

Dorchester, Fleet and Weymouth Dorset

7th – 9th July, 2017

Our seventh Society meeting saw us back in Dorset, sixteen years after our first get together. Although only a few members were able to come this time, it was still a most enjoyable weekend. The Wessex Royale Hotel in Dorchester was again our base. On Saturday we visited Thomas Hardy's grave at Stinsford churchyard and his birthplace at Upper Bockhampton. We then drove to the west of Dorchester, for a stiff walk up to the magnificent Maiden Castle, with its extensive earthen ramparts and splendid views. A circuitous route to Fleet followed for a revisit to the old church and a walk to the atmospheric Fleet lagoon. Back in Dorchester, we went for tea at 8, West Walks - Meade Falkner's boyhood home - thanks to the kindness of Melanie Davie, a member of the Society, and her husband.

On Sunday, three members drove to Weymouth to view Meade Falkner associated buildings.



At Thomas Hardy's graveside



Thomas Hardy's birthplace



Maiden Castle's ramparts



Fleet Old Church



In the garden of No. 8 West Walks



The Falkner family home in Weymouth