

Southport's Journey

Starkidz
Meet the magic makers

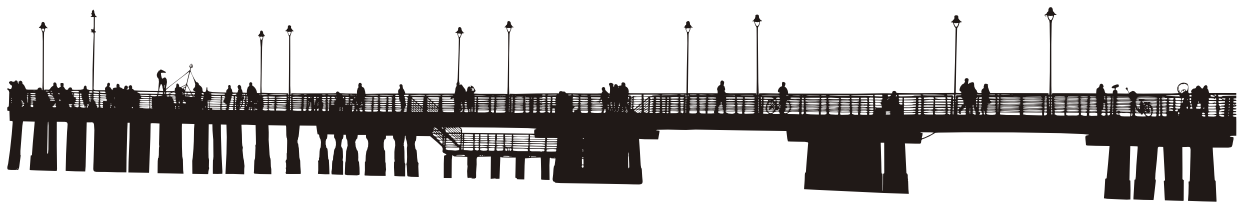
Serena Silcock
Inspiring through authenticity

Blooms by Julie
Flowers with heart

What's On
Events, groups and charity support

Journey into June

This month's magazine celebrates old traditions merging with new beginnings — discover our brand-new website, meet fresh voices, and join us in raising community awareness across Southport.



Intro

Southport: The People, The Passion, The Legacy

Welcome from the editor



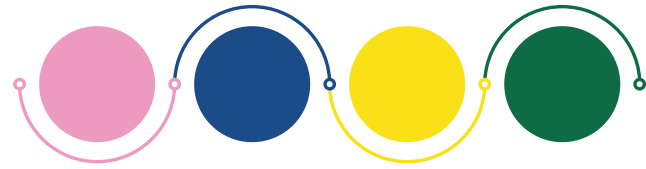
Hello sunshine, and welcome to the June edition of Southport's Journey.

As summer stretches its golden arms across our town, there's a sense of fresh energy blooming everywhere—from bustling parks to seaside laughter, and now, right here in the pages (and pixels!) of our newly launched magazine website.

Just like Southport, we're growing. This month, we welcome a new line-up of bloggers ready to share honest, heart-filled stories with you. And in a new chapter for our publication, we're also shining a light on a different local charity each month—because community is what this town is built on.

Much like the first ice cream of the season or the feeling of sand between your toes, June's issue is a celebration of all things new, hopeful and full of promise. Southport is glowing—and we're here to capture every moment of that sunshine-soaked magic. Thank you for being with us as we grow, evolve, and keep telling Southport's stories—one warm, wonderful month at a time.

With sunshine,
Lizzie



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Your Journey starts here

Want to be featured or have an event to promote. Get in touch
southportsjourney@gmail.com

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Southport's Heartbeat in Motion

In the vibrant tapestry of Southport, few threads are as enduring and luminous as that of Serena Silcock-Prince. Born into a lineage deeply woven into the town's leisure and hospitality fabric, Serena's journey is a testament to resilience, community spirit, and unwavering dedication.

Roots Anchored in Tradition

From her early days, Serena was immersed in the rhythms of family enterprise.

At just ten, she was counting change in the family's amusement arcades, instilling a work ethic that would become her hallmark. Her formative years saw her navigating roles from restaurant management at 18 to overseeing prize shops, always with an eye on evolving trends and community needs.



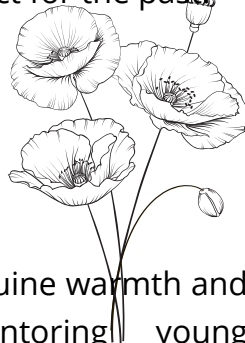


A Beacon of Community Engagement

Beyond business, Serena's heart beats strongest for community upliftment. Her initiatives span from supporting local schools and charities to spearheading events that bring joy and unity. Recognized for her efforts, she was honoured as a finalist in the Merseyside Women of the Year awards and appointed President of the Southport Royal British Legion, roles that underscore her commitment to service .

Championing Southport's Evolution

Serena's vision transcends tradition; she's a catalyst for Southport's renaissance. Collaborating with local councils and organizations, she champions initiatives that blend the town's rich heritage with contemporary vibrancy. Her involvement in projects like the Pier Society and Kings Gardens revitalization reflects a forward-thinking approach rooted in respect for the past.



Inspiring Through Authenticity

What sets Serena apart is her genuine warmth and approachability. Whether mentoring young entrepreneurs or sharing candid reflections on her journey, she embodies authenticity. Her story resonates as a beacon for those navigating the intersections of tradition, innovation, and community commitment.

In Serena Silcock-Prince, Southport doesn't just have a business leader; it has a steadfast advocate, a visionary, and, above all, a cherished community member whose legacy continues to inspire.



What's On

Life's a journey

What's on this

June

The Junction

The Junction is now open!

This fabulous pop-up café is nestled inside the beautifully restored Wayfarers Arcade, Southport. Surrounded by stunning Victorian architecture, it's the perfect spot to pause with a coffee, a cold drink, or a scoop of ice cream in hand. It's a place where you can travel back in time while mulling over the present — book in hand, coffee steaming away, and the world gently passing by. A thoughtful new addition to a timeless local gem.





**Southport Football Club
Health & Wellbeing Event
6th June**



**Santa's Summer Bingo
The Bold Hotel
28th June
7pm**



**My Fair Lady
The Little Theatre
11th - 14th June**



**Great Big Green Lunch
Wayfarers Arcade
8th June
11am - 4pm**



**Carefree Cafe
Studio Nine
Tuesday Morning
9:30am - 12pm**



**80'S Disco
Banff Southport
June 28th**



Got something going on in Southport?
We're always on the lookout for local events to feature in our What's On page—from community meetups to creative workshops, charity fundraisers, live music, and everything in between.
Send us the details at southportsjourney@gmail.com and let us help spread the word!

FRONTLINE SOUNDS 2025

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SUN'S OUT, DOUBTS OUT!

How to Embrace Your Summer Self

The Seasonal Struggle

Ah, summer—the season of sun, sand, and... self-doubt? As temperatures rise, so does the pressure to unveil the elusive "summer body." But let's be honest: the concept of a perfect summer physique is as mythical as a calorie-free ice cream cone.

The Reality of Summer Body Anxiety

You're not alone in feeling apprehensive about shedding layers. Many experience heightened body image concerns during summer, leading to stress and avoidance of activities they once enjoyed. This phenomenon, often termed "summer body anxiety," can impact mental well-being and social interactions.

Finding Your Support Squad

Combatting these feelings starts with surrounding yourself with a supportive community. Engaging with groups that promote body positivity can provide a sense of belonging and reinforce positive self-image.

Men, Let's Talk

While women often bear the brunt of body image discussions, men aren't immune. Societal expectations can lead to similar anxieties. Open conversations and mutual support can help dismantle these pressures for everyone.

Redefining Summer

Summer should be about joy, relaxation, and connection—not self-criticism. By shifting focus from appearance to experience, we can reclaim the season for what it truly offers.

Remember, the best summer body is the one that allows you to enjoy the sunshine, laughter, and memories. So, let's raise a glass (or an ice cream cone) to embracing ourselves, just as we are.

NEW WEBSITE

INTRODUCING SOUTHPORT'S JOURNEY WEBSITE

At the heart of Southport's Journey is a simple mission: to celebrate the soul of Southport — its people, its communities, its businesses. Every page is a dedication to the hardworking hands behind local shops, the volunteers who give their time freely, and the quiet heroes who make this town shine.

We also wanted to bring you a website — a place you could access on your phone, in your homes, and share with pride. Because this journey isn't just ours — it's yours too.

We're building something lasting: a space that honours heritage while championing the future.

On our website you will find:-

WHATS ON SOUTHPORT

Discover the best of Southport and surrounding area with our handpicked guide to local events, workshops, meetups, and community happenings — all in one place.

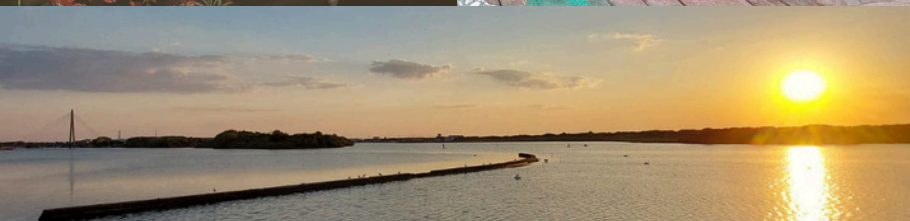
CHAIRTY SPOTLIGHT

Shining a light on the incredible charities and volunteers making a difference in Southport, one story at a time.



Make Serton SParkle

NEW WEBSITE



BLOGS

Honest, heartfelt blogs capturing the real voices, views, and experiences of Southport life.

DIRECTORY

Our community directory shines a light on Southport's local businesses and services—if you'd like to be featured, simply get in touch via our website to join the journey.

OBITUARY

We will write their final journey with care, compassion, and a deep respect for the life they lived in our community.

CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate life's special moments with heartfelt stories and announcements that bring the community together.

We need you — your stories, your voice, your experiences. Southport's Journey is built on community, and that means hearing from the people who live, work, create, and care here. Whether you're a lifelong local or new to the area, we'd love to feature your insights, memories, or recommendations. Share your story, contribute to the conversation, and help shape a magazine that truly reflects the heart of Southport.

www.southportsjourney.com

Spotlight

Ain't **no** party like a

Fifteen years ago, after finishing her maternity leave, Jan set out to bring more sparkle to children's birthday parties to turn simple celebrations into magical memories. She borrowed money, bought one costume, and brought a character to life... and it worked.

StarKidz was created to fill a gap in Southport, no one else was offering immersive, interactive entertainment for children. From singing princesses to unforgettable doorstep visits, it didn't take long for StarKidz to become the go-to name for children's events. What started as a small idea has grown into a standout business built on joy, wonder, and the magic of pure imagination.

star- kidz PARTY!!



Enter the Magic Makers

From Frozen fever to Bluey parties, the mother daughter duo have built a brand that sparkles with heart. Ellie, who grew up watching her mum perform, now takes centre stage too. "We've never just put on a costume we bring stories to life," she says. Their shows are more than just appearances; they're interactive, imaginative experiences that kids (and parents) remember for years.



Elves, Letters & Local Love

StarKidz's legendary elf visits have become a true Southport tradition. Families set their clocks to catch a glimpse of mischievous elves collecting Santa letters from gardens at just the right moment. "It became bigger than we ever imagined" The idea even inspired a book and has since grown to include licensed teams across the country.

From Southport to Glastonbury

StarKidz Entertainment has lit up stages from Southport Market to Glastonbury and many other festivals around the UK. Known for their high-energy shows, princess singalongs, and superhero raves, they've wowed crowds alongside CBeebies stars creating unforgettable magic for children and families across the UK. This year will be their 10th Glastonbury!



More Than Just a Party Company

Over the years, StarKidz has quietly become a support system for local families offering free events, raising funds, and helping children in need of a smile. During lockdown, their inbox became a safe space for overwhelmed parents. And in the summer following the tragic Southport attack, they stepped in once again visiting children for free, offering comfort through crafts at the memorial, and creating a safe space for young people to process what had happened. They handed out badges, made bracelets, and helped raise funds for the Southport Together campaign. "Some families have been with us since birth, we've grown up together, with them being more friends than customers."

Creating Future Stars

StarKidz is more than entertainment it's a launchpad for young performers. With nineteen team members, many got their first taste of the stage here, and some have gone on to perform in the West End, on cruise ships, and even on TV. The team has come full circle, with some current members once having StarKidz at their own birthday parties. "We're proud to give young local performers their starting roles," they say. It's all about nurturing talent, building confidence, and spreading a little joy wherever they go.





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EDUCATION

Spotlight

Where Flowers Speak Louder Than Words

Blooms by Julie, a Southport florist whose petals are poetry — and whose story will stay with you long after the bouquet fades.

When you step into Julie's world, you're not just met with the scent of peonies and the rustle of roses — you're stepping into someone's story. Sometimes a love story. Sometimes a final goodbye. Always, a reflection of life's most meaningful moments.

She didn't set out to become a florist. In fact, it all began with a 12-week evening course, taken while she was still pregnant. It was a chance to unwind, meet new people, and get lost in the creativity.

What began as therapy became a calling. One that didn't need a business plan — just heart, hustle, and an unwavering belief that flowers can hold emotions we don't always have words for.

"I remember when my dad passed. I was only little. Our driveway was covered in flowers," Julie recalls. "Even then, I understood what they meant. That he was loved. That people cared."

That memory never left her — and now, through her work, she offers that same language of love to others.

Her funeral tributes are quietly extraordinary, thoughtfully crafted with natural materials and deep care.

'You can't get it wrong, but you have to get it right.'

There's no blueprint, only the quiet task of honouring a life - and the hope that, in flowers, something of them still speaks.

Choosing to focus solely on funeral work and workshops wasn't just a business decision - it was a soulful shift.

Becoming self-employed gave Julie the freedom to follow what truly brought her passion and peace: being there for people during some of the hardest moments of their lives. With a deep sense of independence and empathy at her core, she found funeral floristry to be more than arranging flowers - it was about offering comfort connection and care.



Funeral Flowers . Created by Julie

www.bloomsbyjulie.co.uk

Guided by her values, Julie stands as a quiet, steady presence for grieving families, a familiar voice in a time of uncertainty, and a trusted hand creating something that speaks from — and to — the heart.

Flowers That Speak of a Life Well Lived

Julie doesn't create 'arrangements' — she creates tributes. Each piece is crafted from conversation and care: "Were they fond of lilacs? Did they love wildflowers? A soft pink or bold red?" These are the questions she gently asks, tailoring every bloom to reflect the soul of the person it honours. No bouquet is ever the same, because no life is ever the same. From scent to shade, memory to meaning, each tribute becomes a living display — a final gift, handcrafted with love. For Julie, it's about honouring a story through stems, evoking memories with colour and fragrance, and being that warm, helpful presence when people need it most.

Blooms by Julie doesn't just arrange flowers.

She arranges moments.

She arranges love.

And she reminds us that even in life's hardest chapters, beauty still grows.

To discover more about Julie and her beautiful work through Blooms by Julie, where floristry meets wellbeing and soulful living, visit www.bloomsbyjulie.co.uk or follow her on Instagram @bloomsbyjulie for floral inspiration, heartfelt reflections, and seasonal beauty.



When Traditions Raise You, But Truth Reclaims You!



By Sarah McEntee

I was raised, like so many women of my generation, on a quiet kind of instruction.

Be good. Be polite. Be likeable.

Don't ask for too much.

Don't speak too loudly unless you've really earned it.

So, I did what many of us did. I learned how to perform it. I got good at reading the room. I became someone people trusted, leaned on, approved of.

But somewhere underneath all of that... I wasn't quite sure who I was when no one was watching.

Then, of course, I chose a career in broadcasting and entertainment, a world where being loud wasn't just allowed, it was expected. Suddenly I had permission to be the big character, the voice in the room, the confident woman behind the mic. And for a while, I loved it. But I also found it incredibly disorientating.

Because what happens when you've been taught to tone it down your whole life... and then someone hands you a microphone?

I often found myself swinging between extremes, bright and bold on stage or on air, then shrinking back in other areas of my life. The contrast gave me social anxiety I didn't have words for at the time. It was like I could be loud, but only in very specific, approved environments.



“

*I was raised, like so many women of my generation, on a quiet kind of instruction.
Be good. Be polite. Be likeable.*

”

Outside of that? I still didn't quite believe I had full permission to be myself. And I know I'm not the only one.

That's why I started Comfortably Heard a space for women who've lost touch with their voice. Not just the volume of it, but the message underneath. The women in my group aren't trying to shout over anyone. They're just tired of whispering through their own lives.

Today's younger women seem to have more awareness of this. There's a bolder confidence, a sense of claiming space earlier which is brilliant. But they're also up against something we didn't have: the relentless pressure of performing for the internet.

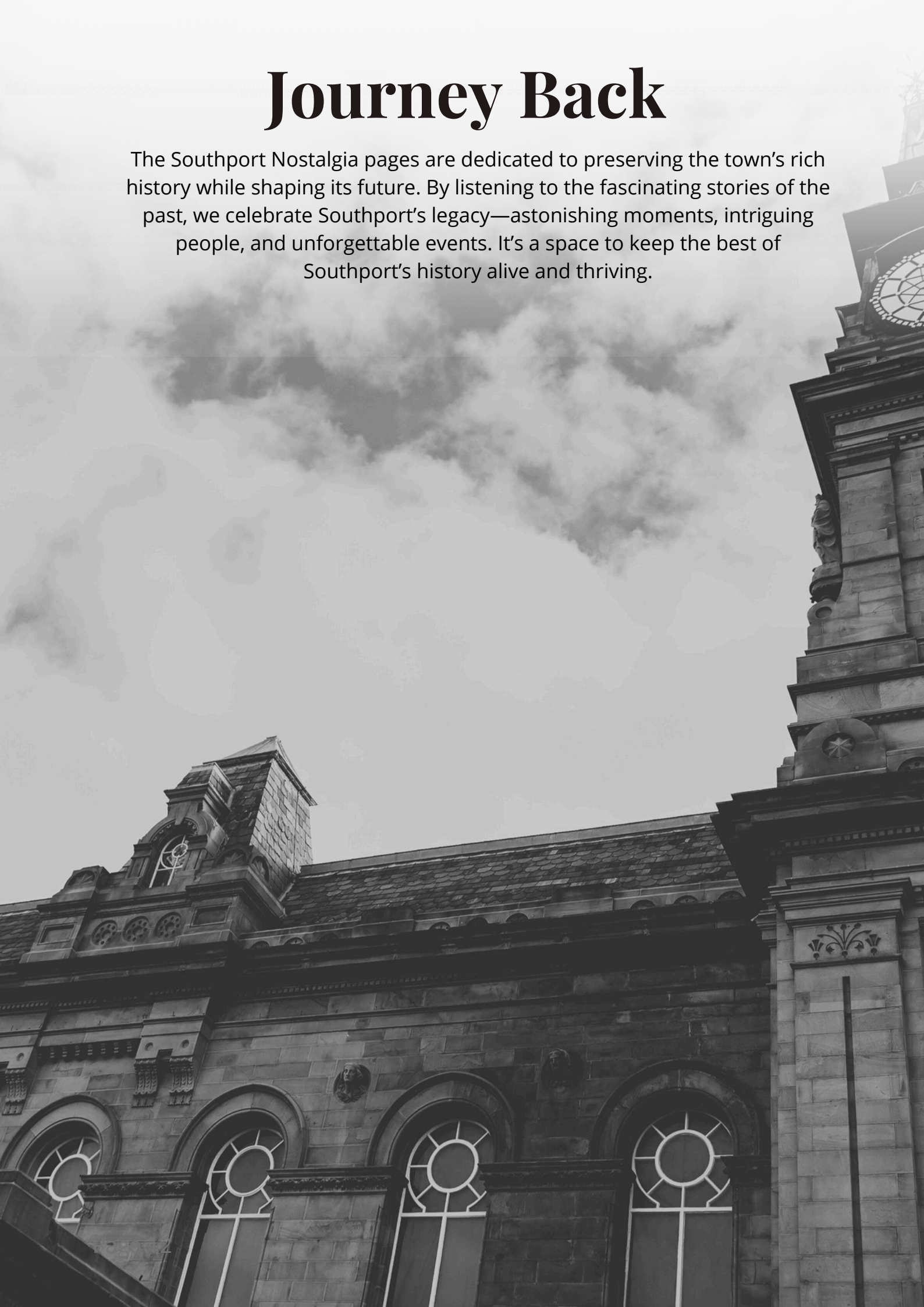
I sometimes wonder how far they can really go in being themselves without becoming a brand. A version. A filtered echo. So maybe this moment in time, for all of us, is about gently returning. To truth. To voice. To choice. Not to prove anything. But to belong to ourselves again. Because the traditions that raised us were often rooted in survival, not self-expression. And now, we're ready to write something new.

Southport's doing it too, in its own way. A place known for its elegance, formality, and sunny vibe now trying to find its new self. A town that's quietly learning to speak in a different tone. So, here's to the women (and men), of all ages, who are navigating that shift. Not with rebellion. But with clarity. Not with rage. But with resonance. And here's to letting ourselves be heard, not just when it's permitted, but when it's true.

Tired of shrinking to fit? Ready to feel more like yourself again? Join the Comfortably Heard Facebook group where women are finding their voice, their courage, and their next chapter.

Journey Back

The Southport Nostalgia pages are dedicated to preserving the town's rich history while shaping its future. By listening to the fascinating stories of the past, we celebrate Southport's legacy—astonishing moments, intriguing people, and unforgettable events. It's a space to keep the best of Southport's history alive and thriving.





Botanic Gardens

A Living Legacy of Victorian Elegance

Tucked away in the heart of Churchtown, Southport's Botanic Gardens stand as a testament to Victorian ambition and community spirit. Established in 1874 by the Southport and Churchtown Botanic Gardens Company, a group of local working men, the gardens were officially opened in 1875 by Rev. Charles Hesketh. The founders raised £18,000 to transform the land, acquired from the Hesketh Estate, into a public haven featuring a museum, conservatory, tea rooms, and meticulously landscaped grounds.

The gardens' lake, formed from a stream known as Otter Pool, added to the park's allure. Over time, the gardens became a cherished retreat for residents and visitors alike.

However, in 1932, plans for housing development threatened their existence. Public outcry led Southport Corporation to purchase the site, reopening it in 1937 as "The Botanic Gardens and King George Playing Fields."

Today, the Botanic Gardens continue to enchant with their stone archways, winding tunnels, and vibrant floral displays. Children stroll through on their way to school, dog walkers meander along the paths, and the bowling greens remain a hub of friendly competition. The Victorian fernery, a

Southport's Journey

remnant of the original conservatory, still captivates visitors with its lush greenery.

The gardens' museum, opened in 1876 and designed by local architects Mellor & Sutton, once housed notable collections, including Phineas T. Barnum's top hat. Though the museum closed in 2011, many artifacts have found a new home at the Atkinson Museum in Southport.

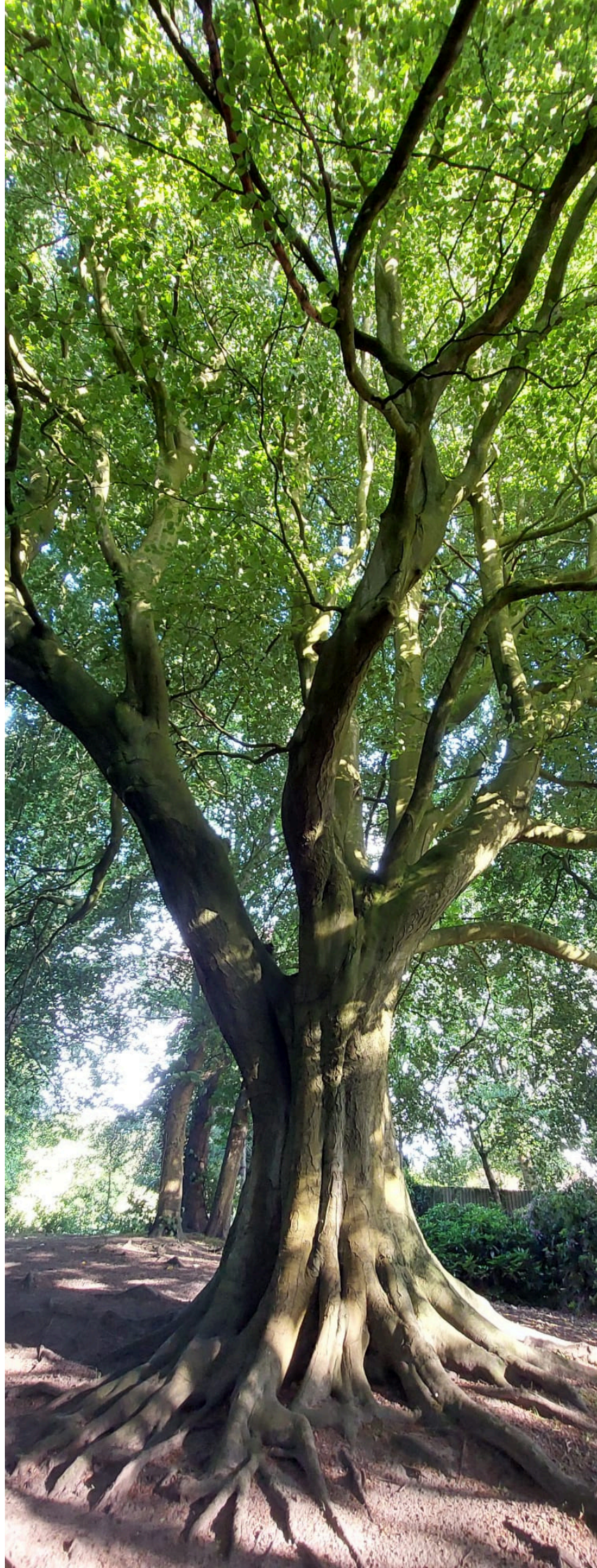
Community involvement remains integral to the gardens' upkeep. The Botanic Gardens Community Association, formed by dedicated volunteers, maintains the flower beds and has been instrumental in preserving the park's beauty.

Their efforts have earned the gardens accolades in the RHS Britain in Bloom awards.

As Southport continues to evolve, the Botanic Gardens stand as a living legacy, blending historical grandeur with everyday moments of joy and reflection.



Have you own story to share about
Southport get in touch.
southportsjourney@gmail.com





ART IS FOR EVERYONE!



WHO WE ARE

Art Ease is a Sefton based non-profit organisation founded in 2024. Our aim is to remove barriers to the arts, reduce isolation and loneliness, and support people with their wider wellbeing through the facilitation of accessible creative wellbeing workshops in the North West.

Based in Southport, and led by Nurse-turned-Artist **Emmy Oranges**, we are dedicated to removing barriers to the arts and reducing isolation through various art programs and initiatives.

Art Ease CIC aims to empower individuals, enhance well-being, and promote inclusivity by making art accessible to all. Emmys' leadership ensures our projects are both impactful and reflective of the community's diverse needs.

WHAT WE DO

- ★ Fully funded Mindful Drawing workshops in collaboration with Sefton Social Prescribing
- ★ Staff wellbeing workshops centred around mindfulness and connection
- ★ Private parties and corporate events
- ★ Collaborating with local businesses to run bespoke workshops and events
- ★ Work with existing community groups and local charities to provide therapeutic arts and crafts
- ★ 1-1 drawing lessons and sketchbook clubs
- ★ Monthly "Crafty Cafe" at The Engine Room and more!

FIND OUT MORE:

@artease_cic

www.ARTEASE.org.uk

arteasenorthwest@gmail.com



Let's hear from a local

These are personal responses and an insight into the top spots in town.

This month we hear from our editor Lizzie Barnett



Go-to place for coffee or brunch?

Crozers in Birkdale — this place is so special to me. The food is absolutely delicious, the coffee is always made to perfection, but what I love most is that there's no Wi-Fi.

You're encouraged to be present: enjoy your meal, the company, the surroundings — without devices. It's refreshing.

Favourite local event or tradition?

Without question, the Southport Food Festival. I missed it for so many years, but this year it felt like it truly boomed!

So many people, so much to taste — just yum!

Hidden gem shop or stall?

Grant Searl's gallery inside Wayfarers Arcade. His artwork is phenomenal — I love popping in with a coffee and getting completely lost in the images.

Local business recommendation?

There are so many! I network regularly and love hearing what people are working on. But a special shoutout to Poly Up — a brilliant business doing good for the community while growing something meaningful.

Groups or spaces that helped you feel connected?

Since moving back, finding the right groups hasn't been easy — it can be hard to fit in. But the space I've created at Studio Nine has been like finding gold. A group of people that lift each other up.

Hopes for the future of Southport?

That we continue to grow. That the town centre keeps rejuvenating and shines like we know it can. There's so much heart here — it deserves to thrive.

Quiz

What year were the Churchtown stocks last used?

Which British monarch is commemorated with a statue on Lord Street in Southport?

- A) Queen Elizabeth I
- B) Queen Victoria
- C) King George VI
- D) King Edward VII

What was the reason behind the coloured tarmac that once appeared along Lord Street in Southport?

Which well-known golfer designed the Royal Birkdale Golf Course, host to many Open Championships near Southport?

- A) Jack Nicklaus
- B) Harry Colt
- C) Bobby Jones
- D) Old Tom Morris

In which year was the first Southport Air Show held?

- A) 1985
- B) 1991
- C) 1997
- D) 2003

Find the answers on our website



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