

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY AUTUMN CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held at
Banbury Museum
Castle Quay Spiceball Park Road
Banbury OX16 2PQ
10.00am on Saturday 4 October 2025



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HOW TO GET THERE

Banbury Museum is on the east bank of the Oxford Canal. The main entrance of the museum is within the town centre Castle Quay shopping centre with an internal pedestrian bridge taking you across the canal. There is a rear entrance door on Spiceball Park Road accessed by a ramp or stairs. There is no parking immediately adjacent to the museum however there are several multi-storey and surface level car parks in the town centre.

By rail – Banbury railway station is served by Chiltern, Cross Country and First Great Western rail networks, with direct services to London Marylebone and London Paddington, Oxford, Birmingham New Street and Snowhill, Stratford-upon-Avon and Kidderminster. The station is a level 10 minute walk from the Museum

By bus – Banbury bus station is adjacent to the Castle Quay shopping centre and a few minutes walk to the museum alongside the canal.

By road – from M40 junction 11 follow the Banbury A422 signs and go straight ahead at the first roundabout. At the second roundabout turn left, signed Town Centre/ Station. At the next roundabout turn right signed Castle Quay Areas 1 – 3 for HGV's and Museum on the brown tourist sign. You will then cross the railway. For the museum rear access (drop off layby only) and the Castle Quay **North 1** car park turn left. For the Spiceball Riverside Park car park go straight ahead and the access is then on your right.

Banbury has a fairly complicated road layout so if you are coming from other directions than the M40 it is recommended you check the museum and parking locations in advance.

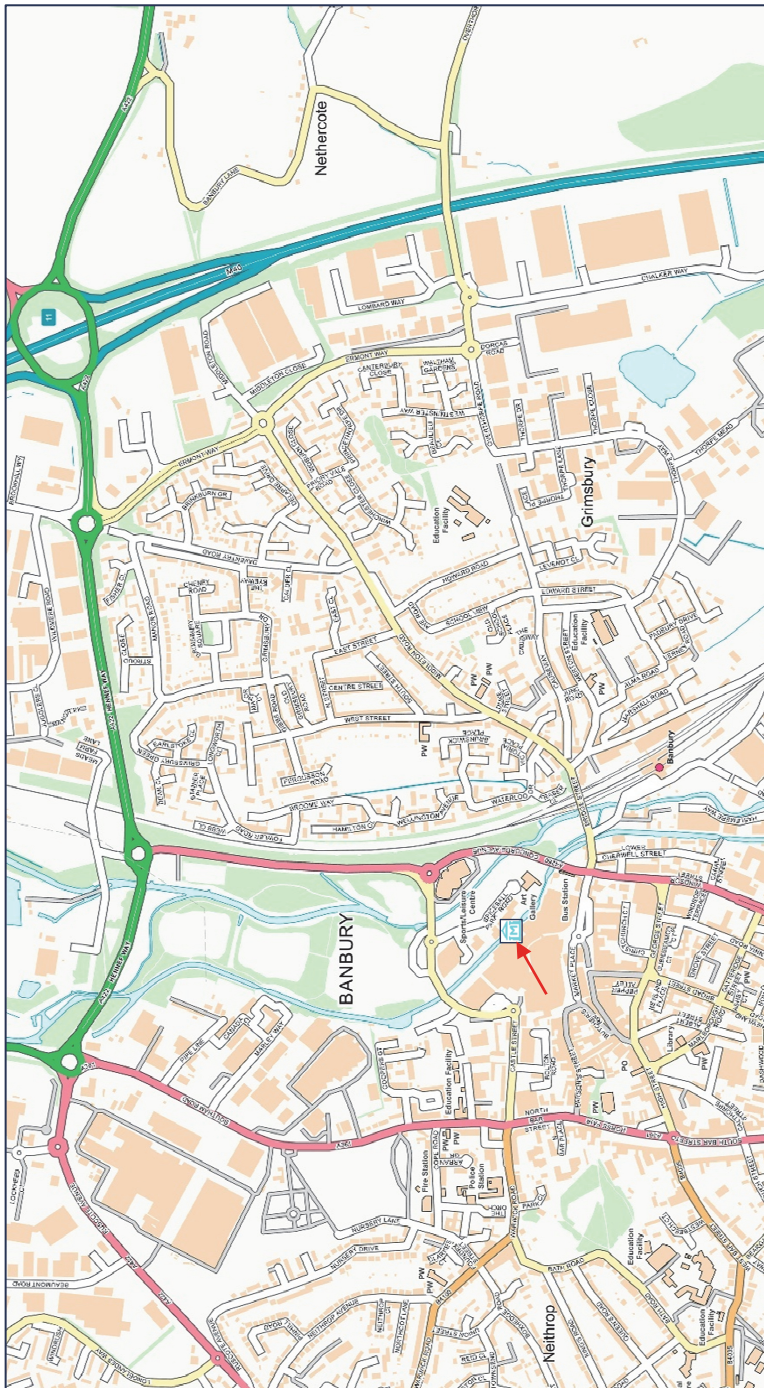
Parking: All car parks in the town centre have charges and some are Short Stay only (max 3hrs) so please check. The nearest car park to the museum is **Castle Quay North 1**, a multi-storey (2.1m clearance) accessed from Spiceball Park Road. It is a couple of minutes walk from the museum through the shopping centre.

The nearest surface level long stay car is at **Spiceball Park (Riverside)** accessed from Cherwell Drive. A 5 minute walk to the museum. **Bolton Road** long stay car park is also surface level and would be a good location if you plan to explore the town centre after the meeting.

You can be dropped off at the layby at the rear of the museum (*opposite the LIDL access*) and then move the vehicle elsewhere for parking. There is ramped access to the rear entrance door of the museum adjacent to the external stairs. Do **not** use the LIDL customer car park which is customer only and short stay. It is monitored with ANPR cameras and strongly enforced apparently!

FACILITIES AT BANBURY MUSEUM

We will be using the **Education Room** which is on the lower ground floor of the museum. There is lift access from the other levels of the museum or you can enter directly from the canal towpath through the cafe. The Museum front doors and the café open from **10am** and apart from those people helping with the meeting set up you will not be able to access the building any earlier.



**Autumn Conference & AGM Programme
4 October 2025**

10:00	Event opens – meet & greet
10:20 – 11:20	AGM business
11:20 – 11:40	Tea/ coffee break – Library café available adjacent to our meeting room
11:40 – 12:40	The Stainmore Road, the long evolution of an ancient highway by Derek Turner
12:40 – 13:00	An introduction to Banbury and its transport heritage by Banbury Historical Society
13:00 – 13:15	Discussion of plans for 2026 – Rob Westlake (Chairman)
13:15	Event close

Please note that there is no space available to us for the usual displays and book swap table.

11:40 – 12:40

The Stainmore Road, the long evolution of an ancient highway by Derek Turner

The keynote presentation at the conference will be given by Derek Turner, a long-standing member of the Society, former committee member and Oxfordshire County Representative. Currently editor of our journal *Milestones & Waymarkers* he will be straying far from his home patch to explore the history of a major route across the north Pennines.



(The summit milestone – Hilary Jones)



Using what is now the A66 as an example he will take a holistic view of the route to consider how milestones and related wayside ‘furniture’ help explain why the road is there. His talk will take us from the Romans to the present day.

(Banks Gate © Andy Farrington cc 2.0)

12:40 – 13:00

An introduction to Banbury and its transport heritage
by Banbury Historical Society

You may well know the English nursery rhyme, “Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross”. Riding to Banbury though was only one way to arrive and this talk will introduce the broader transport heritage of the town.

Situated in the valley of the River Cherwell, with a crossing point of the river from the late 13th century, it has always been well served with transport links. A hub for turnpike roads, a town centre canal, major rail link and the M40 motorway have over time maintained its importance as a market town and commercial centre.



(Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross –© Stephen McKay cc 2.0 sa)

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1105688

NOTICE of TWENTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will take place at
10.00am on Saturday 4th October 2025
at the Banbury Museum,
Castle Quay Spiceball Park Road,
Banbury OX16 2PQ

AGENDA

1. Chair's welcome to Members for the Society's 24th AGM
2. Apologies for absence
3. To approve minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 12th October 2024
4. Chairs' Report for 2024-2025
5. Hon Secretary's Report for 2024-2025
6. Membership Secretary's Report for 2024-2025
7. To receive the accounts for 2024-2025
8. Appointment of Trustees and election of Officers & Executive Committee Members for 2024-2025.

There are no resignations from Trustees:

TRUSTEES
Mervyn Benford
Mike Buxton
Carol Haines
Bruce Keith
Alan Reade

The constitution sets a maximum of twelve members of the Committee who serve for three years. This year the following members are retiring having served three years: Paul Gibbons, Hilary Jones, Alison Montgomery, Richard Raynsford and Julia Stanbridge (all

elected 2022). At the time of writing Hilary Jones, Richard Raynsford and Julia Stanbridge have offered themselves for re-election as committee members.

The Executive Committee will make a recommendation but it is anticipated that there will be 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.

HONORARY OFFICERS	OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Chair – Rob Westlake	Mike Buxton
Vice-Chair – Hilary Jones	Mike Hallett
Hon Treasurer – Julia Stanbridge	Bruce Keith
Hon Secretary – Vacant	Richard Raynsford
Minutes Secretary – Vacant	
Membership Secretary – Ken Hawkins	Ros Stuart

9. To note the schedule of Advisory and Supporting membership roles for 2025-2026.

ADVISORY & SUPPORTING MEMBERS 2025-2026
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, C. I. Brown, David Garside, Mike Hallett, Nick James, Hilary Jones, Mike Rayner and Christine Minto
Editorial Panel: Carol Haines, Mike Hallett, Richard Raynsford (Newsletter Editor), Derek Turner (M&W Editor)

ADVISORY & SUPPORTING MEMBERS 2025-2026 (<i>continued</i>)
Conservation, Restoration & Listing Queries: Ian Thompson
National Highways Liaison: Alan Reade
Theft & Recovery Liaison: Robert Caldicott
Websites & Social Media Co-ordination: Hilary Jones

10. To note the continuing pattern of publications. The Editorial Panel and respective editors have continued their work during the year. Newsletters Nos 48 and 49 have been published and Volume Seventeen of *Milestones & Waymarkers*. For 2026 it is proposed that *Milestones & Waymarkers* will be devoted to *Milestones around the World*.
11. To appoint the Independent Examiner for 2025-2026.
12. To receive the Executive Committee's report on the Society archive - an update from Bruce Keith and David Viner.
13. To note the Milestone Society Awards and Local Heritage Grants awarded in 2024-2025.
14. Milestone Society 25th Anniversary, 2026.
15. Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
16. 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.

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1105688

MINUTES

of the TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 12th October
2024

held at Stonehouse Community Centre, Laburnum Walk, Stonehouse,
Glos, GL10 2NS

Executive Committee Attendees Present: Mike Hallett (MWH), Hilary Jones (HJ), Bruce Keith (BK), Richard Raynsford (RR), Julia Stanbridge (JS), Rob Westlake (RW)

Executive Committee Apologies: Alison Montgomery (AM), Mike Buxton (MJB), Ken Hawkins (KH)

The meeting opened at 10:20am following a short PowerPoint overview by RW and HJ of committee activities in 2024.

1 Chair's welcome

RW welcomed the 24 attendees to the meeting and introduced the Committee Members. HJ was thanked for her role in organizing the meeting venue and MWH for preparing the AGM papers.

2 Apologies had been received in advance from 24 members and were given for John Uncles at the meeting

3 The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th October 2023 at Coleshill required correction under Item's 7, 13 and 14 due to confusion between the initials of Julia Stanbridge and Jan Scrine. This had been highlighted by email to the Chairman (27/09/24) from Jan Scrine and was revised at the meeting. The corrected minutes were approved at the meeting.

4 Chairs' Report for 2023-2024

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

5 Hon. Secretary's Report for 2023-2024

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

6 Membership Secretary's Report for 2023-2024

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

7 To receive the accounts for 2023-2024

JS's written report had been circulated with the AGM papers. JS noted an error in the 2023-24 Income section of the accounts. The £1,720.71 listed as Deposit Account Interest wrongly included the HMRC Gift Aid refund (Note 1) which should have been in line 2. Subject to that being corrected there were no questions.

8 Proposed changes to the Constitution

MWH introduced the proposed changes as circulated with the AGM papers. He explained that the 2023 AGM had only just been quorate and with a declining number of subscribing members of the Society it was considered appropriate to reduce the quorum from 20 to 15 in future. The option for remote attendance and voting for the AGM had been inserted as a fallback but it remained the preferred option of the Committee that AGMs should be held in person.

Questions were invited but none were received.

Proposed by David Viner and seconded by Bruce Keith, the changes to the constitution were accepted *en bloc*.

9 Appointment of Trustees and election of Offices & Executive Committee Members for 2024-2025

The following Executive committee members, after being in post for three years, were required to resign but offered themselves for re-election; Mike Hallett, Ken Hawkins, Bruce Keith and Rob Westlake. All appointments were put to the meeting and unanimously accepted by a show of hands.

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

Hilary Jones proposed Ros Stuart, our current County Contact for Suffolk, for the vacancy on the Executive Committee. She has a background in town planning and the heritage sector. This was seconded by Rob Westlake and passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Consequently, the Trustees, Executive Committee members and Honorary Officers for 2024-25 are as follows:

TRUSTEES
Mervyn Benford
Mike Buxton
Carol Haines
Bruce Keith
Alan Reade

HONORARY OFFICERS	OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS
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	Ros Stuart

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

RW introduced the current Advisory & Supporting Members, who are as follows with no changes proposed for 2024-2025. This was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

ADVISORY & SUPPORTING MEMBERS 2023-2024
The Committee is supported by a number of members who undertake specific functions on the Society's behalf.
Archives: David Viner, Bruce Keith, Paul Gibbons
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 (M&W Editor)
Conservation, Restoration & Listing Queries: Ian Thompson
National Highways Liaison: Alan Reade
Theft & Recovery Liaison: Robert Caldicott
Websites & Social Media Co-ordination: Hilary Jones

11 Publications

The continuing pattern of publications was noted. No change was proposed to the number of publications for 2024-2025.

RW explained that for the 2025 journal MWH has kindly agreed to assist Derek Turner (editor) with the layout and design of *Milestones & Waymarkers*. A thank you gift to Clare Curtis for her work to date on M&W was going to be delivered by RW after the meeting.

12 To appoint the Independent Examiner for 2024-2025

JS proposed retention of Claire Wang in the role. There were no other nominations and she was duly appointed.

13 To receive the Executive Committee's report on the Society archive

David Viner provided an update on the work he has completed for the cataloguing and storage of archive material held by the Society. He referred members to earlier discussions reported in *Newsletter 39* (pp 7 – 10) covering the range of material being considered for archive. This comprises collections by individual members passed over to the Society, our publications, the online database and the records of the Society itself (minutes etc.).

Some items represent a national collection while others are regional. The latter being well illustrated by the records of the late Colin Smith who completed research on milestones and boundary markers in Cumbria. This was lodged in 2023 at Carlisle Library with the Local History team.

DV outlined positive discussions he has recently had with Historic England at Swindon. There is now agreement in principle for HE to accept major member collections of photos and slides (e.g. Ken Diamond) for archiving. They already hold similar collections from Jack Ward and Mervyn Benford. They are willing to accept collections covering Wales and Scotland as well as England. The Scottish Roads Archive may be an alternative home for the latter and BK is following up.

DV has already catalogued the material moved to temporary storage at Alfreton but there remains further material in Cirencester needing to be catalogued. HE will only accept documented donations. DV made a request for volunteers to help with the task. RR will include the request in the next newsletter.

HJ expressed the sincere thanks of the committee for all the hard work completed by DV on this project and his willingness to continue progressing the transfer to HE at Swindon.

14 To note the Milestone Society Awards and Local Heritage Grants awarded in 2023-2024

HJ noted the details of the awards have been reported in NL 46 and 47. The recipients were:

Cliviger Primary School	Ruth Crook
Cliviger Parish Council	John Riddell
Peter Gillies	Lawrence Wedlock
Christopher Leather	

A small number of Local Heritage Grants have been offered and outcomes will be reported in the newsletter. Members are encouraged to bring forward restoration projects for consideration of funding.

15 The Milestone Society 25th Anniversary 2026

RW outlined a number of suggestions that have been put forward to the committee as ways to mark the 25th anniversary of the Society in 2026. He asked members to bring forward their ideas and will be making a similar request in the next newsletter.

- Milestone restorations
- Publications
- Media Events
- Conference

16 Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

As Alan Reade was unable to attend the AGM, Bruce Keith spoke on his behalf as one of the Trustees. BK thanked the Executive Committee on behalf of the Trustees for its continuing hard work and noted in his view the governance has been exemplary. He was pleased to hear of collaborative working with other organisations, such as National Highways, that can help further the aims of the Society.

Overall BK reported a good feel factor coming from the continuing work of members across the country supported by the committee.

He reported that Alan Reade has contacted our patron and Sir Neil Cossins sends his good wishes to the Society.

17 Any other business

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

RW noted that an email from Jan Scrine highlighted our South Gloucestershire heritage walk on the website might be of interest to members staying in the area for the AGM.

The meeting closed at 11.15am.

WANTED

A sole editor or joint editors needed
for *Milestones & Waymarkers*.

If you are interested or know of a
volunteer who might be willing to
take on this role, please contact

dt@milestonesociety.co.uk or
mwh@milestonesociety.co.uk



THE MILESTONE SOCIETY

CHAIR'S REPORT 2024-2025

As we approach the end of another busy year for the Society, we continue to be the 'go to place' for information and advice about our country's milestones and waymarkers. With the help of our willing team, we can respond to enquiries, often within a matter of hours, though of course, some questions take much longer to research and answer.

Our Executive Committee have worked tirelessly throughout the year and the list of items that we have been asked to provide information and advice about makes for an interesting read.

Our working relationship with Historic England, National Highways and the Highway Contractors who work on behalf of many of the local councils are just a few organisations that turn to us for advice and help. Parish Councils seemingly are the only level of local government that sometimes have funds to instigate restoration or are keen to see their own items of historic value preserved and saved for future generations. Heritage and History groups and communities working on their own Neighbourhood Plans are surprised to discover the heritage items that they have passed by for years and never noticed. The higher tiers of Local Government still seem to be reorganising their staff after the creation of Unitary Councils and finding out who does the hands-on work is often a huge challenge for our society.

This year, we have sadly not seen some of our much hoped for projects come to fruition.

The project that we hoped would bring about considerable help for the milestones within the land owned by National Highways has been placed on the back burner for the time being, due to internal reorganisations within National Highways. However, just recently, we have heard that the National Highway Archaeologist for the Eastern Region is keen to progress with a project to ensure all the Grade II milestones within their care are recorded in their databases and cared for appropriately.

Just in the last couple of months an opportunity has arisen with NNWTRA – North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agents - to explore ways of ensuring all the milestones and historic waymarkers within their road networks are recorded and a scheme created to ensure they are preserved for the future.

Our AGM last October was held in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. After the formal part of the AGM business, members of the Stonehouse Heritage Group joined us and their secretary, Vicki Walker, gave us an introduction to the fascinating history of this area. We heard from another of their members how they had restored two of the local milestones and, over our lunchbreak, our members were given the opportunity to visit these restored milestones.

In the afternoon, our founder chairman of the Milestone Society, David Viner, gave us his talk about the network of Turnpike Trusts that radiated out from his home town of Cirencester. This was followed by a talk about the milestones of the three local canals, by our member Mr Red. Ian Thompson gave us a short introduction to his proposed publication, *Milestones around the World*, which will be published during our 25th Anniversary year.

This year, Hilary again kindly masterminded our Northern Meeting in Gargrave in April. It was a really great day which was planned in conjunction with the Craven Museum in Skipton, where a Milestone Society exhibition had been on display for the previous month. Jenny Hill, Lead Museum Curator, gave us an insight into her work as they look after some 60,000 objects.

The speakers for the day included Jacqueline Crowther, the 'Milestone Fairy' as she has become known in her home area of Port William in Dumfries and Galloway. She refers to the milestone as 'her boys' and has located, unearthed and rescued many, which she visits and paints and ensures that they are visible by trimming the grass.

I gave a talk "Why do milestones have benchmarks?" Some have just one, others two or even three. Our audience, I hope, will now look at

milestones more closely and remember that the country's mapmakers found milestones useful in other ways, rather than just depicting the mileages to the adjacent towns and cities.

The final speaker of the day was Dr Paul Hindle, who spoke about the milestones along the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal and provided some before and after photos of this area which has undergone huge redevelopment over the last few years.

During the last year, we have recognised the work of five individuals or organisations that have made significant contributions towards our work of preserving and restoring milestones in various parts of the country. These people have been presented with one of our Milestone Awards as our way of thanking them for their efforts. Further details can be found in our recent Newsletters.

We have held two County Contacts meetings this year, which gives everyone an opportunity to update us about the work that is going on in their own counties. Fourteen 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 was also a good opportunity to introduce our new County Contact Glenn Watson, who has become our Contact for Buckinghamshire.

This year, we have brought all our archive material back to Cirencester, where David and Linda Viner are preparing some of the individual collections into a form that is acceptable for deposit into the Historic England Archives at Swindon. Two individual members valuable collections have been added, one from a deceased member and the other from a member whose has had to go into a care home. These collections contain original survey sheets and valuable photographs, which need to be cross referenced with the Society's current references and preserved into archive grade storage files and boxes. David and Linda will need considerable help to complete this task and help from our members is essential . Please do let us know if you are interested in helping with this work.

Again, 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 works within our remit and continues to adhere to our mission statement as set out in our constitution.

Sadly, we are having to say farewell to our Honorary Secretary, Alison. She has done an amazing job for the Society since her appointment in 2022, but with a full-time career which involves a great deal of travel, she unfortunately cannot continue to give sufficient time to help us further. She will be missed, but I know the executive committee will join with me as we wish her well as she continues with her chosen career.

Can you consider helping the Society in this way? We would love to hear from you.

No chairman's report would be complete without taking this opportunity to thank Hilary, our vice-chair. The Society would not be in the position we are today without her valuable daily input. She masterminds virtually everything, from our website and social media to our County Contacts, to the organising of our AGM's and Regional meetings and she still finds time to work diligently finding, clearing vegetation and repainting the milestones around Yorkshire and Lancashire. Her continual guidance encourages our ever-growing number of users of our Facebook Group.

My thanks to our editors of our publications, our newsletter editor Richard Raynsford and the editor of our journal, Derek Turner. Derek is helping Ian Thompson with the publication of next year's 25th anniversary special edition, *Milestones around the World*. He will then be retiring from this position and our thanks to him for his wonderful work over so many years. Mike Hallett has offered to step in and help, but we are seeking a replacement editor for our Journal. Could you help us, or perhaps a family member or other acquaintance? Please give this matter some thought.

I wish to personally thank Ian Thompson, who is a much-valued member of our team. He provides excellent advice on restoration

enquiries and deals promptly with the responses to Historic England who include the Society in every consultation for applications to create new listed milestones.

My thanks also go to all the team that look after our various databases: Paul Barnett for his continuing work with the milestones, and to Mike Rayner, who has been looking after fingerposts for many years. Mike is hoping to stand down from these duties, so we are seeking someone else to take over this role. David Garside is kindly looking after the boundary stones. Mr Red is doing a sterling job looking after the toll houses along with Mike Hallett who looks after the canal milestones. These managers being ably supported for data processing by Nick James and Chris Leather.

My thanks also to Robert Caldicott who is our Theft and Recovery Liaison person, who is sadly kept way too busy.

As last year, our executive committee still has several vacancies. We meet on-line throughout the year, except for our AGM, so if any member would like to help us, please do get in touch.

The Society has had a busy year and as I type my report, the invitation to comment on four more milestones has been received from Historic England.

We progress, but there is just so much more that needs doing, if we are to maintain our position as a respected and professional heritage group, championing the often unloved and uncared for heritage waymarkers.

Rob

Rob Westlake – 24th July 2025.

HON SECRETARY'S REPORT 2024-2025

It has been another busy and successful year for the Milestone Society. The Executive Committee has continued to meet quarterly

and has also dealt with substantial business between meetings. In addition, numerous enquiries and cases have been received, some with urgency, the correspondents ranging from members of the public and groups and voluntary societies to academics, consultants, local authorities and national bodies.

Our thanks go to all of the County Contacts who have responded to enquiries or picked up casework, and to Ian Thompson for his diligent preparation of reports for all the cases in which we have been consulted by Historic England. As a result of Ian's work a number of previously unprotected milestones have been brought under the protection of heritage law and national planning policy through designation as listed buildings.

Thanks are also sent to all Committee members for their unwavering commitment to the Society, not least in giving their Saturdays for what have sometimes been very lengthy meetings. On a personal note, none of the Hon Secretary's role working alongside County Contacts would be possible without Ken's impeccable record keeping and liaison as Membership Secretary. Likewise, thanks go to Mike Hallett who, as in previous years, has very kindly taken on the full responsibility of preparing the papers for this year's AGM. This is much appreciated.

This will be my final year with the Milestone Society as I am standing down from the Executive Committee at the AGM. I wish the Society and its members, volunteers, Executive Committee and Trustees the very best for the future.

Alison Montgomery

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2024-2025

Like many activities, membership management is subject to the 90/10 rule - 90% of the activity takes up only 10% of the time, while the other 10% takes up ... yes, 90% of the time. Thank you to the vast majority of members whose renewals have run smoothly. We have tried to

make the process as easy as possible and would encourage you to pay by bank transfer if you can. You can also set up a standing order, but this will need to be changed whenever the subscription rate changes. If you do pay direct to our bank, can I also ask you to check your bank statement to confirm that the payment carries your membership number? This is printed on your address label whenever we write to you, as well as appearing on the renewal form. Without that number, and particularly if your bank account name differs from your membership name, matching your payment to your membership can be a challenge, requiring a certain amount of detective, or even guess, work.

With the ever increasing cost of postage, if you can renew without having to post a cheque to us, it will save you both time and money. By the same token, although we ask you to confirm your contact details, you are welcome to confirm by email rather than posting our form back, unless there are complicated changes which can't easily be communicated other than by sending us something through the post. If there are changes, these can be set out in an email or put onto the form which can then be scanned or photographed and attached to an email.

At the end of the 2024-25 subscription year on 31 May 2025 there were 339 Society memberships (395 members), which is 47 fewer than the number of members on 31 May 2024. This total is made up of 270 individual members, 112 joint members and 7 Corporate members, plus our Patron and 5 'memberships' where we send our publications to Museums and Libraries.

The above figures include 37 new memberships started between 1 June 2024 and 31 May 2025; with a further 4 since 1 June this year plus a rejoining member, our current total of memberships at the time of writing (22 July), is 343; of those, 290 have renewed (or don't need to), and we are grateful to those who made prompt responses to our renewal request. The remainder have been reminded with the July newsletter, but may lapse if they do not renew their membership.

Payments have been made by cheque (93), BACS transfer (126), via the PayPal portal (74) or Standing Order (35); 2 members had no need to pay this year for various reasons.

We would also like to thank those 273 members who have gift aided their subscriptions, and the 59 members who have made donations of £675 over and above their subscription level.

We warmly welcome the following members who have joined since March 2025.

Miles Wigfield, Cirencester

Hazel Ford, Sidcup

Antony Clay, Bradford

Hugh & Mary Wolley, Saxmundham

Raymond Wilkes, Shipley

Debra Williams, Bangor

Douglas Faulconbridge, Stoneleigh

David Thomas, Rickmansworth

Paul Mutum, Lincoln

John Curtis, Swansea

plus Michael Welch, Banbury who has rejoined us.

We also acknowledge with sadness the death of Mr W J Uncles, a member since 2011

Ken Hawkins

membership@milestonesociety.co.uk

22 July 2025

Membership was due to be renewed by 1 June 2025. If you have not yet renewed, there will have been a reminder on your address label. If you want to maintain your membership, please make sure you do so as soon as possible otherwise you will receive no further mailings.

**THE MILESTONE SOCIETY
INCOME & EXPENDITURE
6 APRIL 2024- 5 APRIL 2025**

2023-24

INCOME

2024-25

Notes

6,904.10	Membership Subs	5,197.50	1
0.00	Membership Subs - Gift Aid Tax refund	1,038.83	2
470.71	Interest - Deposit Account	452.02	
7,374.81	TOTAL INCOME	6,688.35	

EXPENDITURE

1,252.00	Newsletter (printing & layout)	1,489.74	
0.00	Journal (printing)	3,848.06	3
479.35	National Meetings, printing mail-shots	580.86	4
270.00	Publicity, Databases and Websites	1,220.40	5
	Archive Rent	200.00	6
395.00	Heritage Alliance	210.00	7
(64.89)	Misc expenditure	0.00	
1,085.60	Postage for all Publications	1,583.90	
630.39	Committee Administration Expenses	248.38	8
745.79	Membership Administration Expenses	641.03	
399.00	Insurance	379.00	
477.77	PayPal fees	121.37	
5,670.01	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	10,522.74	

1,704.80	INCOME over (EXPENDITURE)	(3,834.39)
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2023-24	Cash Holdings	2024-25
9,990.56	HSBC Current Account	4,874.37
25,283.38	HSBC Deposit A/c (Legacy)	26,774.40
2,015.96	PayPal Account	290.99
37,289.90	Total Cash Holdings at Year End	31,939.76
379.00	Debtors	0.00
	Creditors	0.00
37,668.90	Total Resources	31,939.76

2023-24	Project & County reserves	2024-25	<i>Notes</i>
250.00	Ingworth Project	250.00	9
0.00	25th Anniversary Celebrations	250.00	10
0.00	Archive storage	0.00	11
0.00	Shoscombe	0.00	12
0.00	Saltburn	100.00	13
0.00	Stanwick St John	100.00	14
0.00	Marske St John	100.00	15
0.00	Local Heritage Initiative (LHI)	0.00	16
0.00	Avoncroft Museum	350.00	17
114.58	Terry Keegan Memorial Award Fund	114.58	18
674.81	Yorkshire, CTP Heritage Trail	606.09	19
356.43	Finding the Way	356.43	20
232.58	Bromyard Heritage Trail	232.58	21
8,303.18	Ron Bubb bequest (general projects)	7,677.15	22
2,254.64	Warwickshire Milestones	2,254.64	23
12,186.22	Total specified funds	12,391.47	

23,279.88	Unrestricted Reserves b/f	25,482.68
1,704.80	transferred from trading account	(3,834.39)
0.00	Prior year correction (PayPal balance)	(1,000.00)
498.00	transferred to/ from projects	(1,100.00)
37,668.90	Total Reserves	31,939.76

Notes

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Notes

- 1 prior year overstated £1000
- 2 HMRC refund received July 2024
- 3 timing of publications meant no costs prior year and 2 this year
- 4 AGM hall hire + Yorkshire meetings
- 5 website hosting and maintenance
- 6 duplicate payment to Paul awaiting refund
- 7 Heritage Alliance Membership
- 8 £202 local meetings. £429 archive move costs
- 9 Carol Haines project lead. No spend in year
- 10 Ian Thompson project lead. Publicity
- 11 spend in year £534 transferred from Ron Bubb bequest
- 12 Finger post restoration £250 spend in yr transferred from unrestricted
- 13 £100 agreed to restore fingerpost Saltburn
- 14 Hillary project lead.
- 15 Hillary project lead.
- 16 republished leaflets £41 in year transferred from Ron Bubb bequest
- 17 Jan Scrine Lead. Milestone set up and plaque
- 18 Jan Scrine project lead.
- 19 Jan Scrine project lead. £68 spend in year on leaflets
- 20 Mike Buxton project lead, no spend in year.
- 21 Jan Scrine project lead, no spend in year.
- 22 transferred to Archive storage, Avoncroft, LHI
- 23 Mike Buxton project lead, no spend in year.
- 24 overstated membership



Banbury Canal Festival is organised by Banbury Town Council in collaboration with some of the town's biggest and most well-known organisations. These include The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury BID, Banbury Museum and Gallery, Castle Quay Shopping Centre, The Light Banbury, Tooley's Boatyard, The Village Butty, Lock 29 and Bridge Street Community Garden.

What to Expect:

- A celebration of Banbury's waterways - A crucial part of its history, the canal network that runs through Banbury has served the town since the 1700s. Ever since, it has served businesses, manufacturers and tourists.
- Live music and entertainment - See live theatre from The Mill Arts Centre, while Banbury Music Mix Radio and The Village Butty will be bringing a number of acoustic acts to our stages.
- Food, drink, stalls and games - Floating markets offer handmade gifts while children can enjoy funfair rides and amusements. Anyone looking for a bite to eat or refreshments will be able to choose from a wide number of food stalls!