

# A Century of Tailoring 22 Market Place

This shop will have witnessed the changes in men's fashion from the Victorian period through to the late 20th century. Its first proprietor was Edward Newman. Papers discovered in the roof during building renovations in 1962 offered an insight into the lives of the Newman family living above the shop in the 1880s. A billhead described Mr Newman as a 'woollen draper, habit-maker and hatter' as well as a tailor. Bills record purchases from local tradesmen and a visit by the doctor to a servant in the household. A daughter attended the Harrage Hall Ladies College, while her brother Edward was educated at the Osborne House School in nearby Church Street. A school report for 1881 confirmed that he was a capable student. Perhaps he was the son who worked alongside his father as E. Newman & Son. In 1909-10 Edward Newman (senior) served a term as the town mayor.



Men's tailoring was continued here after World War II by the firm W. Ayles & Sons. They were followed by Edgars who spruced up the appearance of the building with blue and white striped awnings. Johnsons Cleaners then took over the shop and clothes that had been purchased on the site are likely to have passed through their hands. In a complete break with the past, the building became a wine shop and now houses Specsavers.

