

## POINTS OF INTEREST

Market Place: **The Swan Inn (3)**. Where, Young recounts, the Magistrates Court was held, and Hardy attended Concerts in the Assembly Rooms above the Crown Inn (now Holebrooks).



Penny Street: where Barnes attended the Dames School, now the **Chapter House (5)** and later became a copy-clerk for Thomas Dashwood, the local solicitors, at **Vine House (6)**. When the Hardys lived in Sturminster, they became friends with the Dashwoods and spent their last night in the town at Vine House before moving to London in March 1877.



The Town Museum and **Market Cross (11)**, where Barnes would sit and watch activities; Young saw an errant husband flogged, and Hardy imagined Tess and her young brother on an errand for her drunken father.



**The Old Tailors Cottage (13)**: where Young's father had his first tailor's business. After Young took over his father's shop, he became a successful businessman, and by the 1880s, he was able to build The Beehive, now known as **The Hive (16)** and develop other sites, including Riverside Villas.



Photo credits: Points of Interest – Terry Townsend, Authors – Sturminster Newton Museum and Mill Society, Book stack – Jan Wardell

## STURMINSTER NEWTON WALKABOUTS

### WALKABOUT 9 Literary Trail

A gentle walk around Sturminster Newton to explore places associated with three famous Dorset writers. The trail is approximately 1.5 miles and, at a leisurely pace, will take about an hour to complete.

Sturminster Newton is fortunate in having not one, but three literary figures closely associated with the town. This walk takes you to places associated with Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) and Dorset dialect poets William Barnes (1801-1886) and Robert Young (1811-1908) – some of which appear in their writings.

Many places are no longer as they would have been, but in the older part of the town, along Penny Street and particularly around the Church of St Mary, your imagination can transport you to days gone by.

Sturminster Newton Museum is situated in an attractive thatched building dating back to the sixteenth century, next to the Market Cross in the town centre. It houses references to the Town's literary heritage. One of its prized exhibits is a bath chair belonging to Robert Young.

Please take care when following this route – motorised traffic today is unavoidable, and there are some narrow sections of shared road.

The Sturminster Newton Walkabouts have been developed by the Sturminster Newton Town Council in association with Dorset Council and are available from The Community Chest, Sturminster Library, the Museum and Sturminster Mill or can be downloaded from [www.dorsetforyou.com/walkabouts](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/walkabouts)

Visit <https://sturminster-newton.org.uk> for more information about the town.



Sturminster  
Newton  
Town Council

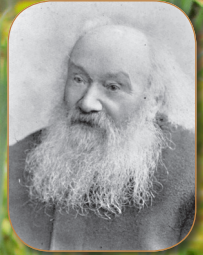
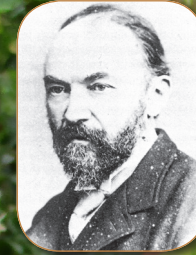


Dorset  
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## STURMINSTER NEWTON WALKABOUTS

### Literary Trail





# LITERARY TRAIL

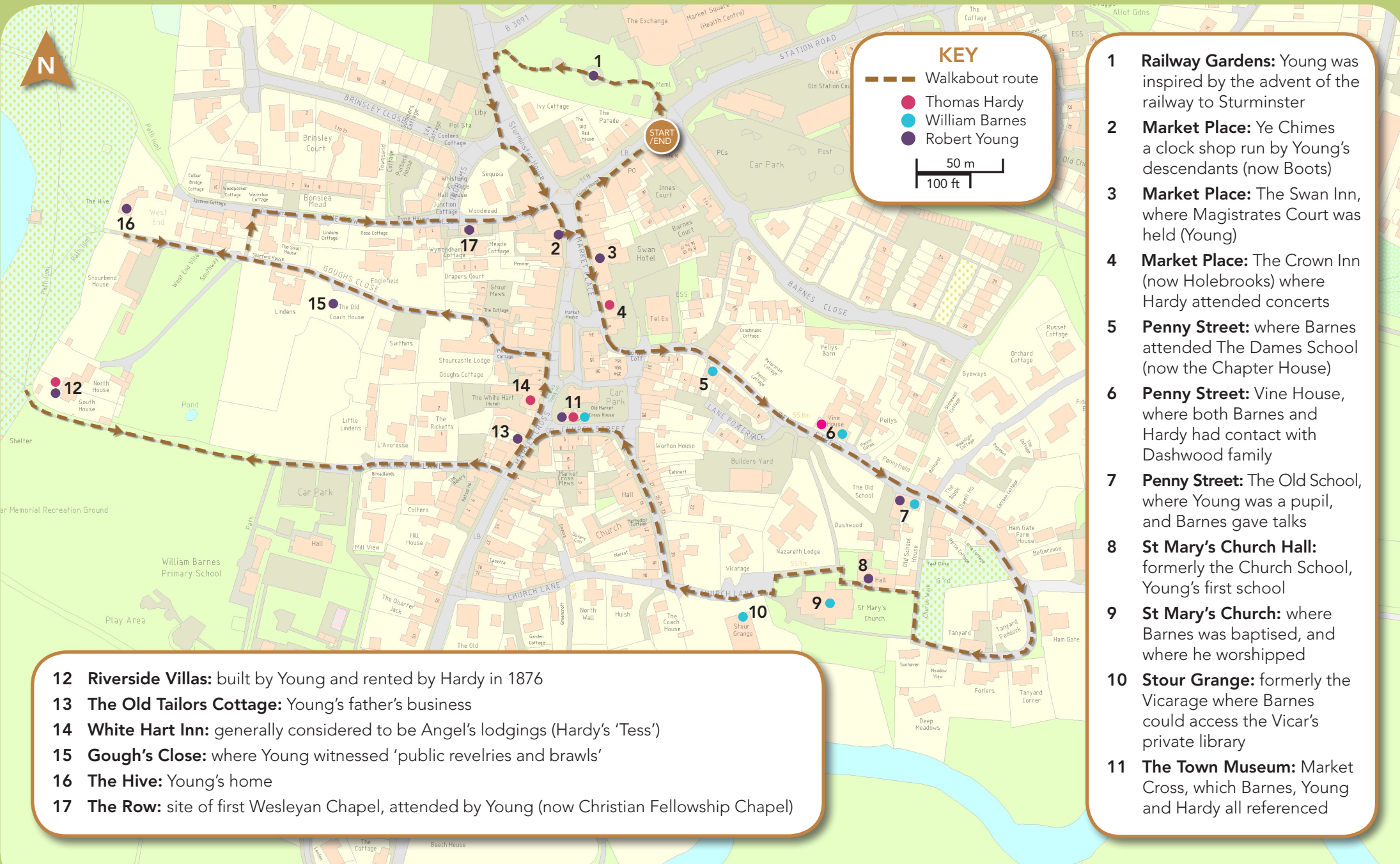
A gentle walk around Sturminster Newton to explore places associated with three famous Dorset writers.

## STARTING POINT

Poets' Corner, Sturminster Newton (DT10 1BB)

## DISTANCE

approximately 1.5 miles



**KEY**

- Walkabout route
- Thomas Hardy
- William Barnes
- Robert Young

50 m  
100 ft

- 1 Railway Gardens:** Young was inspired by the advent of the railway to Sturminster
- 2 Market Place:** Ye Chimes a clock shop run by Young's descendants (now Boots)
- 3 Market Place:** The Swan Inn, where Magistrates Court was held (Young)
- 4 Market Place:** The Crown Inn (now Holebrooks) where Hardy attended concerts
- 5 Penny Street:** where Barnes attended The Dames School (now the Chapter House)
- 6 Penny Street:** Vine House, where both Barnes and Hardy had contact with Dashwood family
- 7 Penny Street:** The Old School, where Young was a pupil, and Barnes gave talks
- 8 St Mary's Church Hall:** formerly the Church School, Young's first school
- 9 St Mary's Church:** where Barnes was baptised, and where he worshipped
- 10 Stour Grange:** formerly the Vicarage where Barnes could access the Vicar's private library
- 11 The Town Museum:** Market Cross, which Barnes, Young and Hardy all referenced

- 12 Riverside Villas:** built by Young and rented by Hardy in 1876
- 13 The Old Tailors Cottage:** Young's father's business
- 14 White Hart Inn:** generally considered to be Angel's lodgings (Hardy's 'Tess')
- 15 Gough's Close:** where Young witnessed 'public revelries and brawls'
- 16 The Hive:** Young's home
- 17 The Row:** site of first Wesleyan Chapel, attended by Young (now Christian Fellowship Chapel)