**Escape from Chelmsford, Friday 21st April 2017**

9 walkers, 15 miles – leader Ron Williamson

Nine members successfully passed the mental and physical challenges demanded by the selection committee and became eligible to attempt a breakout from the city of Chelmsford. A sense of excitement and eager anticipation was apparent as the nine burst forth from the town station at 10:30am. The effectiveness of the selection process was proven to be 100% when 6 hours later all escapees reached the neutral Icelandic state in Maldon High Street, from where diplomatic channels negotiated a rapid and safe return home.

Our route had seen us navigate along the peaceful Chelmer canal, traverse dried up water meadows, circumvent the longest Ford in Essex, pass through resplendent forests full with the flowers of spring, explore a former rail line which last saw passenger traffic in 1939 and finally zig zag through the alleys and byways of the ancient borough of Maldon.

Our supplies were replenished at The Rodney in Little Baddow and The Hurdlemakers Arms of Woodham Mortimer, where the locals were found to be welcoming and the liquid sustenance refreshing.

All that now remains is our great and final escape next Wednesday when you will be pleased to know all will be welcome with no selection process to endure.

Photographs by Bola Baruwa