**Hockley to Southend, Saturday 20th November 2021**

15 walkers, 17 miles – leader Ron Williamson

A route change necessitated by rail replacement bus services and an earlier cancellation due to Covid, but eventually the annual autumn visit to the seaside took place on an overcast but dry day with just a hint of colder weather to come.

A walk which linked unexpectedly large areas of wood and parkland to the North of Southend before reaching the Thames at the ancient ruins of Hadleigh Castle. A stroll through Leigh-on-Sea and a walk along the promenade as darkness fell and soon we reached the bright lights of Southend where some of us enjoyed a feast of fantastic fish and chips.

The dry weather of the past two weeks meant no mud and more importantly plenty of dry crisp leaves to kick our way through.

Photographs by Keith Lane and Stephen Lannon