Street. Create a spring themed scene on recycled material before mounting it on to a greetings card. This workshop is for adults and suitable for beginners. Pay by donation. Text Claire on 07592 035 923 to book a place.

SPRING ACTIVITY TRAIL WITH REMY THE RABBIT

from 20th March, £2 each

Join Remy the Rabbit and their friend buzz on a self-led springtime adventure of Port Sunlight. Pick up your activity booklet from Port Sunlight Museum to get going. Includes a pencil and eraser.

HULME HALL

There's a fair for all tastes this spring at Hulme Hall. Explore the popular flea markets on 3rd March, 7th April or 5th May. Pick up something special at the Vintage and Collectibles fairs on 17th March or 19th May. Treat yourself to something unique at the Craft and Antique fairs on 14th April or 26th May. Entry is free, and all fairs are open 9am–3pm.



PORT SUNLIGHT PLAYERS

Hello campers! Following on from Port Sunlight Players' recent successful production of the Dolly Parton musical '9 to 5', you're invite to their next comedy play, 'HI-de-HI!'

Come and visit the fictional Maplin's Holiday Camp to see what the struggling entertainers are up to. Meet Gladys who has her heart set on Jeffrey, the Entertainments Manager; Camp Comic Ted with his sidekick Spike; and, of course, Peggy the dedicated chalet-maid whose dream is to become a Yellowcoat...

GLADSTONE THEATRE

Beatles Complete
Friday 15th March 2024

Enjoy a night of Beatlemania packed with hits from the most influential band of all time, from 'Please Please Me' through to 'Let It Be', this is a night not to be missed for Beatles fans.

The Little Mermaid
Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th April

Swimming into the Gladstone this Easter is a new tale about Lenor, our mermaid princess, as she finds her sea legs in search of her happily ever after! Perfect for families.

Lipstick On Your Collar
Friday 12th April 2024

Get your dancing shoes at the ready because you are in for an evening of back to back hits from the 1950s and 60s, from Connie Francis and Buddy Holly to The Ronettes and Cilla Black.

Spectacular Science Show
Saturday 13th April 2024

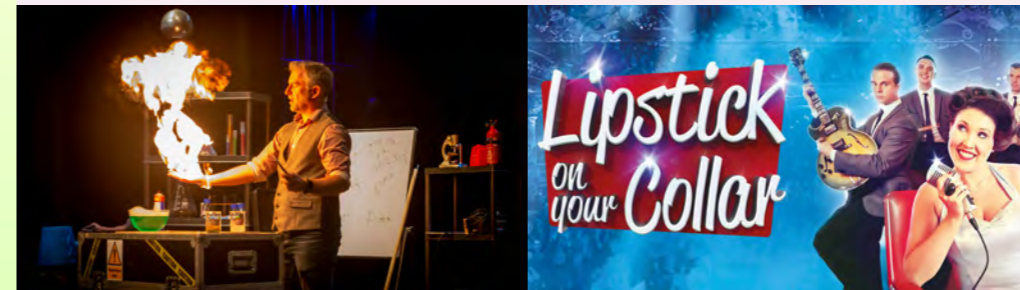
Awarded 'Best Kid's Show at Edinburgh Fringe' this interactive show, the Spectacular Science Show explores the strange and magical properties of matter from exploding elephant's toothpaste to vortex-generating dustbins and even howling jelly babies!

Leverhulme Drama Festival
Monday 15th – Saturday 20th April 2024

The Leverhulme Drama Festival returns this April for an annual week of drama as we host a selection of plays celebrating the best local theatrical talent on the Wirral and surrounding areas!

The Counterfeit Sixties
Friday 17th May 2024

Join us for a night of sixties nostalgia with the fantastic music of The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Dave Clark Five, The Kinks and The Monkees and more as The Counterfeit Sixties present a showcase of the great bands of this unforgettable time.



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

CHRIST CHURCH

Holy Week & Easter 2024 at Christ Church

PALM SUNDAY: 24th March, 10.30am **MAUNDY THURSDAY:** 28th March, 7pm
GOOD FRIDAY: 29th March, 10.30am **EASTER SUNDAY:** 31st March, 10.30am

The church's popular Bank Holiday Cream Teas are back, starting with Easter Monday 1st April, 1pm–4pm. Join us for freshly made scones in the relaxed surroundings of Christ Church. The café will also reopen in spring for a second year. Watch out for the date to be announced soon.

Christ Church will be opening its doors again to welcome visitors, starting from Tuesday 2nd April to Friday 27th September. Stewards provide a valuable service for all visitors and locals to experience and enjoy Christ Church, giving a warm and friendly welcome.

If you feel you can spare a little time and enjoy meeting people, why not consider joining?

For more information please speak to the Minister Val Young or any of the Elders.

PORT SUNLIGHT LADIES BOWLING CLUB

The Ladies Bowling Club are looking for new members to join their crown green bowls team to play in afternoon league matches next season (April–September 2024).

The club meet up at the bowling green, opposite Hulme Hall, every Wednesday and Sunday, 1pm onwards for practice days. Whether you have bowled before or are new to the game, you're welcome to come along. For more information, please call Lynne on 07876 754719 or Ann on 07495 488429.

PORT SUNLIGHT ORCHESTRA

The orchestra is proud to be one of the oldest societies in Port Sunlight and enjoys bringing a wide variety of orchestral music to both the community and visitors to the village, with concerts from October to April each year, and with free admission.

Vacancies occasionally exist for new players, particularly for violin players at the moment of grade 5 upwards.

For more information, visit portsunlightorchestra.org.uk.

Join the orchestra for their concert, 'Stage and Screen', on Sunday 21st April 2024, 2.30pm–3.30pm at Lady Lever Art Gallery.



BPPA ASSIGNMENTS 2024

From 8th June to 1st September 2024, Port Sunlight will host a significant photography exhibition by the British Press Photographers' Association, *Assignments 2024*.

Look out for more information coming soon.

HELP US MAKE THE GAZETTE MORE ACCESSIBLE

We're looking to make the Port Sunlight Gazette more accessible so that it can be enjoyed by everyone. To help us achieve this, we want to know if you would like to receive the Gazette in alternative ways.

Please complete this slip, cut it out and hand it in to Port Sunlight Museum or PSVT's offices at 23 King George's Drive. Alternatively, you can email your feedback to admin@portsunlightvillage.com or call 0151 644 4800.

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

Please complete this if you would like to sign up to receive the latest news, updates and future issues of the Gazette by email. You will be able to unsubscribe at any time.

- Please deliver large print versions of the Gazette only
- Please deliver both large print versions and standard versions of the Gazette

I would like the Gazette in another format. Please write here:



COULD YOU BE THE PORT SUNLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR?

Have you got a good eye for the perfect photo? Handy with a camera? Most importantly, do you think you could capture Port Sunlight's history, beauty and everything else that makes this village so special?

To celebrate the upcoming exhibition of work from the British Press Photography Association (BPPA) coming to Port Sunlight this summer, we're launching the Port Sunlight Photographer of the Year competition.

There is an entry fee of £15 and you can submit up to four photographs, with all entries being judged by members of the BPPA. What's the prize? The winning photograph will be featured in a new Port Sunlight annual calendar, which will be available to purchase online and at Port Sunlight Museum. There will also be a runner-up prize.

The competition is open until 11.30am on Monday 15th April, so get snapping and enter now! Go to portsunlightvillage.com/poty for the full terms & conditions and how to enter. #PortSunlightPOTY

PORT SUNLIGHT, WILLIAM HESKETH LEVER AND FREEMASONRY

By Norman K. Harvey

The relevance of Freemasonry to Port Sunlight is more significant than may be realised, thanks to William Hesketh Lever who later became Viscount Leverhulme. Ceremonially cutting the sod in 1888 was the first physical action of creating his visionary concept of housing his employees and their families in the model village of Port Sunlight. Mr Lever was not a Freemason at that time. He was, however, already embracing the solid principles of social and moral virtues upon which the Order is founded. His philanthropic nature ensured every aspect of his employees and their families' welfare was fully catered for.

The first Masonic Lodge in Port Sunlight was consecrated on 4th June 1902 and was named William Hesketh Lever Lodge in his honour. He was initiated into that Lodge on 8th July 1902 and became master in 1907. He was a founder member of the second lodge in Port Sunlight – Leverhulme Lodge, which was granted its warrant on 3rd May 1922. Viscount Leverhulme's passion for Freemasonry was life-long, widespread and highly distinguished. He was responsible for establishing what was to become the second largest museum of Masonic regalia in the world. This was housed in a large room in the basement of the Lady Lever Art Gallery until 2008 when it was put into storage. The room is now a hands-on learning centre for young people.



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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