



Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association



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



Welcome to our Spring newsletter.

It's our 60th anniversary this year and to mark the occasion we have organised two special events over the weekend of 18th and 19th March. This year our AGM is switching to the Rhodes Art Complex & Museum to coincide with the unveiling of a display of original documents from the Association's early years together with memorabilia from more recent times. The display has been arranged by Sylvia Hayes and Phoebe Taplin with generous support from the Rhodes Centre team. The next day we have arranged a special anniversary walk which will closely follow the opening walk in our first walks booklet from 1960.

I do hope that you can come along and support these events and help us to celebrate sixty years of the Association protecting and promoting the local rights of way network and help us plan for the challenges ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Our website manager, Brian Hayes, will be standing down after the AGM and we are looking for someone to take on his role. Our website is an important channel for us to keep our members and the local community informed of our activities. The task is not onerous and primarily involves managing the content on the site as we use an external company to deliver software updates. If you would be interested to learn more about this role then please contact us.

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

Notification of AGM

The ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*** will be held on: **Saturday 18th March 2017 at 2 pm**

**in the Rhodes Art Complex and Museum,
1-3 South Rd, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3JG**

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction and apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 16th March 2016**
- 3. Chairman's Statement and Report**
- 4. Secretary's Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report**
- 6. Election or Confirmation of reappointment of Officers**
 - a. Chairman**
 - b. Vice chairman**
 - c. Secretary**
 - d. Treasurer**
- 7. Election of members to the Committee**
- 8. Reappointment of Independent Examiner**
- 9. Proposed amendments to the Constitution**
- 10. Questions from Members and Discussion**

BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

- 11. Opening of Association's 60th anniversary display by John Turner
(nephew of William H Turner the first chairman of BSDFA)**

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

Postal and e-mail addresses are on Page 2.

Bulls to Bulldozers, 60 years of BSDFA

Bishop's Stortford and District Footpaths Association was formed on 18th March 1957 by a small public spirited group of people after an attempt by the then Braughing Rural District Council to close a footpath in the Twyford Bury area which had been unused for some time owing to obstructions by the landowner. This attempt caused some 'considerable indignation' by local organisations & individuals so a public meeting was called and the Association was set up with a minimum subscription of 2/6d (twelve and a half pence in today's money) or 1/- (five pence) for those under 21.

To celebrate our 60th anniversary there will a display of old documents and other memorabilia at the Rhodes Art Centre and Museum which will be formally opened at the AGM on Saturday 18th March 2017 and will be available to view for two weeks. Items include a copy of the front page of the Herts and Essex Observer announcing the formation of the Association, old & new maps showing how the town has changed over the past 60 years and all the walks booklets published from 1960 to 2012.

The work of the Association has changed over the years from problems with barbed wire across paths and bulls in fields to the building of new roads and housing developments. Our work is still as important as ever ensuring footpaths in the local area are kept open and available for all to enjoy the countryside. If you are not able to come to the AGM please take time to make a quick visit to see our display on the first floor of the Museum and entry is free.

Sylvia Hayes
BSDFA Secretary



A photo from the archives: BDSFA members clearing a footpath.

And now, the present situation, 60 years on:

In these days of Development, Development, Development, New houses, New houses, etc..... the BSDFA needs to be very conscious and vigilant to retain our local Public Rights Of Way (PROWs) and our INFORMAL OPEN SPACES.... Each informal open space, and every PROW is a life-giver. Why? They provide:

Areas and paths in which to exercise, to breathe fresh air, to relax, to take in the view and the local fauna and flora, to take the family, friends, children or just the dog.

Areas which act as a baffle against urbanisation, which create green lungs, and where you can, by just using them, absorb a sizable amount of vitamin D.

Areas where it is FREE TO ROAM - Free for all people of all abilities and all ages and places in which the environment can thrive.

To the south and north of the BSDFA range the Stort Valley is changing:

Harlow North: The area of Gilston Park Estate, has been approved for development and this will sadly obliterate a huge amount of what is now informal open space. A glance at the Ordnance Survey map of this area indicates the high number of footpaths, bridleways and other tracks which will no longer support a view of open countryside and, even if retained, will likely just become urban alleyways.

Stortford North: A smaller site by comparison, is further progressed and scheduled for some 2,700 properties plus schools and in February 2017, the first sod was turned. Discussions as to retention of PROWs and open spaces is underway, but yes there will be changes.

Last year, 2016 and to date, February 2017, the BSDFA held some great walks along and through a variety of PROWs and concessionary tracks over a wide area of the Herts and Essex countryside around the hub of Bishop's Stortford. The weather looked fondly down on almost every one of those walks. The persons participating have spied mice, rabbits, hares, muncjac, roe deer (and their footprints), buzzards and on several occasions been 'investigated' by a single red kite flying overhead. They have looked at spindle tree fruit, bullaces, sloes and eaten whole numbers of blackberries and apples, the latter kindly supplied from the boot of one of our members! The walks - 5-6 miles have been particularly satisfying, well supported and enjoyable and a gratifying number of new members have joined the Association. In addition the BSDFA members, many of the walks have included the assistance of the lovely Millie, house-spaniel of our Walks Planner, off-times by Cameron, a Labrador-cross, and occasionally up to three other very well behaved dogs. Our erstwhile Secretary has taken photographs which have appeared together with small articles written by our Publicity Officer in the monthly free presses, and photos showing issues with paths, bridges, and stiles which have then been sent to the appropriate County Council for action. These problems have mostly been resolved and the paths concerned reopened.

We are always looking for members to lead a walk. Can you help? Contact one of the committee who will assist you if you are unsure but would like to try this.

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Publicity Officer, BSDFA

More information on these developments can be found at:

www.bishopsstortfordnorth.com and www.northharlow.com

Millie - investigating the bluebells at Sidewell Wood



Helping to keep the paths marked



Promoting the Association at Standon in the past (above) and, more recently, Hatfield Heath (below)



Date / Time	Start & Grid Reference	Walk Leader / Contact No
Sunday 9 th April 10am	Barkway, war memorial GR: TL385358 Postcode: SG8 8BP	John 07425603506 & Claire 07789376215
Sunday 23 rd April 10am	Stansted, Lower Street car park (Free on Sundays) GR: TL515248 Postcode: CM24 8SL	Phoebe 07722589571
Sunday 7 th May 10am	Allens Green, Queens Head pub GR: TL455169 Postcode: CM21 0LS	Peter 01279 835036 07941435001
Sunday 21 st May 10am	Standon church GR: GR: 396222 Postcode: SG11 1LB	Paul 01279 501596 07977371435
Sunday 4 th June 10am	Duton Hill, The Three Horseshoes GR: TL605268 Postcode: CM6 2DY	Dave 01279 832632 07920254825
Sunday 18 th June 10am	Ugley, The Checkers - Park in the back car park. GR: TL514306 Postcode: CM22 6HZ	Brian 01279 812574

Summer Break

Sunday 3 rd September 10am	Stanstead Abbots - car park GR: TL384119 Post Code: SG12 8AG	Peter 01279 835036 07941435001
Sunday 17 th September 10am	Hatfield Heath - Village Car Park (behind chip shop) GR: TL524150 Postcode: CM22 7EB	Paul 01279 501596 07977371435
Sunday 1 st October 10am	Please see website for details	
Sunday 15 th October 10am	Manuden Church GR: TL491266 Postcode: CM23 1DF	Dave 01279 832632 07920254825

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

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. 1046728



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