

Appendix 1: Timeline of Port Sunlight - key dates

1851, 19th September The founder of Port Sunlight, William Lever, is born in Bolton, Lancashire.

1872 William Lever is taken into partnership in his father's wholesale grocery business, Lever & Co.

1884 Registration of the trademark 'Sunlight' by Lever & Co. In the same year, production of Sunlight Soap begins in Warrington.

1885 William Lever and his brother James Lever establish the firm Lever Brothers to make Sunlight Soap independently.

1888, 3rd March First sod is cut at the Port Sunlight works by Lever's wife, Elizabeth.

1889, June First boil of soap at the Port Sunlight works.

1889, September The first tenants, Mr & Mrs Sam Spencer, move into 6 Bolton Road, Port Sunlight.

1891 Gladstone Hall is opened by the Rt. Hon. William Gladstone MP.

1900 More than 400 houses stand in Port Sunlight, with the village perimeter almost entirely built upon. Building works start on the central properties.

1903 Church Drive School, the Technical Institute and the Lever Library (in the former Girls' Hostel on Greendale Road) are opened in this year.

1904 Opening of Christ Church.

1911 William Lever is created a baronet.

1913 Death of Lady Lever.

1914, 25th March King George V and Queen Mary visit Port Sunlight.

1914-18 The First World War. More than 700 men from the works and village volunteer for active service.

1917 Sir William Lever is created a baron. He fuses his late wife's maiden name with his own surname to create the name 'Leverhulme'.

1921, 21st December Unveiling of the Port Sunlight War Memorial.

1922 Lady Lever Art Gallery is opened by Princess Beatrice. Also, in this year Lord Leverhulme is raised to the rank of viscount.

1925 Death of Lord Leverhulme, founder of Port Sunlight.

- 1930** Lever Brothers merges with the Dutch Margarine Union to form Unilever.
- 1938** Golden Jubilee of Port Sunlight. Port Sunlight is considered complete in accordance with William Lever's original vision.
- 1939-45** The Second World War. Air raids cause severe damage to the village.
- 1947** Work begins in the village to rebuild or repair properties that were heavily damaged during the Second World War. Works continue into the 1950s.
- 1950** Viscount Montgomery of Alamein visits Port Sunlight.
- 1954-59** Plans are filed with Cheshire County Council to improve the houses, including indoor toilets, upstairs bathrooms and modern kitchens.
- 1960** Port Sunlight is placed under the management of Unilever Merseyside Ltd (UML).
- 1962** The Beatles play Hulme Hall four times, including Ringo Starr's first performance with the group on 18th August.
- 1963-1980** UML's estates department undertakes a modernisation programme, and cottages are comprehensively renovated.
- 1965** Most of the houses and public and commercial buildings in Port Sunlight are listed at Grade II.
- 1978** Port Sunlight is declared a conservation area.
- 1980** The first houses are sold in the village.
- 1988** Centenary of Port Sunlight village.
- 1999** Formation of Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT). In this same year, PSVT takes over from UML the management of communal buildings and the landscape, as well as the remaining houses not yet in private ownership.
- 2002** The Dell and 'The Diamond and The Causeway' are registered at Grade II in the Register of Parks and Gardens in England.
- 2006** Opening of Port Sunlight Museum.
- 2006** PSVT adopts its first Conservation Management Plan.
- 2010** Restoration of the War Memorial.
- 2010** Port Sunlight Museum awarded Full Accreditation status by Arts Council England.
- 2013** The village and Unilever celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of Port Sunlight.

2014 To commemorate the centenary of the First World War, PSVT recreates the day when 700 Lever Brothers' employees travelled to Chester to enlist in the 13th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment.

2014 'The Defence of the Home' War Memorial is upgraded from Grade II* to Grade I.

2017, 25th March Gas explosion causes significant damage to properties in New Ferry and Port Sunlight.

2018 PSVT launches its first five-year Strategic Plan and revised ten-year Conservation Management Plan.