Keeler Tavern Museum

1 Keeler Tavern Museum
keelertavernmuseum.org

Wilton Historical Society

2 Wilton Historical Society
wiltonhistorical.org

Weston Historical Society

3 Weston Historical Society
westonhistoricalsociety.org

Stamps ➤ go here

4 New Canaan Historical Society
nchistory.org

5 Norwalk Historical Society
norwalkhistoricalsociety.org

6 Westport Historical Society
westporthistory.org

7 Fairfield Museum
fairfieldhistory.org

Stamps ➤ go here

Dear Letterboxer:

You are on a mission to explore Fairfield County's illustrious past. To aid you in this mission, we've hidden seven letterboxes among the nooks and crannies of seven historical societies. Let history be your guide as you follow the clues. However, before you begin your search, here are a few reminders to aid you on your journey.

- If you don't find the letterbox on the first try, don't give up. Reread the clues and make sure you have followed them correctly.
- Only park in the designated spaces allotted at each location.
- Once on site please respect the flora, fauna, and structures around you.
- Please abide by the rules to make this experience enjoyable for all.
- Dress for the weather and take precautions against deer ticks and mosquitoes.
- Come to the closing event on Sunday, May 31 from 3-4 at the Wilton Historical Society, and enjoy a fun, family event with refreshments and live music. Don't forget to bring your official Letterboxing History Hunt map! Letterboxers who stamp their official map at all seven locations will be eligible for a prize, and will be entered in a drawing for a wonderful grand prize.

Once you find a letterbox what do you do?

- Carefully take the letterbox container out of its hiding place without other hikers seeing you.
- Mentally note where the letterbox was hidden so that you can re-hide it in the exact same spot.
- Open the letterbox container and unwrap the stamp and the ink pad.
- Press the stamp on the ink pad, and then press the imprint in this booklet in the corresponding box provided.
- Wrap the stamp up in the felt piece and place it back into the container Take out the letterbox's log book.
- Take your personal stamp and press it on the ink pad, and then stamp onto a blank page in the log book.
- Write your code name or family name, date and where you are from (optional) under your stamp. Take a few moments to flip through the log book to view other people's stamps.
- Put the log book back in the plastic bag and carefully place it in the letterbox container.
- Put the ink pad inside the letterbox container.
- Firmly secure the lid on the container and re-hide in the exact same spot you found it.

Congratulations, you are on your way! Remember to have fun, stay safe and enjoy learning about Fairfield County's rich history.

Happy Letterboxing!

Welcome!

Seven Fairfield County historical organizations have banded together to create **The Second Great Letterboxing History Hunt**, a wonderful way for individuals and families to get to know some of their local history while enjoying the fun of navigating, following clues, and searching for hidden letterboxes.

The Great Letterboxing History Hunt runs from May 15 – May 31. Now that you have picked up your official Letterboxing History Hunt map and clues, you should search for letterboxes at each of the Societies and Museums listed. At each one, you get clues which will lead you to the hidden letterbox. On Sunday, May 31, come to the Wilton Historical Society from 3-4, and don't forget to bring your stamped Letterboxing History Hunt map. It will be a festive family get-together with food and live music. Letterboxers who made it to all seven locations and found the letterbox there (with stamps to prove it!) will be eligible for a prize…and will also be entered in a drawing for a grand prize! **Have Fun!**

What is Letterboxing?

Here's the basic idea: A waterproof box is hidden containing a logbook, ink pad, and a carved rubber stamp. You follow a series of clues in an attempt to find the box. In addition to the clues, you should carry the following:

- A pen or pencil
- A personal rubber stamp
- A personal logbook (the map you are holding).

When you successfully decipher the clues and find the box, you stamp the logbook in the box with your personal stamp, and stamp your Letterboxing History Hunt map with the box's stamp. The box's logbook keeps a record of all its visitors, and you keep a record of all the boxes you have found on your map.

Information compiled from www.letterboxing.org. Visit for more information.

Participating Fairfield County Historical Organizations

Fairfield Museum and History Center
370 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
203-259-1598
fairfieldhistory.org

Keeler Tavern Museum
132 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
203-431-0815
keelertavernmuseum.org

New Canaan Historical Society
13 Oenoke Ridge
New Canaan, CT 06840
203-966-1776
nchistory.org

Norwalk Historical Society
2 East Wall Street
Norwalk, CT 06851
203-846-0525
norwalkhistoricalsociety.org

Weston Historical Society
104 Weston Road
Weston, CT 06883
203-226-1804
westonhistoricalsociety.org

Westport Historical Society
25 Avery Place
Westport, CT 06880
203-222-1424
westporthistory.org

Wilton Historical Society
224 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897
203-762-7257
wiltonhistorical.org

A Brief History of Letterboxing

According to legend, letterboxing began in southwestern England in 1854 when a Victorian gentleman named James Perrott hid his calling card in a jar in a remote area by Cranmere Pool on the moors of Dartmoor (the setting of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes story *The Hound of the Baskervilles).* Perrot was a guide on the moor, and he encouraged his clients to leave their cards in the jar, as well.

Eventually, visitors began leaving a self-addressed post card or note in the jar, hoping for them to be returned by mail by the next visitor (thus the origin of the term "letterboxing;" "letterbox" is a British term for what we in the U.S. known as a mailbox). This practice Ended in time, however, and the current custom of using rubber stamps and logbooks came into use.

THE SECOND ANNUAL
Great Letterboxing History Hunt

May 15—May 31, 2015

Follow the clues at historic locations throughout lower Fairfield County to find hidden letterboxes!