

Seasonal Events in Bishop's Stortford

Bish Bash Festival - May
Carnival Parade and Fun Day - June
Christmas Fayre - December
Armistice Day Parade - November
Pantomime at South Mill Arts - December to January

Outside Bishop's Stortford

Fitch Way (Bishop's Stortford - Braintree)
Pishiobury Park (Sawbridgeworth)
Aqua Splash (Sawbridgeworth)
Cammas Hall Farm (Hatfield Broad Oak)
Hatfield Forest (Takeley)
Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve (Stansted)
House on the Hill Museum (Stansted)
Golf World - Crazy Golf (Stansted)
Daisy May Farm (Elsenham)
Henry Moore Foundation (Perry Green)
Audley End House, Gardens and Miniature Railway (Saffron Walden)
Thaxted Windmill
Duxford Imperial War Museum
Wimpole Hall (Cambridgeshire)
Cambridge - Universities/Museums/River Punting
Hylands House and Park (Chelmsford)
Great Notley Country Park (Braintree)
Colchester Zoo
Epping Forest
Lea Valley Country Park (White Water Centre)

Places to Visit...

Bishop's Stortford Town Centre

Bowling Alley • Library
Cinema • Library
Bishop's Stortford Museum • Waytemore Castle
South Mill Arts
Splash Pool
Castle Park -
Sworders Field
and Playground

Outside the Town Centre

Birchanger Woods
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre
Southern Country Park
Thorley Rocket Park
Thorley Wash
Nature Reserve
Waterside Stortford

Bishop's Stortford - A Short History

Bishop's Stortford is in the Domesday Book and Samuel Pepys mentioned Bishop's Stortford in his diary entries. Archaeologists have found that people were living here for thousands of years before the Roman invasion in 43AD. The Romans built roads and towns, and at Grange Paddocks and Cannons Mill there were Roman settlements. The Romans buried their dead nearby and you can see a coffin and skeleton of a Roman, named Titus, in Bishop's Stortford Museum.

Saxon immigrant people arrived centuries after the Roman army left in 410 AD, and probably settled near where St Michael's Church is now, so that they could see above the river valley to defend themselves against enemies.

The oldest construction in Bishop's Stortford is Waytemore Castle in Castle Park, built by the Normans (by hand! How long would that take?) After the Norman invasion in 1066, King William I (the Conqueror) presented the castle to the Bishop of London. Today's ruins date from about 1211 (in King John's reign). It was a prison from 1230 onwards.

In the early 1600's, the town's position between London and Cambridge brought lots of travellers, so coaching and inns became important. Bishop's Stortford was also known for growing wheat (for bread) and barley (for malting and brewing beer) locally.

The River Stort Navigation was opened in 1769 and with it brought wealth in trade. Canal barges could carry 60 tonnes each (unlike horse-drawn wagons), so the waterway easily transported malted barley and grain to London and they would return to Bishop's Stortford with coal, timber and other goods, like granite kerb stones, roofing slates, cast-iron fireplaces etc.

The new railway opened in 1842, and allowed people to travel easily and the town expanded with new homes (starting in Newtown), schools and churches. The US Army extended the runway of Stansted airfield in 1944 for the allies' air force. After the Second World War it would become London Stansted Airport.

The town continues to grow, with new developments, but the past is still present if you know where to look.

The Town Trails from the Tourist Information Office and the Bishop's Stortford Museum provide more information.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

Bishop's Stortford Town Council
01279 715100
www.bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk

Bishop's Stortford Tourist Information Centre
01279 715001
www.bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk/tourist-information-centre

Bishop's Stortford Museum
01279 715000
www.southmillartscomplex.co.uk/themuseum

Bishop's Stortford Library
0300 123 4049
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/library-opening-hours/bishops-stortford-library.aspx

Bishop's Stortford History
www.stortfordhistory.co.uk

Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation
www.stortfordcf.org.uk



The Children's trail is a collaboration between Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Bishop's Stortford Museum, Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation and individual consultees.

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CHILDREN'S

BISHOP'S STORTFORD

TOWN TRAIL 6

Pick up a FREE Bishop's Stortford Colouring Book at the Tourist Information Centre

Follow the Trail (1-10) Can You Find...

1 NORTH STREET

North Street may have begun as part of the Saxon settlement centred on the church and Market Square.

The famous White Hart (a stag) is here. It was the emblem of the 1st Herts Light Horse

Volunteers, one of many private Victorian cavalry forces of the time.

Did you know that the Marvel film 'Spiderman – Far From Home' (blu-ray version) was filmed at the newsagents in North Street and the old Post Office in South Street?

• Can you find the White Stag?



2 THE GEORGE HOTEL

The George Hotel was an overnight stop for coach passengers (and their horses!) who needed rest, sleep, food and drink whilst travelling from either London or Cambridge. The George Hotel's Room 27 is said to be haunted by the Grey Lady ghost, with guests hearing strange noises and doors closing!

3 CORN EXCHANGE

The Corn Exchange was built in 1828 to manage the local sale of arable crops like wheat and barley. The design is based on a Greek temple with architectural sculptures of farming wheat and barley, which Bishop's Stortford was famous for producing.

• Can you find the Greek goddesses, a bee hive, sheaves of wheat and a plough?



4 MARKET SQUARE

The Bishop's Stortford market was a busy, noisy place with lots of stalls, selling fruit, vegetables and meat like any other market, probably also leather goods, all manufactured locally.

• Can you find the Commemorative bench to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday?

• Can you find the Hawkes Brewery Plaque?

• Can you find the Town Twinning Plaque?



5 DEVOILS LANE

There is only one street named Devoils Lane in the whole of Great Britain, making it a unique name. During the Victorian era it was known as Dunhill Lane, because all the manure and street mess was swept down here.

• Can you find the Red Phone Box

• Can you find the Barley Sculpture?



6 WATER LANE

From 1780, Water Lane was called Brewery Lane as it was home to Hawkes Brewery, which was the town's then biggest employer. The breweries used well water to function, and probably let their waste run into the river where Old River Lane is now. *Can you imagine the smells?!*

An original water pump can be seen in the Museum and in the yard of the Star Inn.

7 BRIDGE STREET

Before 1969, the River Stort ran under Bridge Street along the course of what is now Old River Lane; the Old Town (corn) Mill was here. Two mills are mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086). There are two 16th Century public houses on Bridge Street, The Black Lion and The Star.

• Can you find the Old Water Mill Plaque?



8 CASTLE PARK AND WAYTEMORE CASTLE

Waytemore Castle was built during the time of William the Conqueror as a timber and then a flint-and-mortar structure. In 1230, it became a prison. *Why not go and climb the mount and see the great views?*

Castle Park, home to Waytemore Castle, was created in 1907 when it was laid out with trees, flower beds, footpaths and bandstand.

In 1921, the War Memorial was unveiled to commemorate the 207 men of the town who lost their lives in the First World War.

Today, Castle Park is home to Waytemore Castle, Castle Gardens, the War Memorial, Sworders Field, the Playgrounds and the Splash Pool.

• Can you find the Hockerill Fountain?

• Can you find the Bandstand?

• Can you find the War Memorial?



9 HOCKERILL

In the 18th century, Hockerill was called Bishop's Stortford's 'hilltop outpost', as travellers, including royalty, stopped at one of the four inns at its crossroads during their travels between London and East Anglia. One wealthy couple donated the Hockerill fountain for the those (including horses) that needed water pulling heavy carts and wagons up the hill.

• Can you find the original North Street Horse Trough (now a flower bed)?

• Can you find the Riverside Crane?



10 GEORGE JACKSON AND THE STORT NAVIGATION

Sir George Jackson built the Stort Navigation. The Stort Navigation is 14 miles long starting in Bishop's Stortford and ending in the Lea (a mile beyond Roydon).

The Navigation originally transported malted barley and grain to London, and timber and coal on the return trip.

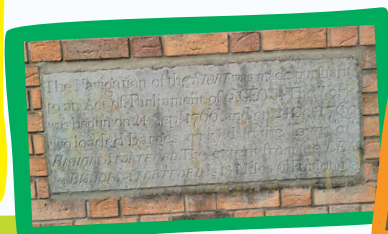
Did you know that George Jackson's friend, Captain Cook, named Port Jackson in Australia after him (it is where the Sydney Opera House is located)?

George Jackson (later Duckett) is buried in the cemetery at St Michaels Church.

• Can you find the plaque outside The Port Jackson showing the connection?

• Can you find the Stort Navigation Plaque?

• Can you find the Scouts Plaque?



Waterside Stortford

Waterside Stortford is a riverside and countryside trail passing through Bishop's Stortford. The trail features twenty-one information boards along its length showing its history and wildlife. You can do all of the walk, or part of the walk and it takes approximately 3 hours.

Cycle or stroll through the 3.5 mile trail enjoying beautiful relaxing views of the water, nature and wildlife. Waterside Stortford winds gently through the valley of a chalk stream and there are peaceful canal scenes along the Navigation.

You can pick up Town Trail 5 booklet for Waterside Stortford at the Tourist Information Centre.