



Notification of AGM

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held on: **Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 7.45 pm**

in the Apton Centre, Apton Road, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3SN.

Parking is available in Apton Road car park nearby.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 25th March 2015
2. Chairman's Statement and Report
3. Secretary's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election or Confirmation of reappointment of Officers
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Vice chairman
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Footpaths Secretary
6. Election of members to the Committee
7. Reappointment of Independent Examiner
8. Proposed amendments to the Constitution
9. Questions from Members and Discussion

BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

10. Illustrated talk from Andy White of the Friends of the Southern Country Park, Bishops Stortford

Andy White, Chair of the Friends of the Southern Country Park (FSCP), will give a presentation about this award winning public space located on the southern edge of Bishop's Stortford. In a few years it has been transformed into a haven for wildlife whilst offering a range of activities for the local community. Andy will tell us about the history of the country park, its wildlife and the part that the FSCP has played in it being awarded the prestigious national Green Flag Award every year since 2008.

Welcome to our Spring 2016 newsletter.

One year ago our future looked uncertain but happily with new blood on our committee we approach the AGM in a much stronger position and can look forward to our 60th birthday in 2017. Our new Secretary, Sylvia Hayes, has introduced the Association to Facebook and if you haven't done so already I hope that you will make time to visit our page and perhaps leave a comment. We are particularly interested in learning about rights of way issues, a favourite local walk or photograph.

Hopefully you will have noticed that we have raised our profile thanks to the monthly Association updates from Daphne Wallace-Jarvis which appear in the local free press. This has brought our activities to the attention of a wider audience and as a result our walks programme has been attracting ever greater numbers. So many thanks to all our committee and to you our members for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at the Apton Road Centre for our AGM on Wednesday, 16 March.

Dave Webber
Chairperson
Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association

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	Newsletter Editor:	Peter Hales
Footpath Secretary:	Vacant	Publicity:	Daphne Wallace-Jarvis Phoebe Taplin
Website Manager:	Brian Hayes		

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. Local walks of varying lengths 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). Please circle or delete as applicable.

(Cheques 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

Bulls and Barbed Wire

When Ann Lowe stepped down as secretary she passed on to the Chairman files of old paperwork dating back to when BSDFA was formed. As the new secretary I was very interested to read about the beginnings of the association and how things had changed over nearly 60 years. The Association was formed on 18th March 1957 when Braughing Rural District Council tried to close a footpath in the Twyford Bury area. There were many more individual members then, paying a subscription of 2/6d (12 ½ p in new money!), along with affiliated organisations including local WIs, Scouts and Guides. The committee seemed to spend a lot of time walking particular areas looking out for obstacles across paths or any other issues. Footpaths clearing parties were also formed, often enjoying 'picnic tea' afterwards. The main issues during the first few years were mainly barbed wire obstructing paths or bulls in fields where there was a Right of Way. Walks were also introduced often with a local Ramblers group, a custom which still takes place to this day. Some of the walks were published in the Herts and Essex Observer resulting in the production of the first walks booklet in 1959, another custom which we have continued with our ninth booklet published last year. I still have plenty of reading to go having only reached the mid 1970's and the proposed route of the M11 and the building of the Thorley estate. I am hoping to be able to have a display ready for next year, the 60th anniversary of the Association, featuring extracts from the old newsletters and hopefully photographs too. As a taster, here is an extract from a document written in November 1958 by W.H Turner (Honorary Secretary) where the problem with the path that started it all, seems to have been resolved.

"The Twyfordbury path is now open and passable in its southern half; and three new stiles have been put up. The route the path now follows is not, in our view, the route shown on the statutory map, and it bypasses the owner's garden and pigsties, both of which we contend are on the line of the path. The County Council, however, maintain that the thick chalk line indicating the path on the statutory map (which is on the 6" scale) allows of a latitude of some 40 ft. on the ground. Whether a court of law would take that view seems doubtful, but having secured our main object of defeating the attempt to close the path, the Committee did not think it politic to press the Council further."

I have also met with Chris Lydamore, the curator of Bishop's Stortford Museum, who was very interested in the old documents as a record of the social history of the area. He suggested they could be digitised with the help of museum volunteers and then stored on a secure server. He was also keen to hold a small exhibition there next year to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Association. I was unsure whether anything would be of any interest when I arranged to meet him and was delighted he was so enthusiastic about it!

If any members have anything they think may be of further interest please contact me by e-mail at: secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk.

Sylvia Hayes
Secretary

Thorley 12 footpath bridge repair



Thorley 12 is a well-used footpath to the south of St James' church, Thorley. It is regularly used by walkers making their way to the wider footpath network to the south of Bishop's Stortford, or local people and health walk groups requiring a convenient circular route. Sadly towards the end of 2014 it was set on fire by vandals (left). It has taken over a year for HCC to provide funds, design and approve the plans. As the bridge is over a water course the plans for a replacement were required to be approved by the Environment Agency.



The new bridge was an early Christmas present for walkers as it was completed and opened the week before Christmas (right). Let us hope that the vandals who did this find a more constructive outlet for their energies in the future.

David Glass, Ramblers and BSDFA Member

The proposed A120 Bypass and its impact on the Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

The full planning application can be viewed from the Herts County Council website Planning page on: <https://cloud1.atriumsoft.com/HCCePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do> and searching for PL\0744\15 in the Application Number. This includes the Transport Assessment, dated 17 November 2015, which contains maps and details of the PRoW, from which the following is largely based. I have added my own personal views regarding the impact on the PRoW.

The proposed Little Hadham A120 bypass runs from about 500 metres to the west of Little Hadham, looping to the north of Hadham Hall, to about 500 metres east of the 'Tesco' roundabout on the outskirts of Bishop's Stortford. It affects 5 PRoW: Footpath Little Hadham 57 - provides a route from the A120 west of the traffic signals to Albury Road and connects with Footpaths Little Hadham 58 and 59, and Albury 20.

This currently connects to the A120 about 500 metres to the west of the Little Hadham lights, and the proposal is for a small diversion to link up opposite Footpath Little Hadham 55 (to Hadham Ford). Crossing of the A120 will be by an uncontrolled crossing about 200 metres west of the proposed roundabout.

Arguably this is an improvement to the current crossing as vehicles will be slowing as they approach the bypass roundabout from the west towards Little Hadham, or not fully up to speed when heading west towards Standon.

Footpath Little Hadham 58 - connects with Footpath Little Hadham 57 and heads north to Footpath Albury 04. These are proposed to be diverted to cross the new bypass, either by a pedestrian refuge, or via the flood defence / spillway under the A120. Under normal conditions people will be able to use the underpass where they will be separated from the flood defence by a retaining wall. Only in extreme conditions will they be unable to use the underpass, where it will perform its primary role in preventing flooding of the A120.

The flood alleviation should cope with a 1 in 20 year flood event.

Given the extreme conditions experienced in Yorkshire and Cumbria recently it is becoming evident that current definitions of a 1 in 20 year flood event may no longer be accurate and may need to be revised. Hopefully the built-in contingency adequately allows for climate change.

Bridleway Little Hadham 35 - provides a route from the A120, through Hadham Hall, where it connects with Footpath 34, Bridleways 35a, 36 and 37, before continuing north where it joins Footpath 10.

There will be no impact as the proposal is to cross the bypass by bridge.

Bridleway 36 - connects with Bridleway 35 and heads east.

There will be minimal impact as the proposal is to divert the bridleway and cross the bypass by bridge.

Footpath Little Hadham 34 - connects with Bridleway Little Hadham 35 and heads east before joining the A120 east of Hadham Park.

Footpath Little Hadham 34 is part of the Hertfordshire Way and currently joins Bridleway Bishop's Stortford 18 via an underpass, without crossing the A120. The proposal is to divert Footpath 34 so that it crosses the A120 bypass via an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing, before linking up with Bridleway Bishop's Stortford 10.

Personally I do not think this is acceptable. For the safety of users I believe Footpath 34 should be diverted via an underpass (as it is at the moment) and not over the A120 bypass as proposed.

The above outlines the impact on the PRoW of the proposed A120 bypass, and not its merits or otherwise. There are good reasons why the bypass should happen, and no doubt good reasons why it shouldn't. If it does go ahead it does lead to the (admittedly cynical) question of what East Herts District Council will do with all this readily accessible land??

David Glass
Ramblers and BSDFA Member

Summer 2016 Walks

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 10th April 10am	Twyford Lock car park, Pig Lane, Bishop's Stortford GR: TL493193 Postcode: CM22 7PA	Dave	01279 832632 07920254825
Saturday 23rd April 10am	The Cricketers, Rickling Green GR: TL509299 Post Code: CB11 3YG	Phoebe	07722589571
Sunday 8th May 10am	Bury Green, nr Bishop's Stortford GR: TL451212 Post Code: SG11 2EY (Please note: restricted parking)	John	07799804429
Saturday 21st May 10am	Bishop's Stortford, Tesco Super Store, Bishop's Park Centre, - meet in car park (top left) GR: TL47102180 Post Code: CM23 4DD	Sue & Brian	07889046723
Sunday 5th June 10am	Clavering Village Hall, Clavering GR: TL481324 Post Code: CB11 4QS	Paul	01279 501596
Wednesday 15th June 7pm (evening walk)	St. Cecilia's Church, Little Hadham GR: TL446227 Post Code: SG11 2DY	Tony	01279 813614
Tuesday 28th June 7pm (evening walk)	Thorley Church, Church Lane, Bishops Stortford GR: TL47551885 Post Code: CM23 4BE	Paul	01279 501596
Thursday 14th July 7pm (evening walk)	Holy Trinity Church, Takeley GR: TL555216 Post Code: CM22 6QL	Tony	01279 813614
Sunday 11th September 10am	Little Canfield Church GR: TL58652100 Post Code: CM6 1SU	Paul	01279 501596
Sunday 9th October 10am	Three Horseshoes, Brickend GR: TL573259 Post Code: CM6 2BJ	Brian	01279 812574
Sunday 23rd October 10am	Hunsdon Post Office GR: TL417140 Post Code: SG12 8NH	Peter	01279 835036 07941435001

Please note: Some walks are on a Saturday and / or in the evening

The weekend walks are generally 5 - 6 miles long and normally last between 2 and 2 ½ hours.
The evening walks are 3 - 4 miles.

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



Founded 1987



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

Registered Charity No. 1040270



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



If undelivered, please return to: 29 St Johns Crescent, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8JT