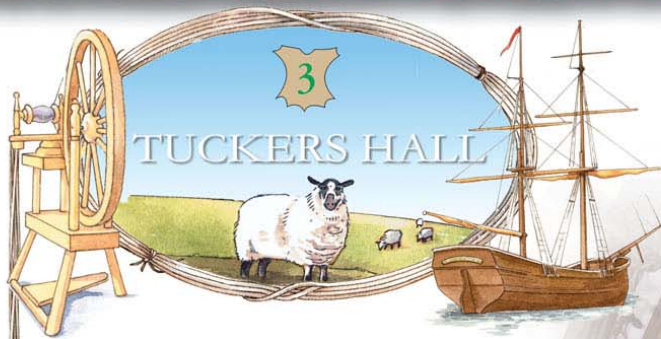


# Exeter Woollen Trail



Exeter City Council



## A Fine Hall

Tuckers Hall was built in 1471 and was originally the guild chapel of the cloth workers. After the Reformation, when many religious buildings were dissolved during the reign of Henry VIII, it was converted for use as their guild hall, where members of the Clothworkers Guild would meet to make decisions on work and trade matters. This included ensuring the quality of the products and an ongoing supply of skilled craftsmen through training apprentices, as well as ensuring reasonable wages and conditions for workers within the cloth trade.

### Men of Wool

Members included weavers, fullers (tuckers) and shearmen and the tools of their trades are incorporated in the design of the modern iron gate here. These include finishing shears, shuttles and reels of yarn and teasels.

were dragged across the cloth to raise the nap (surface of the cloth).

Tuckers were craftsmen who carried out the finishing of cloth. 'Tucking' is a local word for fulling - the skilled process of pounding the cloth whilst under water to clean it and give it a denser

texture. The word comes from the Middle English word *tucian* - to punish.

The Guild has a continuous history from 1450 to the present day and is still known as the 'Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen of Exeter.'



Iron Gate showing tools of the woollen cloth trade (Exeter City Museums)



143 Fore Street

Notice the elegant frontages of neighbouring buildings, which reflect the wealth of Exeter in the 17th and 18th centuries.



First door hall of Tuckers Hall (Nicholas Toyne)



“I’m one of the many weavers living outside the city and have come with my team of packhorses 15 miles from Moretonhampstead early this morning, bringing cloth to

be finished on Exe island. Later I’ll be here at a meeting of the clothworkers guild at Tuckers Hall. It’ll be the middle of the night before I get home.”



Merchants brought the wool to town on packhorses, causing a different sort of traffic jam!

