

Introduction

It is not easy to justify yet another walks booklet, when there are so many on the market, and on the internet. However, this is a *local* initiative, which RPS hope you will support and find useful, for walking with family or friends, for exercise and enjoyment in the countryside of Rudgwick parish, its hamlets, and also nearby villages too.

Not everyone wishes to or can find the time to walk regularly with the Tuesday Walks Programme that RPS organise, so it was decided it would be good to offer everyone the chance to discover these walks for themselves. Even regulars on the walks will, it is hoped, find the information about local history, environment, and landscape interesting and informative.

The local Ordnance Survey Explorer Map, sheet 134, is an invaluable extra guide to these walks, but Alan Siney's excellent hand-drawn maps make it very possible to do the walks without one. Nevertheless, one of my inspirations for this booklet is the knowledge that all pupils in state schools have received their own copy of this map free for several years now. This means that a growing number of families have access to their child's map. This booklet can be the springboard to get children of all ages to use the map for navigation and understanding of the landscape as part of their education with the family. There can be no better reason for publishing these walks.

None of the walks need take longer than two to three hours, and all are between 3 and 6 miles in length. The terrain is not very hilly around Rudgwick, though mud can be a hazard! Walking is increasingly an all-year-round pastime. With reasonable weather it can be a pleasure to do in any season, always with new insights on the natural world, and different views too.

If you already know a route, why not try it in reverse direction, for a completely different perspective! There are also a number of 'diversions' in the walks (in italics), which can shorten or add to the walk. There is sometimes an alternative starting point.

Last but not least, all the walks begin and end at a local pub. Without our pubs the countryside would be less accessible, so 'use them, or lose them'! The landlords support this venture and RPS is proud to be associated with them.

Explanations:

Numbers in the routes are a guide to your whereabouts on the map.

Arrows on the maps indicate the direction of the walk, and define the route.

'C18th' refers to eighteenth century i.e. 1700-1800; 'c1850' means 'about 1850'.

A Dedication

This booklet is dedicated to the memory and inspiration of **Stan Smith**, who died October 2006, following many years service to the community, the buildings and the environment of Rudgwick, and in particular to the maintenance of its footpaths and the initiation of Rudgwick Walks as a regular feature of a Sussex Summer.

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It's your responsibility!

Large groups of 30 or more regularly walk these routes so they are safe, with sensible precautions.

- ❖ Park sensibly; the suggestions in this booklet are only a guide.
- ❖ Please exercise common sense when navigating – it is easy to make a wrong turning!
- ❖ Dogs must always be under control, and always on a lead when there is any risk to farm livestock, wildlife, or other road users.
- ❖ Use only public footpaths and bridleways and roads – deviate from these at your own risk.
- ❖ Respect the privacy of those who live and farm near the route, leave gates as you find them, and take care of the environment.
- ❖ Even on a local walk it is wise to let someone know where you are going; mobile phone signals are not always good.
- ❖ Take note of the weather forecast.
- ❖ Consider taking a drink and snack.

