

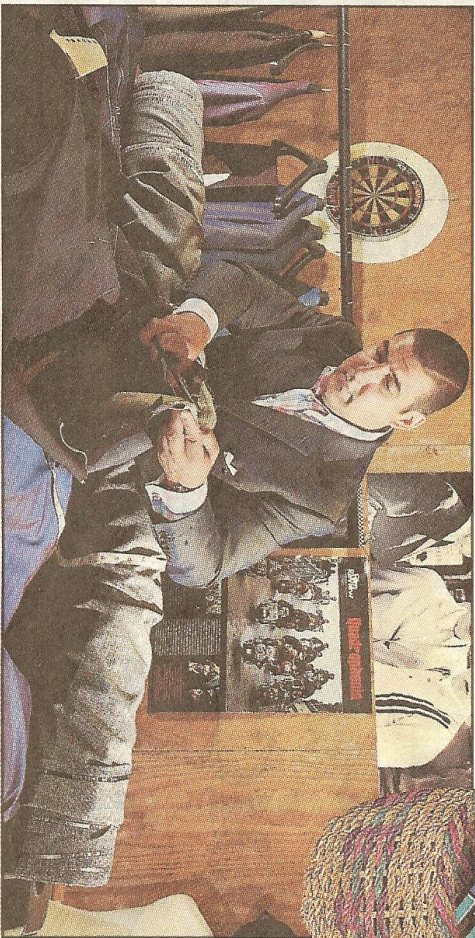
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Tailor finds market for suits a real tonic

OUR Keep it Local campaign aims to highlight our unique shopping experience that you can't find elsewhere. Reporter KAREN STYAN takes a look at one new

business on our streets and another to be given a chance.

THESS search for a Tonic kick-started a business in April. Murray, of Eastbourne was getting married and he wanted to wear a suit - worn by the Mods in the 1960s - on his wedding. It would be easy to find started looking around shops," he said. "I held of my friend Marc, a tailor, and asked him to find some tonic material. He came back saying 'I can't find any where'. I could only find one shop that did the style of suit.



"I assumed it was a proper Tonic suit, but it was just a bit of shiny material," he said. The pair tracked down the Yorkshire mill that originally made the material and after a search of the mill's archives found a roll of Tonic material. Attempts to buy enough material for three suits failed when

the mill owner insisted on a bulk purchase. Stuart and Marc Griffin, a tailor working in Saville Row, decided that there was a market and ordered the material in various colours. They launched their company with friend Gary Robinson and called it Ace Face Clothing after the character played by Sting in

Quadruphonia - the film that made the Tonic suit famous. "We started a little over a year ago. We have a nice healthy range of cloths and the business is growing," said Stuart. "We get a lot of people getting married for the second time who have done the tops and tails thing and want something different.

"What is more unusual is we are getting a lot of 16 and 17-year-old boys who want suits for the prom." The company has picked up some famous clients. "The Specialists have just reformed and we have done suits for them for their gigs," said Stuart.

SUITS HIM: Stuart Murray is enjoying the success of his company making Tonic suits
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Sweet idea's fate lies with the planners

A TRADITIONAL sweet shop and tea room could soon be attracting customers to Railway Approach.

Steven and Nicola Monckton recently moved from Croydon and are hoping to fulfil their dream of opening a shop. "I love old-fashioned quarter sweets. Me and my husband have always wanted to do this," said Mrs Monckton.

When a shop in Railway Approach became available the pair decided to take a chance. "It felt right with the Bluebell Railway coming to the town. My husband said the funds are there, why don't we do this now? If it doesn't work it doesn't work."

The sweet shop, the subject of a planning application, would include a tea room offering cream teas and cakes. East Grinstead Town Council has already given the proposals its support and a final decision will be made by Mid Sussex District Council.

In a letter to the district council, Mr Monckton wrote: "We feel that a traditional sweetshop and tea room in our location would be beneficial for this area of East Grinstead. In East Grinstead we have all age groups residing and for the younger bracket we have coffee shops and fast food outlets. "We feel a shop such as ours will add to the area's charm."