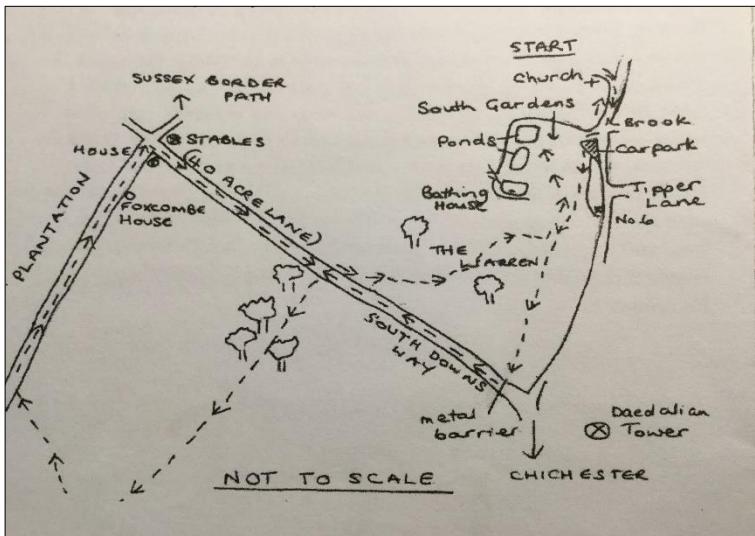


Getting to and from South Harting by Public Transport

Chichester	Bus No. 54	2 hourly, no Sunday service
Petersfield*	Bus No. 54	2 hourly, no Sunday service
	Bus No. 91	infrequent Sat & weekdays
		2 hourly Sundays & Public Holidays
Midhurst	Bus No. 91	As above
Worthing	Bus No. 91	South Harting to Worthing 2 hourly Sundays & Public Holidays
		Bus No. 1 Worthing to South Harting as above

*Leaves Petersfield Railway Station



Compiled by Harting Society
Printed by Harting Parish Council

Walk No. 3

HARTING SOCIETY: WALKS ROUND HARTING

Circular walk – South Harting, The Warren, South Downs Way, Foxcombe House and return by South Gardens to South Harting

Distance: 4 miles approx.

Time: 2.5 hours approx.

**An easy walk, with one steep hill.
A varied walk of views, spring
flowers, birds, woods, fields,
ponds and a ruined tower.**

START – from the Parish Church and turn right down the narrow road between houses and the churchyard wall (be careful of traffic). The last house on the right at the bottom was once South Harting's third pub "The Coach & Horses". Cross the road and turn right to walk the short distance to Tipper Lane. Look across the road to the right at the attractive thatched cottages. No.6 is a Tudor timber-framed house with S-shaped (ogee) braces dating it between 1570 and 1590. Retrace your steps and cross the road to the public footpath running between a wall on the right and the car park on the left to the wooden gates of South Gardens. Enter the gardens and keep straight ahead with the gardens of the thatched cottage on your left and across the grass the three ponds. You will probably see many ducks parading or sunning themselves on the grassy banks. Note the many lovely trees, and sadly, the large stumps of the four magnificent horse chestnuts which became diseased and had to be felled in 2017.



Coming to the end of the open grass join the wide main path bearing left. It is rough and stony and often slippery, so take care. Look out for spring flowers, orchids, woodruff, wood spurge, bugle, campion, bell flowers, sanicle, wood anemones, dogwood and small wayfaring trees. Continue up through the Warren until the South Downs Way is reached. At the South Downs Way turn right and continue on your way looking back to see Uppark's ruined tower originally called "My Tower at Noonbush" by Sir Matthew Featherstonehaugh, then the Daedalian Tower after the mythical Greek associated with the origins of architecture. More recently it has become known to some as the Vandalian Tower. It was once used for grand "picnic" parties until reduced to a ruin in 1842 by a deliberate incendiary attack by a gang of poachers from a neighbouring Parish. Stop to look a look at the wonderful panoramic views over Hemner and Torberry Hills, West Harting, South Harting, East Harting and Elsted with distant views of Petersfield, Nyewood and Rogate.

Continue along seeing the purple violets and large clumps of primroses at the edge of the path and in the field by the gate on the right. Reaching the finger post on the left climb the bank and cross into a field. Turning right and then immediately left follow the footpath (keep dogs on leads) along a well defined track through a narrow strip of woodland carpeted with wild garlic, bluebells and dog mercury in spring. Perhaps see a fox running off. Look to the right across a field to catch a glimpse of Foxcombe House. Follow the path keeping a large field on your right until it meets a track at the edge of the woods. At this forest track turn right with the woodland on your left and views across the fields to the Daedalian Tower on the right. Listen for the call "si-si-si" of the goldcrest, Europe's smallest bird, or perhaps see one flitting in and out of the fir trees. Keep an eye open for roe deer, with their back fur sandy or red brown in summer, grey brown to near black in winter.

Follow the main track until, leaving the woodland, you reach the settlement of Foxcombe and continue until the crossroads of the Sussex Border Path

and South Downs Way. Turn right between stables and a house onto South Downs Way (40 Acre Lane). Look for siskins nearby as they search for seeds in the hedges. Continuing for some distance you come to a gate on the left (the one passed at the beginning of the walk) and going through it walk down the slope and through a plantation of trees. Look out for cowslips in Spring dotted amongst the numerous molehills. The descent down the slope can be dangerously slippery at times so walk with care. The path turns sharply right and becomes narrow passing fenced fields to the right with the land falling away steeply on the left to woodland full of wild garlic and bluebells in the Spring. Watch out for rabbit holes and badger diggings and Solomon's Seal along the way. Follow the path down through the Warren to arrive at some steps leading to the main wide path to South Gardens. Turn left down the path passing wild flowers in Spring and many lovely trees.

Arriving at South Gardens look to the left to see the lovely reflections on the trees in the waters of the pond. The landing on one edge was once the base for pretty bathing house. At the middle pond look out for large carp splashing around the reeds or swimming along the banks. Perhaps you may see a tree creeper running up a tree trunk or a kingfisher flashing past or sitting on a bullrush. In spring the grass, (once a bowling green) is carpeted with broad sweeps of celandines, speedwell and daisies. Rest a while on the bench at the point by the swings and watch the antics of the ducks or the moorhens and their chicks walking over the lily pads or on a sunny day dragonflies hovering over the yellow and white water lilies. There are often nuthatches busying in the trees nearby. Leave the Gardens by the wooden gates and walk back up the narrow road to the lovely Church of St Mary and St Gabriel. Just past the Church gates can be seen the Old Village Stocks. Spare time to visit the well-loved Church. It is over 800 years old and full of beauty and interest. Don't miss the colourful kneelers depicting all aspects of life in the Parish designed and worked by Parishioners.