**Maxse Reunion Walks 2016**

**Wednesday April 6th 2016**

**Beachy Head**

**10.5 miles 1300 feet ascent Picnic lunch**

We set off from Crowlink Car Park (near East Dean) to hit the cliff top at the third of the Seven Sisters and then head East over numbers two & one and down to Birling Gap. The route climbs up to the Belle Tout lighthouse that was abandoned because it was often fogbound. A 350 ft climb leads via a view of the active lighthouse to Beachy Head with a memorial to Bomber Command before we drop down a scenic path for a picnic lunch at Cow Gap, with access to the foreshore. Our return goes gently up with views across Eastbourne and attractive inland paths via the pretty village of East Dean. Generally good going throughout.

A shorter option of about 7 miles and only 2/3rds of the climb will be available.

**Thursday April 7th 2016**

**Devils Dyke**

**10.5miles 1800 feet ascent Pub lunch**

Starting at Devil’s Dyke carpark this walk provides some of the most spectacular views on the South Downs. Proceeding along to Saddlescombe and crossing A 23 at Pyecombe, a gentle climb up takes us up to the Jack and Jill windmills. Then down to Clayton for lunch at the Jack and Jill pub. After lunch, a gentle climb up Wolstonbury Hill, where on a clear day four counties can be seen. Crossing A23 once more, continue on flat ground to Poynings and the final dramatic walk along Devil’s Dyke.

**Friday April 8th 2016**

**Rother Valley and Petworth Park**

**11.5 miles 800 feet ascent Pub lunch**

**An earlier start today** in order to reach Horseguards Pub at Tillington by noon (5.5 miles).  We cross the Rother over Shopham Bridge, and head via Burton Pond and Nature Reserve into Burton Park, previously the home of the Courtauld family and St Michael's School (now flats), with a lovely, old church in the grounds. We then head north past Petworth station and over the Rother to Tillington for an early pub lunch.  After lunch, we continue through the grounds of Pitshill and on into Petworth Park for the view painted by Turner, and past the church for views of the Sheep Downs.  We head home from Petworth above the valley of Rectory Brook, and back to Bigenor Farm for tea (by kind invitation of Linda and Edward Way).  A delightful interval off the South Downs which are in view all day.

**Saturday April 9th 2016**

**A trundle around Goodwood**

**10.6 miles 1585 feet ascent Picnic lunch**

From the Triangle car park at Goodwood we descend into the scenic valley of Singleton. There follows a steep ascent and traverse of Levin Down and a gentle pull up through Charlton Forest onto the South Downs Way for spectacular views over the Weald. We head east along the ridge of the South Downs where we will have a packed lunch. We will descend through the forest into a charming valley ending up in the village of East Dean. Another ascent sees us climb up to the edge of the Goodwood horse racing track from where we contour west to the Trundle and back to the cars (10.6 miles). A final lap of the Trundle will take the walk up to 11.6 miles.

**Sunday April 10th 2016**

**The North Escarpment of the Downs form above and below.**

**11.2 miles 1200 feet ascent Pub lunch**

Starting at Woolbeding Cottage, Bepton (Sally Marien’s new home), we head south towards the South Downs over fields with wonderful views. We go up the Downs at Linch Farm which is a long and gentle ascent. We then walk along the top of the downs with views of the sea and the Isle of Wight. We drop down to the Royal Oak at Hooksway for lunch and then back via Treyford, Didling and Minsted to Woolbeding Cottage for tea.