**H’around ’Assocks, Saturday 21st August 2021**

6 walkers, 20 miles – leader Gavin Fuller

Assembling at Hassocks all the young fit-looking people weren’t our group so it was a different-looking foursome who set off from the station. Staying below the downs to start the walk went through the Danny estate before the first ascent to Wolstonbury Hill. Descending to Pyecombe a navigational error by the leader at a six-way junction proved fortuitous as in Pyecombe we met two people who had been delayed arrivals who we might have missed has we gone the right way to start with!

From Pyecombe the route undulated over Newtimber Hill to Poynings and thence up to a drizzly Devil’s Dyke for lunch. The afternoon saw a descent to Saddlescombe and then the Sussex Border Path to the Open Access land around Ewebottom Hill, which mysteriously doesn’t appear to be easily accessed from the hill itself, necessitating some limbo dancing under a liftable fence to resume the route.

We then took in the Chattri memorial to the Indian dead in the First World War, before ascending to the South Downs Way and up to Ditchling Beacon, where the delights of Mr Whippy proved easily avoidable. Descending to Westmeston Bostall, where we met somebody ascending the hill barefoot, not something anyone in the group fancied, we proceeded through muddy woods to Ditchling, fortunately escaping being hit by balls from the village’s cricket match en route. Back along a Roman road to Keymer, the intended route was frustrated by footpath repairs less than helpfully marked in red on a monotone map, necessitating road walking along the inaccurately named Grand Avenue back to the Hassocks station.

Photographs by Gavin Fuller and Ros Bird