

## **REVIEW OF WEST BEACH LITTLEHAMPTON WALK TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2017.**

By Tom Little

A bright but blowy morning saw 20 gentle walkers gather, including 2 guests from Thailand, at the West Beach Car Park for the walk along the beach towards Climping. The first shock was the cost of the car park being £3 for 2 hours and £7 for more, needless to say it was only £3 paid, even so the collective rush of moths out of purses was a sight to behold.

The group then learnt a new word “piddocks” not what everyone thought but a term for the molluscs that bore into the chalk rocks found on the beach leaving the tell-tale holes. Such rocks could be used for pencil holders for those wanting to give free Christmas presents.

A brief stop was then made at one of “Palmerston’s Follies” the Littlehampton Fort or Redoubt built in 1858 to protect against a possible invasion by Napoleon 111. The story goes that a French spy reported back to Napoleon that the series of such forts along the coast were so good that Napoleon decided that discretion was the best option-perhaps the equivalent of a nuclear deterrent.

The tide was out allowing the party to reach the sand as they made their way towards Climping. By this time the clouds had turned “Turneresque” interspersed with the cornflower blue of the sky. Just before the vanished settlement of Etherington, past the 2nd world war defensive batteries and tank traps the party split with 3 going on to Climping for a coffee break, with the rest returning to the car park to make sure they didn’t overstep the 2 hours.

A pleasant walk along the sand, although the sand walking was more strenuous than first thought we completed the walk in 90 minutes.