

## ANGUS HOWARD CUNDEY MBE (G50-54)

He was born on 7 June 1937 and has been involved with his family business Henry Poole & Co, a Savile Row tailor, all of his life. It is now the longest standing bespoke tailors in Savile Row.

The following is information about the company.

The story begins in 1806, when James Poole, tailor, and his wife, Mary, travelled from Shropshire to seek their fortune in the capital city. Having worked steadily for 40 years, James died in the year famous for the Repeal of the Corn Laws, 1846. At this point Henry took over his father's tailoring business and gave to it his own name. In the same year the move was made into Savile Row – where the firm remained until 1961. (After a twenty-year exile in nearby Cork Street, Henry Poole & Co. returned to the Row in 1982.) Henry was a brilliant tailor and a brilliant publicist. By the time of his death, in 1876, few in the tailoring world disputed the pre-eminence of Henry Poole. His sister and his cousin, Samuel Cundey, took over the firm.

Today the Cundeys are still in charge, for Henry Poole & Co. is the only Savile Row firm to have remained family-owned and family-managed since its beginnings. The picture shows Angus Cundey, together with his son Simon.



The current premises, which date from 1887, are welcoming. In the front of the shop is an octagonal showcase of mahogany and brass, made in the 1860s for the display of hunt buttons. Further back, is a pair of jockey scales, acquired in 1875 after a dispute with a customer who denied having put on weight. In the basement, are leather-bound ledgers going back to the beginning of the firm's history.



On 25 January 2013, Princess Anne visited the shop to present the company with the Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade, as well as a crystal bowl. Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, took a tour of Henry Poole & Co, part of the Burlington Estate in Mayfair. She was escorted through the company's showroom, workshop and an archive where the ledgers of Queen Victoria, The Princess of Wales, Empress of Russia and the Empress of the French are on display. Henry Poole & Co has also made livery for Buckingham Palace and The Royal Mews, and the house has held a Royal Warrant since 1869.

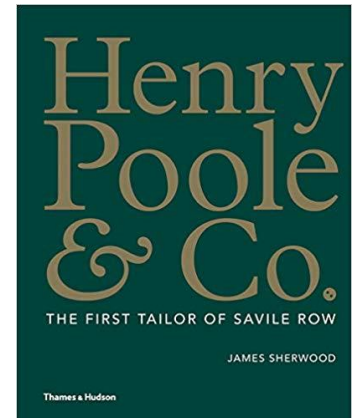
They are responsible for kitting out many influential figures, be it a Churchill pinstripe three-piece destined for the boardroom, or a tailcoat cut for a Mansion House banquet. They have also made garments for the likes of Charles Dickens, Dr Livingstone, Tsar Alexander II of Russia and Emperor Hirohito of Japan.



Angus Cundey, chairman of Henry Poole & Co, said: "We are extremely honoured to host Her Royal Highness to receive the Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade. Henry Poole & Co has been exporting its trade and craft for over a century and is thrilled to be witnessing resurgence in the British male fashion industry." Its sales were up almost 10 per cent last year, Mr Cundey added.

In October 2019 James Sherwood published this book on Henry Poole & Co with the cooperation of Angus and his family. A book review says *"Known as the founding tailor of Savile Row, Henry Poole & Co. has been dressing the world's most important men and women for over two centuries. Their craft of bespoke tailoring has been meticulously documented through the generations in a complete set of ledgers."*

*Telling the story of Poole's most colourful characters in six chapters, this fascinating account distills Sherwood's research into sixty iconic customers, men and women. Each client is profiled with details of their signature garment and connections with Poole's. From artists and writers, such as Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Wilkie Collins, to financiers J. P. Morgan and Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, this book offers a unique window into an establishment at the very heart of 19th- and 20th-century public life.*



*Illustrated with historic portraits and atmospheric photography of the premises as they are today, this intimate glimpse into the private lives of some of history's most influential figures is essential reading for anyone interested Savile Row, the relationship between power and being well-dressed, and the evolution of style."*



James Sherwood posted on Twitter the following photo of the wonderful Henry Poole & Co archives

Angus has kindly donated a copy of this book to the College library.

In 2018 he was presented with an MBE by The Queen for his services to bespoke tailoring and trade charities. He acquired many accolades throughout his illustrious career and was a past president of the Federation of Merchant Tailors, Chairman World Congress of Master Tailors 1973, President Master Tailors Benevolent Association and a founder of Savile Row Bespoke.

He died on 12 August 2024 and the company, now headed by his son Simon, made the following announcement at the time of his death : *"It is with a very heavy heart that we share this message. After a short battle with cancer, Angus H Cundey MBE, the sixth generation to lead our family business, passed away peacefully at his home on August 12."He lived and breathed Henry Poole, built special relationships with clients, and was fond of and proud of the skills of all the staff and of their achievements in making Henry Poole what it is today: one of the finest tailors in the world. He was called "the Godfather of Savile Row" as he fought continuously to achieve the Row's global recognition, its protection and preservation. He was the chairman of trade-related organisations such as the FMT in Europe, the SRB and the BTBA. He was much loved by the trade and all the people involved in it, and was honoured with an MBE for his services to the industry. He leaves a legacy and will be greatly missed by all of us. Rest in peace."*