

# THE MILESTONE SOCIETY AUTUMN CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held at  
Stonehouse Community Centre,  
Laburnum Walk, Laburnum Rd, Stonehouse GL10 2NS  
10.00am on Saturday 12 October 2024



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# OUR AUTUMN CONFERENCE AND AGM

## HOW TO GET THERE

By rail – Stonehouse railway station is on the line from London Paddington to Cheltenham Spa with an hourly service on Saturdays. It is adjacent to the town centre and a 10 minute walk from our venue.

By bus – Stagecoach service 64 between Gloucester and Stroud has two buses per hour through Stonehouse on a Saturday but check timetables.

By road

From the **north and south west**: Follow the M5 to Junction 13 and take the first exit onto the A419. Continue ahead to the third roundabout then turn left signed for Town Centre Services. Follow “at Stonehouse” directions below.

From the **south and east**: Follow the M4 to Junction 15. Take the third exit onto the A419 signed Cirencester. At Cirencester follow signs for A419 Stroud/ Royal Agricultural University. Continue on the A419 to and through Stroud until Stonehouse B4008 is signed ahead at Horsetrough roundabout.

*Alternatively continue on the M4 to the M5 at Junction 20 and follow directions for north above.*

At Stonehouse, follow Bath Road (B4008) to the start of the High Street shops. Turn left, opposite Ladbrokes, into Regent Street. After 70 metres turn first right into Laburnum Walk to access the Community Centre car park.

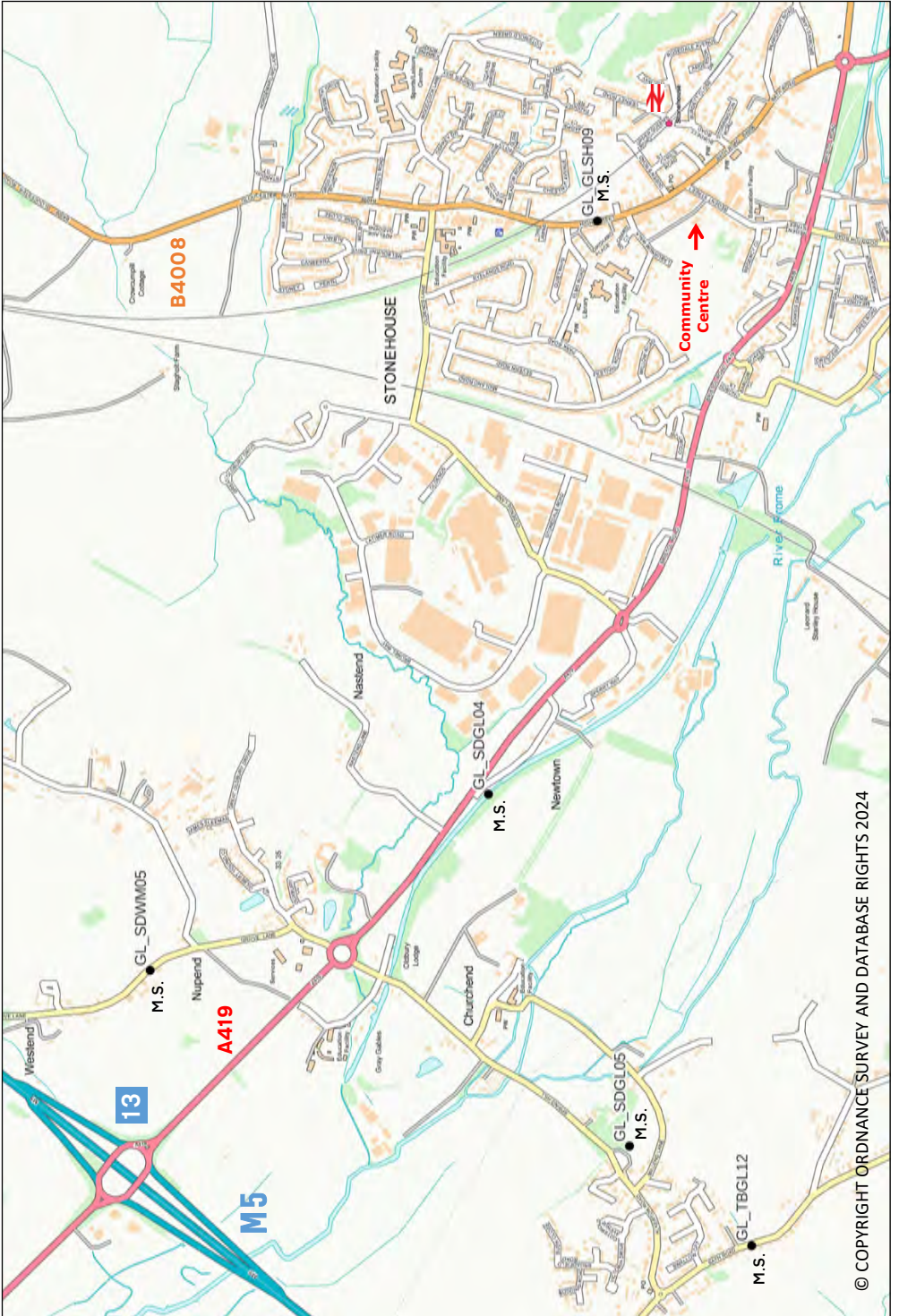
Parking: There is a 55 space car park at the Community Centre.

## FACILITIES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND NEARBY

All on one level and we will be using the main hall with an adjacent kitchen. The centre is adjacent to the High Street with several refreshment outlets in close proximity.

## ABOUT STONEHOUSE

The town is located on the edge the Cotswolds, 9 miles SE of Gloucester and 3 miles W of Stroud. It was listed in the Domesday Book as “Stanhus” the Old English equivalent of its modern name. In the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the main industry was home based woollen cloth manufacture. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a large brickworks developed in the town but other industry remained small scale. It sits in the valley of the River Frome and on the route of turnpike roads to Gloucester, Stroud and Dursley. The partially restored Stroudwater Canal opened in 1779 with the Great Western Railway arriving in 1845. Today it is well served by road connections to the M5.



## Autumn Conference & AGM Programme – 12 October 2024

- 09:30 – 10:00 Meet and greet with tea/ coffee/ biscuits
- 10:00 – 10:15 AGM introduction (*review of the year and future plans*)  
– Rob Westlake / Hilary Jones
- 10:15 – 11:15 AGM business (see page 8)
- 11:15 – 11:30 Break
- 11:30 – 12:30 **A short history of Stonehouse** by Vicki Walker  
**Restoring Stonehouse milestones** by Jim Dickson
- LUNCH BREAK**(with two optional 15 min guided walks to the restored Stonehouse milestones)
- 13:30 – 14:15 **Spokes in the Wheel: The Cirencester Network of Turnpike Roads (1727-1879)** – David Viner
- 14:15 – 15:00 **Discovering milestones on the Gloucestershire canals**  
– Mr Red
- 15:00 – 15:45 **Milestones around the World** – Ian Thompson
- 15:45 – 16:00 Close of conference

In addition to the presentations our conference will host a range of displays in the community centre from the Highways and Byways exhibition held in July 2024 at Stroud's Museum in the Park.

**Highways and Byways**  
How did people get about two hundred years ago?



Turnpike and toll booth next to Chalford church, Alfred Newland Smith 1836

A free exhibition about local turnpikes, toll gates, coaching inns, ancient tracks and footpaths, the people who travelled them and how they carried their goods

old maps, turnpike riots and complaints, potholes, road accidents, highway robbery!

**Saturday 13 - Sunday 21 July**  
**Stroud's Museum in the Park**  
(closed Mondays)  
**Free entry 10.30-4.30**

by local historians from Amberley, Bisley, Chalford, Minchinhampton, Oakridge, Painswick, Pitchcombe, Randwick, Rodborough, Sheepscombe, Stinchcombe, Stonehouse, Stroud, Woodchester

11:30 – 12:30

**A short history of Stonehouse** by Vicki Walker

**Restoring Stonehouse milestones** by Jim Dickson



*Bristol Road milestone plate*

restore two Turnpike era milestones in the town.

*The High Street milestone*

Our first presentation reflects the history on our doorstep in Stonehouse. We're delighted to welcome two members of Stonehouse History Group to open the conference. Vicki Walker, secretary of Stonehouse History Group, will present an introduction to the town and its heritage. She will be followed by Jim Dickson, former Chairman of Stonehouse History Group, covering the recent project undertaken by the group to



**Lunch break:** Bring your own lunch or visit one of a range of eating places in the town centre. The kitchen at the venue will be available. There will be a 15 minute guided walk to see the restored Stonehouse milestones.

**The programme continues after the lunch break**

**13:30 – 14:15**

## **Spokes in the Wheel: The Cirencester Network of Turnpike Roads (1727-1879)**

by David Viner



*Cirencester marketplace in the 2nd quarter of the 19th century; recognisable still today*

As the founder-chair of the Milestone Society, 2000-2012, and a long-time committee member, David Viner really needs no introduction to our members. He retains an important current role in researching options for the future of the Society's and its members' archives.

His talk, using Cirencester as an example, is a study of the development of a number of turnpikes serving a typical market town, their inter-dependence and re-organisation, and what survives today.

**14:15 – 15:00**

## **Discovering milestones on the Gloucestershire canals – Mr Red**

Many of you will be familiar with Mr Red, a local resident in Stonehouse, as the Toll House database manager for The Milestone Society. To show he has other strings to his bow he will be exploring in his talk the three canals of Gloucestershire and their waymarkers.

The now disused Stroudwater Navigation passes through Stonehouse and makes a very pleasant local walk. Mr Red will also cover the linked Cotswold canal, the Thames & Severn, and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal.



*Gloucester & Sharpness canal milestone*

15:00 – 15:45

## Milestones around the World – Ian Thompson

Ian is well known to members as our County Contact for Cornwall and conservation and listing advisor. He is also an author, with his book *Cornish Milestones: The Development of Cornwall's Roads in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* published in 2013.

In this well illustrated talk Ian will expand well beyond his usual county boundary to explore milestones



*A Swedish milestone near Stockholm*

*(Iiona Wilson)*

*(or should we call them distance markers?)* across the globe. The Milestone Society has regularly featured articles in our journal and newsletter on overseas milestones. Ian will pose the question – should the Milestone Society bring together this information and expand on it to publish a book on “Milestones around the world”? A possible 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary project?



*A restored milestone near Mumbai*

*(Rahul Chemburkar)*

**See next year's meeting dates on page 27 (inside back page).  
We wish you a safe journey home.**

**THE MILESTONE SOCIETY**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1105688**

**NOTICE of TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The Annual General Meeting will take place at  
10.00am on Saturday 12th October, 2024  
at the Stonehouse Community Centre,  
Laburnum Walk, Laburnum Rd, Stonehouse GL10 2NS**

**AGENDA**

1. Chair's welcome to Members for the Society's 23<sup>rd</sup> AGM
2. Apologies for absence
3. To approve minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (see page 13)
4. Chairs' Report for 2023-2024 (see page 19)
5. Hon Secretary's Report for 2023-2024 (see page 21)
6. Membership Secretary's Report for 2023-2024 (see page 23)
7. To receive the accounts for 2023-2024 (see page 25)
8. To agree proposed changes to the Constitution (see page 11)
9. Appointment of Trustees and election of Officers & Executive Committee Members for 2024-2025, of up to a board of twelve Committee members.

This year the following members are retiring: Mike Hallett, Ken Hawkins, Bruce Keith and Rob Westlake (all 2021) and now offer themselves for re-election as committee members.

There are no resignations from Trustees

The Executive Committee makes the following recommendations to the AGM for the appointment of Trustees and the election of Officers & Committee Members for 2024-2025, the members shown having indicated their willingness to stand for election.

<b>TRUSTEES</b>
Mervyn Benford
Mike Buxton
Carol Haines
Bruce Keith
Alan Reade

<b>HONORARY OFFICERS</b>	<b>OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>
Chair – Rob Westlake	Mike Buxton
Vice-Chair – Hilary Jones	Paul Gibbons
Hon Treasurer – Julia Stanbridge	Mike Hallett
Hon Secretary – Alison Montgomery	Bruce Keith
Minuting Secretary – Alison Montgomery	Richard Raynsford
Membership Secretary – Ken Hawkins	Vacancy

The constitution sets a maximum of twelve members of the Committee. There are, therefore, two vacancies.

The constitution sets a minimum of four Trustees, but no maximum number. The 2014 AGM agreed that the Society should have five Trustees. However, this figure has been exceeded in recent years. There are, therefore, one or more vacancies.

Any Member(s) may and is welcome to put forward other nominations for membership of the Committee or Board of Trustees but should ensure that the person proposed is willing to serve and has a seconder. The Honorary Secretary should preferably be informed before the meeting of any nominations, but they may be proposed at the meeting.

- To note the schedule of Advisory and Supporting membership roles for 2024-2025.

<b>ADVISORY &amp; SUPPORTING MEMBERS 2024-2025</b>
The Committee is supported by a number of members who undertake specific functions on the Society's behalf.
Archives: David Viner, Bruce Keith
Compliance: Mike Buxton (Insurance), Mike Hallett (Constitution & Charitable status)
Databases & Geograph Team: Paul Barnett, Mike Rayner, Mike Hallett, Christine Minto, Hilary Jones, Nick James, C. I. Brown
Editorial Panel: Carol Haines, Mike Hallett, Richard Raynsford (Newsletter Editor), Ian Thompson, Derek Turner
Conservation, Restoration & Listing Queries: Ian Thompson
Highways Agencies Liaison: Alan Reade
Theft & Recovery Liaison: Robert Caldicott
Websites & Social Media Co-ordination: Hilary Jones

11. To note the continuing pattern of publications. The Editorial Panel and respective editors have continued their work during the year. Newsletters Nos 46 and 47 have been published and Volume Sixteen of Milestones & Waymarkers. No change is proposed to the number of publications for 2024-2025.
12. To appoint the Independent Examiner for 2024-2025.
13. To receive the Executive Committee's report on the Society archive.
14. To note the Milestone Society Awards and Local Heritage Grants awarded in 2023-2024.
15. Milestone Society 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2026.
16. Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
17. Any other business. Resolutions for members are invited but, if possible, should be notified to the Hon. Secretary at least one week in advance.

Alison Montgomery, Hon Secretary, The Milestone Society, 5 St Edward's Drive, Stow-on-the-Wold, Cheltenham, GL54. Tel: 07835 203303. Email: [honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk](mailto:honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk)

#### NOTES:

*Input and proposals from members on any of the above is welcomed via the Hon Secretary. Trustees are asked to meet briefly at the end of the AGM.*

# **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

## **AGM Agenda Item 11**

### **17. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### **To amend clause 17(ii) to allow for meetings by video link and hybrid meetings**

- ii) Every annual general meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee. In this constitution the expression 'meeting' includes, except where inconsistent with any legal obligation, a physical meeting and a video conference, an internet video facility or similar electronic method allowing simultaneous visual and audio participation. The Executive Committee shall determine whether the Annual General Meeting takes place in person or by video link or as a hybrid meeting both in person and by video link. The Honorary Secretary shall give at least 21 days' notice of the annual general meeting to all members of the Charity. All members of the Charity shall be entitled to attend the meeting.

#### **To add new clause 17 (vi) to define how members' resolutions should be sent to the Secretary**

- vi) Members' proposed resolutions should be sent to the Secretary at least 14 clear days prior to the date of the meeting. A revised agenda will be issued by 7 clear days prior to the meeting.

### **18. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

#### **To amend clause 18 to allow for meetings by video link and hybrid meetings**

The Executive Committee may call a special general meeting of the Charity at any time. If at least ten members request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered the Honorary Secretary shall call such a meeting. The Executive Committee shall determine whether the Special General Meeting takes place in person or by video link or as a hybrid meeting both in person and by video link. At least 21 days' notice must be given. The notice must state the business to be transacted.

*(CONTINUED)*

## **19. PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

**To amend clause 19 to allow for meetings by video link and hybrid meetings, to reduce the quorum from twenty members to fifteen and to allow for adjournment of the meeting**

- i) The Honorary Secretary or other person specially appointed by the Executive Committee shall keep minutes of proceedings at every general meeting of the Charity.
- ii) There shall be a quorum when at least ~~twenty~~ fifteen members of the Charity are present at any general meeting and the quorum shall include members participating by video link as well as those registering their vote by proxy, provided that no fewer than five members including at least one trustee are either physically present or participating by video link.
- iii) Entitlement to vote shall be in accordance with clause 5 and members not present at the meeting may register their vote by proxy.
- iv) If there is an equality of votes the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to any other vote he or she may have.
- v) The chairman may adjourn the meeting (a) if the meeting becomes inquorate or (b) if circumstances beyond the control of those present forces the meeting to be abandoned or (c) with the consent of those present.

# MINUTES

of the Twenty-second Annual General Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2023  
held at The Old Market Hall, Church Hill, Coleshill, Warwickshire B46 3AD

**Executive Committee Attendees Present:** Paul Gibbons (PG), Mike Hallett (MH), Ken Hawkins (KH), Hilary Jones (HJ), Alison Montgomery (AM), Julia Stanbridge (JHS), Rob Westlake (RW)

**Executive Committee Apologies:** Mike Buxton (MB), Bruce Keith (BK), Richard Raynsford (RR)

## Chair's welcome

RW welcomed the 21 attendees to the meeting and introduced the Committee Members. MB was thanked for his role in organizing the meeting venue and MH for preparing the AGM papers.

**Apologies** had been received from 21 members.

**The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022** at Long Compton were accepted.

## Chair's Report 2022-2023

RW's written report had been circulated with the AGM papers. There were no questions.

## Hon. Secretary's Report 2022-2023

AM's written report had been circulated with the AGM papers. There were no questions.

## Membership Secretary's Report 2022-2023

KH's written report had been circulated with the AGM papers. There were no questions.

## Hon. Treasurer's Report 2022-2023

JHS's written report had been circulated with the AGM papers. There were no questions.

## **Membership fees**

RW introduced the context for this discussion, explaining that increased printing and postage costs have created growing financial pressures. At the recent membership renewal an overwhelming majority of members had expressed a desire to continue to receive physical copies of the newsletter and journal. Consequently, and after careful consideration and discussion, the Executive Committee had agreed to recommend an increase to subscription fees at all levels, to take place in June 2024. MH explained that Royal Mail postage costs had been increased twice in 2023 (April and October).

Proposed by MH and seconded by RW, it was agreed to increase the subscription fees.

The new membership fees will be, as of 01 June 2024: Single £15.00; Joint £20.00; Group £25.00; Overseas £30.00; and Junior £7.50.

KH explained that whilst most members pay annually a small number pay for several years in advance (for legacy reasons). Any such subscriptions received after December 2023 will be required to pay the new 2024 fees.

## **Proposed changes to the Constitution**

MH introduced each of the proposed changes as circulated with the AGM papers .

Questions were invited and a member of the audience queried whether there were delays in banking membership cheques. KH explained that cheques are paid in in regular batches around the subscription renewal date. The geographical boundaries for non-overseas membership were also queried and a discrepancy with an existing clause highlighted (clause 20 (iii)). It was agreed to amend this to 'British Isles'.

Proposed by HJ and seconded by David Elis-Williams, the change to the constitution were accepted en bloc, with clause 20 (iii) also altered to say 'British Isles' in place of the United Kingdom,

## **Appointment of Trustees and election of Offices & Executive Committee Members for 2023-2024**

MB was required to resign as a member of the Executive Committee offered himself for re-election. BK had resigned as Vice-Chair.

RW summarised the Executive Committee’s recommendations for the appointment of Trustees, Executive Committee members and Honorary Officers as published in the agenda.

Proposed by Alan Reade and seconded by Jan Scrine, BK was appointed as a Trustee.

Proposed by Ian Thompson and seconded by Janet Raynsford, the appointment of Executive Committee members and Honorary Officers as published in the agenda was accepted en bloc.

Consequently, the Trustees, Executive Committee members and Honorary Officers for 2023-24 are as follows:

<b>TRUSTEES</b>
Mervyn Benford
Mike Buxton
Carol Haines
Bruce Keith
Alan Reade

<b>HONORARY OFFICERS</b>	<b>OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>
Chair – Rob Westlake	Mike Buxton
Vice-Chair – Hilary Jones	Paul Gibbons
Hon Treasurer – Julia Stanbridge	Mike Hallett
Hon Secretary – Alison Montgomery	Bruce Keith
Minuting Secretary – Alison Montgomery	Richard Raynsford
Membership Secretary – Ken Hawkins	Vacancy

**To note the schedule of Advisory and Supporting membership roles for 2023-2024**

RW introduced the current Advisory & Supporting Members, who are as follows:

<b>ADVISORY &amp; SUPPORTING MEMBERS 2022-2023</b>
The Committee is supported by a number of members who undertake specific functions on the Society's behalf.
Archives: David Viner, Bruce Keith
Compliance: Mike Buxton (Insurance), Mike Hallett (Constitution & Charitable status)
Databases & Geograph Team: Paul Barnett, Mike Rayner, Mike Hallett, Christine Minto, Hilary Jones, Nick James, C. I. Brown
Editorial Panel: Carol Haines, Mike Hallett, Richard Raynsford (Newsletter Editor), David Viner, Derek Turner
Conservation, Restoration & Listing Queries: Ian Thompson
Highways Agencies Liaison: Alan Reade
Theft & Recovery Liaison: Robert Caldicott
Websites & Social Media Co-ordination: Hilary Jones

RW also explained that in due the course the Milestone Society will be seeking a new graphic design volunteer for the journal, as Claire Curtis is standing down.

Ian Thompson asked for clarity on who holds the overall responsibility for the databases and Geograph, and it was explained that HJ oversees this, with quarterly meetings of the Databases & Geograph Team.

At MH's suggestion, RW agreed to add PG to the Archives Team, as he is providing the current venue for the archive store.

HJ expressed thanks to David Viner for his work in cataloguing the items that he has been storing prior to their removal to the new store in Alfreton. Some 40 boxes have been received from David so far, indicating a great degree of work, that will have an enormous positive impact. It was noted that the last of David's boxes are due to be removed to Alfreton by June 2024.

## **Publications**

The continuing pattern of publications was noted. No change was proposed to the number of publications for 2023-2024.

## **To appoint the Independent Examiner for 2023-2024**

JHS explained that Claire Wang had agreed to do this if required, but also welcomed offers from the audience. As there were no other proposals it was

agreed to appoint Claire Wang.

## **To receive the Executive Committee's report on the Society archive**

A summary update was provided by RW, HJ and JHS.

HJ explained the requirement for a central site in which to bring together the items previously dispersed across different locations, to allow an initial sorting and identification process in advance of placing items in libraries and archives. RW explained that PG had offered use of premises that he owns in Alfreton, and that a written agreement has been signed. The first of the items held by David Viner were moved to Alfreton in August 2023, with sorting and identification due to start soon.

JHS asked whether the items offered to libraries would relate to milestones only or also to the history of the Milestone Society itself, and whether it would include also materials such as research notes. HJ explained that the Cumbria collection has now been offered to and accepted by Carlisle Library and Archives, and that this will provide the Milestone Society with its first worked example to inform the approaches made to other libraries. It was confirmed that the official organisational record of the Milestone Society remains at Alfreton and holds publications, minutes and similar documents.

HJ provided a summary of the contents of the materials already at Alfreton, explaining that these are mainly research notes and photographs, plus some books. It was explained that once that the holdings have been brought together in a single location they will be sorted and new homes identified in the relevant areas, liaising with members to identify potential local repositories. It was noted that this offers the best prospect of appropriate care and long-term security for the items.

Jan Scrine noted that a grant of £10,000 was received in 2012 for the Legacy project, which was intended to be used for the appointment of an archivist. HJ explained that comparatively few archival items had been identified in the materials received at Alfreton so far, but that professional archivist help would be sought should there be more. Jan Scrine confirmed that this grant had been placed within the organisation's unrestricted funds and JHS agreed to itemize this in the accounts.

## **Any other business**

No additional items had been received in advance of the meeting.

At RW's invitation, Jan Scrine presented Alan Reade with the Terry Keegan Award on behalf of the Milestone Society. There was a short speech on Terry's contribution as a founder member, Hon. Secretary, and leader of the Worcestershire Group, the origins of the award and the reasons for its retirement, also thanking Alan for his own contribution.

Alan Reade accepted the award with thanks, thanking the Executive Committee on behalf of the Trustees for its continuing hard work and expressing the optimism with which the Milestone Society could now look to the future, after a difficult period two years ago. The potential increased vulnerability of milestones should major programmes of road improvements begin in the north, under redirected HS2 funding, was also highlighted, Alan explaining that the Milestone Society will become even more important, and even more needed.

Ian Thompson gave a short presentation on the proposed new award scheme and offered thanks to everyone who takes actions to protect milestones. HJ explained that recipients will be presented with a certificate (which is currently being designed) and discussed how the award scheme would be publicised, whilst RW summarised the proposed process for the identification and selection of projects for nomination. Jan Scrine explained that there is a small sum remaining in the Terry Keegan Award fund that could be reallocated to this.

PG highlighted the financial problems faced by county councils and the impact that this is likely to have on their statutory duties to protect listed milestones. RW explained that parish councils are often better suited to take such actions, and highlighted the importance of maintaining strong relationships.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.

# THE MILESTONE SOCIETY

## CHAIR'S REPORT 2023-2024

It gives me considerable pleasure to write this report to our members after a very positive and productive year for the Society. During this year, I can report many 'good news' events which I believe strengthens our standing as we champion our role as the go-to place for information, advice and guidance for our countries' milestones and other heritage wayside markers.

At our AGM last October, held in the lovely Old Market Hall in Coleshill, Warwickshire, Hilary Jones accepted the nomination and took on the position of our vice-chair. She, and our Hon Secretary, Alison Montgomery, have been a huge help in ensuring the work of the Society moves forward in a positive direction. My thanks to them both.

After the business part of the day, our member, David Elis-Williams, presented his talk about Telford's depots and walls along the A5 which included an update on the milestones including some in Ireland. In the afternoon, two local speakers provided us with interesting talks.

Hilary masterminded our Northern Meeting in Gargrave in April this year. It was a really great day, with good speakers, including David Garside on the Waymarkers along the Pennine Way. We heard an inspiring talk about the work by local members Christopher Leather and Brian Jones to restore a series of milestones along the A6 in Lancashire. We also had a practical workshop after a talk by Terry Moore, our Cumbria County Contact about restoring and painting milestones, which was followed by a practical hands-on session where painting advice was given along with many practical tips from several of our experts.

Other highlights of the year include the awarding of 7 of our new award certificates to people or groups who have contributed to the restoration of wayside markers. This scheme replaces the Terry Keegan Awards which were given to the most promising student at Birmingham City University. May I thank Derek Turner and Bruce Keith for heading up this scheme and the Awards Panel for their help and guidance. It was a real pleasure for me to present the first two awards, along with Hilary and Alison, at Cliviger last November. One was given to the Primary School for their 'new' milestone and the other to the Parish Council for restoring several milestones in their area. More details of these and the other awards can be found in our *Newsletters*.

The Society was asked to present a CPD talk to Donald Insall Associates, one of the country's leading Chartered Architects and Historic Building Consultants. Hilary and I presented a 50-minute on-line talk outlining the work of our society. Sir Donald and another director wrote to us afterwards and complimented us on such a worthwhile and interesting talk. Our thanks to Alison for making this possible.

In May, I attended a round table event hosted by Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. The event was designed to encourage local town and parish councils to look after all their assets including play areas, streetlights, open spaces and areas of special landscapes and of course, milestones and other highway related signs and features. Several interesting conversations ensued which will hopefully result in a new member and the re-instatement of a milestone near Tingewick, Buckinghamshire, which was removed during the HS2 contract works.

Quite recently we have been approached by consultants to National Highways who are creating a database of their highway heritage assets, asking for our help initially with a pilot system in some Eastern Counties. If successful, this will be extended to cover the whole of the country.

We held a County Contacts meeting on-line one evening in May. Eleven members joined in a debate about the work they are doing and some of the challenges for the Society, as several counties across the country have no active representative. This is one of the main challenges for the Society. It was a great opportunity for Paul Barnett, our database manager to join us, and discuss the work he is doing for the Society.

My thanks to David Viner as he continues to help us with our archives. The bulk of the material has been relocated to Alfreton for storage before moving on to a permanent home, hopefully later this year.

I would like to thank our Executive Committee and our Officers and Trustees. Each one has played their part in ensuring the Society moves forward and establishes many useful links across the highway and heritage sectors of the country.

As last year, many of our policies and guidance documents have been revised to ensure everything is kept active and compliant. Thanks, Mike Hallett. Hilary has ensured our website contains these and everything else is kept up-to-date and accessible. Under Hilary's guidance, our Facebook group has attracted many new members, some of whom are helping in our mission to ensure we have recent photos and also giving us notification about

milestones at risk or that have been damaged or lost.

My thanks also to our newsletter editor Richard Raynsford and to the joint editors of our journal, Derek Turner and Claire Curtis for their work during this year and to our editorial panel, Carol Haines, Mike Hallett and Ian Thompson. Claire is having to step aside from her valued work on the production of our journal and her place will be taken by Gail Milne, who has been helping Richard with the *Newsletter* production.

My thanks again to Ian Thompson who provides advice on restoration and for help with applications for listing milestones with Historic England. Thanks also to Mike Rayner, who looks after our other databases and to Robert Caldicott who is our Theft and Recovery Liaison member.

Our executive committee still has some vacancies. We meet virtually throughout the year so if any member would like to help us, please do let our secretary know.

Together, the work done by our members and friends has ensured that the Society continues to establish itself as the main source of information for milestones and heritage waymarkers throughout the country.

Great progress has been made, though there is more to be done to ensure we are a respected and professional heritage group, championing the often unloved and uncared for heritage waymarkers.

*Rob*

**Rob Westlake – 20July 2024.**

## **HON SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023-2024**

Very positively, the Milestone Society continues to receive a growing number and variety of enquiries and cases. These come in by many means – through social media, directly to Officers, County Reps/Contacts and Special and Advisory Volunteers, by letter (once in a blue moon), and by email to the principal email addresses advertised on our website (the Hon Secretary address and an Enquiries address). In the past 12 months the Hon Secretary address alone has received over 80 new enquiries relating specifically to roadside heritage assets (plus others on separate matters), in addition to a number of discussions and cases that have continued from 2023-2024.

New enquiries have been received from members of the public, civic and history groups (and similar), museums, 13 parish councils, 5 councils of other

types, Highways Departments, Historic England, National Highways, and archaeologists and construction groups (including AB Group, Wardell Armstrong, Wessex Archaeology, Headland Archaeology and Lower Thames Crossing) – the latter all reflecting the scale of infrastructure work underway at present. In many cases, whilst the enquiry is received to the Hon Secretary email address it is sent specifically because of the volunteers who are active in their local areas, building a visible presence and spreading the word that our milestones and markers, fingerposts and boundary stones are worthy of protection. It is gratifying to know how many people and organisations are ready to protect, care for and even pay for our roadside heritage (although, of course, it remains vulnerable in several vital ways).

This growing amount of contact and interest is in great part due to our growing social media and website presence, the many individuals who carry out engagement, outreach and publicity (formal and otherwise), and the quality of our response, which leads to many recommendations. We are rightly recognised as far more than an interest group, with Historic England engaging us as a consultee on listing proposals and construction groups consulting us as something akin to the national amenity societies. This is itself evidence of the high regard in which the Society is held and the calibre of the advice given by our volunteers and County Contacts.

The Society is now approaching its 25<sup>th</sup> year and, inevitably, some of our County Contacts, having been involved since the early days, are now ready to pass on the baton. Our thanks go to Douglas Roseman and Derek Turner for their hard work and we hope that they will continue to be involved with the Society in other ways, whilst we offer a warm welcome to Ros Stuart, the new County Contact for Suffolk. We would love to hear from anyone who has a basic knowledge of milestones and other roadside heritage, can carry out simple online research (such as Geograph and historic maps), and would like to share their passion as a County Contact (full training and support provided), answering enquiries or liaising with the Database team, Ian and other volunteers to provide responses. Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Dorset, Essex, Hampshire (New Forest), Kent, Middlesex, Oxfordshire (South), Sussex, Wales and Wiltshire are all currently looking for volunteers who would like to join the friendly team of County Contacts – please do drop me a line if you'd like to find out more.

As I reach the end of my first year with the Milestone Society, I would also like to end my report by recognising the contribution of a number of people without whom the Society would not exist, or at the very least would be much

the poorer.

There are many people who work busily behind the scenes, without fanfare, quietly getting on with the business of keeping the Milestone Society in existence and active. Whilst Rob has already mentioned the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee, we would like to acknowledge the particular contribution made by Executive Committee members Julia Stanbridge (Treasurer), Ken Hawkins (managing membership and member matters), Mike Hallett (responsible for our governance, policies and procedures) and Mike Buxton (insurance). All four perform a vital role that allows the Society to operate as a charity, fulfil its objectives and obligations, and ensure that it can be here protecting our roadside heritage not only in 2024 but also into the future.

Alison Montgomery

20<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023-2024

I make no apologies for opening this report as I did last year - **please check that the information on your address label is correct.** In processing subscription renewals, the vast majority have gone through smoothly though our apologies are due to those members using the PayPal portal to pay, where we had failed to update the default payment to the increased subscription bands for 2024. Those have all been resolved - thanks to the patience of the members affected. But problems remain for a small number of renewals, when payments have been made, either by standing order or by BACS (bank transfer). The Society has asked members to include a reference of their name and membership number (printed on each address label). Some membership numbers are missing, which can present a problem if there is more than one member with the same surname; a couple of references have a wrong number; and some payments are made from an account name which is not the same as the member's name, so without the number, it is impossible to identify who has made the payment. (This has also happened with a couple of PayPal payments.) If I have not been able to identify the payer, your label will state that your subscription is overdue: please don't ignore this, as the next stage is to assume you do not wish to remain a member and we will cease sending publications to you - **please contact me as soon as possible so that problems can be resolved and records updated.**

An additional problem this year has been that a number of renewal payments were made at the old rates, not the increased 2024 rates. I am still - in late July - resolving a number of these, several taking quite a lot of time and repeated

requests. **For those paying by Standing Order, it is important to update the Order for next year to avoid a repeat of the problem.** (We do not operate Direct Debit payments, so it is for the member to request their bank to update the payment amount.)

As in past years, I have received (and am still receiving) a significant number of late renewals - renewal date is 1 June. These do give rise to a significant amount of extra work: checking the bank and PayPal accounts requires repeated logging in to see if payments have been made, while extra visits have to be made to the bank to deposit cheques. It would really help if those making late payments could arrange to make them on time next year - renewal notices are sent out a month in advance to give plenty of time. Thank you, complaints over - here is my formal report.

At the end of the 2023-24 subscription year on 31 May 2024 there were 386 Society memberships, which is 19 fewer than the number of members on 31 May 2023. This total is made up of 270 individual members, 106 joint members and 10 Corporate members, plus our Patron and 5 'memberships' where we send our publications to Museums and Libraries.

The above figures include 26 new memberships started between 1 June 2023 and 31 May 2024; with a further one since 1 June this year, our current total of memberships at the time of writing (22 July), is 340; of those, 279 have renewed (or don't need to), and we are grateful to those who made prompt responses to our renewal request. The remainder were reminded with the July newsletter, but may lapse if they do not renew their membership.

Payments have been made by cheque (90), BACS transfer (113), via the PayPal portal (34) or Standing Order (35); 2 members had no need to pay this year for various reasons.

We would also like to thank those 267 members who have gift aided their subscriptions, and the 48 members (most of whom are also in the 267) who have made donations of £642 over and above their subscription level.

Ken Hawkins, [membership@milestonesociety.co.uk](mailto:membership@milestonesociety.co.uk)

23 July 2024

**THE MILESTONE SOCIETY  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE  
6 APRIL 2023- 5 APRIL 2024**

**2022-23**

**2023-24**      Note

**INCOME**

4,971.10	Membership Subs	5,654.10	
0.00	Membership Subs - Gift Aid Tax refund	0.00	1
916.77	Misc Donations, book sales, talks etc	0.00	
44.45	National Meetings	0.00	
88.70	Interest - Deposit Account	1,720.71	
<b>6,021.02</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>7,374.81</b>	

**EXPENDITURE**

420.00	Newsletter (printing & layout)	1,252.00	2
6,041.54	Journal / On the Ground (printing)	0.00	3
341.95	National Meetings, printing mail-shots	479.35	
1,186.00	Publicity, Databases and Websites	270.00	4
15.83	Local Heritage Initiative	395.00	5
0.00	Misc expenditure	(64.89)	6
1,589.98	Postage for all Publications	1,085.60	
181.38	Committee Administration Expenses	630.39	7
770.95	Membership Administration Expenses	745.79	
0.00	Insurance	399.00	
161.45	Paypal fees	477.77	
<b>10,709.08</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>5,670.01</b>	

<b>(4,688.06)</b>	<b>INCOME over (EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b>1,704.80</b>	
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2022-23

2023-24

Note

<b>Cash Holdings</b>		
16,808.45	HSBC Current Account	9,990.56
23,562.67	HSBC Deposit A/c (Legacy)	25,283.38
981.83	Paypal Account	2,015.96
<b>41,352.95</b>	<b>Total Cash Holdings at Year End</b>	<b>37,289.90</b>
16.80	<b>Debtors</b>	379.00
(81.69)	<b>Creditors</b>	0.00
<b>41,288.06</b>	<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>37,668.90</b>

<b>Project &amp; County reserves</b>			
250.00	Ingworth Project	250.00	8
500.00	Lothian Project	0.00	9
	Cumbria project	0.00	10
	Lanarkshire Project	0.00	11
124.58	Terry Keegan Memorial Award Fund	114.58	12
924.81	Yorkshire, CTP Heritage Trail	674.81	13
356.43	Finding the Way	356.43	14
232.58	Bromyard Heritage Trail	232.58	15
9,054.38	RON BUBB legacy (general projects)	8,303.18	16
6,415.40	Warwickshire Milestones	2,254.64	17
150.00	5 milestones in Worcestershire	0.00	18
<b>18,008.18</b>	<b>Total specified funds</b>	<b>12,186.22</b>	

<b>28,231.14</b>	<b>Unrestricted Reserves b/f</b>	<b>23,279.88</b>	
(4,688.06)	transferred from trading account	1,704.80	
(263.20)	transferred to/ from projects	498.00	19
<b>41,288.06</b>	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>37,668.90</b>	

## Notes to the accounts

- 1 HMRC refund received July 2024
- 2 two editions in year
- 3 Sent April 2024. Prior year had two editions
- 4 prior year prepaid to April 2024
- 5 membership fees for heritage alliance
- 6 write off debtors and creditors
- 7 £202 local meetings. £429 archive move costs
- 8 Carol Haines project lead. No spend in year
- 9 Bruce Keith project lead, project cancelled funds released back
- 10 spend £151.20 supplemented by Ron Bubb fund
- 11 spend £100 supplemented by Ron Bubb fund
- 12 Jan Scrine project lead. £10 spend in year
- 13 Jan Scrine project lead. £250 spend in year
- 14 Mike Buxton project lead, no spend in year
- 15 Jan Scrine project lead, no spend in year
- 16 Transfer £752.20 to Lanarkshire, Warwickshire and Cumbria in year
- 17 Mike Buxton project lead. £5,660 spend in year, £1000 from Four Shires stone from Rob Bubb fund
- 18 Jan Scrine project lead. £152 spend in year
- 19 Lothian project £500 - balance on Worcestershire £2

### **Dates for your diary**

Northern Spring Meeting, Saturday 12 April 2025, Gargrave village hall.

Autumn Conference and AGM, Saturday 4 October 2025, Banbury Museum.

We look forward to seeing you there!



*The partially restored Stroudwater Navigation at Stonehouse*

