



WALKS IN DORCHESTER AND AROUND



All our walks are led by qualified, experienced and entertaining guides and start from the Town Pump in South Street at 11am.
Walks are a gentle stroll and last about an hour and a half. *Adults £5, children £2. No booking required.*

CHAPTER ONE

Durnovaria, Casterbridge, Dorchester

The town with three names. This walk is a general introduction to Dorchester's history from prehistoric times to today. It's a small town with a big story.

Tuesdays – 21, 28 June; 5, 19, 26 July; 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 August; 6, 13, 20, 27, September.

CHAPTER TWO

Writers' & Artists' Dorchester

Discover the Dorchester of the poet and novelist Thomas Hardy, Dorset dialect poet William Barnes, and the Powys Family – and their characters. Find the birthplace of one of Australia's most famous artists, Tom Roberts, and visit public art by Elisabeth Frink.

Fridays – 15 July, 26 August.

CHAPTER THREE

Rebel Dorchester!

Through quiet Dorchester there once strolled the Hanging Judge Jeffreys, Denzil Holles who plotted against King Charles I and the Tolpuddle Martyrs, who stood up for their rights to form a union. Discover these characters with Dorchester's latest rebel.

Fridays – 22 July, 2 September.

CHAPTER FOUR

Thomas Hardy's Casterbridge

The Mayor of Casterbridge, Donald Farfrae, Bathsheba Everdene, the Trumpet Major... all walked these streets in Hardy's fictionalised Dorchester. Find out how Hardy changed the town to fit his novels.

Fridays – 29 July, 9 September.

CHAPTER FIVE

Crime and Punishment

Dorchester was the site of the 'Bloody Assize' and the trial of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. Visit the old courtroom and cells and see the site of the gallows at the prison – and be thankful you weren't around then!

Fridays – 5 August, 16 September.

POEM

Dorchester Poetry Walk

Thomas Hardy, William Barnes, John Betjeman, even Ogden Nash have all extolled the virtues of Dorset. Alistair Chisholm's velvet voice will bring you some of our best loved poems as we stroll around the town.

Sundays – 24 July, 2 October

National Poetry Day special – Thursday 6 October.

CHAPTER SIX

Dorchester and the World

Discover Thomas Masterman Hardy, Nelson's flagship captain, Dorchester's links with the Roman Empire, John White and the founding of the American colonies and Dorset's military campaigns around the world in the Napoleonic wars, the Boer War, Afghanistan (in the 19th century and today), and World Wars I and II.

Fridays – 12 August, 23 September.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Henges and Romans

Durnovaria was an important Roman town with fine buildings and mosaics, but long before the Romans we had Europe's largest hillfort and a henge bigger than Stonehenge! Discover our hidden history.

Fridays – 24 June, 8 July, 30 September.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Fantastic Buildings

Dorchester has some notable buildings designed by architects including Benjamin Ferrey and Thomas Hardy, and will soon have a solar-powered station. Discover Dorchester's town centre buildings, then hop on a bus to look at the Prince of Wales' own development at Poundbury.

Fridays – 1 July, 19 August.

Architectural Heritage Week special – Thursday 8 September.

EPILOGUE

The Green Tolpuddle Tour

Come with us on the No. 387 bus to Tolpuddle for a sustainable tour to the home of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, six labourers who were transported to Australia for forming a union and whose cause was taken up by the nation. Lunch at the Martyrs' Inn or bring a picnic.

Thursdays – 4 August, 1 September, 27 October.

Meet at the Dorset County Museum bus stop at 11.00am.

Returns to Dorchester at 3pm, with an optional visit to the Courtroom and cells afterwards.



SEE OUR WEBSITE

www.thomas-hardy-explorer.co.uk

for details of personal tours, tours for groups and schools' services; or phone **07773 286197**