THEY were called The Three-Day Millionaires and they dressed the part.

Now a team behind a new arts project has launched a search to [track](http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Search-stylish-suits-worn-Hull-fishing-industry-s/story-26806488-detail/story.html) down some of the original made-to-measure suits worn by some of Hull's trawlermen.
They want to showcase the distinctive suits in a touring exhibition that opens in September.

The Heritage Lottery-backed Suited And Booted project is being managed by Rachel Elm.

She said: "We have already unearthed a lot of information and stories about the suits worn by the trawlermen but the one thing we are missing at the moment is an actual suit or, even better, a couple of suits.
"We are sure that someone has one tucked away in the back of a cupboard somewhere."

The project is the brainchild of textile [designer](http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Search-stylish-suits-worn-Hull-fishing-industry-s/story-26806488-detail/story.html) and Hull School of Art and Design lecturer Claire Day.

She first discovered the trawlermen's [passion](http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Search-stylish-suits-worn-Hull-fishing-industry-s/story-26806488-detail/story.html) for sharp suits while watching a production of Northern Trawl at the old Hull Truck Theatre in Spring Street.
"I remember watching the show and seeing the actors wearing these quite unusual suits," she said.
"I was a fashion and textile student at the time and it always stayed with me.
"I always wanted to know more about them but it's only since I started writing the proposal for this project to properly document the suits that I've come to realise how historically important they were as a clothing sub-culture.
"They were also quite unusual for the era as well in their design and styling, quite unlike normal tailored suits in the 1950s and 1960s.

"We know a lot of trawlermen specifically asked for things like half-moon pockets, high waistbands and bell-bottom trousers as well as quite different colours in pastel shades such as pale blue, fawn and silver grey, which were very different from the traditional dark British suit."

The distinctive suits were usually made-to-measure by local tailoring shops, many based in Hessle Road.

"There is a view they represented a very tribal identity rather than a rebellion against any traditional ways of dressing," said Claire.

"The men who wore them came from a strong matriarchal community where women ran the home while they were away at sea so the suits were their way of expressing themselves."

The project is also working with a number of city primary schools, encouraging youngsters to come up with their own fashion designs.

Hull-based film-maker Antony Hatfield is also producing a documentary on the subject.

He said: "It would be great to get our hands on an actual suit but finding one is a bit like finding gold dust at the moment."

If anyone has an old trawlerman's suit they should call Rachel Elms on 07926 069322.

Exhibition to tour city

The Suited And Booted exhibition will open on September 11 at the Artlink Gallery in Princes Avenue, west Hull.
It will run for six weeks at Artlink before moving to the Hull School of Art and Design in Wilberforce Drive, city centre, where students are currently making dresses and jewellery based on the city's fishing heritage.
The exhibition will then move to nearby Holy Trinity Church over the Christmas period.
[Organisers](http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Search-stylish-suits-worn-Hull-fishing-industry-s/story-26806488-detail/story.html) are hoping to find one more venue to host the exhibition until the end of January next year.