

## Walking group St Annes to Starr Gate

It's the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of 2022. Winter has definitely arrived. Thermals have been sought out. I recognise a few but most are hidden behind bobble hats and fleecy neckers; some behind dark sunglasses – Yes! The sun is out. The sky is blue. 21 (a new record) are walking and talking. Enjoying the company, the fresh air, the sea breeze. Shells crunch underfoot. The sea is coming in, but it will be a while yet before we get our feet wet. The kite surfers spotted their chance and are making the most of the moderate breeze. A lady with 6 dogs. Money to be made. St Annes Pier to Starr Gate and back. It's not far, but it's a nice way to kick off the new year for the LSA u3a walking Group.



Photo by Graham

A flock of seabirds taking shelter among the tyre shapes on the sea wall at Starr Gate momentarily attract the attention of an inquisitive group of walkers. They remain unidentified (we're not birders). A group photo, 3 to be safe to prove its all real and to jog the memory later, and then we set off back with the wind at our tail. One stays behind to use the toilet. A homeless man is making do with the

disabled cubical. All aspects of life in view. The tide has come in now and the path is gone. Only large stones to walk on proving difficult for some. We are all back now all safe and sound. Goodbyes are said. Luncheons arranged by some. Promises made. Until the next time.

Mike Ripley