

Llanddwyn
Island,
Anglesey,
Wales

Photograph:
Gary Waidson,
Commended, Adult
Classic View (2013)



Ynys Llanddwyn is a tidal island, attached to the island of Anglesey, and it is here that Gary Waidson's photographed Tŵr Mawr, a lighthouse that stands watch over the Menai Strait. Built in 1845, it is a curious shape as it mimics the windmill buildings found all over the area.

It's a mile-long stroll down the beach to reach Llanddwyn so pack snacks and make an afternoon of it, scaling the sand dunes and walking the trails.

Unless you're planning to stay under canvas on Ynys Llanddwyn, spend a couple of nights on Anglesey, exploring the beaches and taking in the island's rich wildlife. Staying at Ye Olde Bull's Head Inn puts you in good company, Charles Dickens was a former guest. Rooms are modern with traditional Welsh touches, and the restaurant serves local fare.

Getting to Llanddwyn Island

It is a 50-minute drive from Ye Olde Bull's Head Inn via the A4080. Buses also run this route, but expect it to take at least 1.5 hours. You reach the trail that runs to the lighthouse. **Ye Olde Bull's Head Inn**
www.bullsheadinn.co.uk



Shortly after this, the last of the visitors drifted away back to the mainland and I had the place pretty much to myself until morning.

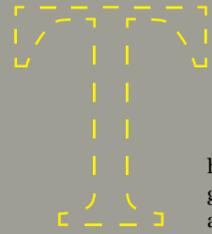
Gary Waidson

MEASURING UP

In the traditionally male-dominated and perfecting world of true luxury bespoke outfitting, more and more women are emerging at the forefront of the industry. From Savile Row to Clerkenwell, we meet some of London's best in the field.

WRITER
Josh Sims
PHOTOGRAPHY
Ranald Mackechnie



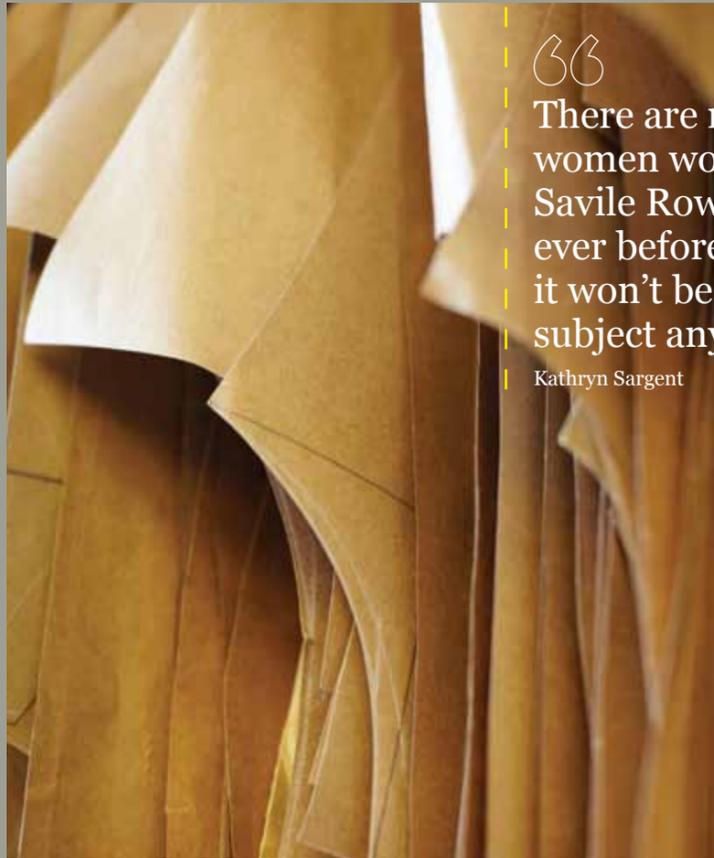


There was a time when a gentleman would consider a visit to his tailor akin to visiting his club or his barber. It would be to enter a distinctly male bastion in which male affairs could be addressed, in which the discussion of such private matters as one's thinning pate or inside leg measurement could be approached with sympathy and without embarrassment. Heaven forfend that a woman should step inside such testosterone-pillared portals.

Yet those days are slowly fading away, even on tailoring's Mecca, Savile Row. The fact is that new generational attitudes in which the younger men now rediscovering bespoke tailoring want to do so in a contemporary environment, not that of their grandfathers, and cultural shifts are forcing change. And at some pace. Kathryn Sargent is, as her name suggests, a woman. And yet she was, before recently setting up an independent business of her own, head cutter at Gieves & Hawkes, one of the most prestigious positions in one of the most prestigious bespoke tailors on London's Savile Row.

"It certainly wasn't easy to get that job though, because I think tailoring is just one of the last professions that women are still having to break into on that path to it becoming normal," says Sargent. "I understood that most people on the Row were not used to having a woman put themselves forward to do the job, but they could see I was serious about it. Times were changing; people may have viewed plumbing or carpentry as typically male trades, but when I left college both interest in trades and viewing them as male-only industries already felt over. I'm sure many of the senior gentlemen I worked alongside would have preferred a young man as an apprentice but actually they were inundated by women applying. Some found this shocking, some just didn't understand it, but others thought it was brilliant all the same."

Indeed, the tide may be turning thanks in large part to Sargent. When she was appointed to head cutter five years ago she was taken aback by the flurry of letters of support she received from members of the public. She said: "It's really what made me understand how unusual a woman in my position was." Sargent was not only the first woman to hold such a position on Savile Row, but has proven something of a catalyst, at least for the back-rooms: Huntsman has subsequently employed its first female cutter, Richard Anderson took on a female apprentice, while Anda Rowland, daughter of the Australian industrialist 'Tiny' Rowland, became vice chairman of Anderson & Sheppard. "In fact," says Sargent, "there are more women working on Savile Row now than ever before – in time it won't be a notable subject anymore." ►



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Kathryn Sargent



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Kathryn Sargent Bespoke Tailoring
www.kathrynsargent.com