

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 2015

We are now on Facebook

BSDFA have jumped into the 21st century and now have a Facebook page.

You can find it by searching for Bishop's Stortford and District Footpaths Association in the 'find friends' box if you already use Facebook or by clicking on the 'follow us on Facebook' link on our website <http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk/>.

If you think Facebook is just for younger people to keep in contact with each other have a look at our page. You will find information about the Association and what our aims are, dates of forthcoming events and photographs taken on our walks in the local area. Please have a look and follow us so you can keep up to date and hopefully we can reach a target of 50 likes!

FOLLOW US ON facebook

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|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Chairman: | Dave Webber | Website: | www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk |
| Vice Chairman: | Vacant | Association Address: | 29 St Johns Crescent Stansted Essex CM24 8JT |
| Secretary: | Sylvia Hayes | | |
| Membership Secretary: | Maggy Rapley | e-mail: | secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk |
| Treasurer: | Bob Dean | | |
| Footpath Secretary: | Vacant | Newsletter Editor: | Peter Hales |
| Website Manager: | Brian Hayes | Publicity: | Daphne Wallace-Jarvis Phoebe Taplin |

Thorley - Burnt Bridge Replacement - UPDATE

Sadly there is still no date for the repair of the burnt bridge at Thorley Church (Bishop's Stortford). as apparently the foundations have been undermined, however, Herts County Council advise that the appropriate designs, quotation, funding, and drawings have now all been sent to The Environment Agency to obtain their consent and as soon as the Environment Agency consent is received, everything is in place for a speedy replacement.

Twyford Road Rail Crossing - Proposed Closure

Network Rail (NR) have provided reasons why the Twyford Rail Crossing should be closed. The Twyford Rail Crossing is a category C crossing i.e. dangerous - (the scale runs from A-M, and A is the most dangerous). It is the 4th most dangerous along the Anglia route in Hertfordshire.

NR initially carried out a consultation in March 2015 resulting in a proposal for an alternative route linking up with the towpath (a permissive cycleway). NR have discounted lights (and sound bells) - these are not thought to be 'safe enough'. A bridge has been discounted - the site around the crossing is limited and there will be a heavy construction cost. A subway has also been discounted - the cost is likely to be greater than a bridge.

The closure could take up to 4 years to complete and there will be public consultation over the next 12 months.

Please let us know about your comments and arguments regarding the proposed closure of Twyford Road Rail Crossing. We have already received some:

The route is used for school runs- the towpath is muddy and 'unsafe' and there is no lighting - a parent and child are extremely vulnerable.

Should NR go ahead with the diversion - the new route would have to be properly lighted and surfaced to eliminate any slippery or rutted surface, and of sufficient width to enable cyclists to pass without injury, or the likelihood of assault.

Local anglers using the lake will have to follow a lengthy detour carrying their bulky and heavy equipment down to their lake.

The Twyford Rail Crossing is used by cyclists. Unless the new proposed path has a suitable surface and width this will be difficult for walkers and cyclists to co-habit and negotiate.

The Twyford Rail Crossing is a Public Right of Way (PROW) and an urban thoroughfare. It is an historic Right of Way which dates back to Roman times, when it was the primary route into and out of Bishop's Stortford. It is still used every day early morning through to the evening by a large number of local residents on foot and by cyclists. All these people are going from the Town into the Countryside and back. Residents are of all ages and abilities.

PROW's are essential for our future and should not be exterminated simply to improve train timetables.

Exercise and the use of open spaces is an essential part of life and that which is promoted by all political parties as a simple and non-expensive way of improving the health of the Nation. It should not be curtailed lightly.

NR should be looking to the safety and improvement of our quality of life, not to destroying it.

The Twyford Rail Crossing is part of a local urban pathway which should be improved so that it encourages more local residents to use it, not deter existing residents from doing so.

The proposed layout can be viewed on our website:

<http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Twyford-Road-Proposed-layout.pdf>

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

Postal and e-mail addresses are on Page 2.

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:

Email:

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

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

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| <p>On sale now: £6</p> <p>21 walks from 3 - 9 miles</p> <p>Available from:</p> <p>Bishop's Stortford Tourist Office</p> <p>Waterstones, Bishop's Stortford</p> <p>Our website</p> <p>Walk Leaders</p> | <p><i>Walks in Herts & Essex</i></p> <p>Vol 4</p>  <p><small>Founded 1957</small> Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association <small>Registered Charity No. 1062726</small></p> <p><small>Safeguarding your Public Rights of Way in and around Bishop's Stortford</small></p> |
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Winter Walks 2015/16

| Date / Time | Start & Grid Reference | Walk Leader / Contact No |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Sunday 1st November 10am | Feathers Inn, Wadesmill GR: TL359175 Post Code: SG12 0TN | Phoebe 07722589571 |
| Sunday 15th November 10am | Three Horseshoes, Spellbrook GR: TL487175 Post Code: CM22 7SE | Julie 07814484359 |
| Sunday 29th November 10am | Little Hallingbury Car Park GR: TL503174 Post Code: CM22 7RD | Paul 07977371435 |
| Sunday 13th December 10am | St Marys church, Standon GR: TL396222 Post Code: near SG11 1LB | Brian 01279812574 |

Christmas Break

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|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday 10th January 10am | Tally-Ho, High Lane, Stansted GR: 515255 Post Code: CM24 8LQ | Daphne 01279812259 |
| Sunday 24th January 10am | Henham Parish Church GR: TL544285 Post Code: CM22 6AN | Dave 07920254825 |
| Sunday 7th February 10am | Prince of Wales, Green Tye GR: TL443183 Post Code: SG10 6JP | John 07799804429 |
| Sunday 21st February 10am | Albury Village Hall, Clapgate GR: TL442248 Post Code: SG11 2JD | Paul 07977371435 |
| Sunday 6th March 10am | Eastwick war memorial GR: TL434117 Post Code: CM20 2QY | Peter 01279835036 07941435001 |
| Sunday 20th March 10am | Furneux Pelham Church GR: TL432279 Post Code: SG9 0LH | Daphne 01279812259 |

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

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

The walks programme is available on the website. To respect members' privacy, leaders' surnames will no longer be included. The website will give more details on the walk, including expected distance and any last minute changes. Those without internet access should continue to telephone the walk leaders.