

## Monday 17 February “A walk of two promenades” with David and Rosie Conner

Whether it was the forced confinement following days of high winds and incessant rain (courtesy of Storm Dennis) or the prospect of being encouraged by the unfailingly cheerful walk leader, 14 brave souls broke cover to risk the windswept coastal path from Budleigh to Exmouth.

We were warned that it would be very, very muddy and we'd be walking into a prevailing wind. Nevertheless, off we went, after a brief discussion on the merits of reversing the route (apparently against the rules!) and at a blistering pace.

After Jubilee Meadow it did indeed get extremely muddy but worse was to come on the descent from West Down Beacon to Sandy Bay, after enjoying the terrific 360 degree views from the trig point. We slithered and squelched into the caravan park, where we stopped for coffee in the children's playground.



The weather held and we struck off again towards Exmouth, stopping to admire the Needle at Orcombe Point.



This is the most westerly point of the Jurassic Coast which stretches from here to the Old Harry Rocks in Swanage. The “Needle” is constructed of Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks, spanning approximately 180 million years (the Mesozoic era) of the Earth’s history.



A short bus trip took us back to Budleigh, with an unexpected bonus of sunshine. Many thanks to David and Rosie for an enjoyable walk.

David Hatch