



THE MILESTONE SOCIETY

Newsletter 16

January 2009



**Milestones
on
His Mind!**

Don't carry the Milestones on your mind. Leave it to the care of the VEEDER CYCLO-METER, but be sure it is a genuine VEEDER.

German imitations abound—insist on the name VEEDER on each instrument and box. It is a guarantee of absolute accuracy and reliability.

Veeder

MADE IN TWO MODELS.

REGULAR	TRIP
6'6	15'

FIT ONE FOR YOUR TOUR,



SOLE
IMPORTER:

F.E. DICKINSON

ST. ANDREW'S HOUSE, HOLBORN CIRCUS, LONDON, E.C.1.

The Cover Picture - The cover illustration was sent to us by Gerry Moore (Norfolk) who, although not a member of the Milestone Society, has sent us many pertinent illustrations from his collection covering early years of cycling literature. This advert is from the magazine *Cycling* dated July 15 1927. One of the Editors was using just such a mechanical mileometer until quite recently when it was dislodged and lost on a particularly bumpy section of road!

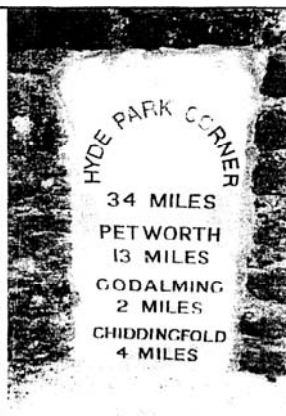
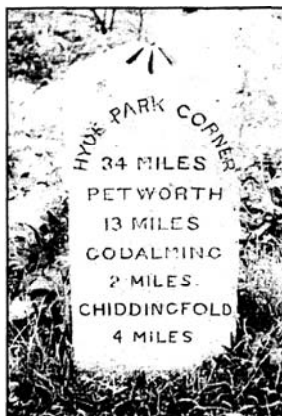
EDITORS' COMMENTS - This issue of the Newsletter is the last under the current Editorship and it is an appropriate occasion to thank all those members who have contributed news items and drawings without which the publication would not be possible. We would also like to thank those readers who have written to us with kind comments regarding their appreciation of our efforts. We have enjoyed the task of collecting the contributions, sometimes editing them to achieve suitable length, placing them under appropriate headings and where necessary compiling them into a suitable section where some subject overlap can be obtained. This has all been achieved with relatively simple hardware, but the advent of ever larger files - particularly those produced by modern digital cameras - and of different file types often incompatible with our older software, has made it apparent that difficulties may only increase in future and could only be overcome with a complete upgrading of our equipment. Thus, it seems an appropriate time for a change in Editorship which will also allow new ideas to be incorporated into the publication but its continuing success is clearly dependent on the valuable input we have been fortunate to receive from the membership of our Society. We wish Chris Woodard, the new Editor, every success in his new role and are sure he will inherit the fine support that we have had over the last eight years.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Barrack boundaries Following a talk given by Michael Knight (Beds.) to the Weedon History Society (Northants.) he received information about the massive boundary stones which formerly marked the perimeter of the Ordnance Depot (1804) beside Telford's highway (A5), upgraded in 1815. Much of the original barrack site has been redeveloped, but Road Weedon (A45), turnpiked in 1706, retains its canal links (1796) and the buildings erected to store armaments. A memorial stone was recently set up to commemorate an experimental radar station in 1935. For more information see: Weedon Bec History Society: *Weedon - Royal Ordnance Depot Revisited* (contact John Smith: 01327 340387).

Double set of milestones Sadie Cole (Radnorshire) was recently sent two historical items about local milestones. On 23 October 1830 it was 'ordered that the surveyor do cause the present milestones on the Roads leading from Presteigne and Stanner to Rhayader to be repaired and made more legible.' Then on 1 July 1852 it was 'ordered that the Surveyor be directed to re-measure the Road from the Town Hall at Rhayader to the centre of Builth Bridge and to readjust the Milestones and to place new ones where necessary'. In the past a query has been raised about a double set of milestones on the road from Builth to Newtown and it is possible that this is another instance of re-surveying and old stones left in position when new ones were installed.

Mystery post Does anyone know the meaning of the post illustrated below on the left? Tim Richards (Norfolk) spotted it in Derbyshire on the B5057 near its junction with the A632 just west of Red Lion Inn. It reads BP/STANDS/IN/SOUTH/2000AD.



Twin Surrey milestones

Following Peter Le Page's article about milestones on

the Chichester road (NL15 p. 12), John Howie has sent details of two more milestones in the series on the A283 (see above right), both showing exactly the same mileage but standing two miles apart. The stone near Mousehill was photographed in 2005 but has now disappeared. Can anyone explain?

Roehampton Mounting Block Derek Renn (Surrey) has added the following information about this stone (NL15 p.9). A writer to *The Gentleman's Magazine* in December 1787 says that 'It is placed on Putney Common opposite the nine-mile stone' (p. 1046). Plate I (facing the previous page) includes engravings three faces. That opposite from that quoted in NL15 reads: THO/NVTHALL/SVRVAYER OF/ROWN ANO/DO. 1654'. Walter Johnson wrote an extremely informative article on this stone published in *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, new series vol.V part ii (1924), when the 9-mile stone stood by the cemetery gate in Putney Vale He pointed out that an Act of 1654 required the appointment of parish surveyors, who were to be men of substance, as he shows Tho[mas] Nuthall of Row[hamp]to[n] to have been. The meaning of the other inscriptions is still a mystery. Derek Renn has seen a letter dated 24 July 1951 saying that Ashburnham Cottage (outside whose garage the mounting block then stood) had been compulsorily purchased for demolition. Johnson mentions other stones in his article, such as a square inscribed stone half a mile east of Otford (Kent) with the date 1702 on top,

Letter shortage in Norfolk There may not be many Xs on the Scrabble board, but it seems fingerpost makers are short of them too (see photograph at top of next page). This post, which should be pointing to Wroxham and was photographed by the

A283 south of Mousehill
(SU944411)

A283 Wormley
(SU948385)

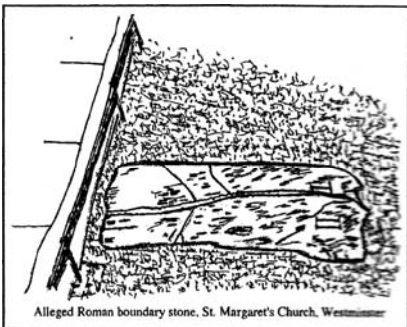


editors, stands near the King's Head in Coltishall (perhaps the painter had been in there first!).

Zero milestones See the Zois pyramid (Ljubljana Slovenia) described and shown in the section FOREIGN PARTS.

Westminster curiosity Opposite the entrance to St Margaret's Church, The Sanctuary, Westminster Abbey (TQ 302797) is a severely cracked flat stone in the grass,

writes Colin Woodward (Middx). It has no inscription save for a Roman 'IF' and what looks like 'T' to the left (see drawing by Colin on right). In his book *Curiosities of London and Westminster* (S B Publications, 2003), Charles Bird states that although some people think it is a tomb, the stone is actually a Roman boundary stone marking the jurisdiction of the Roman Governor of the City of London, the second (marked II) of a series of numbered boundary stones, all the others of which have disappeared. (He does not refer to the apparent inscription 'T' on the left hand side of the stone.) If Mr Bird is right, the stone is an amazing survival, but do Society members agree with this speculation or are there any other opinions?



Kentish mileplate John Griffin (E Sussex) has a mileplate that formerly adorned a milestone on the A28 south-west of Tenterden.. At the suggestion of Colin Woodward (Middx rep.) it was proposed that the plate be loaned to Tenterden Museum for display on the provisos that (a) if a new stone should ever be commissioned then the plate be affixed to it, and (b) if the museum should close the plate is to be returned to the Milestone Society.

Should we include canals? John Higgins writes to put in a plea for our Society to do more to include canal milestones. We seem focused on roadside mile markers, and often overlook those by canals. Good examples of milestones or mileposts have been found by John on the following canals: Grand Union, Trent & Mersey. Caldon, Montgomery, Shropshire Union, Leeds & Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton & Bury. He is sure there are plenty more out there, and is looking for someone to help him compile a database for the Society's records. Any offers of help to John Higgins on 01538 703331. [The view of the MS committee up to the present has been that canal milestones are adequately covered by canal preservation societies (e.g. for the Macclesfield Canal, formed 1984, who publish a quarterly magazine called *Milestone* - see www.macclesfieldcanal.org.uk), and should not be included in our present remit. However, perhaps this is an issue which should be raised for re-consideration. Eds.]

I-SPY MILESTONES

Many of you will have grown up with the I-Spy books, especially if you were a child in the 1950s and 60s. The first books were self-published by Charles Warrell, then the *Daily Mail*, the *News Chronicle* and, when the *Chronicle* folded, the publishing rights moved to Dickens Press, Polystyle Publication and until recently they were sold by Michelin Publications. There was a regular I-Spy column in the newspapers through until the 1980s when the *Daily Mail* finally stopped its publication. The two names most associated with the I-Spy books were the founder Charles Warrell who died in 1995, aged 106 and his successor Arnold Cawthrow who died in 1993. Arnold's death is commemorated by a stone plaque outside his house - 'Boatman's Rooms' - in Deal, Kent.

The first ten books produced were:- 1. *At the Seashore*', 2. *On the Farm*', 3. *History*, 4. *On a Train Journey*, 5. *Dogs*', 6. *In the Country*, 7. *At the Zoo - Animals*', 8. *At the Zoo - Birds & Reptiles*', 9. *In the Street*, 10. *On the Road*. – See Figure 1 (cover). _____



Figure 1

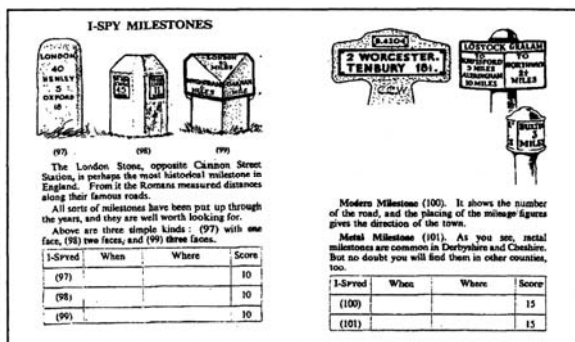


Figure 2

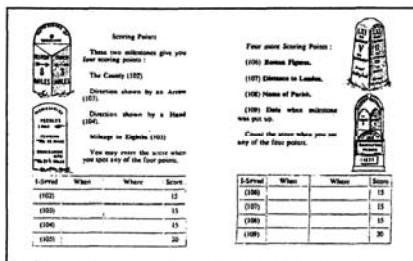


Figure 3

I-Spy Number 10 contains four pages on milestones showing ten examples of different styles of stone. See Figure 2 & 3, which are pages 38/39 & 40/41 of the *News Chronicle* edition from about 1958. Points were awarded for finding one, two and three-sided stones, modern milestones and metal milestones, the county and directions shown by arrows or hands as well as roman figures, distance to London, name of parish and a date. Spy them all and you earned 190 points out of the 1,500 on offer in the book.

The I-Spy 'target' for the year 2008 is how many of these stones still exist?

Keith Lawrence (Cheshire)

MILESTONE MODELS

Milestones were once considered such attractive features that clothes designers used them to display latest fashions. This gentleman, Mr Brewser (see photo below left), is modelling what was considered to be the correct attire, c.1900, for gentlemen in the country - Norfolk jacket, breeches, socks, collar and tie, and boater. The photo was sent by Colin Smith (Cumbria).

Celebrities of yesteryear were also pictured with a milestone as a prop as shown in a postcard (see photo below right), posted 1906, in the editors' possession. Gertie Millar (1879-1952) was an actress and singer, and a youthful Ivor Novello was once reported to have been captivated by her.



SCOTTISH MILESTONES

Frank and Christine Minto have been on another cycling holiday north of the border. The old county of Wigtownshire was extensively explored. The 1976 OS maps show lots of milestones. Every site was visited and most of the stones were still there. The photographs show a good selection of the local flora as many stones were hidden amongst the lush spring time growth. It is not a good idea to try to record the dimensions when wearing shorts! The drive north across the Carrick to Straiton and on quiet inland roads before descending to the coast at Largs revealed a number of Ayrshire stones. The three days on Bute enabled us to search for theirs. Thirty-five are marked on the 1980 map, all but seven were found plus an unmarked one. At first glance they all seem to be the same but there are subtle

differences which probably reflects on their use and misuse through the years. More will be revealed in the next edition of *On The Ground*.

Christine has taken on the responsibility of updating the Scottish database. If you are going to Scotland she can tell you what has already been found in the area you are visiting or, hopefully, you will be able to furnish some new data. Contact Christine on 01226 753599, at 10 Derwent Place, Wombwell, Barnsley S73 0RT or on e-mail: frankminto@talktalk.net before you go.

TWO INTERESTING SCOTTISH MILESTONES

Most milestones form a series along a particular route of road, canal or railway. The two described here are not typical in this respect, and have other distinctive features.

The first is on the Town Pier at North Queensferry in Fife. From the time it was established by Queen Margaret in the 11th century until the Forth Road Bridge was opened in 1964, the ferry crossing from South Queensferry to North Queensferry was part of the main route from Edinburgh to the North. The stone set in the wall by the Town Pier at North Queensferry (see photo right) shows distances to Perth and Kinross, both by road, but the distance to



Edinburgh includes the ferry crossing of the Firth of Forth - across often stormy salt water too!

The second milestone is in the Far North at Golspie on the east coast of Sutherland. The then Duke of Sutherland had the Sutherland Arms Hotel built in 1808 for visitors who, presumably, were not grand enough to be invited to his seat at Dunrobin Castle nearby. Just outside the hotel is its very own milestone bearing the same date (see photo left), which shows distances to various places, both local and distant, including one that must have a strong claim to be the greatest shown on any British milestone, 777 miles to Land's End! This milestone is not part of the regular series, but stands between two of the standard milestones on this stretch of the A9.

Adrian T. Sumner (E. Lothian)

IRISH MILES

One of Belfast's most historic buildings has been restored and reopened as a five-star hotel after 15 years' dereliction. The Four Corners was the point from which all milestone roads radiating from Belfast were measured. Erected in 1860, the

present building at the corner of Waring Street and Donegall Street used to be the Ulster Bank's headquarters. There was an earlier building on the landmark site dating from the days when distances were computed in Irish miles.

An Irish mile, incidentally, was 2,240 yards - much longer than the statute mile - and some milestones so spaced still survive. They are to be found, for instance, on the coast road skirting the Mourne Mountains in South Down.

Tony Boyce (Herefordshire)

BOW BELLS AGAIN!

A later addition to Austin and Upton's survey (*Sussex Industrial History*, Spring 1976, no.7) suggested a connection with Humphry Repton, the famous landscape designer later to be lampooned as 'Marmaduke Milestone' in Thomas Love Peacock's *Headlong Hall*. Repton was working at Sheffield Park in 1789, at about the time that the tall shaft tapering downwards (an 'inverted obelisk' with mileages engraved round the capital, rather than the base) was put up outside the main gate.



Sheffield Park has a station on the Bluebell Railway, which led me on to think of campanulas (*bell* in Latin), one variety being called 'The Pride of Sussex'. Or might *Garrya* have reached Sussex (if only as a drawing brought back by a traveller) before its identification in America?

Derek Renn (Surrey)

(Perhaps it reached Brussels too - the decoration shown on the left is to be found in the railings around the Royal Palace there - Eds.)

MR MILESTONE

In his comments on the Bow Bells milestones (see preceding article) Derek Renn mentions how Humphry Repton was lampooned as Marmaduke Milestone in Thomas Love Peacock's novel *Headlong Hall* (1816). Peacock satirised many aspects of nineteenth-century life, particularly new ideas and fads. In a footnote, Peacock explains that Richard Payne Knight, a Herefordshire landowner, had laughed at 'a notable device of a celebrated improver [Repton] for giving greatness of character to a place, and showing an undivided extent of property, by placing the family arms on the neighbouring milestones'. Repton claimed he was misquoted. Payne Knight said that Repton's words were '... the market house, or other public edifice, or even a mere stone with distances may bear the arms of the family', and thought that Repton had meant a milestone. Repton said he did not mean a milestone but did not clarify what he meant by 'a stone with distances'. Repton had apparently suggested putting coats of arms on milestones in the vicinity of Tatton Park in Cheshire.

Humphry Repton was born in Bury St Edmunds in 1752 and moved with his family to Norwich about ten years later. In 1768 he was apprenticed to the textile trade, but his heart was really on art and music. When his parents died in 1778,

Repton inherited a country estate at Sustead between Aylsham and Cromer, and he moved there with his wife and growing family to become a country squire. Limited income forced a move to a smaller property at Harestreet in Essex in 1783, but his years in Norfolk had given him an extensive knowledge of the countryside and many contacts among the gentry which helped to start his career as a landscape architect.

Although it has not been possible to prove that milestones were erected at Repton's instigation, there are nevertheless properties on which he worked which do have privately-erected milestones associated with them.

Of the Norfolk properties, Felbrigg Hall (which he worked on from 1807 to 1810) has a milestone standing against the stable block (see photo right), with mileages to Norwich, Aylesham [sic] and Cromer Church. Two others can be found, with difficulty, at one and two miles



from Felbrigg Hall on lanes leading towards Sustead and Aylsham. Blickling Hall (worked on c.1794) has a milestone a mile away directing visitors to the House, and on a country lane between Blickling and Gunton Hall (worked on 1816) is a gravestone-shaped stone reading 1/Mile to/Blickling/V/from/GUNTON. A series of five milestones is marked on old maps between Honing Hall (worked on 1792) and the Norwich to North Walsham road which became a turnpike in 1797. Three stones have been found, two of them defaced, one with only a few legible letters.

When he died in 1818 Repton was buried at Aylsham, where a fine tomb stands against the south wall of the church (see photo left). It would be interesting to

know whether properties that Repton worked on in other parts of the country have privately-erected milestones associated with them, which might make a stronger case for his having been instrumental in their installation.

Further reading: Dorothy Stroud: *Humphry Repton* (Country Life, 1962); Kay Sanecki: *Humphry Repton* (Shire, 1974).

Carol Haines (Norfolk)

HOUNSLOW HEATH

The picture on the next page has been sent in by Colin Woodward (Middx) who found it in *Highwayman's Heath* by Gordon S Maxwell. The book was originally published in 1935, re-set in 1949, and reprinted by LB Hounslow leisure services in 1994. The print is interesting as an early representation of a milestone, and Colin mentions that there are still milestones in the locality with the date 1743 although

not the same style as the one depicted. They are also measured from Hyde Park Corner which is about 2 miles less than the City of London. The milestone was therefore probably drawn from the artist's imagination rather than an accurate representation. The pub sign reads 'The Old King's Head. Go lightly from Hounslow'. Travel in those days was hazardous because of the danger of highwaymen on Hounslow Heath, which is no doubt why the post boy is such an aggressive looking character.

BRIDGE STONE QUERY

Have you come across a milestone with just the letter "C" carved on it? John Fenn found one in a ditch in Egloskerry and asked Cornwall representative Ian Thompson about it. Ian told him that it was not a milestone but a "County Bridge Stone".



From the earliest times, bridges have been the key elements in any successful road system. Many towns based their prosperity on a profitable river crossing. Wadebridge and Looe are two good examples of this in Cornwall. Some bridges were deemed so important that they were to be maintained at public expense. They were classified as County Bridges and it was the responsibility of the magistrates, centuries before County Councils were set up, to ensure that the County Bridges and their approach roads were kept in good repair. County Bridge Stones marked the limit of the approach road to be maintained. This was officially 100 yards from each end of the bridge, though on the ground it seems more like 100 feet. When Cornwall County Council took over the responsibility for the County Bridges in Cornwall in 1889, there were 119 such bridges.

Ian started to investigate how many of these bridges had bridge stones. After surveying 22 bridges, he found 7 had one or both bridge stones. The stones seemed to be of a standard design, suggesting they were put up at about the same time. The crisp carving and general wear on the stones would suggest they date from the middle of the 19th century. A tentative date of 1831 was put forward after some initial research. However, an important query is - *'Does anyone know of an official date for county bridge stones?'*

It seems likely that this formed part of some central government road legislation, but the all-encompassing 1835 Act would be too late. When were magistrates first instructed to put up county bridge stones? There is such a wealth of expertise within the Milestone Society's membership that it seems probable someone must know the answer to this! Supplementary questions are - *'Does your county have county bridge stones?'* and if so, *'how many survive?'*

Ian is happy to be contacted by e-mail (i.thompson029@btinternet.com) or through the pages of the Newsletter.

IRISH MILESTONES



The milestone pictured left (Limerick 31, Loughill 4, Tarbert 4) is part of a series on the N69 on the south side of the River Shannon. The post shown below on the right reading SKIBB^N 12, ROSSCARB^Y 1 [Skibbereen and Rossbarbery] is on the N71 41 miles from Cork. Much nearer Cork, Innoshannon is shortened to INNOSH^N. These series on the N69 and N71 are not fully complete but are enough to keep the interest going, and there are more on either road once they enter County Kerry.

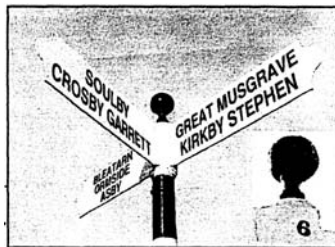
A modern 'fingerpost' in the shape of a corn sheaf, and three scythes with places and distances painted on their 'blades' can be found at a cross roads at Rathbury, West Cork. It commemorates An Coizedch - the winnowing place - where villagers, gathered at harvest time to winnow their corn. The monument was unveiled on 1 May 1999 by the Minister for the Environment, Noel Dempsey.



Norman Tipping (Beds.)

NUMBERED FINGERPOSTS IN WESTMORLAND

New members Mike and Kate Lea recently had a cast iron fingerpost restored (see photograph) in their village of Little Musgrave, Cumbria, with support from the Friends of the Lake District, Neighbourhood Forum and the Parish Council. The post is embossed with the number 6. A search revealed over 25 similar posts scattered round the old County of Westmorland. Many are complete and in reasonable or good condition, though others have lost arms or finials, or had arms remounted on other posts. Many have been replaced by other styles or modern Cumbria fingerposts. The numbers are often rusty and hard to read, though the numbers 1, 2, 3, 6, 10 (also restored), 22, 30, 34, 40, 41 and 47 are clear. So far, none have been duplicated and it seems likely that the numbers were sequential. Other signs, now replaced, can be seen in



old photographs (possibly including number 8). The restorer, David Gosling (www.signpost-restoration.com.uk, Lanercost), suggests they may have been cast in a foundry in Kendal for Westmorland C.C., possibly as early as 1910.

Other styles are also found in Westmorland. These include 9 with crowns as finials near Lowther, a magnificent fingerpost with a circular "County of Westmorland" finial, signs with embossed letters, and two wooden ones, giving some 50 old fingerposts altogether. Further research is now in progress, but all sightings or other information would be gratefully received (017683 42353; m.lea@rhul.ac.uk).

Some of these fingerposts have been restored in recent years and it is hoped that many more can return to their former glory.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY GROUPS

Bedfordshire - The top of a milestone discovered beside the B1040 and marked Biggleswade 1 mile has been sympathetically raised on a matching concrete base. A later replacement for it has now been moved to the entrance to John O' Gaunt's Golf Club in Sutton and the inscription altered to Potton 1/Biggleswade 3 - a valiant gesture to replace a marker known to have been buried thereabouts in 1940 and subsequently lost, reports Michael Knight. He has more talks booked: Catworth (Hunts.) 3 March; Biggleswade 11 May; Silk Willoughby (Lincs.) 2 June.

Buckinghamshire - The grade II listed milepost alongside the A404 (Chenies) was conspicuous by its absence on 29 November 2008 and on investigation of the site by John V. Nicholls on 9 December 2008, no remnants were found. An illustrated report of the milepost appeared on p.4 of the 2006 issue of *ON THE GROUND*. Buckinghamshire CC are to be informed.

Cornwall - *New Gweek Fingerpost* The Grade II Listed (66128) cast iron fingerpost at SW706267 in the centre of Gweek was a sorry rusting stump. Following an accident involving a lorry in 1999, Gweek PC, supported by Kerrier DC, refused to accept a plastic replacement. Eventually, Area Surveyor Paul Wilkinson had a replica cast by Iron Bros of Polmorla, Wadebridge, using the broken parts of the old fingerpost as a pattern. Kay Nicholas explained how the PC used the listing status to fight for what they wanted. Do go and see the result. It is beautiful. Two similar original Sara and Burgess fingerposts survive - a listed (63679) post with no arms at SW803516, Little Callostock, Zelah, and an unlisted example with two out of three arms remaining at SW803360 in Mylor Bridge.

Camborne Milestone is Safe There were grave fears for the survival of the pre-turnpike, listed (66638) milestone in the grounds of Gladys Holman House, Camborne, when a new housing project was announced. Ian Thompson arranged to meet Terry Kennedy from the developers, Highgrove Homes on site. Terry was fascinated to learn that this is one of a series of milestones between Mitchell and Hayle, marking the pre-turnpike main road through Cornwall. He took great care to protect it during construction work. His firm used the milestone in their sales promotion. It got on Radio Cornwall.

Paul and Sue Curry were excited to learn about the historic milestone beside their new house. The stone, 11" square and 4' tall, with *raised letters and numbers* 5" high - 14 P (Penzance) on one face and 24 L (Lands End) on the adjacent face. Sixteen of these milestones still exist! They are the oldest in Cornwall.

U3A Research Milestones Ann Olnier is leading a group from the University of the Third Age in Looe to find out more about the very special milestones between Looe and Fowey. There was never a turnpike road in this area, but, before the turnpikes, the route formed part of the main highway from London. The route is detailed in John Ogilby's *Britannia*. (See *The South-West Highway Atlas for 1675* by Paul White, Tamar Books, 2005.) The group hopes to publish its findings next year.

Milestone Found in Depot Highway Supervisor Dale Cook spotted a milestone among the granite blocks stored at Cornwall CC's Callywith Road Depot. The Milestone Society was able to tell him that it was listed (70911) and came from SX033623 on the A391 at Newgate, just south of the Innis Downs interchange with the A30. The triangular milestone, inscribed "B 4" and "St A 7" dates from 1835 when the St Austell and Lostwithiel Turnpike Trust built a new road from General Wolfe (Inn) to Lanivet (A391). Dale will organise the reinstatement so that this can rejoin the other five milestones on the road between St Austell and Bodmin.

Listing Appeal Most Cornish milestones are protected by listing, but not all. The Milestone Society is working with Cornwall CC's Environment and Heritage Service to list the remaining 200. Unfortunately, English Heritage has rejected an application to list eleven milestones on the B3254 between Launceston and Kilkhampton, because they are later than 1840 and of a standard design. An appeal against rejection has been submitted to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on the grounds that these are rare and historic milestones of national importance. While finding eleven milestones on one road all of the same design may suggest that the design is common, in fact it is used nowhere else in Britain outside the Launceston area, and while milestones erected in 1890 may seem modern compared with 18th century turnpike milestones, no other county erected inscribed stone milestones at this date. Where other County Councils, new in 1889, put up cast iron mileposts or cast iron plates on stones, Cornwall carved new milestones in granite.

Lizard Group Seeks Funding The Lizard Peninsula Heritage Trust is seeking a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to do work on "historic roadside artefacts" on the Lizard. David Richardson said this would include a survey, database and educational liaison. Ian Thompson advised David of some particular milestones and fingerposts needing practical restoration work.

Milestone for Sale An advertisement in the gardening small ads in the *Cornish Guardian* reading "*Granite milestone, 2ft 6 high; £300 - Tel 07964 291969 Penzance*" was reported to Ian Thompson. He tried the number, but got only an Orange Answerphone. He told the Police that if this was a Cornish milestone it must have been stolen, as all Cornish milestones are owned by the Highway Authority - Cornwall CC. The Police contacted the newspaper, but were unable to trace the owner of the mobile phone number. Theft of milestones is not a big problem in Cornwall, but do keep your eyes open.

Mabe Milestone Mystery New parish boundary stones are being erected all over Cornwall, most celebrating the Millennium. Next to the new Mabe Parish boundary stone on the A394 at SW746340 is a five foot tall granite pillar with a rectangular pyramid top. It looks like an old milestone with the inscription erased but is not marked on old or modern maps at this point. Elinor O'Connor of Mabe PC did her best to find out about it but has drawn a blank. Was it found somewhere and put up with the new boundary stone? If anyone can help, Ian would like to hear from you.

Essex - John Nicholls reports a fairly quiet year although he has been poking around other counties! An OOPS milestone has been discovered on Mistley Quay. It should be on the Ardleigh to Harwich road. It was brought to John's attention by a member of Save the Quay protest group who claim that Trent Wharfage Ltd has fenced off public rights of way. It was hoped that the milestone proved the existence of a highway but from old maps John has found the milestone once stood several hundred yards west. A parish boundary marker beside the B1383 may have been stolen, judging by the hole where it once stood. It reads (left) STANSTED/MR [Middle of Road] and (right) UGLEY/MR.

A project to repair a grade II listed milestone at Woodham Mortimer continues to be delayed due to lack of response by Highways. In 2009 it is hoped to paint milestones between Rawreth and Rochford.. It is also hoped to paint six mileposts between Ingatestone and Witham, and the grade II listed post in Stanstead, all subject to council permission. Mike Davies is working with Rayleigh Town Council to get planning permission to erect a new milestone in the High Street to replace one lost c.1910. A local resident has offered to cover the cost.

Five Town Councillors in Loughton volunteered to clean the three Epping & Ongar Highway Trust milestones, which lie within the parish of Loughton, and this was done one cold November morning. They were supervised by the Town Council's Services Manager, who provided hi-vis jackets, scrubbing brushes, and soap and water. The main aim was to get rid of moss and lichen, accumulated traffic dirt and dust, and re-paint the numbers and letters so they were once more clearly visible to passing traffic. The cleaning and re-painting resulted in a marked improvement to the appearance of the stones.

Huntingdonshire - Michael Knight writes that in an article in *Cambridgeshire County Life* on the village of Hail Weston the efforts of the Milestone Society were mentioned in the recovery and repair of the London 57 milestone on the B645 (formerly A45). Two other recovered stones, both from Southoe parish on the Great North Road, have recently been limewashed ready for the road agency URS-Carillion to re-instate in the new year. These are the London 58 and 59 miles, originally spotted by Grainne Farrington.

Kent - John Nicholls reports that the Tenterden milestone (see ONG No.5, p.7) looks like progressing towards a repair. On 11 December a hole was dug to retrieve the part of the milestone still in the ground - it took all day since it was deeper (1.4 metres) and larger than they expected. A stonemason will assess all 3 pieces (once this bit is out), so hopefully the milestone will be repaired and back in place by spring at the latest.

Lancashire - John Higgins is conducting a survey via bus and foot of southern Lancashire. So far he has located plenty of sites heretofore unknown to the Society in Chorley, West Lanes, Sefton, Liverpool, Knowsley, St Helens, Wigan, Bolton and Bury council areas. Over the winter he will be concentrating on Rochdale, Oldham, Tameside, Rossendale and Manchester. In addition, he has written to the local Milestone Society members, and has had a good feedback. When each district is complete (or as complete as practically possible), John has contacted the Conservation Officer, and sent a full list so that local councils will be aware of what they have. The database for the county has also expanded considerably.

Norfolk - Carol Haines reports that a milestone (a rare NCC design) at Billingford on the B1145 which was knocked over some time ago and had become lost in vegetation was recently cleared and the Highway Dept. contacted. They will raise it within the next few months and put a marker beside it. We will then clean and paint it in the spring. The compilation of the county database with photos on a CD is nearing completion. A few more widely-scattered sites still need checking. Two more 1921-style place name signs have been found, both in villages which already had one on record. The second sign in South Walsham is attached to two fairly modern metal posts, and the other in Briston is mounted on a wooden post. This brings the county total to 25, of which one is a modern replica.

For Sale boards have been spotted on two tollhouses. The Telford-style tollhouse at Clenchwarton (Wisbech-King's Lynn Turnpike) is on the market for £199,999. The two-storey Earlham tollhouse (Norwich, Swaffham & Mattishall Turnpike) has been divided into two; one half is let the other is for sale at £129,950. Neither building is listed and both have had slight alterations made to them. Sale information has been obtained from the estate agents for the records.

Northamptonshire - Another milestone, taken from the A604 (Kettering 5/Thrapston 4), has been seen safely housed in Kettering Museum, reports Michael Knight. In the far north of the county a metal boundary post in good condition was photographed by Michael whilst searching for local information prior to delivering a talk at Nottingham, which shares a border with Middleton.

Northumberland - Iain Davison is currently trying to locate and photograph mileposts on the Sustrans National Cycle Network.

Oxfordshire - Collaboration brings results, says Derek Turner. Even if individually members are too busy/old/impoverished to achieve progress on their own, by combining skills and experience much can be achieved. The list of fingerposts for the county is more or less complete. Only metal posts have been entered on the database, unless a wooden one is of particular interest. The county's restoration project means that old fingerposts are now in much better condition.

With the help of John Nicholls, more boundary markers have been found. Negotiations are under way with the City Council to try to restore the four surviving Oxford City highway markers. John Howie is contributing to the cost of restoring the stone at Iffley, the oldest of the four dated 1635. More milestones along the A43 have been replated with the help of members, and Oxfordshire Highways have been helpful in restoring other stones.

Radnorshire - Sadie Cole was recently contacted by the Clerk to Llanbister regarding a broken milestone and she has arranged for it to be repaired by Powys County Council. Further details will be reported when the repair is complete.
Shropshire - With help and encouragement from John Higgins and Mike Faherty, Alan Reade has now completed a survey of the county and has passed all information to the County Conservation Officer.

Somerset - The group met on 25 October, writes Janet Dowding. I reported that in August we had made a concerted effort to bring the Somerset survey closer to completion by making a five day visit to West Somerset to investigate sites in that area (around Minehead and Wiveliscombe) and to check on the progress of Somerset CC's project to replace and renovate milestones on the A396 (Minehead/Watchet to the Devon border), after we had given back to them the '18 miles to Minehead' plate from the Ken Diamond collection. Nothing was to be seen on this project so far. Although we visited about 23 map sites, we only found one new milestone (ST 1113 2945), near the triangular junction south of Burrow Hill Farm, parish of Fitzhead; it was minus its plate. We also located two tollhouses - 'The Blue Anchor Toll House', Old Cleeve (ST 0330 43527) and 'The Toll House', 38 West St., Dunster, previously called The Bonniton Toll House'.

On our return I contacted the Highways Dept who replied that the SCC Heritage team has taken a moulding of the '18 miles to Minehead' plate and has cast replicas for the other missing milestones on the route. These have now been fitted into new milestones and delivered to Minehead Depot. Works orders have been generated for their installation and the target date for this to be done is before Christmas.

A pamphlet of SCC entitled 'Heritage Matters' for Autumn 2008 had on its front cover a short article on 'Somerset Milestones', stating that 'a survey showed that of the 17 milestones originally on the A396 eight were missing and the surviving ones were in need of repair and decoration. Missing plates will be replaced with new ones cast by Cerdic Foundry of Chard (stamped with the. date to discourage theft!) and new stones have been produced by Royal Forest Pennant of Bishop Sutton'. The pamphlet also stated that in Taunton Deane the large cast iron mileposts on the road from Taunton to Devon via Corfe have recently been refurbished, and further such projects are planned by SCC.

Peter Le Page (Surrey) has discovered two boundary markers in Breamore House Museum, Fordingbridge (Hants.). These are of the Bristol Turnpike Trust 1823. Both stood on the A38, one on the boundary between Winscombe and Rowborough parishes and the other between Badgworth and E. Brent. They have both been in the museum for about 50 years and were given by Sandy Watney of Watneys Breweries to the father of the present owner but no one knows why or how this came about.

Another milestone with 'To Guildhall Bath 16 miles' carved on it has been found in Wells Reclamation Yard. It has been there for 25 years according to the owner of the yard who says it is not for sale! It has been suggested that the Museum of Bath at Work might try to acquire it as nothing is known of its original whereabouts. A further two possible milestones found by a member of the public

need further investigation. They are in Tickenham and St Georges (near Weston Super Mare).

There was further discussion on a Somerset postcard, which seems to be a more viable project now. The next meeting will be in April 2009, to which members of other groups are most welcome.

Staffordshire - While travelling on the 529 bus between Wolverhampton and Walsall, John Higgins spotted a Charles Lathe milepost he had known nothing about at County Bridge on the A454. A complete list of catalogued milestones around the county (over 400) has been produced and is on file in SCC conservation department, and it is hoped to develop a milestone website hosted by the CC.

Milestones in the Lichfield district were being repainted in 2008, along with the Stafford Boundary Posts. Research has been done into the correct colours on the coat of arms on them and the nine posts are now restored to their original colours. In 2009 attention turns to South Staffs and Cannock Chase area. Another ten of the county's milestones have been listed with English Heritage, making over 50 with listed status. John's offer of laying stone setts round some listed mileposts in the Newcastle-under Lyme area has been accepted by the Borough Council and he hopes to recruit some volunteers to help with this task. He has also allocated county members to keep an eye on different districts.

Sub-representatives for all districts of the county have now been appointed (we have well over 400 milestones to look after) and this seems to be working well, with John Higgins maintaining the link between the local areas and the county. All mileposts in Stafford Borough have now been repainted, and four have been re-erected by the County Council following rescues from ditches and private gardens. Eccleshall PC has commissioned two new casts to replace two triangular posts lost many years ago.

Surrey - Janet Dowding writes: Eighteen members, two from Sussex, met on 1 November. One more stone, London 38 in Farnham, has been added to the database, bringing the county total to 153. Two milestones affected by the Hindhead A3 improvements have been brought to my attention. Although the stones are just into Hampshire, the Highways Agency has offered to reinstate one from near Hindhead which is fallen and not in situ. Colin Woodward reported that the Walton Toll House is now boarded up and demolition will begin shortly.

Most members were enthusiastic about getting a Surrey postcard done although there had been little response from museums and history societies about it. Colin Woodward has found some very interesting Surrey/Kent boundary markers. One is a rare turnpike boundary stone just into Kent but possibly the only surviving evidence of a turnpike operating mostly in Surrey. It reads: '1855 This land is part of the Bermondsey Rotherhithe and Deptford turnpike roads' (TQ 367787). Two other boundary markers, only 50 feet apart (TQ 339714 & 339713), at Crystal Palace have what seems to be a female figure on them as well as 'SCC 1870', and 'Camberwell Parish'.

Another meeting will be held late April/early May. All welcome.

Sussex - Lionel Joseph has made a replacement stone (London 39) which now stands in Southwater. He is hoping to get permission to make and install the 38 and 37 mile

stones. The new owners of a cottage in Duncton have recently restored the milestone tablet (London 52) in their front wall at first floor level.

Worcestershire - Terry Keegan's October newsletter proudly announced the completion of the Worcester to Bradley Green milestone refurbishment project. This has taken two years with the help of parish councils along the road. A small leaflet has been produced giving a brief account of the 11 stones with before and after photos. An unveiling ceremony was held, performed by the chairman of Tibberton PC and congratulations were received from Lord Sandys, President of the Worcestershire branch of the CPRE. Three other posts have been renovated, and Martin Horwood has made a new milestone with aluminium plate to replace one missing from the village of Clifton-on-Teme.

Sales of the Worcestershire milestone book are rising, and group members continue to give talks to publicise the work of the Society.

Yorkshire - On 4 September 2008 Jan Scrine led a walk to meet 4 of the oldest milestones and guide stoops in the area. On 19th October 2008 Jan Scrine put on a day of illustrated talks and displays on Pennine Ways and Waymarkers as part of Kirklees Council's history programme. A report on the meeting, including a tribute to Chris Marcus, is given elsewhere in this issue (see p.25).

WATCHING eBay

The Milestone Society's grapevine discovered a milepost offered for sale on eBay. It was identified as a Cheshire 'open book' type that was listed in 1984. Cheshire CC Highways were notified who passed the information to the Cheshire Trading Standards from whence it was passed on for the attention of Cheshire police. They referred it to Cleveland Police (the seller was in North Yorkshire) who advised the seller that it must be returned to Cheshire. The collection of the milepost was still awaited in late November.

A Norfolk CC fingerpost annulus finial that appeared on eBay eventually sold for £40.01.

John Nicholls (Essex)

ON THE GROUND FEEDBACK

John Nicholls reports the following feedback from the last issue of *On the Ground*. Brian Bradley-Smith (N Yorks.) noted the concern about the broken mileposts at Yaxley and Orwell (Cambs.) Brian has repaired broken mileposts in the Knaresborough area and has sent details of the methods he used to John. If the Cambs posts are broken in a similar manner, perhaps Brian's methods can be used.

Flimwell (E Sussex) fingerpost (p.20): Colin Woodward (Middx) browsed through his Yellow Pages and found an entry for J Alsford Ltd, timber merchants. They operate 20 sites throughout Surrey, E Sussex, Kent and S London. They were the company that restored the Flimwell fingerpost in 1987. The fir tree with an inserted letter A, as used on the post's finial, is the company's logo. Subtle advertising! Oxfordshire fingerposts (p.21): An assumption was made that the post

in Sibford Ferris had replacement parts as its arm and finial were in cast iron whereas the remainder of Oxon's posts had non-ferrous arms and finials. It now seems the opposite is the case. Peter Leigh says that after WW2, Oxfordshire found the maintenance of rusting cast iron parts on the Hub Iron Works posts was getting expensive so parts were replaced with aluminium castings made by Royal Label Factory. Buckinghamshire fingerposts (p. 19): Helen Hyre has located two more Bucks posts. One is in Haddenham of the BUCKS/COUNTY type but lacking its finial and arms. The other is in Oving, north of Aylesbury, and is a product of Royal Label Factory. When discovered it was being repainted by two local residents.

Berkshire/Hampshire county boundary posts (p.25): Peter Nelson raised concerns with Berks CC about a 'lollipop' marker that was recently reinstated after a new bridge had been constructed. The marker on Aldern Bridge has been secured to the parapet railings with just a pair of steel straps. Such a method of fixing is hardly secure and the marker could easily be stolen. Peter has suggested a simple method for a permanent fixing that the CC is considering.

CUTTINGS

In an issue of *Country Life* (5th November 2008) under 'Good Week for' appears "The Milestone Society, A Grade II listed Victorian milepost stolen from the A64 near York three years ago has been recovered, after an eagle-eyed member of the society spotted it on eBay".

Highway robbery In *On the Ground* No.5 John Nicholls voiced concern about the theft of metal around the country and the need for extra vigilance, and two articles in *The Guardian* (25.6.08, 20.8.08) detail one of the fastest-growing crimes in the UK fuelled by the rising cost of metals and the demand for them by developing countries such as China. Newham council in London spends £60,000 a year replacing cast-iron manhole covers. A hundred aluminium road signs disappeared in Devon in one night. It is reported that 70,000 metal road signs in Essex will gradually be replaced by ones made from glass reinforced polyester because of a spate of robberies, and manhole covers will be changed for hinged models to deter theft. [*Many modern road signs in Norfolk made by IRS Ltd have a sign on the back reading: 'This is a steel sign and has no salvage value'. Eds.*]

Parish boundary markers In 'Parish boundary markers and perambulations in London' (*Local Historian*, Vol.38, No.3, August 2008) A D Harvey notes that while rural parish boundary markers are fairly common, urban parish markers only seem to be numerous in London, Bristol and Norwich. Most London parish markers are nineteenth century because the population was increasing rapidly so that parishes became major administrative units governed by the parish vestry. With local government reorganisation in the mid-nineteenth century, perambulations in London boroughs became popular again and more boundary markers were installed.

Three stone boundary markers dating from the 1550s survive in Hellesdon, a mile from the centre of Norwich, while Bristol has the earliest known metal parish

markers dated 1747. In Oxford a parish boundary marker dated 1952 now resides inside Marks & Spencer in Queen Street.

CPRE has produced a book called *Icons of England*, 'richly illustrated, and full of fascinating insights into England's countryside by a host of well-known celebrities'. Susan Bowditch (Oxon) reports that it includes a beautifully photographed Cornish milestone, but sadly no other Milestone Society interests were chosen as icons.

GOOGLING THE MILESTONE SOCIETY

For those members with Broadband internet connections and some spare time, it can be of interest to see what the search engine Google dredges up when the term 'milestone society' is entered. The priority in the sequence of replies that Google produces is largely dependent on the 'popularity' of a particular site as measured by the number of other sites making reference to that site and it is pleasing to see that the sites 'milestone-society.co.uk' and 'milestonesonline.co.uk' occupy pole positions. However, Google returns very many entries (10 per page) and it is of interest to explore the entries which follow on the same and subsequent pages, which whilst not always in the same sequence for searches carried out at different times, are often very similar. A recent investigation gave, in sequence after the main entries, Milestone Society related sites associated with Cornwall, Yorkshire, Current Archaeology, Building Conservation, Turnpikes, the milestones web, Community organisation in Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, before reaching an unrelated website 'Milestone Society for special persons'. The next in the list gave a surprise, stating 'Submitted for the Milestone Society Newsletter' but on examination turned out to be about an article entitled 'Mills around Newent' with apparently no connection to the MS Newsletter! However, closer inspection showed the author of this article to be David Viner, reflecting his interest in Industrial Archaeology in Gloucestershire. Other interesting sites followed, and the value of persistence in the hope of finding something further of interest was rewarded on page 3 of results where the heading 'Historic milestone unveiled in East Neuk' appeared (www.fife.gov) dated 29 September 2008. The Fife Council reported: "The Unveiling of the replica milestone - A piece of history has been replaced near Arncroach in North Fife. One of the East Neuk's treasured waymarkers, which have featured on the road network since the 19th century, went missing and was presumed stolen 10 years ago. Arthur Greene, a technician with Fife Council's Transportation Services, investigated the possibility of having the waymarker re-made. He only had an old photograph to go on, as original patterns and drawings had long gone. He used the kerbstones, which remain on the site today, as a size guide to re-create a drawing of the structure and worked closely with Alex Darwood from Anstruther, co-author of the book, *The Milestones of Fife*. A Glenrothes engineering company Dawson, Downie and Lamont, was hired to produce the copy waymarker in cast iron."

The replica waymarker sign was unveiled recently by Alex Darwood who said: "It is vital to the heritage of Fife that we continue to maintain and protect

these milestones for future generations to enjoy. I am grateful to the East Neuk Preservation Society for their support and keen interest in preserving our milestones for over 20 years. The interest of the national Milestone Society has been such that they regularly bring visitors to Fife to tour the East Neuk and so the guideposts are undoubtedly a great tourist attraction."

Interestingly, issue 2 (January 2002) of the MS Newsletter has a report with a drawing (p. 17) of the loss of the original milepost, presumed stolen - hopefully its replacement will remain firmly in place for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors!

Perhaps Google users should take heed of the utility of looking at the later pages turned up by a search - I wonder how far down the list of results the *last* entry directly related to the Milestone Society appears - any takers?

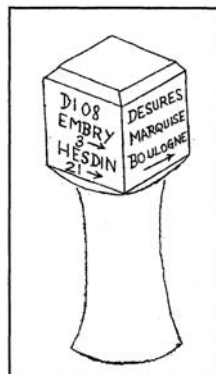
Alan Haines (Norfolk)

PUZZLE CORNER

The French milepost illustrated on the right can be found within 9 miles of Big Ben, London. Although there are no prizes offered, the Editors would be interested to know how many members can identify its location (answer in next NL).

The Editors

Chris Woodard (Monmouth) asks: A turnpike gate was seen at a London event this Millennium. When, Where and Why? *Answers please to the new editor, Chris Woodard. Answers will be published in next Newsletter.*



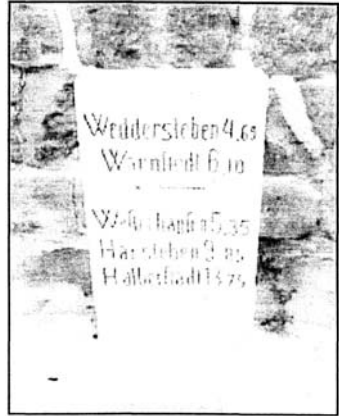
FOREIGN PARTS

Members have been particularly vigilant on their holidays. On a visit to Germany, John Howie (Hants) photographed the interesting stone shown on the right. It was adjacent to the railway station at Rudesheim on what can only be described as a walkway/cycle path and located between the station and the nearby river Rhine. If anyone can supply further information on it, he would be most interested.

Also in Germany, Derek Turner (Oxon) found a distance marker near the centre of Quedlinburg, a town just north of the Harz mountains in former East Germany. The town has been extensively restored and is an architectural gem. The kilometre stone (see next page) shows no weathering suggesting that it is fairly modern yet



the lettering is crude and uneven, uses the old-fashioned long German 's' and fails to cross any of the 't's! In contrast it takes the German concern for precision to absurd lengths - literally - describing the distance to the nearest 50 metres and for one place to the nearest 10 metres. Of the places mentioned, only Halberstadt is a place of any importance and other likely towns and villages in the area are ignored so one wonders when and why it was erected, for whom, and how such exact-measurements were carried out. Derek would welcome any suggestions. Further south, Iain Davison (Northumb.) found kilometre stones on Route SS 145 (Naples-Sorrento-Amalfi) in Italy. Some of the original stones remained in place, but others had been replaced with pre-cast markers showing only the Km distance and facing the oncoming traffic whereas the original stones had distances parallel to the road. Each Km stone also had a tall modern



marker beside it (see two photos left). Iain remarks that if ours were so marked none would be damaged by verge mowers. On the main street in Sorrento, the Corso Italia, were three smaller marker stones sited at intervals of a tenth of a Km with the Kms in Arabic numerals and the tenths in Roman numerals (see photo below).



The editors collected some ancient and modern examples from eastern Mediterranean countries. An information board by the ruins of Ephesus (Turkey) gave information about Roman milestones, explaining that although most were made of local stone, there were also some rare marble ones. A milestone from the third century BC was in the Ephesus museum and gave measurements in 'stadia' (185 metres). During the Roman empire milestones also showed the name of the emperor who had the road built or undertook the maintenance. In order to increase the visibility of the information the letters were painted red. During the late Roman empire milestones carved with the emperor's name were often sited at

important crossroads where emperors or governors were welcomed or bade farewell by members of the city council. To avoid additional expense when a new emperor took the throne, milestones were turned upside down and reused.

In Istanbul the Roman datum stone stands near the Roman cistern and the remains of the aqueduct, while in the Archaeological Museum was a measure dating from the fifth century BC. The bar of bronze had grooves dividing it into different measurements. It was kept in the temple and used as a standard to control measurements in the city. The measurements were eagerly tested by visitors and found to be fairly accurate: 1 Finger (1.72cm), 1 Foot (27.65cm), 1 Yard Arm's Length (51.60cm).

The photograph (right) shows the Zois pyramid in Ljubljana, the Km 0 of roads in Slovenia. The stone pyramid was designed in 1927 by Jože Plečnik in memory of Baron Ziga Zois (1747-1819). He was a rich and influential man in the Age of Enlightenment, a linguist, teacher, leader and freemason. The pyramid is modelled on that portrayed on freemasons' robes and also became a symbol for money as depicted on dollar bills.

Some observations have come from the editors' son while he was in Barbados. The milestone shown below left reads: ST THOS/8/MILES/B.T. It was in the parish of St Thomas and gives mileage to the capital, Bridgetown. It



was found on a very minor road in the centre of the island. Modern kilometre stones were seen on the main roads nearer the coast marked with the road number (e.g. H1, H2) and the distance to Bridgetown. On the map, in the north of the island, is a place called Mile and a Quarter!

At the entrance to the Statue Park, several kilometres from Budapest, Hungary, Michael Knight (Beds.) observed a limestone distance marker faintly inscribed 'K K 22'. Its provenance is not known though coincidentally the city suburb nearest to the national airport is Kobanya-Kispet, but it is not the correct distance!



PUBLICATION - BOOK REVIEW

Tim Prevett: *Roads and Trackways of North Wales*. Landmark Publishing 2008. Pp.160. ISBN: 1-978-1-84306-420-6. £14.99.

How often is it that one really thinks about the antiquity of the road on which one is travelling? How often does its ancient story pass us by? The truth is that so many of our modern roads are actually built on bygone communications systems and trackways. We have over-ridden ruthlessly the old drovers' roads and those dating back to the Prehistoric period.

Roads and Trackways of North Wales paints a dedicated picture for us - identifying and bringing to life many aspects of the Welsh landscape. As we delve into its pages we can visualize, from this study, man's progress across North Wales through the centuries. This well written volume is not only full of historic information, but is greatly enhanced by evocative black and white photography. For example, we learn how the Menai Straights were breached with a bridge of wooden boats by Edward I in 1277, and how a pair of giants on route to Anglesea unloaded what they were carrying and created the 'Giantess apronful (Barclodiad y Gawres)' in the Pass of the Two Stones near Aber.

It is only in Chapter 6, which covers the Turnpike roads and the Telford era, that the absence of maps and map references detracts from one's understanding of the author's enthusiastic research, but the whole whets one's appetite, and will hopefully encourage many readers to don their hiking boots or get on their bikes to explore for themselves the way markers and the wonders of North Wales.

Chris Woodard (Monmouth)

The ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM (Saturday 4 October 2008 at the Coventry Transport Museum) - 'It was heartening to see these rays of eccentric sunshine.' As the Chairman, David Viner, commented, this quotation from a review of a Society publication conveyed the tone of the tributes to Chris Marcus and John Donovan, founder members and stalwarts of the Society, paid by Jan Scrine and Grainne Farrington (see p.25 and p.26, respectively). Brian Barrow reported 480 membership renewals so far this year. There is a need to keep membership up and 2500 new leaflets have been printed. This year 50 members and guests attended the AGM at which it was agreed unanimously to add a further £3,000 to the £7,000 already earmarked for the Archive Fund. In his report, David Viner referred to the speakers' panel that is being developed and offered a SWOT analysis in which its enthusiastic membership figured as a major strength of the Society - a strength which enabled him later to thank Alan and Carol Haines for their work on the Newsletter and welcome Chris Woodard as the new Newsletter Editor.

Roads are the real mass transit system, not rails or buses. Doubling public transport would not solve the problems with roads. The need is not to stop people travelling by car but to persuade them not to travel at peak times. Dr John Walker's talk on 'Road Pricing and Congestion Charging' proceeded to examine the principles of charging, posing questions of social equity; to review the various technologies available (Automatic Number Plate Recognition, Microwave Tag and Beacon and Global Positioning Satellite); and to describe actual congestion charging schemes, including the 2006 six-month Stockholm trial (22% reduction in car traffic in centre of city; 23% residents for the scheme before the trial, 51% after; businesses not affected; 20 fewer deaths from pollution; 40-70 fewer accidents/year), before comparing current proposals with turnpikes (similar, but more sophisticated!). Dr Walker's talk was a fascinating opportunity to hear a topical issue explored by an expert.

Mervyn Benford's talk examined the incredible variety of styles, situations and contents to be found in Warwickshire waymarkers, given that this is a county

with only 50 markers remaining. The A422 Stratford to Banbury road has seven surviving markers of five different types whereas most roads in many other areas of the country have identical signs. Milestones tell you about changes in the road system and about name changes: Easington has now become Ethington; the Banbury /Warwick stone is on a road which is not now the road to Warwick. Mervyn also demonstrated the value of archives, showing the picture of a stone which disappeared within three months of being reinstated. Although the stone has still not been found, the photo is there for the archives and to assist investigations.

In 'Beating the Bounds of Bucks', John Nicholls talked about the 'lollipop' boundary markers of Buckinghamshire, adding colour to his article in Vol. 5 of 'On the Ground', copies of which were available at the meeting, and posed two questions for further research: Why were the markers erected? Who bore the cost? In his second talk, 'Pointing the Ways in Oxon and Bucks', John described the characteristics of the three different types found amongst the 25 pre-1939 fingerposts identified in Oxon and of the four types found in Bucks. John had used archive photographs (for example of a 1931 display by Hub Ironworks) to determine original designs and materials used ('rust betrays iron') and whether parts were missing. The saddest examples were now in an appalling state of depredation and disrepair.

Discussion in the closing plenary focussed primarily upon the Society's policy on the sale of milestones. At the close of the Conference, members were given a special tour of the Coventry Boundary markers held by the museum, having earlier heard Amanda Slater, attending as a guest, speak briefly of her experience of photographing all of the markers.

John Atkinson (Worcs.)

PENNINE WAYS AND WAYMARKERS, 19TH OCTOBER 2008 - A TRIBUTE TO CHRIS MARCUS

Chris Marcus moved to the Saddleworth area around 10 years ago. He was already a keen member of the Letterbox Study Group and embraced with glee the milestones and other turnpike features of this locality. By 2007, he hoped to engage other inhabitants sufficiently to promote it as 'Turnpike Country' and wanted to host a Milestone Society meeting there. He spoke at our Hebden meeting again in April 08 and I finally gave way to his infectious enthusiasm - hence the 'Pennine Ways & Waymarkers' day came into being.

Chris was also a keen walker despite some mobility difficulties and he led our Sunday walking group round the area at the beginning of August, pointing out interesting artefacts amongst the wonderful scenery. He also introduced us to a splendid ice-cream parlour, Grandpa Green's, beside a lock on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Next day was his 61st birthday and two days later he was dead, having succumbed to another heart attack.

His colleagues on the A-Level Archaeology course at Selby described him as a 'warm, witty man' - we have lost a great supporter of our cause and a good

friend. What would be a fitting tribute? An excellent meeting - and so it turned out to be.

Forty Milestoners, friends and visitors found their way to Uppermill Museum, which sits beside one of the many turnpike roads that converge through this dip in the Pennines. Our first speaker, Mike Buckley of Saddleworth Historical Society described 'Ancient Saddleworth Highways and Byways', illustrating the surviving remains of the Roman road past Castleshaw fort, the medieval packhorse trails and the routes of the turnpikes over Standedge. Aerial photographs made the account even more vivid.

Mike was followed by Howard Smith, who talked about 'Finding the Way - how our Ancestors crossed the Peak'. Starting with natural features such as hillocks and rocks, as well as the oral tradition of retention of directions, Howard showed an amazing variety of Guide Stoops (a Scandinavian word meaning large stone!) including wooden poles. We were also intrigued by some mirror writing - were the carvers dyslexic or did they get the template the wrong way round?!

Lunchtime provided the opportunity to view Christine & Frank Minto's comprehensive display, to purchase books from Terry Keegan and Paul Hindle and to visit the Museum which houses the capstone of the Saddleworth Waymark, a toll-board and a 'Take Off Here' stone.

In the afternoon, I showed a miscellany of milestones and other waymarkers from around Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire; local Morris dancers illustrated the capstone story, where young men (after a Wakes night) would attempt to lift the capstone onto a nearby wall and back. We also had the legend of the Marsden cuckoo which perches atop a brand new waymarker on the Packhorse track. Some of the slides were taken by Chris Marcus himself, including his Cheshire 'open book' pictures - as well as the same style milepost recently for sale on e-Bay. Thankfully, that story has had a happy ending. Then Christine Minto took us through the intriguing 'Brayshaw and Booth' saga that she had described in *On the Ground*. Why did the new West Riding County Council spend a great deal of money replacing milestones on turnpikes and other routes at the very end of the 19th Century, when the received wisdom indicates that road traffic had diminished significantly? Perhaps the roads remained busy in the wool districts, perhaps it was just a conspicuous display of local authority pride.

Would Chris have been proud of our day? I'm sure he would have greatly enjoyed it! And we were fortunate to have known him; we'll remember one of life's true enthusiasts.

Jan Scrine (Yorkshire)

JOHN DONOVAN - A TRIBUTE

As a friend, and representing the Milestone Society, I attended the funeral for John Donovan, the Hertfordshire representative, on September 8th 2008. Earlier this year it had become apparent that John was behaving in a rather strange and forgetful way. I spoke to his daughter Linda in April, and it transpired that John was suffering from Rapid Onset Alzheimer's disease. He deteriorated at

frightening speed, which is perhaps a blessing, as he would have hated being a burden.

Tributes were paid by his two daughters, and readings by his two lovely grandchildren. A potted life history was read by the Vicar, in which we were mentioned. I had only known John since joining this Society, but we had become firm friends. It was hard not to like him. His quirky and enthusiastic take on life, and his eclectic interests made him fascinating company. I think most of his interests were represented at his funeral: the Boys Brigade, the band he played in, Potters Bar History Society, Hertfordshire nature and building conservation Groups, and of course the Milestone Society.

Our Society, as it has done for many people, gave John an excuse to further other interests, and the family gave me a lot of his 'stuff'. I have kept one or two non-milestone items, and handed on the remainder to the new Herts Reps, John and Marty Kilby, who agreed to take on the role. John's other 'stuff' included London Coal Tax Markers, The Highgate Viaduct and an interesting copy collection of Coaching postcards. Fortunately John was an organised person, and though things got a bit muddled this Spring, we have gained most of his Milestone files.

John's passing is a loss to us all, but his Family are all delighted that his and our work will continue.

Grainne Farrington

NORTHERN/YORKSHIRE GROUP SPRING MEETING - The Spring Meeting hosted by the Yorkshire Group will be at Hebden near Grassington on April 19th 2009. Further details by *e-mail*: yorkshiremilestones@hotmail.co.uk

Jan Scrine (Yorkshire)

FUTURE SOCIETY MEETINGS FUTURE SOCIETY MEETINGS - The Society's Spring Meeting will be held in Altrincham Town Hall, Cheshire on Sunday 17 May 2009. Address: Market Street, Altrincham WA14 1PG; a map may be downloaded from the web using the post code. Teas and coffees at 10 am on arrival. Car parking should be available in the car park of the adjacent nursery as well as by the roadside. A charge £3 per head will be made to defray refreshment costs. Further details in due course; enquiries to John Atkinson via Terry Keegan on terrykeegan@btinternet.com or (01299) 832358.

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY IN SCOTLAND

In an effort to kick-start a greater interest in the preservation of milestones and other waymarkers in Scotland, a day school is being organised at the David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle on 30th May 2009 (11 am to 4 pm). This spectacular venue in the heart of the Loch Lomond Trossachs National Park can accommodate up to 40 people in their conference room. The plan is to have 5 or 6 speakers giving talks on various aspects of the milestones and their preservation with the

emphasis on Scotland. By making contact with, not only our Scottish members, but also prospective enthusiasts over the rest of Scotland, we hope to increase our membership and inspire others to join in the work of conservation on the rich variety of mile markers to be found there.

There will be a small attendance fee of £3 to help with covering the cost of setting up the meeting. Anyone wishing to receive further details of this prestigious event should contact Terry Keegan; by phone (01299 832358); by e-mail (terryekeegan@btinternet.com), or by letter to: The Oxleys, Tenbury Rd. Clows Top, Kidderminster. DY14 9HE.

MILESTONE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: David Viner, dviner@waitrose.com

Vice Chairman: Terry Keegan, terryekeegan@btinternet.com

Hon Secretary: John Atkinson, john113atkinson@btinternet.com

Hon Treasurer & Minutes Sec.: Jan Scrine, yorkshiremilestones@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Brian Barrow, brian@skippy635.plus.com

County Co-ordination: Rob Caldicott, robcaldicott@fastmail.fm

Database Managers/Recording Standards: Alan Rosevear, Rosevearl@aol.com

Mike Faherty, saffrons@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Chris Woodard, chris.woodard@tiscali.co.uk

DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 2009 - Contributions for inclusion in the July 2009 Newsletter should reach the Editor by Friday 12 June 2009 at the following address *Chris Woodard, 19. Kingswood Road, Monmouth, Monmouthshire NP25 5BX*. Submission of articles in electronic form may be by floppy disc, on a CD or, alternatively, by e-mail to: 'chris.woodard@tiscali.co.uk



Part of a 1920s Michelin advert sent in by Michael Knight

and finally.



ISSN 1476-3109