

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AUTUMN CONFERENCE

to be held
at

The Old Market Hall

Church Hill, Coleshill, Warwickshire B46 3AD

10.30am on Saturday 07 October 2023



Photos:

Left: Pillory and whipping post outside the entrance to the Old Market Hall

Above: Stagecoach outside the old George and Dragon

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OUR AGM AND AUTUMN CONFERENCE

The Society is very pleased to be able to meet again in person this year and we look forward to seeing you at the Old Market Hall in Coleshill. Doors open 10am for a cuppa and a 10.30 start to the AGM; we will finish by 3.30pm .

HOW TO GET THERE

By rail - Coleshill Parkway Station is on the line from Birmingham New Street to Leicester, Peterborough and Cambridge. Typically there are two trains per hour but check timetables (see QR code). It is approximately a half hour walk (1¼ miles) from the station to Coleshill town following Station Road and then High Street. Alternatively, take the X13 bus from Coleshill Parkway to Coleshill Sumner Road. Lifts by prior arrangement.



By bus - Route X13 from Birmingham City Centre stops at Coleshill Sumner Road. Normally there are two buses per hour on a Saturday but check timetables.

By road

Parking: Parking is in Chantry House car park. The venue is the Old Market Hall which is c. 300 metres from the car park back along the High St. or through Coleshill churchyard (see map).

From the north : Follow the A446 south until the Lichfield Road roundabout. Take the first exit and follow Lichfield Road (B4117). It becomes the High St. Follow High St. for about half a mile until you see Sumner Road on your right. Shortly after on your left is the entrance to Chantry House car park.

From the south : Follow the A446 north to the Birmingham Road roundabout, take the third exit to Coleshill (B4114), follow the road past Morrisons supermarket until its junction with High St. Turn right onto High St. and follow the road for c.250 metres until you reach Chantry House car park on your left.

From the east : Follow the M6 until junction 4. At the exit follow the A446 north until the Birmingham Rd. roundabout, take the third exit to Coleshill (B4114) and follow the instructions as above (from the south).

Also from the east : Via Shustoke, follow the B4114 (Blythe Rd.) to High St. Turn left at the cross roads and follow High St. for about 250 metres to the Chantry House car park on your left.

From the west : Follow the A452 to the roundabout with the B4114. Take the first exit (B4114) east towards Coleshill. Take the second exit at the roundabout junction on the A446 and follow the road until the junction with High St. then follow the same instructions as for 'From the south' above.

FACILITIES AT THE OLD MARKET HALL AND NEARBY

The Hall has a kitchen on the first floor at the rear of the Hall. There are toilets on the ground floor with two access staircases. One staircase also has a mobility chair.

The Hall is situation in the centre of Coleshill and there are numerous refreshment outlets in close proximity.

ABOUT COLESHILL

Coleshill began as an Iron Age settlement. During the Roman period there was a Romano-Celtic temple at Grimstock Hill. The area was at a junction of two powerful Celtic tribes.

Coleshill moved about a kilometre to the south to the top of the hill. This is where the present church is set and where the medieval town developed around it. Coleshill was granted a market charter by King John in 1207.

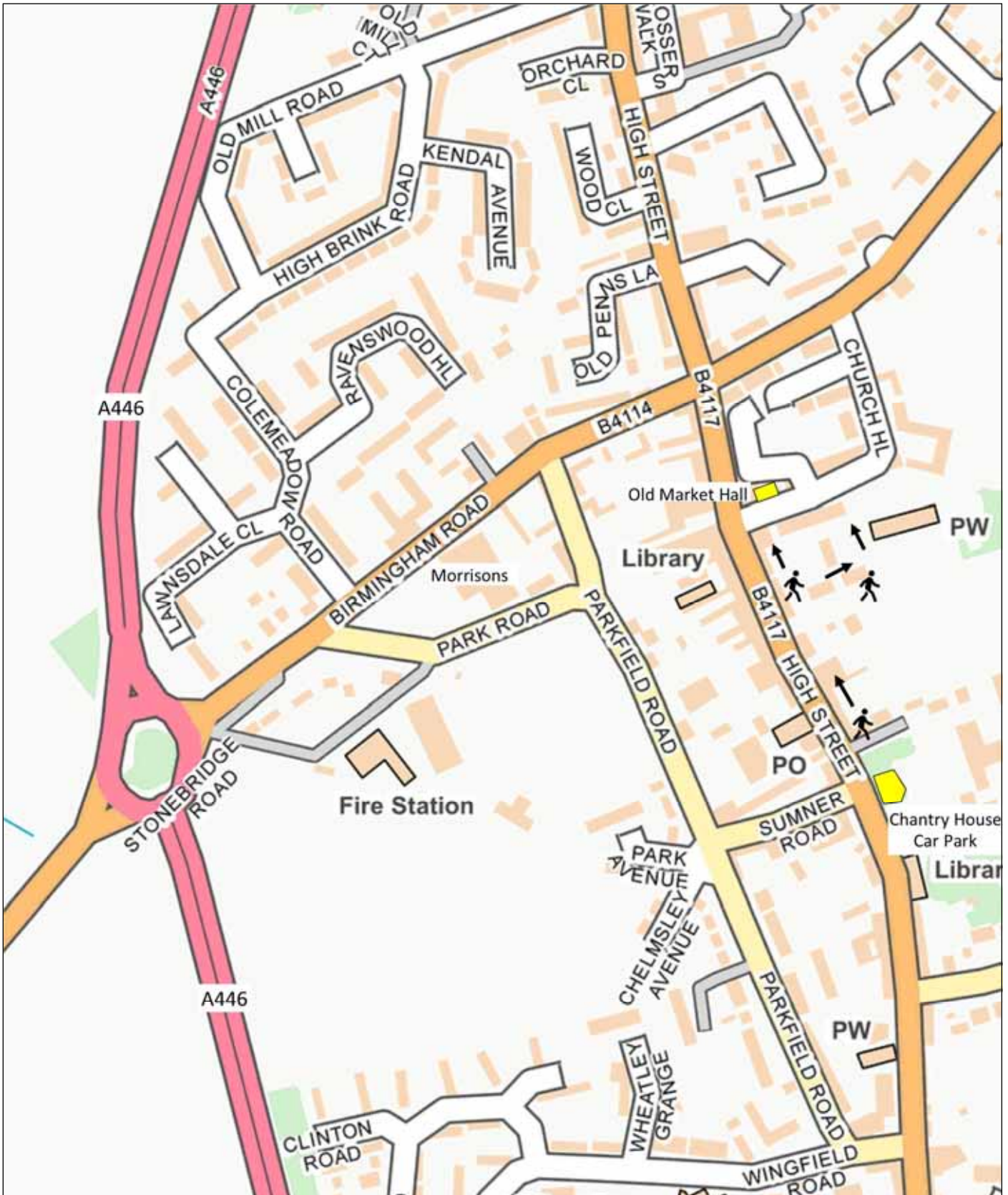
During the era of the stagecoach and turnpike trusts Coleshill became important as a major staging post on the coaching roads from London to Chester, Liverpool and Holyhead. At one point there were over twenty inns in the town. Many former coaching inns still remain, mostly along the High Street and Coventry Road, others have been repurposed or rebuilt. The Coleshill to Lichfield turnpike dates from 1743.

Cover photo credit: Warwickshire County Record Office reference PH1035/C4115

Church Hill is the location of the town's pillory and whipping post, outside the Old Market Hall, our venue for the Meeting. It was last used in 1863. There are some attractive buildings along Church Hill such as Old Bank House as well as the church.

While the town itself has been bypassed the locality's strategic transport position is strongly reflected by the existence of the M6, M6 Toll and M42 motorways as well as other major roads immediately to the west.

The town is also served by Coleshill Parkway railway station which reopened in 2007.



Coleshill Map

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1105688

NOTICE of TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting will take place at
10.30am on Saturday 7th October, 2023
at the Old Market Hall, Coleshill.**

AGENDA

1. Chair's welcome to Members for the Society's 22nd AGM
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 1st October 2022
4. Chair's Report for 2022-2023
5. Hon Secretary's Report for 2022-2023
6. Membership Secretary's Report for 2022-2023
7. Hon Treasurer's Report for 2022-2023
8. Membership fees

The Society's subscription year currently runs from 01 June. The subscription categories and levels in 2021-2022 are at present: Single membership £12.50; Joint membership £15.00; Corporate membership £20.00; Overseas membership £25.00; Junior Membership (under 18) £6.00.

The Committee has agreed to an increase in the level of subscriptions at 1st June 2024, at which date the new membership prices will become: Single £15.00; Joint £20.00; Group £25.00; Overseas £30.00; and Junior £7.50.

9. Constitutional Matters.

To approve Executive Committee's recommendations for changes to the Constitution as set out on page 6.

10. Appointment of Trustees and election of Officers & Executive Committee Members for 2023-2024, of up to a total of twelve Committee members.

This year the following member is retiring : Mike Buxton, (2020) and now offers himself for re-election as committee member.

In addition, Bruce Keith has resigned as Vice Chair.

- 10.1 The Executive Committee makes the following recommendations to the AGM for the appointment of Trustees and the election of Officers & Committee Members for 2023-2024, the members shown having indicated their willingness to stand for election.

TRUSTEES	HONORARY OFFICERS	OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Mervyn Benford	Chair – Rob Westlake	Mike Buxton
Mike Buxton	Vice-Chair – Hilary Jones	Paul Gibbons
Carol Haines	Hon Treasurer – Julia Stanbridge	Mike Hallett
Alan Reade	Hon Secretary – Alison Montgomery	Bruce Keith
Vacancy	Minuting Secretary – Alison Montgomery	Richard Raynsford
	Membership Secretary – Ken Hawkins	Vacancy

- 10.2 The constitution sets a maximum of twelve members of the Committee. There is, therefore, two vacancies.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 Any Member(s) may and is welcome to put forward other nominations for membership of the Committee or 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.
11. To note the schedule of Advisory and Supporting membership roles for 2023-2024.

ADVISORY & SUPPORTING MEMBERS 2023-2024
The Committee is supported by a number of members who undertake specific functions on the Society's
Archives: David Viner, Bruce Keith, Hilary Jones
Compliance: Mike Buxton (Insurance), Mike Hallett (Constitution & Charitable status)
Databases & Geograph Team: Paul Barnett, Mike Rayner, Mike Hallett, Christine Minto, Hilary Jones,
Editorial Panel: Carol Haines, Mike Hallett, Richard Raynsford (Newsletter Editor), Derek Turner, Ian
Conservation, Restoration & Listing Queries: Ian Thompson
Highways Agencies Liaison: Alan Reade
Theft & Recovery Liaison: Robert Caldicott
Websites & Social Media Co-ordination: Hilary Jones

12. To note the continuing pattern of publications. The Editorial Panel and respective editors have continued their work during the year. Newsletters Nos 44 and 45 have been published and Volume Fifteen of *Milestones & Waymarkers*. No change is proposed to the number of publications for 2023-2024.
13. To appoint the Independent Examiner for 2023-2024.
14. To receive the Executive Committee's report on the Society archive.
15. 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

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

5. MEMBERSHIP

To add to clause 5 (iii)

Overseas members

Persons resident outside the British Isles. Each member shall be entitled to vote.

To amend clause 5 (iv)

New members joining the Society in the final ~~three~~ six months of any subscription year and paying an annual subscription shall be entitled to membership until the end of the following subscription year.

To add new clause 5 (vii)

A member who is found guilty of a custodial offence may be expelled from the Society following consideration of the circumstances by the committee.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To amend clause 7 (ii)

Election to the Executive Committee shall be for three years. ~~One third of the membership shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election, the members so to retire being those who have been longest in office since the last election. As between members who have been in office the same length of time, those due to retire shall be chosen by ballot.~~ Members of the Executive Committee who have served for three years since last being elected shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.

10. LOCAL BRANCHES

To add new clause 10 (ii)

A list of branches and a named contact person will be maintained by the Secretary of the Society. A change to the named contact person must be notified to the Secretary and approved by the Executive Committee.

11. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To amend clause 11 (i)

The Executive Committee shall hold at least two ordinary meetings each year and may meet by video link. A special meeting may be called at any time by the chairman or by any two members of the Executive Committee upon not less than 4 days' notice being given to the other members of the Executive Committee of the matters to be discussed but if the matters include the appointment of a coopted member then not less than 21 days' notice must be given.

12. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

To amend clause 12

The funds of the Charity, including all donations contributions and bequests shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of the Charity at such bank as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Executive Committee. Payments made by telephone or internet banking or other electronic means must be authorised by at least two members of the Executive Committee.

21. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

To add new clause 21 (iv)

Subject to the provisions of this section, the Constitution shall be reviewed and revised as necessary but not less than every 5 years.

MINUTES

of the Twenty-first Annual General Meeting – 1st October 2022
held at Long Compton Village Hall, Main Street, Long Compton, Warks. CV36 5JJ

1. Chair's welcome

Rob Westlake, on behalf of the Committee and Trustees, welcomed 33 members.

2. **Apologies** from 16 members had been received.

3. **The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2nd October 2021 at Frenchay Village Hall** were accepted.

4. Chair's report 2021-2022

A written report had been circulated with the AGM papers.

5. Hon Secretary's Report 2021-2022

John Atkinson's written report had been circulated with the AGM papers. Mike Hallett moved a vote of thanks for his work as Hon. Secretary.

6. Membership Secretary's Report 2021-2022

Ken Hawkins' written report had been circulated with the AGM papers.

Ian Thompson thanked Ken for his assistance with enquiries.

Jan Scrine sought confirmation of the number of new members who joined during Covid lockdown who had not renewed their membership. This number was not available at the time, but Ken Hawkins stated that there had recently been a slightly higher proportion of non-renewals, these presumably being people who had thought they might try membership for a year or so.

7. Hon Treasurer's Report 2021-2022

Julia Stanbridge's written report had been circulated with the AGM papers.

Jan Scrine explained that the cost of maintaining the website included the cost of maintaining databases.

Julia Stanbridge said the accounts were in good condition. Sylvia Wibblin had been asked to be Independent Examiner and Jan Scrine had agreed to continue assisting with accounts. With the retirement of the Secretary, there would be a need to change the Society's address with the Charity Commission and the bank. At the moment two signatories are required for cheques, but only one for online banking. A committee member was required to monitor this.

Committee expenses. The constitution permits reimbursement of 'reasonable out-of-pocket expenses' (7ix). The process and payments may require review. Rob Westlake said that at the last meeting of the Committee it had been decided that main officers should be able to claim approved expenses of 40p per mile, but no upper limit had been set for approved expenses. Expenses for accommodation were to be discussed by the Committee. Richard Raynsford queried whether his expenses had been included in the accounts. Ken Hawkins had bought two years' worth of stamps to economise.

7.1 Membership Fees

No change in fees was proposed. Mike Hallett commented that costs, e.g. for printing (each AGM booklet had cost £2), had increased significantly and asked how long current fees could be sustained. Hilary Jones asked whether the Society had considered issuing pdfs rather than the present system. Tim Dodds said that it was a courtesy to members that AGM minutes should be published, that the quality of the AGM booklet was very good and that some members might be sent pdfs whilst others received printed versions. It was also suggested that A5 rather than A4 format would reduce postal costs

8. Appointment of Trustees and election of Executive Committee of Officers and Committee Members for 2022-2023 of up to a total of twelve committee members

Since the publication of AGM papers, Jan Scrine had resigned from the Committee, Hilary Jones had agreed to stand as a member of the Committee and Alison Montgomery (who was unable to attend the AGM) had agreed to stand for election as Hon. Secretary. The Executive Committee therefore made the following recommendations to the AGM for the appointment of Trustees and the election of Officers & Committee Members for 2022-2023, the members shown having indicated their willingness to stand for election.

TRUSTEES	HONORARY OFFICERS	OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Mervyn Benford	Chair – Rob Westlake	Mike Buxton
Mike Buxton	Vice-Chair – Bruce Keith	Paul Gibbons
Carol Haines	Hon Treasurer – Julia Stanbridge	Mike Hallett
Alan Reade	Hon Secretary – Alison Montgomery	Richard Raynsford
Vacancy	Membership Secretary – Ken Hawkins	Hilary Jones
	Minuting Secretary – Vacancy	Vacancy

The Committee's recommendations were elected en bloc: proposed by Mike Hallett, seconded by Will Messenger.

To note the schedule of Advisory and Supporting membership roles for 2022-23

Since the publication of AGM papers, David Viner had withdrawn from the Editorial Panel to be replaced by Ian Thompson and Phil Platt had withdrawn from the Database Team so that Advisory & Supporting Members for 2022-23 were:

ADVISORY & SUPPORTING MEMBERS 2022-23
The Committee is supported by a number of members who undertake specific functions on the Society's behalf. Some of these specific roles are carried out by committee members; none of these carries <i>in itself</i> a committee place but the existing (and successful) practice of welcoming any such member to committee meetings (in person or by E-comms) to report and contribute will continue.
Archives: David Viner, Bruce Keith
Compliance: Mike Buxton (Insurance), Mike Hallett (Constitution & Charitable status)
Databases & Geograph Team: John Armstrong, Mike Rayner, John Turner, Mike Hallett, Christine Minto, Jan Scrine.
Editorial Panel: Carol Haines, Mike Hallett, Richard Raynsford (Newsletter Editor), Ian Thompson, Derek Turner and Clare Curtis
Conservation, Restoration & Listing Queries: Ian Thompson
Highways Agencies Liaison: Alan Reade
Theft & Recovery Liaison: Robert Caldicott
Websites & Social Media Co-ordination: Jan Scrine

Rob Westlake thanked Ian Thompson for his work.

9. Publications

The continuing pattern of publications was noted. No change was proposed to the number of publications for 2022-23.

10. To consider the appointment of an Independent Examiner 2022-2023

It was agreed to appoint Sylvia Wibblin as Independent Examiner. Proposed by Julia Stanbridge, seconded by Jan Scrine.

11. Any other business

11.1 Alan Reade conveyed the Patron's thanks and good wishes to the Committee and the Society.

11.2 Ken Hawkins expressed thanks to Jan Scrine, retiring member of the Committee. Rob Westlake thanked Jan Scrine and John Atkinson.

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY CHAIR'S REPORT 2022-2023

When I wrote my last report at the end of July 2022, the Society had again reached a crossroads for the second time in its 22-year existence. Our Honorary Secretary had recently retired and also our stalwart founder member Jan Scrine had announced her 'retirement to the back benches', staying with us to help with the updating of the databases and the website as well as her involvement with our social media platforms and projects in the Worcestershire area. Consequently, the executive committee needed to make some important decisions.

At last year's AGM, after dealing with the business part of the meeting, we devoted considerable time to a general debate with members that were able to join us. My personal thanks to Bruce Keith and Mike Hallett for leading this discussion. The general feeling was that the Society had an important future, continuing to be 'The Friends of Milestones' and championing the heritage of milestones, mileposts and other wayside markers.

Since then, it has been my pleasure to welcome two new members onto our committee. Alison Montgomery, although unfortunately unable to join us at the AGM, has stepped into the vacant Honorary Secretary position along with Hilary Jones as a new committee member. Since their appointments, these ladies have both brought a new and positive 'breath of fresh ideas' to our executive committee and I would like to thank them both for their hard work on behalf of the Society. Both have considerable experience from their careers in heritage, highways, and charities which will be of considerable benefit to the Society.

Our committee have been working together for the last few months, creating a strategy for our future, but also ensuring all our policies and procedures are compliant and these have been revised as necessary. Several changes are also needed to our constitution which will be put to our members at the AGM.

So, have we been doing anything else? Yes indeed!

Firstly, the Society's databases. These all-important records had not been updated since 2018. John Armstrong has been our database manager for many years and after much debate and work and the appointment of our new database manager, Paul Barnett, we now have up-to-date

databases, all contained within our own website. My personal thanks to John Armstrong for his fantastic commitment to this task over the years and thanks to our newest committee member, Hilary Jones, for acting as the motivator for this project and to the whole database team, Mike Rayner, Mike Hallett, and Christine Minto. Also, my thanks to C I Brown for his exemplary work on our Toll Houses database. All the links to the Geograph website, where our photos are available, have been updated. Well done to everyone involved with this database update.

Sadly, many of the milestones in our records have photos dating back many years since when some have been lost, buried, stolen, or re-located and some restored. Please may I appeal to all our members to submit recent photos via our website if and when they are able.

Secondly, the Society's archives have been held in David Viner's premises in Cirencester. Last year David gave us due notice that this material will need to be moved soon. We needed a new storage facility and after drawing several blanks, our committee member Paul Gibbons kindly offered us the use of part of his premises in Alfreton. After a protracted period, these premises have been inspected and a plan drawn up by Bruce Keith, Hilary Jones, and myself to re-locate the complete archive to Alfreton in the latter part of August. Once everything is in one place, it is hoped that we can review and catalogue everything and then make some meaningful decisions about the best place for this material long term. It will also enable us to bring together documents and collections that are currently held by various present and past Society members and our own committee members.

Hilary Jones masterminded the organisation of this year's Northern Spring Conference in Gargrave, Yorkshire. Everything, including the weather enabled many of us to spend a lovely weekend in this delightful area. To see some of the meeting attendees partaking of ice creams on the towpath of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on a busy Saturday afternoon was wonderful. This was part of the afternoon walk around some of the interesting milestones of that area, along with a few fingerposts, boundary markers and canal mileposts as well. Thank you, Hilary, for all your planning and preparation work which made this event go so well. We look forward to repeating this next year.

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 Hon Secretary know.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our other committee members for their work and help over the last twelve months.

My thanks to our trustees and particularly to Alan Reade for his continuing guidance and wise counsel.

Likewise, my thanks 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.

There are many other faithful members that continue to work diligently behind the scenes to ensure the wellbeing of the Society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank again Ian Thompson who provides advice on restoration and for help with applications for listing milestones with Heritage England. Thanks also to Mike Rayner, who looks after our entries on Geograph and to Robert Caldicott who is our Theft and Recovery Liaison person.

The outcome of so much hard work by so many members is that the Society is, in my view, far better placed to conserve and champion the milestones and waymarkers we all strive to protect. The Society is also in a better position to retain its reputation as a respected and professional heritage body. As Chairman, I am proud of the progress made during the past twelve months and have confidence for the future of the Society.

Rob Rob Westlake – 28th July 2023.

HON SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022-2023

The executive committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, with a large amount of work carried out by members between meetings. Much of this work keeps the Society running on a day-to-day basis, and fulfilling its constitutional, legal and ethical obligations. Other activities, co-ordinated by Mike Hallett and Mike Buxton, are ensuring that our constitution, policies and procedures are fit and appropriate. Still further work looks to the Society's activities and charitable objects, seeking a home for our archive and overseeing the continuing updating of our repository and database.

In addition to the vital proactive work delivered by members, the executive committee, officers, special interest volunteers and county representatives, an important part of the Society's activities is responsive. The Milestone Society continues to receive high levels of contact from non-members, some of whom have engaged with us previously and, encouragingly, many others who are entirely new to the Society (and to milestones) but have found us via the website or our social media, or through recommendation. Whilst many messages are sent to the Hon Secretary a vast number are received directly by past and present county representatives, executive committee members and officers or are posted on our Facebook page, and the contribution that these parties make is considerable. The sincere thanks of the executive committee go to all who help in this important work in safeguarding and raising awareness of our 'highways heritage'.

From the middle of October 2022 to (almost) the end of July 2023 79 new enquiries relating to our activities have been sent to the Hon Secretary and responded to by officers and county representatives. These have included, amongst others:

- 18 from local authorities or national park authorities
- One each from the Canal & River Trust and Forestry England
- Two from journalists
- 11 from project groups, heritage or civic societies or clubs
- One from commercial archaeologists
- 39 from members of the public

Whilst some of this contact provides updates on past projects and partnerships, or on matters where support and guidance have been provided previously, enquiries relating to new subjects are also encouragingly wide ranging and can typically be broken down into:

- Updates, corrections or additions for Geograph or the database
- Requests for information for personal projects or wider local history research
- Requests for practical advice on care, maintenance and repairs or the replacement of newly lost or damaged pieces
- Requests for advice in replacing long-lost milestones or commissioning commemorative pieces
- Efforts to identify and better understand listed milestones by local authorities or by consultants involved in the development management process
- Requests for articles or speakers
- Initial enquiries by individuals new to the subject

These enquiries show not only the impact that the Milestone Society has but also the continuing need for our activities. As ever, neglect and lack of understanding will always be threats, and awareness amongst the general public, the visibility of the Milestone Society, the information made available to all via our repository, and our readiness to provide information and support remain as vital as ever. Encouragingly, however, they also provide strong evidence of community interest in milestones and their survival, a readiness to take action to safeguard or restore them at local level, and proactive use of the information that we work hard to make publicly available. The

Milestone Society continues to be recognized and appreciated as the friend to, and authority on, our historic street furniture.

None of this could be achieved without the supporters and members who continue to champion milestones and act as eyes and ears on the ground, the county representatives and conservation, restoration & listing officer, who so diligently respond to incoming queries and messages, our Membership Secretary and all volunteers and officers who work so hard to maintain, update and make available our repository of information and to use our Facebook page to encourage engagement and discussion.

Alison Montgomery

29 July 2023

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022-2023

Before I present my formal report, can I ask you to check that the information on your address label is correct. All cheque and PayPal payments have been processed, but there are issues with a handful of BACS and/or standing order payments. Although we ask that you have your bank quote your surname and membership number as a payment reference, there are a number of payments that have not included this information. In most of those cases, it has been possible to identify which member has paid and to update our records accordingly. But in a few cases, payment has come from a bank account with a surname not on our membership list or with no name at all. For obvious reasons, it has not been possible to assign that payment to anyone and the member will be recorded as not having paid. If you have received an indication that you have not paid when you have in fact made a payment, please get in touch with me as soon as possible so that I can update our records and ensure your continuing membership.

I would also like to note that, although our renewal date is 1 June each year, I have received (and am still receiving) a significant number of late renewals. 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: here is my formal report.

At the end of the 2022-23 subscription year on 31 May 2023 there were 405 Society members, which is 22 fewer than the number of members on 31 May 2022. This total is made up of 280 individual members, 114 joint members and 10 corporate members, plus our Patron. These numbers also include 5 'memberships' where we send our publications to museums and libraries.

The above figures also include 34 new memberships started between 1 June 2022 and 31 May 2023; with a further two since 1 June this year, our current total of memberships at the time of writing (22 July), is 349; of those, 286 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 (107), BACS transfer (104), PayPal (31) or Standing Order (41); 6 members had no need to pay this year for various reasons.

We would also like to thank those 278 members who have gift aided their subscriptions, and the 55 members (most of whom are also in the 278) who have made donations of £622 over and above their subscription level.

Ken Hawkins

22 July 2023

HON TREASURER'S REPORT 2022-2023

In the year to 5th April 2023 the Society had excess expenditure of £4,688.06. This is mainly due to the publication of two journals in the year due to the timing of the costs for publication in the prior year.

The Oxfordshire Milestone project transferred its excess funds of £546 to us and these are shown as donations in the year due to their being in a separate bank account.

The Society has been hit with increases in the costs of publications and postage in the year. I've corrected the classification of the prior year postage costs so members can see the increased costs.

(continued)

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENDITURE 6 APRIL 2022 - 5 APRIL 2023		
2021-22	INCOME	2022-23
£ 5,439.00	Membership Subs	£ 4,971.10
£ 1,089.44	Membership Subs - Gift Aid Tax refund	£ -
	Misc Donations, book sales, talks etc	£ 916.77
	National Meetings	£ 44.45
£ 1.97	Interest - Deposit Account	£ 88.70
£ 6,530.41	TOTAL INCOME	£ 6,021.02
	EXPENDITURE	
£ 585.00	NewsLetter (printing & layout)	£ 420.00
£ 1,747.87	Journal / On the Ground (printing)	£ 6,041.54
£ 569.34	National Meetings, printing mail-shots	£ 341.95
£ 1,004.99	Publicity, Databases and Websites	£ 1,186.00
£ -	Local Heritage Initiative	£ 15.83
£ 22.40	Misc expenditure	£ -
£ 907.32	Postage for all Publications	£ 1,589.98
£ 89.91	Committee Administration Expenses	£ 181.38
£ 245.08	Membership Administration Expenses	£ 770.95
£ 398.18	Insurance	£ -
£ 45.52	Paypal fees	£ 161.45
£ 5,615.61	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 10,709.08
£ 914.80	INCOME over (EXPENDITURE)	-£ 4,688.06

2021-22	Cash Holdings	2022-23
£ 17,236.91	HSBC Current Account	£ 16,808.45
£ 22,473.97	HSBC Deposit A/c (Legacy)	£ 23,562.67
£ 1,171.98	Paypal Account	£ 981.83
£ 40,882.86	Total Cash Holdings at Year End	£ 41,352.95
£ 16.80	Debtors	£ 16.80
-£ 81.69	Creditors	-£ 81.69
£ 40,817.97	Total Resources	£ 41,288.06
	Project & County Funds Held in the Bank Accounts	
£ 661.80	CORNWALL PROJECTS	£ -
	Ingworth Project	£ 250.00
	Lothian Project	£ 500.00
£ 256.83	TERRY KEEGAN MEMORIAL AWARD FUND	£ 124.58
£ 924.81	YORKSHIRE, CTP HERITAGE TRAIL	£ 924.81
£ 356.43	FINDING THE WAY	£ 356.43
£ 232.58	BROMYARD HERITAGE TRAIL	£ 232.58
£ 9,554.38	RON BUBB legacy (general projects)	£ 9,054.38
	Warwickshire Milestones	£ 6,415.40
£ 600.00	5 milestones in Worcestershire	£ 150.00
£ 12,586.83	Total specified funds	£ 18,008.18
£ 27,316.34	Unrestricted Reserves b/f	£ 28,231.14
£ 914.80	transferred from trading account	-£ 4,688.06
	transferred to projects	-£ 263.20
£ 40,817.97		£ 41,288.06

As a result of the increased costs the Society the cost of membership is no longer covered by the subscription fee. The committee is looking into an increase in subs and other ways to offset costs such as offering members email-only communication.

In the year the Society donated £500 toward the restoration of the Four Shires Stone near Moreton in Marsh Gloucestershire from the Ron Bubb funds. It closed the Cornwall project and transferred the remaining balance of £661.80 to general funds. It transferred £250 to the new Ingworth project and £500 to the Lothian project. It transferred £175 from general funds to the Worcestershire project.

Julia Stanbridge

25 June 2023

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY AUTUMN CONFERENCE

Morning session following the AGM:

Walking the A5: Milestones, Depots, and Walls

- *David Elis-Williams*



Lunch

13:30 (approx.) Afternoon session

**Wayside Wonders and
Countryside Curiosities**

- *Richard Churchley*



Roads and Highwaymen in the 18th century

- *Doug Smith*



15.30 (approx.) Conference closes

Photos: David Elis-Williams and www.warwickshirewayside.co.uk



The Coach Hotel, Coleshill near where the stagecoach pictured on the front cover once stood

