



# Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association



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

## Autumn 2013



Public Right  
of Way

## Newsletter



**Chairman:** Vacant  
e-mail: [chairman@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:chairman@walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Vice Chairman:** Vacant  
e-mail: [chairman@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:chairman@walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Secretary:** Ann Lowe  
e-mail: [secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:** Maggy Rapley  
e-mail: [membership@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:membership@walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Bob Dean  
e-mail: [treasurer@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Footpath Secretary:** Alan Goffee  
e-mail: [footpaths@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:footpaths@walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Website Manager:** Brian Hayes  
e-mail: [website@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:website@walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:** Peter Hales  
e-mail: [newsletter@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk](http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Association Address:** 11 Bishop's Avenue  
Bishop's Stortford  
Herts, CM23 3EJ

## Walks Programme

We are again able to provide a full walks programme over the autumn / winter period.

The volunteer walk leaders have been working hard to find walks that will take you to parts of our local area that you may not have visited before. Our walks start at 10 on a Sunday morning and are generally no longer than 5 to 6 miles taking approximately two hours to complete.

If you require information about the suitability of a particular walk then do not hesitate to telephone the walk leader for more information. Please do come along and join us if you can.

Walks organised by the BSDFA now have public liability insurance cover through Perkins Slade.

**For important information about  
the annual subscription,  
please see Page 2**

## Annual Subscriptions

At the last AGM, there was a vote in favour of increasing the annual subscription. The new annual subscription will be £4 OR £10 for three years. This will take effect from 1st January 2014.

The increase is necessary to cover increasing postage costs and to continue the maintenance of the website whilst leaving enough funds for any required action relating to the upkeep of local footpaths.

We will also be introducing membership numbers (see the address label or e-mail for your number. This will help us to introduce the ability to pay the annual subscription by standing order in the future.

---

## Herts County Council Rights of Way Service

The speaker at this years' AGM was Bob Fenton, a Rights of Way officer with the Hertfordshire County Council. The Rights of Way service is responsible for the 3200km of footpaths that appear on the Hertfordshire Definitive map (including the Icknield Way which is the oldest path in Britain). It consists of 7 Access Officers ,responsible for maintenance enforcement, and 6 Definitive Map Officers who deal with legal orders.

Work is prioritised according to public safety issues, levels of use / demand and impact on the wider network. This is influenced by national legislation and County Council policies whilst remaining within tight financial constraints. They work to the Rights of Way Good Practice Guide. This can be found on the Institute of Public Rights of Way and Access Management (IPROW) website:

[http://www.iprow.co.uk/gpg/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.iprow.co.uk/gpg/index.php/Main_Page)

They aim to make the countryside as accessible as possible, wherever possible taking into account all disabilities. Initiatives such as the Local Access Forum and local Improvement Plans will hopefully help with this aim despite the significant number of new housing developments and other major planning applications that are coming our way.

What do you think?

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

**Postal and e-mail addresses are on Page 1.**

## Bryan Road – Meads Footpath



Do you use the Bryan Road footpath in Bishop's Stortford? Have you done so over a number of years? Then maybe you can help.

A group of Bishop's Stortford residents, supported by BSDFA and the local East Herts District Councillor, are seeking to have the footpath added to the Definitive Map and Statement. As part of this process it may need to be demonstrated, through witness statements, that there has been continuous, unchallenged, use over a period of at least 20 years. A witness can have used the path for the full 20 year period, or for a number of years during the two decades. If you think you could help please get in touch through the website or by contacting a committee member.

---

### Footpaths FP53 and FP85: One battle won - another looms!

The eight year saga of FP53 through Hockerill College is finally over. Hertfordshire County Council has now formally abandoned the closure order that was made in 2008 but never confirmed.

The order was made after a previous committee, in March 2007, decided not to make a closure order and the College took the matter to the High Court for Judicial Review. The judge found against the County Council. Costs were awarded to the College, costing the Council many thousands of pounds. Now the order is abandoned and the path will remain open.

The coming battle is for FP85. This runs from FP53 to Manor Road. The Council agreed to add this footpath to the Definitive Map of Rights of Way. Hockerill College have objected and the addition of the path cannot be confirmed until the objection can be overcome.

A public enquiry will be held by a planning inspector to decide whether a Right of Way exists. The inquiry will be held at All Saints Church from 14th to 16th January 2014. Witnesses will be called by the Council to support the existence of a Right of Way.

### Grove Residents Action Group (GRAG)

Grove Residents Action Group (residents of Hadham Grove and Grove Park in Bishop's Stortford) are gathering signatures to present to all members of the EHDC Development Management Committee (DMC) prior to the BSNC/ASR planning application meeting scheduled for 14 Nov 2013.

The aim of the petition is to highlight concern that the current proposal for a roundabout opposite Hadham Grove has the potential to create traffic chaos across the western arterial road network in Bishops Stortford. It will affect ALL Hadham Road users causing a lot of unnecessary delay and frustration at peak times and making it even more difficult to cross the Hadham Road west of Silver Leys than it is currently. The proposal to place a pedestrian crossing between Hadham Grove and the A120 (Tesco) roundabout is viewed by some as an accident waiting to happen.

If you would like to support these residents paper copies of the petition can be downloaded from the Grove Residents Action Group website, [www.bsgrag.co.uk](http://www.bsgrag.co.uk). These paper copies will need to be submitted to EHDC Planning Department by 31 Oct 2013.

## Cross Field Paths



Have you noticed an increase in the number of footpaths crossing ploughed fields that haven't been reinstated? Let us know about the paths that you use regularly.

---

### Areas of Special Restraint (ASRs) – proposed development by Bishop's Stortford North Consortium (BSNC) and Countryside Properties.

The Association submitted comments to East Herts District Council about the proposed developments on the ASRs earlier in this year. Details of the applications can be found on the EHDC website:  
<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=26616>



We expressed serious concerns about the impact the development would have on the public's continued enjoyment of Bishop's Stortford Bridleway 08, and Footpaths 01 and 02. There has been no commitment from the developers that safe passage (by means of controlled crossing points, underpasses or bridges) will be provided where the existing ROW are dissected by the proposed main estate road and bus route. It also became clear that there is no intention to have the new paths or cycleways outlined in the application dedicated as Public Rights of Way thus affording them some statutory protection. BSDFA also highlighted the problems additional traffic generated by the development would present for those users trying to access the ROW network to the west and north of the town,

particularly those paths which cross Bishop's Park Way (A1184) and Michaels Road (B1004) where volume and speed of traffic already present a hazard.

Bishop's Stortford Town Council Planning Committee voted unanimously to object to these outline planning applications at a meeting on 10 Sept. BSTC are an important statutory consultee but it is East Herts District Council Development Management Committee (DMC) who will grant or refuse planning permission.

The EHDC DMC meeting at which these applications will be discussed is currently scheduled for 14 Nov 2013 at the Charis Centre, Bishop's Stortford. This will be a public meeting and we would encourage members to attend.

The DMC comprises twelve councillors from across East Herts, only three of whom are from Bishop's Stortford. It is very important that councillors who do not live in Bishop's Stortford are made aware of your views. Details of members of the DMC can be found at:  
<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=118>

We would urge everyone who uses the ROW network in the area to make their views known to ALL members of the DMC before the November meeting. You do not need to be a Bishop's Stortford resident to have a view on these planning applications.

---

### 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 2014 plus £..... donation (optional) (made payable to Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association)

**Name: (BLOCK LETTERS)** .....

**Address:** .....

.....

**Tel. No:** .....

**Email:** .....

Please indicate below how you would like to receive your Newsletters -  
(circle as appropriate):

**Post**

**Email**

**Newsletters will not be sent by post unless specifically requested  
due to the high cost of postage.**

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

# Winter Walks 2013/14

For further information on each walk, please go to our website: [www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk](http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Start &amp; Grid Reference</b>	<b>Walk Leader / Contact No</b>
Sunday 3rd November 10am	The Crown pub, Elsenham GR: TL538263 Postcode: CM22 6DG	Brian 01279 812574
Sunday 17th November 10am	Little Hadham Church GR: TL446227 Postcode: SG11 2DZ	Paul 01279 501596
Sunday 1st December 10am	Twyford Lock car park, Pig Lane, Bishop's Stortford GR: TL493193 Postcode: CM22 7PA	Peter 01279 835036 0794 143 5001
Sunday 15th December 10am	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham GR: TL430197 Postcode: SG10 6DH	Dave 01279 832632 0792 025 4825
Sunday 29th December 10am	The Queens Head, Allens Green GR: TL455169 Postcode: CM21 0LS	John 07799804429
Sunday 12th January 10am	Eastwick war memorial GR: TL434117 Postcode: CM20 2QY	Peter 01279 835036 0794 143 5001
Sunday 26th January 10am	Castle Gardens -War Memorial, Bishop's Stortford GR: TL490214 Postcode: CM23 2ER	Tony 01279 813614
Sunday 9th February 10am	Hatfield Heath Village Car Park GR: TL524150 Postcode: CM22 7EB	Paul 01279 501596
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 10am	Great Dunmow, Recreation car park off Braintree Road GR: TL634219 Postcode: CM6 2AA	Alan 01371 876792
Sunday 9th March 10am	The Fox, Matching Tye GR: TL514113 Postcode: CM17 0QS	Brian 01279 812574
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 10am	Manuden Church GR: TL491267 Postcode: CM23 1DJ	Dave 01279 832632 0792 025 4825

---

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

The BSDFA now has public liability insurance. This applies to all members and anybody wishing to join. Non-members are welcome to join us but do so at their own risk.