



The Acknowledged Authority on the History and Development of the British Roadside Letter Box

An invitation to join us...

Brief History of Letter Boxes

Anthony Trollope, the novelist, introduced the first British pillar box in 1852, when he worked as a Post Office Surveyor in the Channel Islands. The first mainland box was erected a year later in 1853.

At first District Surveyors ordered boxes from local foundries, but in 1859 a standard design was introduced. Wall boxes appeared in 1857, Ludlow boxes in 1885 and lamp boxes followed in 1896.

Each new reign brings boxes bearing the royal cipher of the monarch. Pillar boxes and wall boxes have been made in different sizes and with improvements to the design. A large number of different manufacturers have been employed and over the years there have been many experimental boxes tried in service. The LBSG has identified nearly 700 different types of letter box.

New boxes are still appearing – and there are still exciting older boxes waiting to be discovered.

Letter Box Study Group

The Group was formed in 1976 and has grown from small beginnings to become the recognised authority on the history and development of the British roadside letter box. The Group gained charity status in 2022.

Our hundreds of Members have many interests and approach letter boxes from lots of different directions; philately, postal history, social history, street furniture, casting & manufacturing heritage – but all have been captured by the romance of the iconic letter box, so central for so long to the communication network of these islands.

In 2005 the Group embarked on a hugely ambitious project called the Guide to British Letter Boxes – the definitive publication on the subject we study. This is being issued in sections and we are now a substantial way through this full-colour project and a benefit of membership is access to this fund of knowledge. The Group also maintains The Directory – a gazetteer of types of boxes and details of where they are located. The ambition is to have all 116,000 UK letter boxes in The Directory – we already have well over 100,000! Members sending in sightings or carrying out more organised surveys is the source of this information – and it is a project any new Member can join in with straight away – the Group gives keen Members lots of help and guidance.

The aim of the Group is to encourage research into letter box history, to undertake preservation and conservation, as well as recording and documenting our letter box heritage – if this would interest you we would very much welcome you as a member.

There are more than 380 different types of pillar box to be found; some 60 types of wall box, 66 Ludlow boxes and almost 80 types of lamp box.

Let the LBSG be your guide to this rich and fascinating history. By joining us you will be helping study and conserve this unique postal legacy.

Membership benefits

Joining members receive a bumper Welcome Package – see the form overleaf for details.

Every member receives our quarterly magazine, Letter Box Study Group Newsletter – a 56+ page full colour publication that covers all the activities of the Group. It is a lively and substantial publication always eagerly anticipated by members. Members are invited to our meetings. These are held at different venues around the country. We usually hold a meeting

in Spring, with another in the Autumn, which incorporates the AGM of the Group.

The meetings are friendly (as well as informative) events and an excellent opportunity to socialise – new Members are soon made to feel welcome.

Membership also brings an invitation to join one or both of the internet Mailing Lists run by the Group – where questions are answered, information and pictures exchanged, news is posted (and a deal of good-natured banter occurs!).

Access to the Directory is a major benefit of Membership; and Members are the only people for whom The Guide to British Letter Boxes is available.

Membership of LBSG

We welcome anyone with an interest in letter boxes. Membership costs £32.00**, with the annual renewal fee due in June.

Joining Members receive a bumper Welcome Package which includes: a copy of the latest Newsletter, a copy of the Register of Box Types, our publication A Brief History of the British Roadside Letter Box – and your membership card.

Overseas Postage: -

International Standard Europe - **£13.00**, International Standard World Zone 1 - **£20**,

International Standard World Zone 2 - **£25**, International Standard World Zone 3 - **£21**,

International Economy - **£14.00**,

(No Euro cheques or cheques drawn on foreign banks please)

(**prices valid until 28th February 2024)

To: The Secretary, 7 Bow Close, NEWPORT, TF10 7GR, U.K.

I apply to join Letter Box Study Group and enclose payment as follows – cheques made payable to **Letter Box Study Group (or LBSG):-**

Membership Fee	£32.00
Overseas postage
Total remittance enclosed

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms..... (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

e-mail address.....Telephone No.(optional).....

(For Committee use only)

Please state date of birth if under 18

Where did you hear about the Group

(Please allow up to 28 days for delivery of your 'Welcome Pack')



Letter Box Study Group

For further information, why not check out our website at www.lbsg.org

Registered Charity 1198577