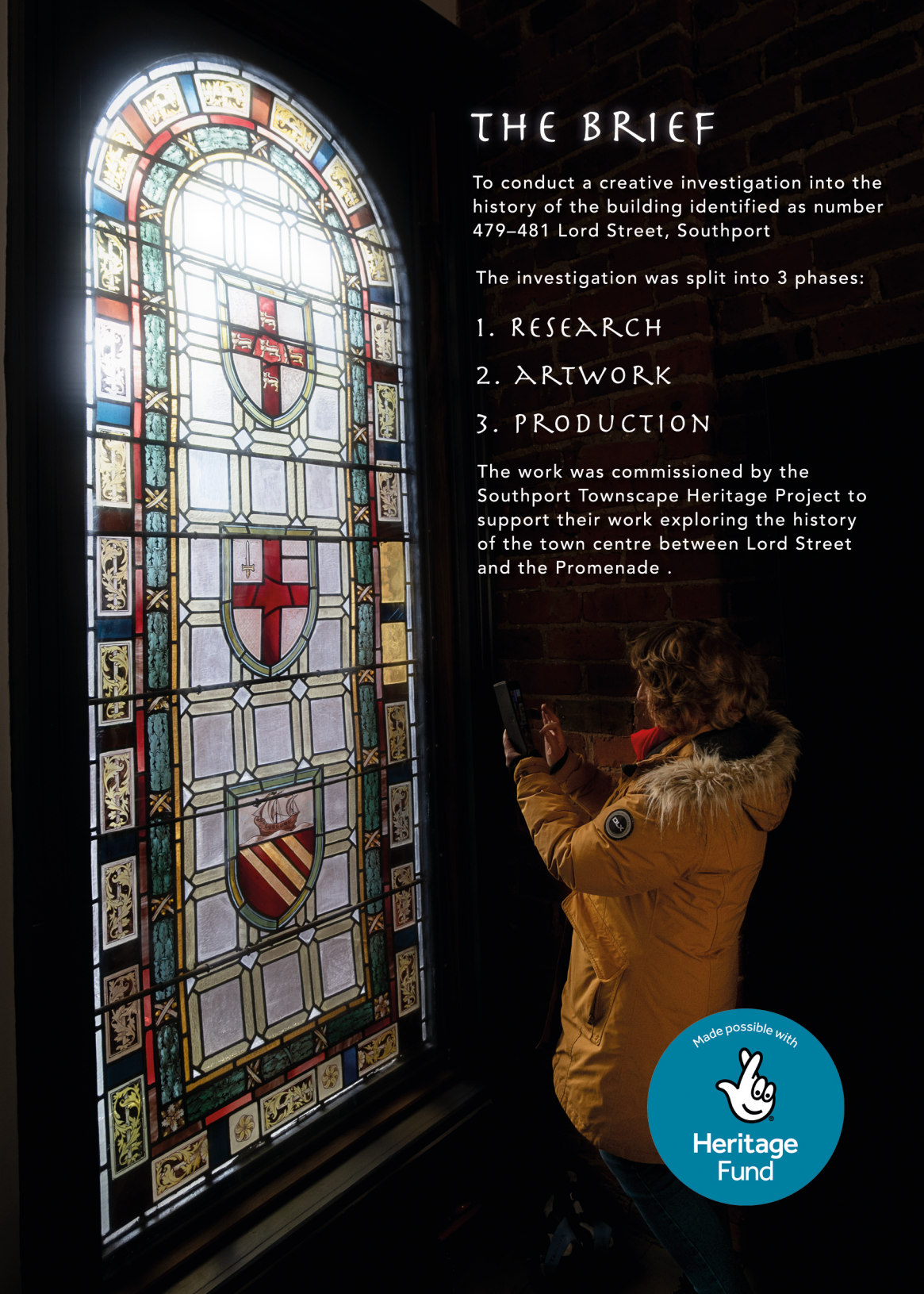
THE SALUS BUILDING

479 – 481 Lord Street



A creative investigation by
local artists, comissioned by the
Southport Townscape Heritage Project



THE BRIEF

To conduct a creative investigation into the history of the building identified as number 479–481 Lord Street, Southport

The investigation was split into 3 phases:

1. RESEARCH
2. ARTWORK
3. PRODUCTION

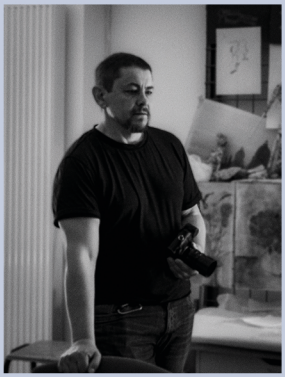
The work was commissioned by the Southport Townscape Heritage Project to support their work exploring the history of the town centre between Lord Street and the Promenade .

Made possible with Heritage Fund

THE COLLECTIVE

We are a group of five artists who work with Southport Contemporary Arts (SCA), a network set up in 2009 to embrace Southport being home to talented art practitioners.

The list of creative skills within SCA is wide-ranging, and includes painters, textile artists, filmmakers, photographers, printmakers, sculptors, jewellers, musicians, poets and performance-based artists.





THE INVESTIGATION

We conducted research into the history of the building to gain insight into:

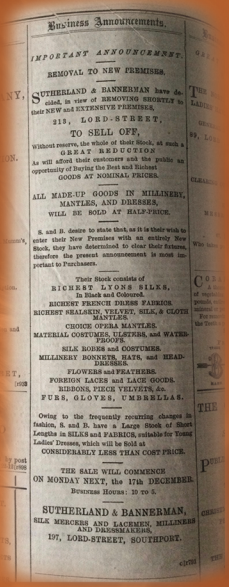
1. The influences of the architects MacGibbon and Ross who designed 479-481 Lord Street and their use of the eclectic Victorian style of architecture for this building.
2. The early history of the building, who commissioned the build and for what occupancy and how this informed the original design.
3. The main features of the building such as the mosaiced floor, the façade, the gargoyles, the Moorish windows and the choice of colours.

Research Methodology:

- Reviewed records, maps and photographs held within local and national archives,
- Conducted research through online searches and reaching out to local networks for information and imagery relating to the history of the building.
- Completed a guided tour of the building by the current owners to explore and document the key features of the origianl architecture.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Timeline



Business Announcements.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

REMOVAL TO NEW PREMISES.

SUTHERLAND & BANNERMAN have decided, in view of REMOVING SHORTLY to their NEW and EXTENSIVE PREMISES,

213, LORD-STREET,

TO SELL OFF,

Without reserve, the whole of their Stock, at such a GREAT REDUCTION

As will afford their customers and the public an opportunity of Buying the Best and Richest GOODS AT NOMINAL PRICES.

ALL MADE-UP GOODS IN MILLINERY, MANTLES, AND DRESSES, WILL BE SOLD AT HALF-PRICE.

S. and B. desire to state that, as it is their wish to enter their New Premises with an entirely New Stock, they have determined to clear their fixtures, therefore the greatest announcement is most important to Purchasers.

Their Stock consists of
RICHEST LYONS SILKS,
In Black and Coloured.
RICHEST FRENCH DRESS FABRICS.
RICHEST SEALSKIN, VELVET, SILK, & CLOTH MANTLES.
CHOICE OPERA MANTLES.
MATERIAL COSTUMES, ULSTERS, and WATERPROOFS.
SILK ROBES and COSTUMES.
MILLINERY BONNETS, HATS, and HEADDRESSES.
FLOWERS and FEATHERS.
FOREIGN LACES and LACE GOODS.
RIBBONS, PIECE VELVETS, &c.
FURS, GLOVES, UMBRELLAS.

Owing to the frequently recurring changes in Fashion, S. and B. have a Large Stock of Short Lengths in SILKS and FABRICS, suitable for Young Ladies' Dresses, which will be Sold at CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN COST PRICE.

THE SALE WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY NEXT, the 17th DECEMBER.
Business Hours: 10 to 5.

SUTHERLAND & BANNERMAN,
SILK MERCERS AND LACEMEN, MILLINERS AND DRESSMAKERS,
197, LORD-STREET, SOUTHPORT.

479-481 Lord St was designed and built in 1877 by the renowned Scottish architects David MacGibbon and Thomas Ross. Origianally it started out as 213 Lord St. address numbering were altered to accommodate new buildings being erected along the length of the street (source: **https://secretsandland.wixsite.com**).

The first occupants were Sutherland & Bannerman, Silk Mercers and Lacemen, Milliners and Dressmakers, who previously traded at 197 Lord St. Our Ancestry research revealed that Donald Sutherland and Hugh Bannerman were both born in Scotland and each married one of Thomas Ross's daughters

Over the years the building has had many occupants including drapers and costumiers Kirby and Nicholson, W H Smiths, Hammicks book store, Jaeger fashions and Fabulous Furniture.

On 18/12/1998 it was designated as a Grade II listed building (List No.1379657) due to it's prominant façade on Lord St within the townscape Conservation Area, set up to acknowledge the national importance of its historic architecture.

Architecture



The MacGibbon & Ross design utilised a Victorian eclectic style of architecture with striking Italian renaissance features. The Victorians followed the writings of Roman architect Vitruvius Pollio who specified three fundamental elements for creating successful and lasting architectural designs:

FIRMITAS - Durability;
UTILITAS - Utility; and
VENUSTAS - Beauty

All three are visible with this design adding to the characteristics that make this a standout building on the Lord St boulevard.

This building consists of 3 stories, with a shop front on the ground floor with accommodation to the rear and above. Constructed from striking red brick contrasted by pale blue glazed brick sections with a number of sandstone details.

The Façade

In the centre is a Moorish arch rising through 2 storeys, with stone colonnettes at mid-level. The arch contains a mullion-and-transom window at first floor level and a semicircular window of 3 round-headed lights at the second floor, with stone colonnettes, mullions and patterned spandrels with star-shaped windows.

Above the arch there is a heavy cornice with stone brackets in a floral design, above this is a blind-arcaded parapet with acroteria and a corbelled open-pedimented upstand in the centre. The upstand roundel contains the sculpted female head that we believe to be **Salus** (see below).

The side bays have narrow rectangular transomed windows with small-paned lead glazing at first floor and very narrow round-headed sashes at second floor. On the first floor, not visible from the street is an impressively preserved lead glazed window (*see pg.2*) depicting symbols of heraldry believed to hold relevance to the family of the original owners.

Within the shop area the current building owners have discovered the part-remains of a floor mosaic, consisting of light and dark blue ceramics. The full mosaic is now lost to history, whilst we cannot know for sure how the original looked, we have created a reconstruction using techniques blended and merged from our photographers images (see the front cover of this booklet).

Salus

We are led to believe that the round stone relief bust of the woman who sits intriguingly and proudly on the front of the building is that of the goddess **Salus**.



The verity of this would fit in with timelines of buildings construction and the time that Southport was being "marketing" as a healthy place to be, so it is a plausible link.



If one looks at Southport's Coat of Arms one can see that Southport's motto is SALUS POPULI – ***The welfare of the people***.

We embraced working with a Roman goddess who is said to be the goddess of safety, well-being, and prosperity. Many of us were inspired by her, as can be seen in the title of this booklet and in the art work produced.

ARTWORK PHASE

We created a series of art works inspired by our research into the design heritage of the building. These works include a variety of media including textiles, ceramics, drawings, painting and photography and mixed media.



Marion Bayliss is an artist who has recently moved from Somerset to Lancashire. She finds inspiration mainly from nature and likes to work in all mediums but mainly acrylics.



Lynn Thompson is a Liverpool born now Southport based artist who has a love of detail. She is inspired by the natural world and works across various mediums including ceramics and watercolor.



Serah Stringer is a Southport based Maltese multi media artist who enjoys exploring how the natural world connects and combines with the man made one and how the viewer can be haptically immersed to become part of the work.



A Lancashire born artist **Becky Atherton** has recently started to develop her own creative practice after 25 years working as a community artist. Becky explores herstory, female mythology, fairytale, and folklore through-out her practice.



Guy Keen is a Southport based fine-art photographer specialising in monochrome artworks. He captures scenes of spirit and harmony often in nature, offering a serene escape from the chaos of modern life.

www.sca-network.co.uk/all-sca-artists

The Artwork



1. Protection of Salus
By Becky Atherton
A mixture of beautiful architecture found on the building! Plus, her fierce Protectors!



2. Salus of Lord St.
By Lynn Thompson
in pencil pen and watercolour



4. Salus
By Marion Bayliss
Inspired by the sculpture and tiles on the building fascia, painted in acrylics.



3. Trio of Tile.
By LynnThompson
Inspired by the architectural features on the building's façade

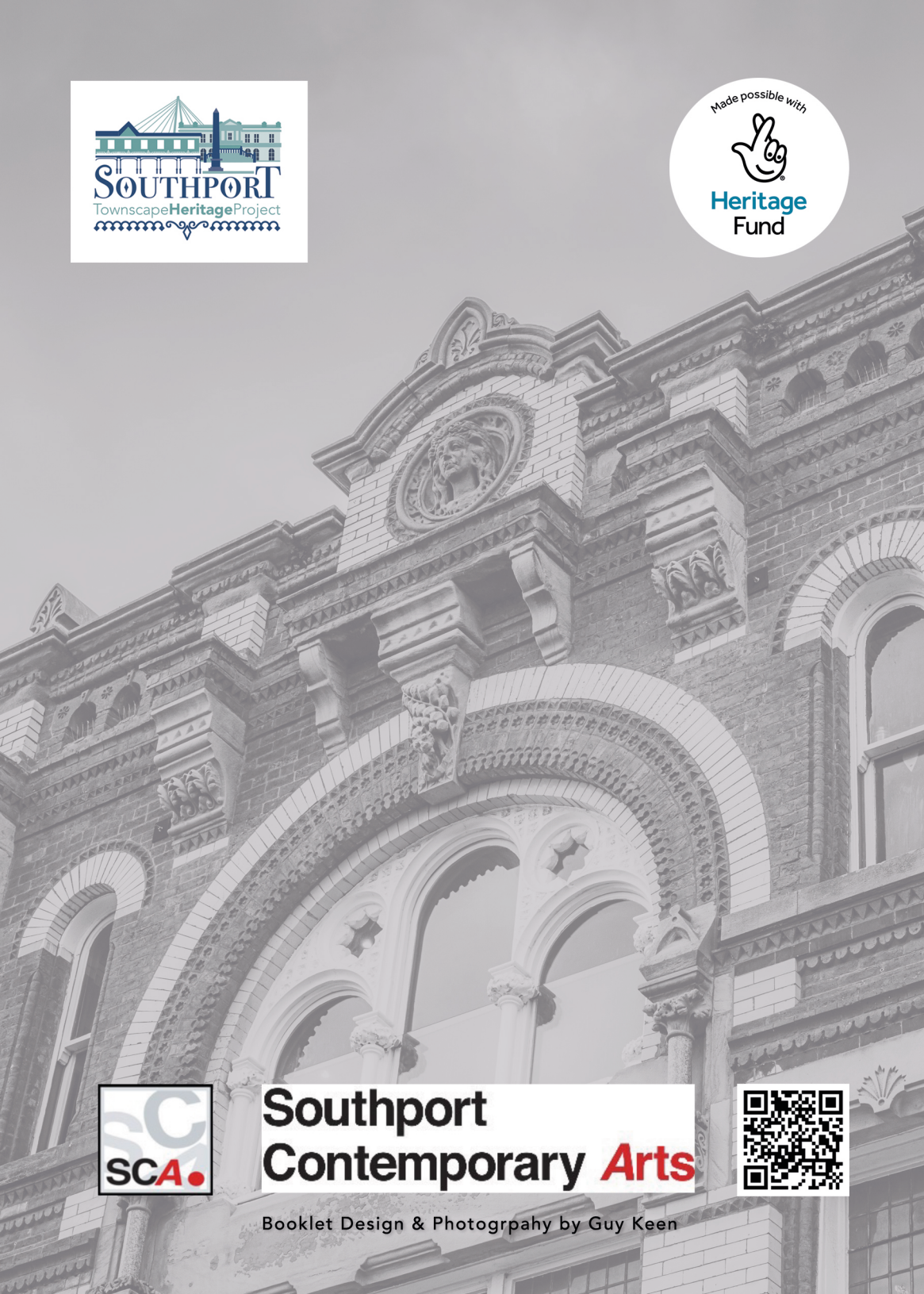


5. Silk Scarf Design.
By Marion Bayliss.
Inspired by panels in the stain glass window and the mosaic floor and painted using watercolour inks.





6. The Salus series - By Serah Stringer
Jewelry inspired by the material used in the floor mosaic, stained glass, glazed brick and external masonry pattern.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Booklet Design & Photogrpahy by Guy Keen