



SOUTH DOWNS WAY

The South Downs Way had its 40th birthday last month. As a schoolboy I hiked in ill-fitting boots and marvelled at the remoteness of it all. The route unfailingly steers a course round the most scenic bits, and goes through remarkably few settlements. What a shame, one might think, that so many South Downs Way walkers, riders and cyclists miss out on Lewes because it's not quite on the route. To coincide with the birthday event, I've been working on a new walks map highlighting how to get onto this National Trail (as 'official' long-distance paths are termed) from Lewes and vice versa: you can pick up the free map from Lewes Tourist Information Centre. We've given it a town map showing some routes linking up Lewes with the outside world and a country map on the other side. And shiny new wooden signposts have gone up pointing to Lewes and the South Downs Way at various strategic points: Black Cap, Kingston Ridge, Spital Road and the Juggs Road near Kingston. I've also added to the map some links out to other country walks that visitors and even Lewesians might easily miss: up Chapel Hill to Mount Caburn, from Mill Road to The Coombe, out along the Ouse to Malling and Offham Chalk Pit, and the delightfully obscure Oxteddle Bottom, which I confess I'd never ventured into until devising this walks map. *Tim Locke*

More Sussex pleasures in *Tim Locke's Slow Sussex, Guide Book of the Year Finalist in British Press Awards* (£14.99 from Skylark, Lewes Tourist Information Centre and Barbican House). Visit facebook.com/slowsussex for details of walks he's doing.