

A BOOT UP WEST SUSSEX PUBS

West Sussex is renowned for its stately homes and castles such as Arundel and Bramber. Over half of the county is protected countryside, which offers good walking cycling and other recreational opportunities. The county also has a large number of lovely country pubs and this book features 27 of them over ten walks. The pubs are located in all sorts of locations with many of them having lovely views or nearby historic landmarks or sites of interest. Many of the pubs are in picturesque villages and the vast majority serve excellent locally-sourced fresh food.

This book aims to combine two or three of these pubs on each walk that are conveniently reached via footpaths. The walks range from 2.75 miles to 9 miles and have been carefully selected so that they give a day out with plenty to see and do. The routes are also designed to include as many other areas of interest as possible, making the walks an enjoyable day out for everyone - families, groups of friends or individuals looking for a gentle stroll or a longer walk. The ten walks are centred on East Wittering, West Itchenor and West Wittering; Chidham and Nutbourne; Charlton and Singleton; Tillington and Petworth; Burpham, Arundel and Offham; Wisborough Green and Newpound Common; Barns Green, Two Mile Ash and Southwater; Partridge Green and Littleworth; Rusper and Lambs Green; and West Hoathly and Ardingly.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to West Sussex and its hostelrys.

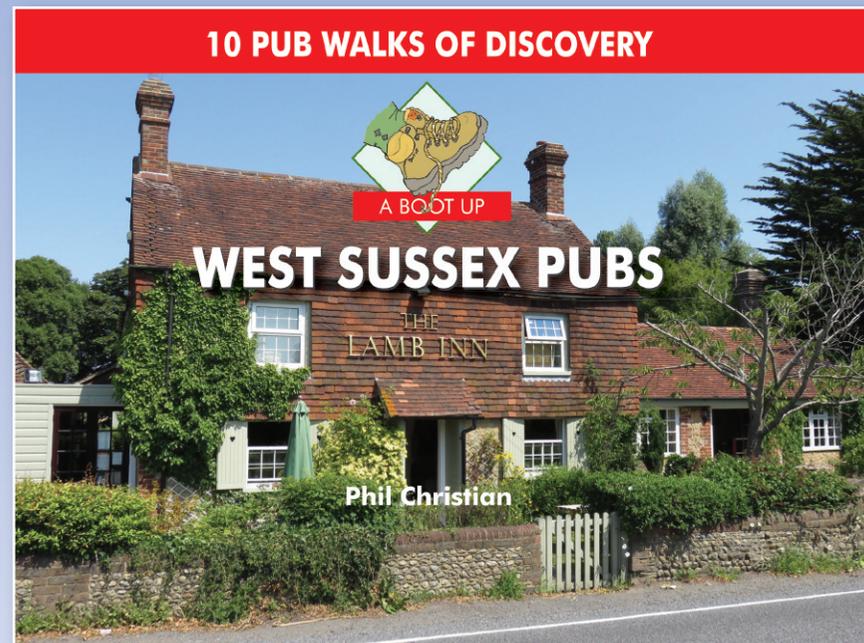
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Phil Christian had a long career in the telecommunications industry. On leaving this in 2010 he decided he wanted to share his fifteen years' worth of countryside walking – he estimates that he has walked about 4000 miles along Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Hampshire and Isle of Wight footpaths. During those walks he has come across many sites of interest, lovely country pubs and magnificent views which, being a keen amateur photographer, has resulted in thousands of photographs over the years.

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Left: St Margaret's church, West Hoathley

Below: Arundel Castle



The Three Crowns, Wisborough Green

The Shore Inn, East Wittering



Examples of double-page spreads.

1 East Wittering, West Itchenor & West Wittering

Follow the road and in a short distance, where it curves to the right, go almost directly ahead along a footpath on the left as directed by a footpath sign (this is on the bend). Follow the path which goes overgrown, cross a wooden bridge and at the end you reach a main road. Turn left along the road for a few yards to reach the Lamb Inn on the left.

The Lamb Inn

2 Chidham & Nutbourne (3 Pubs)

This 7.5 mile walk is completely flat. For most of the walk, there are lovely coastal views across Bosham and Thorney Channels and the walk visits three lovely pubs. There is one short section of beach walking on section 5 that can be difficult / perhaps impossible at the highest of highest tides so you may want to check on-line before you start; however this is very unlikely to affect you.

The walk begins by the lovely Old House at Home pub, which I recommend you save until the end of the walk. From here it is not that far until you reach the Barleycorn pub and a little further on the Bosham Inn, two lovely pubs. You then start your walk around the perimeter of Chidham, beside the Bosham and Thorney Channels; this is the highlight of the walk. Look out for numerous boats, wading birds, butterflies and birds, as you go. The walk ends back at the Old House at Home and believe me you will be ready for refreshments.

Level: 100% flat
Length: 7.5 miles (12 km)
Terrain: This is a completely level walk. There is one short section along pabbles and one area where the ground is uneven.
Stiles: 0
Park & start: Roadside parking by the Old House at Home pub.
Postcodes: PO18 8SD
Start ref: SJ786840
Refreshments: featured pubs.

2 Chidham & Nutbourne

10 West Heathly & Ardingly

Rock-free formation

and follow the wide path and at an opening there is a 3-way bridleway sign. Continue ahead and in a few yards you pass another 2-way bridleway sign before continuing along a winding enclosed path which can get very muddy.

The path re-enters woodland and soon starts to climb. At a 3-way bridleway sign, go right to reach the main road. (If you do not want to visit the pub go to section 3 and continue ahead here to reach Cob Lane.) Turn right along the road with the South of England Centre on the left and the Gardeners Arms about 200 yards along on the right.

5 Leave the pub and turn left, back along the main road to reach the bridleway you used to get here. Go back down the bridleway to reach the 3-way bridleway sign and go right, down through woodland. Soon you reach Cob Lane, not signed.

ARDINGLY

Ardingly (pronounced 'Arding-lye') is a village in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is famous for Wakehurst Place and its grounds which are 1.5 miles north of the village and referred to as 'Kew in the Country', and for Ardingly Reservoir which is 1 mile west of the village. Each year in early June the Ardingly Showground (South of England Centre) hosts the famous South of England Agricultural Show and is often used for antiques fairs which are frequently featured on the BBC game show Bargain Hunt. The Gardeners Arms pub is located on the opposite side of the road to both Wakehurst Place and Ardingly Showground.

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