

## Local Access Forum Members

### Liddy Lawrence (Chair)

#### Have you always lived in Herts?

No... although I was born in St Albans and now live there, I have also lived in London and the Midlands, and in Hitchin in North Herts.



#### What are your main interests / hobbies?

I seem to lead quite a busy life. I get great pleasure from growing things in my garden, especially trees from seedlings and on my allotment. I walk and cycle regularly, and ski as often as I can. I listen to a wide range of music, and go to many gigs/concerts. I am a member of the Jane Austen Society, and read widely around her life, writings and times. I am a member of the Emergency Planning Society and its National Human Aspects Working Group. I have family and friends in various parts of the UK and France who I visit as often as possible.

#### Do you have a favourite walk / cycle ride route?

Several old favourites include the Grande Randonnee path along La Dame Blanche in Franche-Comte, France, the South Devon and Isle of Purbeck parts of the South West Coast Path, and, more locally, circular routes from the Brocket Arms in Ayot St Lawrence and from the centre of St Albans along the River Ver.

#### What place would I like to travel to?

In the UK I have cycled in the Outer Hebrides and would like to return to this area, and also to walk in the Orkneys. In France I would like to walk in the Pyrenees.

#### What is your special interest in LAF?

I have an interest in walking (I am a member of The Ramblers Society) and off-road cycling, and am particularly interested in helping to make the countryside more accessible to people who may not normally consider visiting it.

#### As a LAF member...

I would like people to feel more confident about walking in the countryside near their homes or for days out, so updated reliable information about where to go, and how to get there would be a great help.

#### What is my role...

I am the Chair of the Hertfordshire LAF, and have had this role since the first LAF meeting. I try to ensure that the agenda we cover meets all the areas of interest or concern to LAF members and members of the public who communicate with us, well as our statutory obligations. I hope to encourage more members of the public to join the discussion by attending our meetings or communicating via letters/e-mail. I am one of the two LAF representatives from the East of England on the national England Access Forum.

**Anything else...** There is so much to do and so little time to do it.

## Local Access Forum Members



### Ian Gregory (Vice-Chair)

#### **Have you always lived in Hertfordshire?**

I was born and raised in Hertfordshire but left in 1982 to study mechanical engineering at the University of Birmingham. I then moved to the United States to do postgraduate research in physics before returning to Hatfield where my parents still live. I got a job as a scientist at the Malaysian Rubber Producers' Research Association at Brickendonbury and in 1994 I bought a house in Hatfield. In 1999 I changed jobs and spent the next six years as a systems manager at the University of Hertfordshire before leaving to help organise a bike ride from London to Scotland for the G8 Summit. I am now self-employed.

#### **What are your main interests/hobbies?**

Since going on a school field trip to the Lake District I have always enjoyed being in the mountains and have climbed extensively in the UK and in the European Alps where I have reached about a dozen 4000m summits. I used to run a lot and even ran for the St Albans Striders one season in the Herts Cross Country League but now I am much more involved in cycling. Other interests include computers, electronics, music and environmental issues.

#### **Do you have a favourite walk/cycle/ride route?**

My favourite walk in Hertfordshire is a circular route starting and finishing at the Huntsman pub in Goose Green, which takes in Hoddesdon, Highfield, Cowheath and Broxbourne Woods. I used to run part of the route when I worked at Brickendonbury but now I just go there once in a while to walk dogs - I enjoy seeing how it changes through the seasons.

#### **What place would you like to travel to/is on your 'wish-list'?**

I am reluctant to fly anywhere now for environmental reasons but ever since reading "The Snow Leopard" I have had a yearning to visit the Himalayas. However, there are plenty of places in the UK I have yet to visit and I would like to explore more of the west coast of Scotland.

#### **What is your special interest in the LAF?**

I am keen a cyclist and cycling advocate and would like to see fewer cars and more bikes on our roads. I have been involved with the Welwyn Hatfield Cycling Forum since early 2009 and in 2011 I helped set up a county-wide cycle campaign called CycleHerts which I manage the website and mailing list. After attending a number of LAF public meetings I was recruited as a cycling representative in late 2011. I also own three hectares of woodland in the old Ware Park Estate so to some extent I represent the interests of small woodland owners, but cycling is my particular interest.

#### **As a LAF member what would you like to change/improve to make access better in Hertfordshire?**

My main interest is in improving conditions for utility cycling. A large part of that requires improving road conditions but there is also a need for more and better off-road infrastructure. So I would like to see some footpaths widened and upgraded to dual-use and some new off-road cycle paths.

# Local Access Forum Members



## Debbie Hougie

### Have you always lived in Hertfordshire?

I was born and brought up in Leeds and spent all my free time in the countryside around my home. I walked extensively in the Yorkshire Dales, Lake District and Peak District.

I have lived in Hertfordshire since 1991 where I have discovered many great places to walk.



### What are your main interests/hobbies?

My main hobby is walking although I do love my bike! I have two small children so we tend to walk to their level (they did conquer Pen y Ghent this summer!). I relax at home by knitting and vegetable gardening. I enjoy cooking and rare visits to the cinema.

### Do you have a favourite walk/cycle/ride route?

In Hertfordshire my favourite walk is around Sandridge and Nomansland. Further afield its Ivinghoe Beacon as I love being up high and getting the wind through my hair. In Yorkshire its any of the Three Peaks but especially Inglebrough.

### What place would you like to travel to/is on your 'wish-list'?

I'm very lucky and have travelled extensively (India, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Japan) but I would love to go to Chile! I would love to go back to the Outer Hebrides.

### What is your special interest in the LAF?

I am interested in all things walking but have a special interest in inclusivity – children, people with disabilities, young people, people from ethnic minorities – making sure that everyone in the county knows about – and has the opportunity to use - the outdoor recreation opportunities that our magnificent county holds.

### As a LAF member what would you like to change/improve to make access better in Hertfordshire?

A clearly waymarked and available rights of way system. Safe road crossing. Joined up routes.

### What is your role within LAF? And, would you like it to change and how?

I have on the LAF since started in 2003. I have been proactive in discussion and giving advice to the County Council. I particularly enjoyed helping to organise the Parish Conference that we ran last year. I would like to get the 'Safe Road Crossings Sub Committee' up and running as I think it is so important.

### Anything else you'd like to add?

My job as a Senior Lecturer in Rural Geography at the University of Hertfordshire gives me many opportunities to take my students out and about around Hertfordshire, showing them the diversity of our County and its many special places. I therefore believe that I am well placed to contribute widely to LAF business.

## Local Access Forum Members



### Mark Mills-Bishop (County Councillor)

#### Have you always lived in Hertfordshire?

I was born in Whitstable, Kent, but my adopted county is Hertfordshire where I have lived for over 30 years. I am married with four children. My wife is a teacher as well as my oldest son. I am the elected member for Hatfield Rural and the Hertfordshire County Council representative on the Local Access Forum.



#### What are your main interests/hobbies?

I enjoy supporting charitable groups, reading, local history and all the performing arts. I am president of a male voice choir. My best times are quiet relaxation watching cricket and escape to the County Ground in Canterbury to see Kent play.

#### What places do you like to travel to?

My favourite place is Arundel in West Sussex and the best place in the world is the plains in Saskatchewan, Canada.

## Local Access Forum Members



### **Bill Storey**

#### **Have you always lived in Hertfordshire?**

Lived in Herts since age 3.

#### **What are your main interests/hobbies?**

When younger took part in athletics, Road Walking association. Rugby, later Hacking. Now still looking after retired Horse, Photography and attending meetings.

#### **Do you have a favourite walk/cycle/ride route?**

North Mymms Park and Ivinghoe Beacon are among local spots I enjoy.

#### **What place would you like to travel to/is on your 'wish-list'?**

Would like to revisit Australia and India which I have not seen since 1945.

#### **What is your special interest in the LAF?**

Have an interest in Herts rural affairs want to see the best of it preserved.

#### **As a LAF member what would you like to change/improve to make access better in Hertfordshire?**

Maintain balance between sometimes conflicting demands of different user groups and also recognise that for some countryside is a workplace not a park.

#### **What is your role within LAF? And, would you like it to change and how?**

Support efforts of Rights of Way Unit.

#### **Anything else you'd like to add?**

I was HCC nominee to LAF and hope I can still make a link in both directions.

# Local Access Forum Members



## Robert Bolt

### **Have you always lived in Hertfordshire?**

No, I was born and brought up in the Arrow Valley in Warwickshire. I moved to Hertfordshire in 1968 and have lived here ever since. I had a second home in rural France for seven years and still visit France regularly.

### **What are your main interests/hobbies?**

As a geographer I developed an interest in travel. Most of my working life was spent in the transport industry and transport is still a major interest. This includes travelling by as many means of transport as possible. I am active in the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and in the Association of British Drivers. My first job was at a large dairy farm and I retain a keen interest in rural activities. I am a keen amateur photographer and a regular walker with and without the local U3A walking group and also when on holiday.

### **Do you have a favourite walk/cycle/ride route?**

The Chess Valley from Rickmansworth upstream to Sarratt and Chenies

### **What place would you like to travel to/is on your 'wish-list'?**

Mountains especially the North American Rockies and the Black Hills, particularly Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota. Very healing to the soul. I would like to return to the Falkland Islands to see how they have changed since I visited them soon after the war. Always pleased to return to Venice and to Fort Lauderdale – the Venice of America.

### **What is your special interest in the LAF?**

Seeking best possible access for everyone to all parts of our countryside.

### **As a LAF member what would you like to change/improve to make access better in Hertfordshire?**

Fewer stiles, fewer deliberate obstacles on cycle paths, fewer height barriers that discriminate against disabled people using motor caravans.

### **What is your role within LAF? And, would you like it to change and how?**

As a new member I have yet to develop a role.

# Local Access Forum Members



## Rosemary Gilligan

### **Have you always lived in Hertfordshire?**

I was born in Birkenhead, Cheshire, but I had my 3rd Birthday in Hertfordshire and have lived here ever since

### **What are your main interests/hobbies?**

Horses and the Outdoors. I like to travel but I have so many animals it's difficult to get away, so I just have to make do with long days out...



### **Do you have a favourite walk/cycle/ride route?**

Currently my favourite route is the new bridleway in Shenley that means you can get off the main road; I hate riding on the road.

### **What place would you like to travel to/is on your 'wish-list'?**

I have always been fascinated by Egypt, the Far East and South America. I would love to visit the sites of all the ancient civilisations.

### **What is your special interest in the LAF?**

Having been a rider and a walker all my life, I miss all the rights of way that have been lost locally in my lifetime. I would like to help see some of them reopened, I have strong links with the BHS rights of way officer and have been able to describe paths I have used that have now been lost so that we can try and open them again. I am on the LAF as a Local Councillor to help link the District Councils knowledge to the work that is being done by Rights of Way.

### **As a LAF member what would you like to change/improve to make access better in Hertfordshire?**

Yes, one of the proactive things that the local councils can do is by the use of various aspects of planning law, to use local development to create or reactive Rights of way surrounding any development.

### **What is your role within LAF? And, would you like it to change and how?**

Communicican and networking. As a Local Councillor you are able to work with other authorities and agencies to further the aims of the LAF.

### **Anything else you'd like to add?**

Being Dyslexic, I hate writing things, as I'm never very good at putting words on paper, but I am always happy to talk with people.

# Local Access Forum Members



## Paul Christian

### Have you always lived in Herts?

No...however I have lived in Baldock, North Mymms, Little Wymondley and Welwyn Garden City for 15 years.

### What are your main interests / hobbies?

Being a livestock farmer with a young family it is hard to have hobbies that take up too much time. However, I do enjoy being in the countryside. I like spending time by the sea and used to fish a lot when I was younger. I look forward to having an opportunity to have some hobbies again one day.

### Do you have a favourite walk or cycle ride?

I have spent plenty of time in Eastern Europe managing farms and there were many unspoilt, quiet places where there was a huge amount of interesting wildlife to see when walking around some of the farms. For example beside the river Odra in Western Poland close to Zielona Gora where it was very common to see beavers, quail, storks and wild boar in their natural environment.

### What places would I like to travel to?

I still haven't seen all of the UK, there are so many great places to visit. I've not been North of Oban in Scotland yet or to Southern Ireland.

### What is your special interest in LAF?

LAF is a great initiative and I hope to help the members where I can within my area of knowledge of agriculture, animal husbandry and land management.

### As a LAF member.....

I see at first hand the difficulties experienced when people try to use the countryside for recreation whilst at the same time it is being operated as a business. Most of the time solutions are straightforward and my interest is to attempt to make a positive difference at LAF level as well as on the land I manage.

### What is my role.....

I was asked to join because of my farming and access background, I have been involved with a variety of activities over the years which ought to be quite relevant to the group. Time will tell.



# Local Access Forum Members



**Diana Collingridge**



**Russell Huffer**



**Gary O'Leary**



**Brian Worrall**



**Chris Hall**

