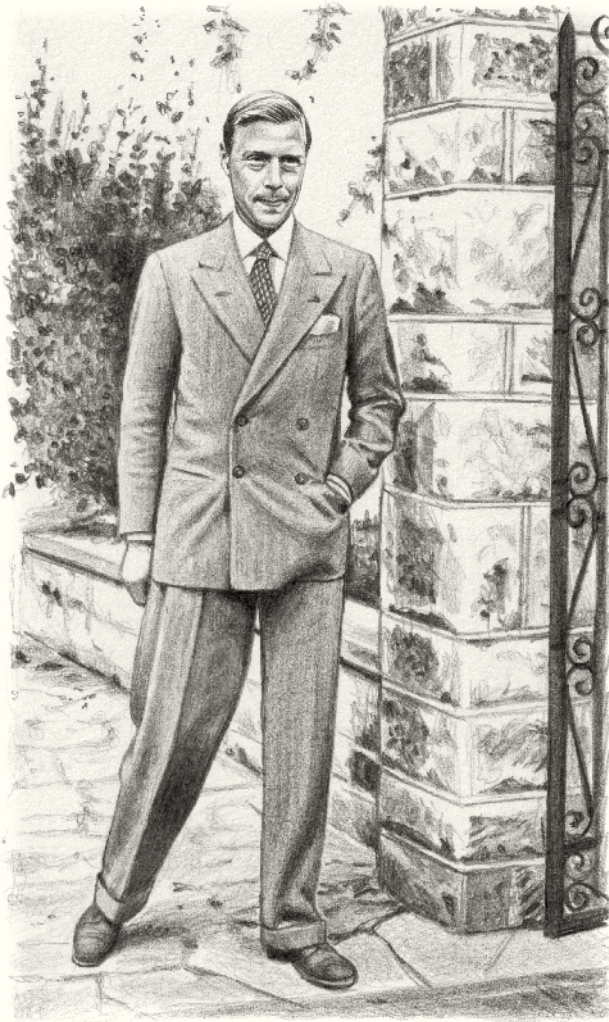


that has been a perfect combination. Richard's style is synonymous with Huntsman, but his overheads have been significantly lower, so his prices are keener. It has been no surprise that between them they have built a strong client book and a fine reputation.

DAVIES & SON

Davies & Son has the longest history of any independent tailor on Savile Row. The firm was founded in 1803 and taken over by Thomas Davies from his brother the following year. Through his work for Army agents Greenwood, Cox & Co, Davies had established exceptional connections within military circles. Moving to grand quarters at number 19 Hanover Square, it counted Admiral Lord Nelson as an early customer and not long after claimed to dress all the crowned heads of Europe.



The Duke of Windsor.

In the 1820s it made for Sir Robert Peel, twice British Prime Minister and founder of the UK's first police force. When a scandal concerning outbreaks of fever in sweatshops operated by Davies hit the papers in 1892, it named the sons of Edward VII among its loyal patrons. The scandal engulfed other firms too, including Henry Poole and Meyer & Mortimer, and new provisions setting out minimum labour standards were established.

Davies dressed King George V from 1910 for the remainder of his reign and also tailored garments for his sons, the future Kings Edward VIII and George VI.

The last of the Davies family left the firm in 1935, and the Hanover Street shop was vacated in 1979, after several years and addresses, finally making its way to number 38 Savile Row in 1997, under the stewardship of Master Cutter Alan Bennett.

Bennett had worked at several of the great houses on the Row, including Kilgour, Huntsman, and Dege & Skinner, and it was Bennett who had had the foresight to purchase many of the grand old names of Savile Row and incorporate them into the business. These included Johns & Pegg; Fallan & Harvey; James and James; Wells of Mayfair; and Watson, Fagerstrom & Hughes, each one adding to the unique history of a house that, in more than two centuries of bespoke tailoring, has made for four kings, seven crown princes, and two presidents of the United States.

CHITTLEBOROUGH & MORGAN

Roy Chittleborough and Joseph Morgan, along with the late Edward Sexton, were the tailoring talents who gave life to the glorious creativity of the much-celebrated sixties designer and stylist, Tommy Nutter, who turned Savile Row on its head.

Nutter arrived on Savile Row at a time when it looked like it might be on its last legs. He brought sex appeal, star power, and much-needed buzz to the tired old street. During an eight-year run, he made for all of London's celebrity elite. Three of The Beatles were wearing Nutter suits when they crossed Abbey Road for their famous album cover (George Harrison chose to wear denim); John Lennon and Yoko Ono were both customers, as were Mick and Bianca Jagger, for whom he designed her celebrated white wedding suit; Elton John wore Nutter, as did Diana Ross; and from the fashion world Nutter dressed Bill Gibb and Twiggy.

Nutter was not a tailor, however. To turn his designs into wearable reality he called upon the sartorial know-how of Chittleborough, Morgan, and Sexton.



The Beatles crossing Abbey Road for their famous album cover; John, Paul and Ringo are wearing Tommy Nutter.

Chittleborough and Sexton had learned their trade at Kilgour, French & Stanbury in the fifties under the great Louis Stanbury, while Morgan trained at Meyer & Mortimer before moving to Dennis Wilkinson and then Jarvis & Hamilton on Conduit Street. Nutter lived nearby and would wave to Morgan as he passed the workshop window, so when Tommy started his own business in 1969, Morgan joined him.

Nutter's star burned bright but fast and by 1976 it was all over and Sexton bought out the business, establishing his own firm. In 1981 Chittleborough and Morgan established their own bespoke tailoring firm on Savile Row, and their style retains something of the character of their Nutter's heritage, with all its finery. Today, it is one of the smallest and most discreet houses on the street and continues to produce bespoke clothes only. •