**West of Southend, Saturday 28th October 2017**

18 walkers but only 9 finishers, 18 miles – leader Ron Williamson

The strange case of the missing walkers, the high-tech boot and the spooked pier.

A tough encounter with the barren, windswept, mountainous terrain of south east Essex resulted in a drop-out rate of 50%, with the leader, despite his local knowledge, only just managing to limp home. New boots were destroyed by the demanding landscape and the pride dented of those who failed to reach the final destination.

Thankfully for those of us of a nervous disposition the pier was out of bounds due to a Halloween event, although some felt sure that they felt like Zombies.

The nine survivors continued the team building experience with fish and chips for supper before departing from Southend Central station.

All are welcome to join in next year's Southend expedition but a few sessions at Boot Camp might be required if you wish to complete the course.

Photographs by Keith Lane; more by Linda Pan on the group Facebook page