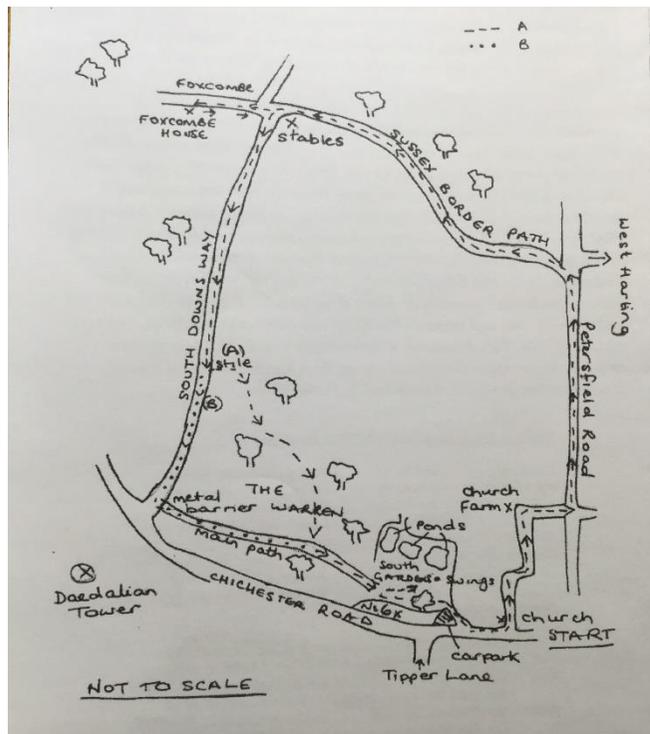


Getting to and from South Harting by Public Transport

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| 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. 4

HARTING SOCIETY: WALKS ROUND HARTING

Circular walk – South Harting, Sussex Border Path, Foxcombe, South Downs Way, The Warren, South Gardens and return to South Harting

Distance: 3.5 miles approx.

Time: 2 hours approx.

An easy walk with one moderately steep hill up the Sussex Border Path. A walk of lovely views, spring flowers, fields, woods, ponds and ducks.

START – from the Parish Church and turning left notice the Old Stocks. Follow the finger post up between the Meeting House and the churchyard wall to a grassy lane on the right turning to pass by Church Farm on the left and fields on the right. At the wide path outside the farm gates (Cow Lane) turn right and walk down to the Petersfield Road. Cross with care noting the lovely Black Poplar trees standing to the right of the wide grassy track between fields ahead of you. Turn left along the footpath listening to the song of skylarks as they flutter high above the fields on the right under Torberry Hill with its fairy ring and Iron Age site (private property). See the occasional deer as you continue along the wide verge. In spring the banks are purple with ground ivy, violets and bugle. Across the road on your left lie the village playing fields and along from them is a road marked Sussex Border Path with a bench and red letter box at its entrance. Turn left looking to the left



to a pretty view of South Harting and the Downs. Look out for deer in the fields here.

Continue up the SBP noting lovely trees festooned with old man's beard, banks of wild garlic, spring flowers, wild strawberries and orchids in season. At the little quarry on the right at the top of the hill perennial sunflowers add a bit of sunshine in late summer and autumn. Watch out for deer tracks on the banks on each side of the road. At the crossroads (SBP & SDW) walk straight on to see Foxcombe, a handful of cottages and Foxcombe House. Retrace your steps looking right to see in the distance the Daedalian Tower, Uppark's ruined tower which was once the scene of grand "picnic" parties until reduced to ruins in 1842 by a deliberate incendiary attack by a gang of poacher's from a nearby Parish. Sir Matthew Featherstonehaugh originally called it "my Tower at Noonbush" but later changed it to the Daedalian Tower. In recent years it has been known to some as the Vandalian Tower.

Turn right and walk for 15 to 20 minutes down the South Downs Way to reach an upward slope and a finger post and gate on your left. EITHER – (A) Go through and walk down the sloping path with trees either side. Watch your footing as it can get dangerously slippery. At the bottom turn right and walk along with fenced fields on the right, the land falling away steeply to woods on the left. Here in spring see bluebells and wild garlic. Keep an eye out for rabbit and badger holes and Solomon's Seal. Follow the finger posts down through the Warren bearing to the right to reach some steps leading down to the wider path. At this path turn left and follow it to reach the open lawns of South Gardens. OR – (B) Continue along the South Downs Way with more sightings of the Daedalian Tower on Tower Hill to a laid tree trunk gateway. Passing through you are now on the main path down the hill to South Gardens. Follow this looking out for violets, primroses, orchids, bellflowers, bugle, woodruff, wood spurge, among other wild flowers and grasses. Due to ash dieback many trees had to be felled in 2019 but a huge amount of replanting is taking place.

Reaching the Gardens walk across the open grass (once a bowling green) swathed with celandine, daisies and speedwell in Spring to reach the furthest pond by the swings. On the way look round at the lovely trees, mainly copper beech. At the middle pond you may be lucky enough to see a kingfisher sitting on a bullrush or flashing past. Perhaps you will spy a treecreeper on one of the tree trunks or nuthatches busy in the trees.

Rest a while on the bench by the pond and watch out for large carp swimming near the banks or splashing around the reeds and yellow and white water lilies. See the moorhens and their chicks scuttle across the lily pads and the many antics of the ducks. On sunny days dragonflies hover over the lilies. Leave the gardens by the gates and walk between a wall and a small car park to the narrow road going uphill between houses and churchyard wall. The house on the left at the entrance to this road was once South Harting's third pub "The Coach & Horses". Keep close to the churchyard wall and beware of traffic. Reaching the top you arrive once more at the lovely Church of St Mary & St Gabriel. It is over 800 years old and full of beauty and interest. The spire was originally shingle but covered with copper in 1825. Damaged in severe storms in 1936 it was reconstructed. Try to spare time to look inside the church and note the many lovely kneelers designed and worked by parishioners.