



**BURSLLEDON RIGHTS OF WAY & AMENITIES
PRESERVATION GROUP
(BROWAPG)**

**25TH ANNIVERSARY
1990- 2015
A BRIEF HISTORY**

Published 2017

CONTENTS

- 1 Origins
- 2 Founders
- 3 First Committee
- 4 BROWAPG first public meeting
- 5/6 Successful campaigns
- 7/8/9 Other achievements
- 10 Unfinished business, The Future, Sponsors
- 11 Roll of honour, Partnerships, Affiliations

ORIGINS

BROWAPG was formed in 1990 by six Bursledon residents, who were outraged when the Parish Council circulated a leaflet stating erroneously that Bursledon had no parish pond.

They met at Byways, the McNaught Davis home off FP13 in Lowford, to decide what to do about it.



FOUNDERS

The six residents were:

'Mac' McNaught Davis, a teacher at the village school and ex-Clerk for 30 years of Bursledon Parish Council, and **Mollie McNaught Davis**, his wife, the proprietor of Lowford Post Office.



David and Diane Andrewes - incomers since 1964, very much aware of the beauty of Bursledon.



Margaret Crosley - born and bred in the Vine Inn and passionate about Old Bursledon and the Hamble River;

Margaret Lord - an incomer with a passion for Bursledon's trees;



For some years in Bursledon, there had been growing discontent with the apparent failure of the parish council to protect and defend public land, public rights of way and public assets. Examples of this were seen as:

- the neglect of the St Leonard's New Churchyard - thought then, erroneously, to be the responsibility of the parish council;
- the environmental disgrace of Riverside Boatyard;
- the degradation of the riverside walk to the Upper Hamble;
- the gating of the old drove roads to the marshes by landowners, thus reducing five public access points to the river to two;
- the neglect of Bursledon's public rights of way.

This failure of the parish council, even to recognise the existence of Dodwell Pond as the Parish Pond, demonstrated its complete disregard for Bursledon's heritage and was the last straw.

First committee meeting April 27 1990

Quickly, the six founder members gathered other Bursledon residents to form a committee:

Susannah Ritchie, author of books about Old Bursledon and the Solent;

Bill Richards, native of Bursledon and manager of Deacon's Boatyard;

Margaret Bevis, who seemed to be related to most families in the village;

Roy Proudfoot, later custodian of the footpaths and country lanes;

John Prinn, great supporter of Bursledon Windmill;

Wendy Lyne, keen member of the Local History Group;

Julia Barratt, local barrister and dog walker, who obtained a blanket TPO on the Station Road trees.



Susannah Ritchie



Bill Richards



Margaret Bevis



Roy Proudfoot



John Prinn



Wendy Lyne



The terms of reference were agreed, urgent matters of concern were noted and action planned. A pressure group had been formed to secure the conservation and enhancement of Bursledon's environment for local people.

One of the first actions of the Committee was to form a Footpath Working Party under the auspices of the British Trust for Nature Conservation.

BROWAPG'S FIRST PUBLIC MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on July 12 1991. Officers and Committee were elected (13 in all). The Constitution was adopted and the subscription fixed at £2 per annum. The Speaker was Captain Nicholl, Harbour Master.

Extracts from the Annual Report 1990-1991

Endorsed Terms of Reference

- 1 To work with other individuals and organisations to preserve existing rights of way and natural amenities in Bursledon and to restore others that have been lost.
- 2 To resist attempts by "conservation" and other bodies to take over local amenities and prevent access by local people.
- 3 Membership to be open to Bursledon residents with established knowledge of the village and enthusiasm for the above aims.

Agenda for Action

The immediate concerns of the Group were:

- the threat to Parish ownership of Dodwell Pond;
- the attempts to prevent access to the River Hamble;
- the neglect of Bursledon footpaths;
- traffic and associated problems;
- the failure of the Borough Council to implement the Old Bursledon Conservation Area policies;
- the threat to Bursledon greens.

Other matters of concern were

- pollution of all sorts,
- local, harmful planning applications and decisions;
- neglected ditches and drainage;
- neglected Mausoleum,;
- vulnerability of ancient trees;
- restrictive legislation on commons and village greens.

Action had been taken in all these areas.

Some First-Year Achievements

- 1 Working with others towards the installation of double yellow lines outside The Vine Inn to minimise the noise and traffic disturbance;
- 2 BROWAPG Newsletter and publication of Margaret Crosley's childhood reminiscences of growing up in Old Bursledon;
- 3 The successful claiming of the Station Footpath by dedication.
- 4 Raising awareness of the threat to Dodwell Pond with local people;
- 5 Collecting statements about recreational use of Bursledon greens
- 6 The involvement of Bursledon people in the consultation for the Hamble River Plan

To Save Dodwell Pond from complete enclosure within the curtilage of Dodwell Farm

SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS

To Stop the M27 Widening at Bursledon Bridge



To install a refuge on the A27 near Bursledon Bridge



To Save Bursledon Windmill when EBC threatened to stop funding it



To improve maintenance of public rights of way in Bursledon Footpath 1

Footpath 502



To restore the Mausoleum

Delight as the Bursledon barricade comes down

A FOOTPATH that was fenced off to the public for more than a year has been reopened just a few weeks after the *Chronicle* reported on the problem.

Now children going to school, dog walkers and those out for a stroll will be able to round the sharp bend in Church Lane, Bursledon, in safety. The path was fenced off when Hampshire County Council discovered it had been built on land belonging to Robert Newbold, who also owns construction firm, Hemdean Builders. The county council installed the path to improve safety on the bend, which, according to residents, suffers from problems with ice in winter as water pours off adjacent land. But it transpired that neither Mr Newbold nor the county council would be insured if someone were injured while using the path and it was cordoned off, leaving pedestrians to share the road with vehicles. The issue came to the fore last month when the fence was pulled down and strewn across the road by unknown vandals. Now the fence has been removed after Mr Newbold agreed with the county council to hand over the piece of land to its ownership. Although the agreement has yet to be officially signed and sealed, the county council confirmed this week that it

Continued on page 3



Henry Leeves leads a group of residents along the footpath in Church Lane. T6109A. Inset: Residents forced to walk in the road alongside the fence a few weeks ago. Pictures by Terry Bond

To install a footway on the bend of Church Lane

To refurbish Lands End Hard

To Stop the installation of a Concrete Crusher at Mallards Moor

To Oppose Development for Travelling Showpeople at Mallards Moor on noise grounds

To Prevent the ending of Free Blue Badge Parking in HCC country parks.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

To improve the public footpath network in the Hamble Peninsula



To erect a Plaque at FP17 to commemorate the achievements of the Egerton Sisters in saving it

BROWAPG's own footpath in Great Down Park

Hosting an Open Spaces Society Open Day at Netley Abbey



Successful footpath claim at the Jolly Sailor



BROWAPG Footpath User Surveys (4)



Permissive Footpath between Providence Hill and Devonshire Gardens



Bursledon Parish Council Dedication Footpath 501



Annual Garden Parties



Finger posts at the top of Salterns Lane

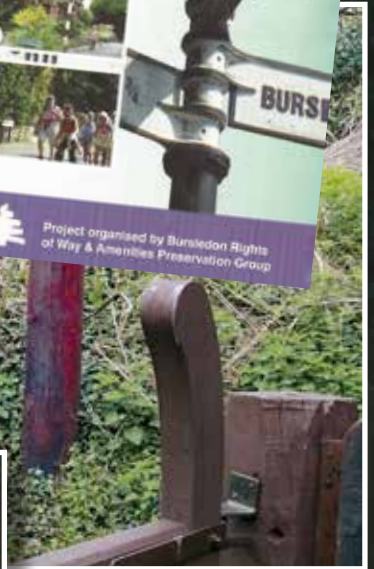


Visits to Hackett's Marsh SSSI

"Exploring Bursledon" leaflet



New green footpath signs to match the old ones



Pocket Park at Kew Lane



Revival of Maypole dancing



Enhancement of Bursledon's burial grounds

Providing the inspiration, leadership skills and hard work leading to the publication of BURSLEDON PARISH PLAN

OLD BURSLEDON CONSERVATION AREA



High Street, Bursledon

Architecture and Landscape
Design Unit
January 2000

EASTLEIGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

50p

EBC Conservation Area publication for Old Bursledon

Footpath 509

Addition of 10 public
rights of way to
Bursledon's network

Heritage lamp post
saved and 4 others
installed in OBCA

EBC Local Plan and Public Inquiry appearances

Responding to planning applications and
speaking at Planning Committees

Enabling the inclusion of Bursledon in the
catchment area of Scene Magazine by agreeing
to deliver it in Old Bursledon

Persuading the parish council to
re-instate the Viewpoint in High Street

Organised visits to
Greyladyes Park

Assisting with the annual commemoration of
D-Day landings at Manor Farm Country Park

Annual Beating the Bounds

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The maintenance of Dodwell Pond, the parish pond.

To achieve a safe route for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders along Dodwell Lane.

To find a way of persuading the owners of Brixedone Farm to allow the replacement of stiles and the installation of a board walk on FP14 and improve access to Manor Farm Country Park via FP14.

To stop gravel extraction at Hamble Airfield.

To get the public footpath re-instated across the landfill site at Mallards Moor.

To establish more village greens in Bursledon, especially on the "waste of the manor" sites.

The failure to claim the track between School Road and the Ladymead footpath (FP6) as a public right of way.

To rid FP13 in Lowford of parked vehicles.

To maintain a good working relationship with Bursledon PC.

THE FUTURE

To protect, preserve and increase public rights of way and public open space in Bursledon.

To defend the character of the Old Bursledon and Bursledon Windmill Conservation Areas.

To foster an appreciation of, and the need to care for, our natural environment.

To use the construction of the English Coast Path as the opportunity to open up more access to the River Hamble in Bursledon.

To engage with the next generation so that they commit to BROWAPG's aims.

There is still much to do...

SPONSORS

Bursledon Parish Council
Hampshire Countryside Service
National Drug Safety Unit (Bursledon Hall)
New Horizon Trust
Hants & IOW Community Foundation
BHH Local Area Committee (signposts)



20 EVENT Posters

86 NEWSLETTERS

Footpath 510
Another
Bursledon
Parish Council
Dedication



Saving Lowford Centre footpath by alerting
Eastleigh Ramblers

ROLL OF HONOUR

BROWAPG OFFICERS (14)

'Mac' McNaught Davis, Jeff Martin,
David Andrewes, Henley Howard,
John Prinn, Jenny Leeves,
Wendy Lyne, Robin Horseman,
Susannah Ritchie, Tom Wade West,
Margaret Bevis, Liz Given,
Diane Andrewes, Mark Garrett.

BROWAPG COMMITTEE MEMBERS (23)

Margaret Lord, Joan Bliss,
Mollie McNaught Davis, Sheila Clarke,
Bill Richards, Shirley Horseman,
Roy Proudfoot, Veda Hiscock,
Mary Gillard, Elissa Bowyer,
Olive Thompson, Jean Norton,
Des Poole, Alec Holford,
Andrew Chesshire, Eric Reed,
Esther Holt, Kay Wright,
Janet Bullen, Diana Sneezum,
Don Bliss, David Lennox.
Margaret Crosley,

SCRUTINEERS

Adrian Pope, Alan Lyne.

LEGAL OFFICER

Julia Barratt.

MEMBERSHIP

6 individuals (1990) - 136 households (2015)

IN MEMORIAM

Susannah Ritchie,
Mildred Egerton,
Margaret Crosley,
Mollie McNaught Davis,
'Mac' McNaught Davis,
Bill Richards,
Margaret Bevis,
Des. Poole,
Julia Barratt,
Olive Thompson,
Roy Proudfoot,
Mary Gillard,
Margaret Lord,
David Andrewes.

PARTNERSHIPS

South Coast Against Roads
Bursledon Schools
Eastleigh Ramblers
River Hamble Valley Forum
Open Spaces Society
Bursledon Parish Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Hampshire Countryside Service
Itchen Hamble Countryside Project
Bursledon Windmill
Hampshire Industrial Archaeology Society
Greyladies Consortium
Old Bursledon Action Group

Friends of Bursledon Village Hall
Scene Magazine
Eastleigh & Hamble Valley Heritage Guides
Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust
Hamble Estuary Partnership
Botley Local History Group
River Hamble Mooring Holders
South East Forum for Sustainability
Hamble Parish Council
Hound Parish Council
Bursledon Parish Plan

AFFILIATIONS

Open Spaces Society
Ramblers
Hampshire Field Club
Solent Protection Society
C.P.R.E.

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BROWAPG thanks all those who contributed to this publication and regrets any omissions or errors that may have been included unwittingly.

Further Copies are obtainable from
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