

Founded: 1957

Registered Charity No: 1068733



Bishop's Stortford & District



Footpaths Association

Safeguarding your Public Rights of Way in and around Bishop's Stortford



Autumn / Winter

2014

Newsletter



Chairman's Message

Welcome to the BSDFA's autumn newsletter and apologies for its late publication.

The BSDFA has been campaigning to protect and promote the footpath network in and around Bishop's Stortford for close on sixty years. This newsletter contains a tribute to Phil Tripp whose links with the Association go back to those early days and so it was with much regret that we received the news that he was planning to step down from the Committee after our AGM in March. Phil has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Committee and is the latest in a line of long-servers who have retired during the past couple of years.

The Committee is now down to eight members of which half are expected to stand down at next year's AGM. Those standing down include the roles of Chair and Secretary, which would make forming a new Committee unviable unless new volunteers came forward. As a consequence, we are now considering our options which will unfortunately include the closing of the Association. The warning signals have been evident for several years but despite regular pleas for new blood to join our Committee there have been no takers from our members. I appreciate that many other local organisations are facing similar challenges but for us to continue our work we urgently need members to come forward to help.

If you would be interested in helping or would like to share your views on the future of the Association we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please let us know your views on anything raised in this Newsletter.

Postal and e-mail addresses are on Page 3.

[Rain Today website.](http://www.raintoday.co.uk/)

This is a useful website: <http://www.raintoday.co.uk/>

It is a real time weather radar, similar to that seen on the BBC weather forecast, showing the movement of rain or snow over time. It normally lags behind real time by about 15 minutes. Put in a post code to zoom into that location.

If it is actually raining now, you can judge when it will clear. Or if it is dry now, and you are expecting rain, you can estimate when it will arrive.

Phil Tripp retires from the Committee



Phil with wife Sheila

Following Phil's recent retirement from the BSDFA committee, fellow committee member Joyce Chapman reflects on his contribution over the years:

When I joined the Bishop's Stortford Footpaths Association and went on the committee in 1980, Phil was already a well established member and over the years held the post of Chairman several times. We were a dedicated and energetic group doing a lot of footpath clearance with spades, loppers, machetes and strimmers - no Health & Safety problems in those days! Although it was hard work, it kept many routes open and was also good fun.

As well as this there was also a full walks programme and we had our stand at a number of local fetes. Phil always took a full part in both these activities.

Phil has a very friendly and easy manner with people. He drew them into the stand to look at our boards and then - Bingo! they've joined or bought a booklet or both.

Phil is always full of good ideas. At one fete he ran a competition (guess how many footpaths in the local area). This was a best seller. Another great idea was the start of mid-week walks. Phil ran and lead these by himself for a good few years. These were in addition to the main walks programme. They were shorter, more local and proved very popular with retired people who liked walking in company. Unfortunately these have now stopped as we don't have another Phil to run them.

Another innovation by Phil which is still continued is an annual evening walk followed by a meal for all the committee and their other halves. These are well supported every time.

Phil has an extensive knowledge of the law regarding Rights of Way and planning applications and also the best people to contact to get action.

One of the latter campaigns he threw himself into was to fight the proposed closure of the footpath through Hockerill College grounds. He organised an all day count of the number of users and why they used the path and then presented this at the hearings. We heard recently that the campaign was successful and the path remains open.

Phil also sat on the sub-committee which produced our latest walks booklet. There again his local knowledge was a great asset. The present committee miss Phil's presence already but we all wish Phil and Sheila a long, happy retirement.

A120 Bypass

The proposed A120 bypass at Little Hadham is likely to cost £30 million. It's construction is expected to take place in 2018/2019 however Herts County Council have recently failed to acquire Church End Farm which lies along the proposed route to the north of Little Hadham and was to form part of the flood alleviation scheme. There have been three public meetings in October at the village hall where the council outlined their plans.

The proposed route, known as 5b, is one of seven routes that have been considered.

Bryan Road Footpath to be added to Definitive Map after 40 years.

The Modification Order sealed by Herts County Council on 22 August 2014 to modify the Definitive Map and Statement to include the footpath from Bryan Road to the western edge of the Meads was confirmed without modification on 31 October 2014. The order was made under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The footpath will be known as Bishop's Stortford 86 and runs from Bryan Road (grid reference: TL 4876 2179) north-east for 50 metres (to grid reference TL 4881 2180).

A big "Thank you" must go to Clive Risby who submitted the application for the Modification Order, and to the Bishop's Stortford residents who completed user statements in support of it.

Clive is now looking at submitting a Modification Order to extend FP 86 across the Meads to the bridge over the River Stort (just south of the Stane Close weir). If you have used this route from the River Stort towards Bryan Road over the past twenty years and would like to help please contact committee member Frances Clapp (01279 506485) or Clive Risby (clive.risby@ntlworld.com)

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The Hundred Parishes Society

Ken McDonald, Secretary of the Hundred Parishes Society, has announced the official launch of the Society:

An initiative to raise awareness of a large area of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire that is particularly notable for its exceptional depth of heritage. Those who live here may take its ancient countryside and wealth of listed buildings somewhat for granted, but visitors are usually surprised when they discover the charm of the villages and small market towns and the attractive countryside in which they sit.

Until now, the area's anonymity has probably been due largely to the lack of a name, so one has been created that it is hoped will eventually become as well-known as the Chilterns or Constable Country. The area has been called the Hundred Parishes to recognise that it contains just over 100 administrative parishes. Whilst the whole area enjoys a recurring set of special characteristics, each parish has its own identity. It is hoped that the initiative will encourage both residents and visitors to learn more about the area and will inspire them to explore and cherish it. A new website www.hundredparishes.org.uk has been launched to explain the idea more fully.

It includes an introduction to each parish, a series of walks from railway stations and a short introduction to a number of notable people associated with the area. The website shows regular events and local attractions and there is a 'What's On' page that lists opportunities to learn more and to get to places that you may not know.

The Society is a registered charity and the website includes details of how to become a member for a nominal subscription of £10 a year per family or organisation. Whether or not you become a member, the Society hopes you will make regular use of its website and that it will inspire you to increase your knowledge and enjoyment of the Hundred Parishes.

The Birchanger Wood Trust

The Birchanger Wood Trust have installed signs that use both the normal visual boards and 'QR' or quick recognition codes. Each QR POI (point of interest) will take you to a web page that will describe what you can see at that point on the trail.

To capture the QR code you will need to download a piece of software to your phone, such as SCAN from Google Play (Android). Or SCAN for iPhone and iPad. Once you have downloaded the SCAN software to your mobile device, simply point the device's camera at the QR code and you will be directed to the web site to which it refers.



This QR code will take you to the Birchanger Wood Trust home page.



Membership application / Subscription renewal Form

The Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association was founded in 1957 to "watch and take appropriate action for the safeguarding of public rights in respect of paths, bridleways, green lanes, commons, village greens and roadside verges" in the Hertfordshire and Essex border area around Bishop's Stortford extending across a radius of about 10 miles. We liaise with local Planning and Highways authorities and monitor proposals affecting Rights of Way. The Association can and does protest, if necessary, at a Public Inquiry.

We have published to date eight booklets recommending mainly circular walks of distances varying between 5 and 10 miles, the most recent in 2012. "Walks of the Month" are offered on our website.

We lead weekend walks of 5-7 miles throughout the year. Details are found in the Walks Programmes published in the Newsletter and on the website. All are welcome.

If you would like to support our aims, please become a member and return this page with your details to the Membership Secretary c/o:

4 Chandlers Close, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4FF

The cost of annual subscription for family membership is £4 or £10 for 3 years.

I enclose a cheque for £.....being my/our subscription for 1 year / 3 years plus £.....donation (optional)
(made payable to Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association)

Name: (BLOCK LETTERS)

Address:

.....

Tel. No:

E-mail:

Newsletters will be sent by e-mail twice a year.

Members' details are held on record in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998

On sale now: £6

21 walks from 3 - 9 miles

Available from:

Bishop's Stortford Tourist Office

Waterstones, Bishop's Stortford

Our website

Walk Leaders

*Walks in
Herts
& Essex
Vol 4*



**Bishop's Stortford & District
Footpaths Association**

Founded 1957 Registered Charity No. 1040725

Safeguarding your Public Rights of Way in and around Bishop's Stortford

Winter Walks 2014/15

For further information on each walk, please go to our website: www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

Date / Time	Start & Grid Reference	Walk Leader / Contact No
Sunday 16th November 10am	Much Hadham, St Andrew's Church GR: TL430197 Post Code: SG10 6DH	Dave 01279 832632 0792 025 4825
Sunday 30th November 10am	Albury Village Hall, Clapgate GR: TL44202485 Post Code: SG11 2JL	Paul 01279 501596
Sunday 14th December 10am	Great Dunmow, St Mary's Parish Church GR: TL629230 Post Code: CM6 2AE	Alan 01371 876792
Friday 26th December 10:30am	Sawbridgeworth, Pishiobury Park car park GR: TL479138 Post Code: CM21 0AF	Sarah 01279 723829 0741 141 1104
Sunday 11th January 10am	Matching Tye, The Fox GR: TL514112 Post Code: CM17 0QS	Peter 01279 835036 0794 143 5001
Sunday 25th January 10am	Bishop's Stortford, Tesco Super Store, Bishop's Park Centre, - meet in car park GR: TL47102180 Post Code: CM23 4DD	Paul 01279 501596
Sunday 8th February 10am	The Queens Head, Allens Green GR: TL455169 Post Code: CM21 0LS	John 07799804429
Sunday 22nd February 10am	Furneux Pelham Church GR: TL432279 Post Code: SG9 0LH	Sue & Brian 07889046723
Sunday 8th March 10am	Debden Village Shop GR: TL555335 Post Code: CB11 3LB	Dave 01279 832632 0792 025 4825
Sunday 22nd March 10am	Catherine Wheel, Gravesend, Albury GR: TL440258 Post Code: SG11 2LW	Brian 01279 812574

The walks are generally 5 - 6 miles long and normally last between 2 and 2 ½ hours.