

JOIN US

We welcome anyone with an interest in milestones and waymarkers. You can join on our website or by completing the form below and sending it to the Membership Secretary, *Brian Barrow, Larkrise, Clavering, Essex CB11 4QT.*

I/We apply to join the Milestone Society and enclose the annual subscription.

- Single member (£12.50)
- Joint members receiving one copy of all mailings (£15)
- Corporate Member, receiving two copies of mailings (£20)

The subscription year begins on 1st June. Rates valid to 31st May 2017. Please make your cheque payable to 'The Milestone Society'.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr First Name:

Surname:

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:

Telephone:

email:

I/We do not object to this personal data being held on electronic or paper file and being disclosed to other Society members as part of the Society's member services. NB The Society does not release members' personal data to third parties.

GIFT AID: I would/would not like the tax to be reclaimed on any eligible donations or membership subscriptions that I have ever made or will make to the Milestone Society until further notice. I confirm that I pay an amount of UK income or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Milestone Society will reclaim.

If this ceases to be the case, I will notify the Society.

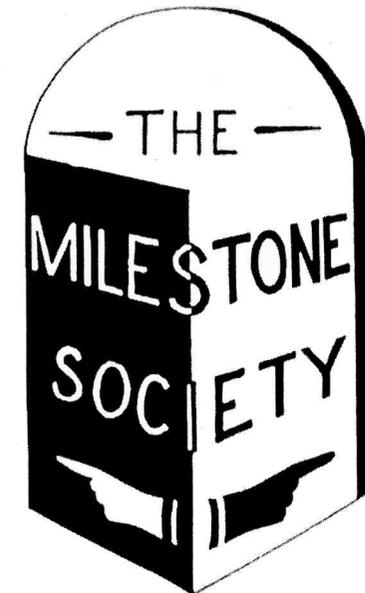
Signed: Date:

How did you learn of the Society?

.....

Registered Charity No. 1105688

11/2016



Marking the Miles

BY THE WAYSIDE

Milestones, finger-posts and boundary markers remind us of our road and canal heritage over the centuries. The variety of styles reflects distinctive local materials and designs.

'Milestone' is a generic term, including mileposts made of cast iron. From 1767, milestones were compulsory on all turnpikes, not only to inform travellers of direction and distances, but to help coaches keep to schedule and for charging for changes of horses at the coaching inns. The distances were also used to calculate postal charges before the uniform postal rate was introduced in 1840.

At the height of the turnpike era, milestones were found along 20,000 miles of roads as well as canals. But from the 1840s, competition from the railways reduced traffic levels on both roads and canals. Consequently turnpike trusts were gradually wound up. In 1888, the new County Councils were given responsibility for main roads and district councils for minor routes. As faster motorised transport developed so the need for milestones waned. These waymarkers are fast disappearing. Many were removed, buried or defaced in World War II to baffle potential German invaders and not all were replaced afterwards. Many more have been demolished as roads have been widened, become the victims of collision damage or been smashed by hedge-cutters and flails.

ABOUT US

Established in 2001, the Milestone Society is a registered charity that campaigns for conservation of milestones and waymarkers, which are at risk from neglect and endangered by theft and careless damage.

The Society's aim is to identify, record, research, conserve and interpret for public benefit the milestones and other waymarkers of the British Isles. A national committee sets policy, promotes the Society and campaigns throughout the UK. On the ground, work is carried out by groups led by local representatives.

OUR HERITAGE

Many milestones have been lost or have disappeared into hedges, banks or gardens. Society members have identified, surveyed and photographed over 9000 milestones across the UK and a database records them incorporating details from other archives. The database and an electronic archive ensure that information about milestones and waymarkers will remain available for study and appreciation in the future.

Go to www.milestonesociety.co.uk to see the milestones on Google Earth or download the database. Information on fingerposts, missing milestones, boundary markers and modern waymarkers is also given. Anyone is welcome to add to this. Contact the Society if you know of a milestone that is lost, concealed or out of place, or if you want background on a local marker: email: mf@milestonesociety.co.uk

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

Close links have been forged with the owners and guardians of our wayside heritage to raise awareness of the historic value of milestones and waymarkers. These include local authority highway and conservation officers, contractors (and their agents), local parish and community councils and canal societies. In some areas, the Society has worked to have milestones listed by Historic England or added to County Historic Environment Records.

A comprehensive series of practical guidance notes, available on the Society's website, supports anyone interested in conservation and restoration and advises on security and theft.

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Members enjoy an Annual Conference in October, usually held in the Midlands, and Spring Meetings hosted by regional groups around the country. Both include a variety of speakers, presentations, discussions and displays.

The Society's local groups work with local authorities, including those at the parish level, raising funds and obtaining grants for restoration, conservation and rescue projects.

Talks to other societies, schools and special interest groups and press coverage of local initiatives help to promote interest in milestones. Details of events and activities appear on the Society's website at www.milestonesociety.co.uk.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Members receive *Milestones & Waymarkers*, an annual publication containing well-researched specialist articles together with practical examples of conservation and restoration work by members to inspire others. There are plenty of illustrations, too!

Members also receive a twice-yearly *Newsletter* containing news of activities and events as well as contributions from local groups and individuals. Contact newsletter@milestonesociety.co.uk. Some county and regional groups also produce their own newsletters.

OUR WEBSITE

Find out much more about events and activities, discover the Photo Gallery, download guidance notes and access the milestone database at www.milestonesociety.co.uk.

All are welcome to join our Milestone Society Group on Facebook. It's an opportunity for sharing information on restoration practices and new discoveries as they happen. www.facebook.com/#!/groups/MilestoneSociety.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Hon Secretary: John Atkinson

Walkley, Walkley Hill, Stroud. GL5 3TX

Tel: 01453 762609

email: honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk

