

# The Clopton Trail

A free family friendly trail around Stratford upon Avon

**Follow this trail and walk in the footsteps of the medieval residents of Stratford upon Avon.**

Let Kit, the apprentice painter, take you on a journey helping you to reimagine this beautiful market town in the early 1500s.

The trail will show you the legacy left in his will by Hugh Clopton (1440-1496), a local wool and cloth merchant who made his fortune in London, to benefit Stratford residents, most of which we can still enjoy today.

This route will take you from the beautiful Guild Chapel, New Place and the Guildhall to Holy Trinity Church and then along the river to view and hear about the magnificent Clopton bridge.

To find out more about the historic Guild Chapel and to make a donation to help with its preservation, please visit:

[www.guildchapel.org.uk](http://www.guildchapel.org.uk)

This trail can be used on its own or you can use it alongside the digital version that can be found here:



# What can I see on the trail?

## The Guild Chapel

The Guild Chapel, at the corner of Chapel Lane and Church Street is one of Stratford upon Avon's most iconic and important historic buildings, dating back to the 13th Century. Medieval Christians believed that charitable acts would get them into heaven more quickly, and the wealthy would build themselves private chapels believing it would give them a passport to heaven. This may be why Hugh Clopton paid for the Chapel to be rebuilt in stone.

## New Place

New Place, directly opposite the Guild Chapel was Hugh Clopton's residence in Stratford upon Avon. After buying it, he rebuilt the house in brick, which would have looked visibly different from the older timber buildings surrounding it. Sadly, nothing survives of the house today, which was demolished in 1759.

## Guildhall and almshouses

Upstairs at the Guildhall was where the Guild of the Holy Cross held their feasts and other meetings. The almshouses provide an impressive legacy paid for by Hugh Clopton's former apprentice, friend and executor, Thomas Hannys.

## Clopton Bridge

To get the best view of it, why not explore it from the Tramway bridge or from the riverbank walkways that run on either side of the Avon? Or see Stratford upon Avon from a different viewpoint altogether and float down the river on one of Stratford's guided boat tours. Hugh Clopton was a key figure in the building of the stone bridge we see today, known as 'Clopton Bridge'.

