



# Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association



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

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. The summer has flown by and it's hard to believe that it's six months since we held our 60th anniversary AGM at the Rhodes Centre. It was a special day and we were delighted that John Turner, the nephew of William H Turner, the Association's first chairman, agreed to join us to officially open a display of original documents charting our journey since 1957. It was a fascinating display and I do hope that you had the opportunity to view it. The following day the celebrations continued with a special anniversary walk from the Nags Head public house, which closely followed the route of the opening walk in our first walks booklet published in 1960. We had an excellent turnout of over twenty members and friends plus a couple of dogs. I would like to express my thanks to the committee members for their hard work in organising the anniversary events and to our members for their continued support.



Group photo at the Nags Head before setting off on the anniversary walk.

In the last newsletter I advised that Brian Hayes, our website manager, would be standing down and asked if someone was available to take on the role. I was delighted that we received a swift response from Ian Hudson, who has done a sterling job since he took on the role. Many of you will know Ian through Tidy Up Bishop's Stortford (TUBS) – a group of dedicated volunteers who aim to make the town a more pleasant place to live. Please take time to regularly visit our website to keep up to date with local rights of way issues such as the ongoing Network Rail crossing review which we have covered in this newsletter.

If you would like to follow Ian's example and volunteer to help the Association then please let us know as we would be delighted to hear from you.

Happy walking.

Dave Webber  
Chairman

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

### 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.

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.

I enclose a cheque for £.....being my/our subscription for 1 year 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*

## 2017 AGM

Members of the Footpaths Association. marked its 60th anniversary in March 2017 by holding their AGM on a Saturday afternoon at the Rhodes Centre - a great venue. Following the AGM formalities an anniversary display was unveiled by John Turner, the nephew of William H Turner, a founding member and former Chairman of the Association. John regaled members with tales of his uncle's military exploits during WW1 and his days living in Bishop's Stortford.

Members were then given the opportunity to view this display which consisted of six frames, one representing each decade, obtained from the stored documentation of members and which included photographs, maps and papers. The display was a really excellent archive, covering 60 years of walking interest in and around Bishop's Stortford, and was collected, and collaged by the dedication of two determined and exacting persons, Sylvia Hayes and Phoebe Taplin.

The following day, Sunday 19th March, the the celebrations continued when we organised a walk tracing the route of the opening walk in our first walks booklet which was published in 1960. Over 20 members, guests and several dogs assembled outside the Nags Head in Dunmow Road for a circular walk via Bedlars Green and Great Hallingbury. The weather was kind to us and a good time was had by all. Here's to the next 60 years!

The AGM at the Rhodes Centre



Committee members - Dave Webber, Sylvia Hayes, Peter Hales, Maggy Rapley and Bob Dean - with John Turner in front of the anniversary display



Three of the decade displays from the anniversary display

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

**Postal and e-mail addresses are on Page 2.**

#### NEW - Albury Walks – Discovering the Ash Valley – Walking in Hertfordshire

There is a new Albury Walks leaflet, offering 3 self-guided walking routes of between 3 and 5.5 miles. (It is possible to create a figure of 8 walk of 4.5 and 5.5 miles to make a longer 10 mile walk.) The walks use public rights of way and permissive paths to explore the rolling countryside around the parish of Albury, including Patmore Heath, Albury Hall and Hadham Hall. Albury Parish Council have been working with the Countryside Management Service to devise the routes and create the new leaflet. This has been developed through the Parish Paths Partnership, a programme funded by Hertfordshire County Council.

The leaflet can be found at local libraries, but also it can be found on the "Walking and Cycling Routes" page of the Countryside Management Service Website. This and many other routes can also be downloaded from:-

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/countryside-management/walking-and-cycling-routes.aspx>

## Network Rail Level Crossing Closures

A Public Inquiry into Network Rail's (NR) proposed closure of level crossings for Essex, Hertfordshire and the London Borough of Havering opened on Wednesday 18th October at the Civic Centre in Chelmsford. Sitting on Wednesday to Friday only it is due to last for 21 days. The Inquiry will also hold meetings away from Chelmsford at a number of venues which are central to the groups of crossing at issue. The provisional venue for Hertfordshire and West Essex is the Novotel London Stansted Airport Hotel between 7th to 10th November. (It would be advisable to check the Inquiry website to confirm nearer the time as the Inquiry programme is currently provisional.)

Some of the crossings are in the Bishop's Stortford and Stansted area and no doubt used by many of the BSDFA members on walks.

It is worth noting that NR are using the Transport and Works Act (TWA) as a means of closing the crossings and they are only required to show that "...a) that an alternative right of way has been or will be provided, or (b) that the provision of an alternative right of way is not required."

The usual mechanism for diversions and closures is the Highways Act 1980 (HA) where NR would need to show that "...the diversion to be effected by it is expedient ..., and further that the path or way will not be substantially less convenient to the public in consequence of the diversion."

The HA is more walker friendly but clearly the TWA is not! Ramblers are arguing that the HA should have been used and that NR should use this in all future proposals. Let us hope Ramblers arguments prevail.

Fortunately the appointed Inspector has overseen previous inquiries affecting Rights of Way under the HA.

This will not be the last region, and you can be sure that all other NR regions in the country are following this Inquiry closely with regard to how it impacts their own closure proposals.

I appreciate that not all BSDFA members are Ramblers members, but they are the main walking body objecting to the closures and their involvement and degree of success will impact all of us. (There are three crossings that Ramblers are objecting to in our immediate area: E05 – Fullers End (Elsenham), E10 – Dixies (Newport) and H05 – Pattens (Thorley)).

Although Ramblers HQ are coordinating the case, with the help of an appointed Barrister, Road Safety Expert and other expert witnesses, the "work" on the ground has been undertaken by Ramblers Footpath Secretaries for the different areas.

The Footpath Secretaries have spent many hours of work, reviewing the proposals, walking the routes, photographing, researching and compiling the Proofs of Evidence. Personally I only have the one crossing I am objecting to in Thorley, but colleagues in Essex have several. Due to the nature of the crossings in Essex many diversions are on narrow lanes without pavements which clearly (to walkers but not to NR) have significant safety implications in themselves.

All the Footpath Secretaries who have drawn up Proof of Evidence, will act as witnesses at the Inquiry and will be cross examined by the Inspector and NR Barrister.

They should all be congratulated for the amount of time and energy they have put into this Inquiry, particular those with multiple crossings to address as in Essex.

Success at this Public Inquiry will benefit walkers throughout the country as other NR regions take stock and hopefully revise their plans. If nothing else it will mean Ramblers and other stake holders will be consulted at the early stages of other level crossing closure programmes.

If you want to keep up to date with the Inquiry there is a dedicated Inquiry website at <http://essex-level-crossings.persona-pi.com/>, where you can view documents from NR including their programme, those objecting to the proposals, the Proofs of Evidence and much more beside. Closer to home for a local perspective I would recommend the Essex Ramblers Area website articles at <http://www.essexarearamblers.co.uk/network-rail.html>.

I would like to thank the help and advice I have received from Eugene Suggitt at Ramblers headquarters and to Alan Goffee, Katherine Evans and Gordon Bird of Essex Ramblers. (Plus use of articles on the Essex Area website and Ramblers HQ website.)

David Glass

East Herts Ramblers Footpath Secretary for Bishop's Stortford and Thorley  
BSDFA Committee Member

### Isabel Hospice Sponsored Walks

Isabel Hospice provides care and support to patients and their families across the whole of Eastern Hertfordshire. They need to raise a minimum of £4.5 million each year to continue providing services. £2.8 million of this comes from charitable sources. They rely very much on generous donations from the public.

The Hospice has a sponsored walk organised in 2018:

Jurassic Coast Challenge 2018

Friday 8th- Sunday 10th June 2018

Stretching 95 miles between Old Harry Rocks in Dorset, to Orcombe Point in east Devon, the Jurassic Coast is one of the most geologically diverse coastlines in the world. The exposed cliff sections allow you to look back through 185 million years of time! We take in some of its most spectacular scenery, from the renowned natural stone archway of Durdle Door to the beautiful circular Lulworth Cove, as we climb and descend steep hills along the way.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Megan Sparrey at [megan.sparrey@isabelhospice.org.uk](mailto:megan.sparrey@isabelhospice.org.uk)

or visit [www.isabelhospice.org.uk](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk) to sign up.

<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Start &amp; Grid Reference</b>	<b>Walk Leader / Contact No</b>	
Sunday 5th November 10am	Thremhall Park GR: TL53252145 Post code: CM22 7WE	Tony	01279 813614
Sunday 19th November 10am	Pig Lane car park GR: TL494193 Post Code: CM22 7PA	Paul	01279 501596 07977371435
Sunday 3rd December 10am	Please see website for details		
Sunday 17th December 10am	All Saints Church Little Canfield GR: TL587209 Post code: CM6 1SU	Dave	01279 832632 07920254825
Tuesday 26th December (Boxing Day) 10: 30am	Stanstead Mountfitchet castle car park GR: TL515 248 Post code: CM24 8SP	Daphne	01279812259
Sunday 7th January 10am	Barkway war memorial GR: TL384359 Post code: SG8 8BS	John & Claire	07425603506 07789376215
Sunday 21st January 10am	Please see website for details		
Sunday 4th February 10am	Little Hallingbury village car park GR: TL502173 Post code: CM22 7RB	Paul	01279 501596 07977371435
Sunday 18th February 10am	Standon church Grid ref: TL396222 Post code: SG11 1LB	Dave	01279 832632 07920254825
Sunday 4th March 10am	Hunsdon post office GR: TL417140 Post Code: SG12 8NH	Peter	01279 835036 07941435001
Sunday 18th March 10am	Please see website for details		

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

Please check the website for updates

**On sale now: £6**

**21 walks from 3 - 9 miles**

**Available from:**

**Bishop's Stortford Tourist Office**

**Waterstones, Bishop's Stortford**

**Amazon.co.uk**

**Walk Leaders**

*Walks in  
Herts  
& Essex*

**Vol 4**



Founded 1987



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

Registered Charity No. 1042728



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