

In its heyday (1500-1750), Tiverton was famous for the manufacture of woollen cloth. Thousands found work and merchants grew rich. Their Trail can be followed around the town of today.

PLACES TO VISIT IN TIVERTON

Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life – open Mon-Fri 10.30-4.30, Sat 10-1. Closed Christmas to end of January.

Tiverton Castle – open Easter to late October: Sun, Thurs & Bank Hol Mon 2.30-5.30.

St Peter's Church – open daily.

St George's Church – open Tues & Thurs 10-12.

Several of Tiverton's historic buildings are open to the public at the Civic Trust's annual **Heritage Open Days** held in early September.

Town Walks led by the **Tiverton Civic Society** may be arranged on request.

OTHER PLACES nearby connected with the Cloth Industry:

Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme (near Junction 27 on M5), a working woollen mill and industrial museum with restored waterwheel – usually open April to end of October daily 10-4. Tel 01884 840960 to check details. Restaurant & shop.

Exeter, see the Woollen Trail and visit Tuckers' Hall, Fore Street – open June to September Tues, Thurs, Fri 10.30-12.30; October to May Thurs 10.30-12.30.

Topsham Museum – open Easter to end of October Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 2-5. Tearoom & shop.

Dates and times correct at time of publication (June 2008)

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For local schools who took part in the Design-a-Medallion competition: Four designs were selected from Two Moors Primary School, the work of Luchia Ellis, Abby Little, Connor Tucker, Abbie Weston. Frances Auger of Blundell's School drew the directional arrows.

Text by Jane Evans and Brian Jenkins.

Pavement medallions by Peter Skeet for production by Photocast, www.photocast.co.uk.

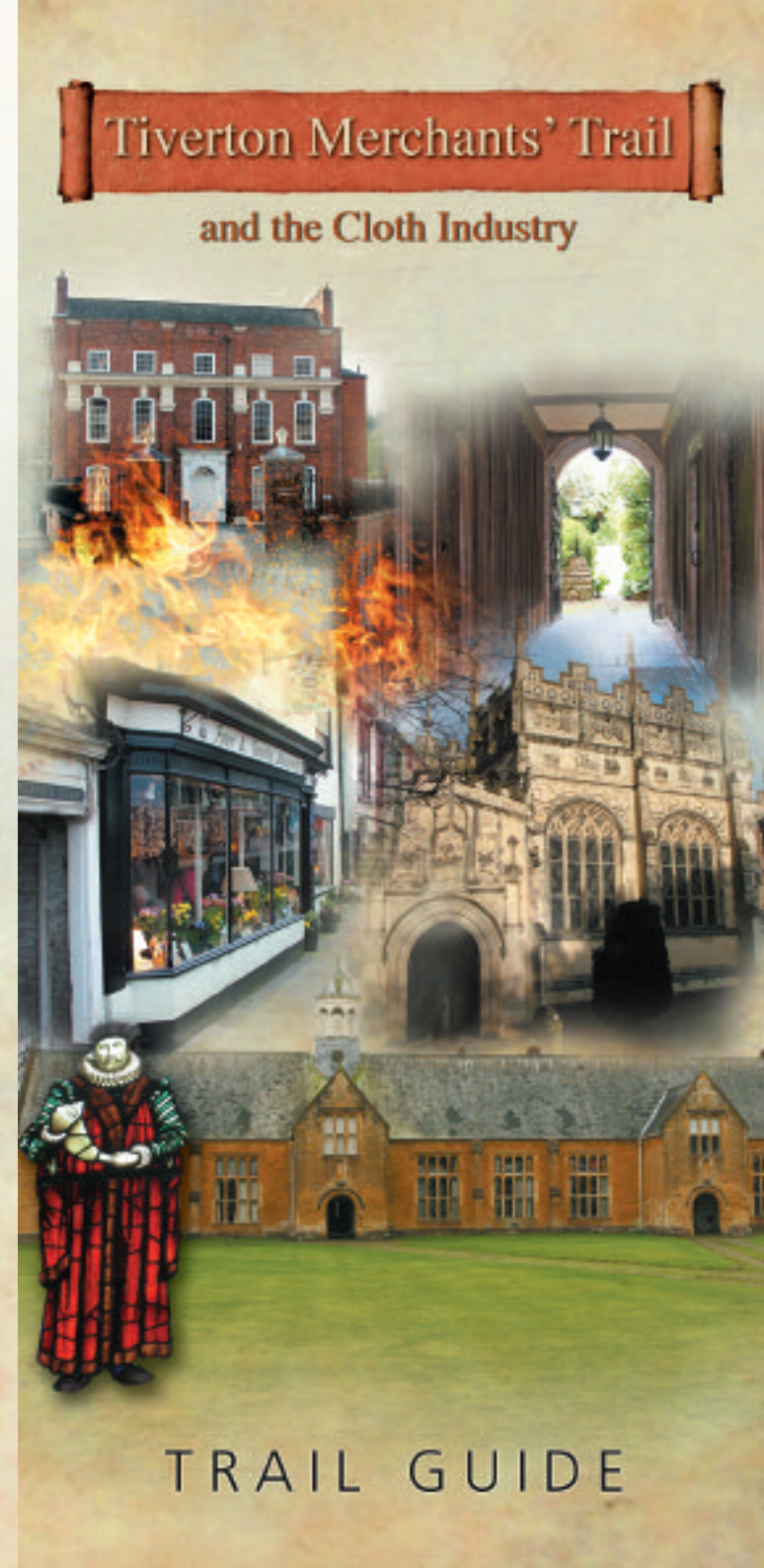
Design & production of panels by Martin Surgey and Lifechart, www.lifechart.co.uk.

A more detailed leaflet is available from the Tourist Information Centre and Museum, together with cards of the five panels.

Visit our website at www.tivertoncivicsoc.org.uk

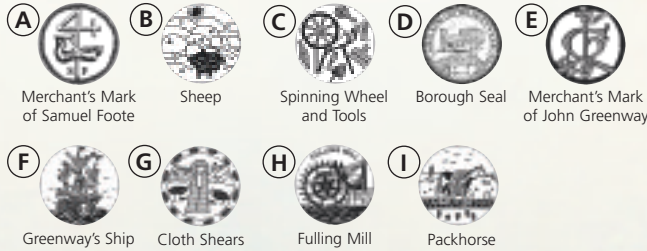


Designed and produced by Lifechart 01273 856906



TRAIL GUIDE

Five panels tell the merchants' story and various pavement medallions mark the route.



You can join the Trail at any point. For convenience, we begin at the Tourist Information Centre by the Bus Station (A). Go up Phoenix Lane towards Fore Street. At the top is:-



St George's Church

1 *PANEL 1. 18th CENTURY MERCHANTS*

A great fire in 1731 gave the opportunity to re-build houses in this prime area. Only one remains, **Gotham House**, home of **George Davey**. Go back a few yards to (B), turn right, then

left, to view this fine red-brick Georgian house now occupied by Ashfords, Solicitors. Return to Panel 1 and turn left along Fore Street, passing the sites of **Oliver Peard's** house and **Benjamin Dickinson's** mansion at (C), to **St George's Church** on your left, said to be Devon's finest Georgian church. The **Midwife's Gravestone** is against the back wall of the church beyond the extension. (D) If our Victorian Town Hall is open, look at the **Borough Seal** design in the stained glass doors. Go down Angel Hill to:-



Master's House, Chilcot's School

2 *PANEL 2. 16th & 17th CENTURY MERCHANTS*

Angel Hill is a key location commanding **Exe Bridge**, a crossing-point since medieval times. Continue to the bridge for the town's iconic view upriver to **St Peter's Church**, with the

Master of Chilcot's House high on your right. The medallion (H)

reminds us that many cloth-fulfilling mills and channels lined the river bank. Only the Factory Leat remains.

Return up Angel Hill to St Peter Street. Opposite **Chilcot's School** (1611) is the **Great House** (1603-14) and **Almshouses** built by **George Slee**. Both have Blue Plaques. Walk up St Peter Street noting the Queen Anne **Amory House**, c1708, on your right. 18th century merchants built their fine houses where once their Tudor and Stuart forebears lived. One such was **Samuel Foote** (1625-91), M.P., who traded on his name (A). Hereabouts, too, John Greenway (c1460-1529) had a house (E). (F) Go into the churchyard. Notice the intricate carvings of **John Greenway's Porch and Chapel**, 1517, St Peter's richest feature [see also Panel 4]. The church itself is filled with reminders of merchants' wealth – their marks on the capitals, their tombs near the chancel.

From the church to **Tiverton Castle** is but a step through the churchyard. (D) Once a stronghold of the Courtenay Earls of Devon, the Civil War ruin became a home to **Peter West**, of merchant stock, who built a new wing, the **South Court** c1685. Retrace your steps to Newport Street. No trace remains of the busy market – the **Wool Chapel** (G). On the corner is the sign of The Lamb. Cross the road and follow (A) on the right of Newport Street. Turn right at Clare House, 1816, a former Rectory, and head towards the Pannier Market, 1830. Exit left (C) along Market Walk to Bampton Street:-



Corn Market

3 *PANEL 3. THE WIDOW AND THE TOWN'S HISTORIAN*

The packhorse medallion (I) reminds us of how wool was carried from Exmoor and Minehead. The panel shows the lost **Enchmarch** family mansion (1749) which once occupied this very spot. **Sarah, the Widow Enchmarch**, carried on her husband's business with her sons. Opposite is an original round-headed arch (1649)

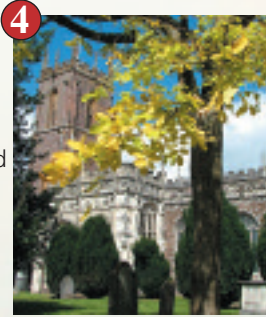
from the **Market Cross**, removed from Fore Street in 1783. Go down Bampton Street. Here was the family business of **Martin Dunsford** (1744-1807), merchant and historian of Tiverton.

Note the interesting **Corn Market** (1732) at (B). A board gives its history. The columns extend inside the shops. At the bottom of the street, a Blue Plaque on the right marks the site of the Palmerston

Hotel pulled down in 1961. A fine mansion stood opposite, built by **Samuel Lewis** after the 1731 fire. Its splendid façade did not survive conversion to a retail store in 1970. (A) Turn left into Gold Street and continue to:-

4 *PANEL 4. EARLY TUDOR MERCHANT – JOHN GREENWAY*

Here you can read how **John Greenway** acquired his wealth and how he bestowed it on the people of Tiverton. His **Chapel** at St Peter's Church is spectacular, and his **Almshouses**, founded in the 1520s, continue to thrive today, with additions opened by Prince Charles in 2004. Go on to (E) – look across at his merchant's mark carved in stone on the tiny **Almshouse Chapel**. A few yards on, at (A), cross the road and continue down Gold Street. At (H) look at the entrance to **Sharland's Court**, typical of where many people lived and worked. Go over Lowman Bridge, (I), marking the road to London.



St Peter's Church



Lowman Bridge

5 *PANEL 5. WOOLLEN INDUSTRY & EDUCATION*

The story told here evolves around the River Lowman and the different processes in the cloth industry. Fulling mills were worked by leats all

along the right bank. Yet it was here, too, beside the Lowman, that the greatest clothier of all, **Peter Blundell** (c1520-1601), is remembered. His bequest was the famous Grammar School. Walk on a little further to the gateway to **Old Blundell's**, now a Grade 1 Listed Building owned by the National Trust, and see it from the Green. (A) You may now retrace your steps up Gold Street and go back along Fore Street to (C). From here Tiverton Museum is easily accessible – just follow the signs to (G).

A further walk can be taken over Exe Bridge to Westexe and Waldron's Almshouses (1579) in Wellbrook Street.