



---

# THE MILESTONE SOCIETY

---

Newsletter 23

July 2012

---



### MILESTONE SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2011/2012

David Viner	- Chairman	dv@milestonesociety.co.uk
Terry Keegan	- Vice-Chairman	terrykeegan@btinternet.com
Jan Scrine	- Hon Treasurer	jhs@milestonesociety.co.uk
John Atkinson	- Hon Secretary	honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk
Brian Barrow	- Membership Secretary	members@milestonesociety.co.uk
Mike Buxton		
Robert Caldicott		rc@milestonesociety.co.uk
Mike Faherty		mf@milestonesociety.co.uk
Mike Hallett		newsletter@milestonesociety.co.uk
John V Nicholls		jv@milestonesociety.co.uk
Alan Rosevear		ar@milestonesociety.co.uk
Derek Turner		dt@milestonesociety.co.uk

### Supporting Roles and Responsibilities

County Representatives	See page 7 of <i>Newsletter 22</i>
County Network co-ordination	Derek Turner
Database Managers	Alan Rosevear, Mike Faherty
Web Manager	Jan Scrine
Editor, <i>Newsletter</i>	Mike Hallett
Editors, <i>Milestones &amp; Waymarkers</i>	John V Nicholls, David Viner
Editorial Panel (in addition to above)	Carol Haines, Terry Keegan
Heritage & Conservation Agencies	
Liaison	Jeremy Milln
Theft & Recovery Liaison	Robert Caldicott
Compliance (insurance, constitution & charitable status)	Mike Buxton, Laurence Dopson
Publicity & Promotions Liaison	vacant
Canals and Waterways Liaison	David Blackburn
Database co-ordinator (canals)	Mike Hallett
Milestone & road history & heritage	Mervyn Benford, Carol & Alan Haines
Ken Diamond Archive	Frank Minto, Terry Keegan
Technical Author/writer	vacant

This year's AGM and Annual Conference takes place at Snibston in the East Midlands (see p.39). The front page illustration shows waymarkers in Ashby de la Zouch, in Market Bosworth and near Loughborough together with a map of the Snibston and Coalville area based on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey.

## **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT**

Members attending our 10th anniversary meeting in October 2010 at the Black Country Museum in Dudley will need no reminder of the strong message of support intermingled with challenges given to the Society by our member and guest speaker that day, Sir Neil Cossons.

So it is a delight to be able to announce that Sir Neil has generously accepted the national committee's invitation to become the Society's first Patron with immediate effect, and so to be able to support our work in a new and positive way. We are looking to our Patron to be a critical friend, and an inspirer of activity and effort within the aims and objectives we have set ourselves.

We could not be in better hands in seeking to encourage and improve links throughout the wider heritage sector in Britain and to play a more strategic role on behalf of road history and heritage in particular.

Sir Neil has been central to much of the development of our appreciation of the past, latterly as Chairman of English Heritage between 2000 and 2007. His career in museums has also included some of the leading posts in the sector, especially as Director of the Science Museum for fourteen years from 1986, following three years at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

These are national posts with a wide influence, but it may well be for the thirteen years spent as director (the very first) of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust in Shropshire for which Sir Neil is best associated, a time of considerable development of one of the most-acclaimed independent museums in the UK, then as now.

We welcome Sir Neil into his new rôle. He is no stranger to road heritage, being the son of Arthur Cossons, doyen of turnpike and local historians whose own work is now widely regarded as essential reading for the study of so many English counties, especially in the English midlands.

Another pleasure: at the Burton-in-Kendal meeting in May, we acknowledged with a Special Award (and to acclaim) the considerable work put in on the Society's behalf by our member John Armstrong, who is based in Lancashire. As the certificate presented to him records, John has been the mastermind behind the creation of the Society's Web Repository with its publicly-accessible display of wayside markers on Google Earth.

One can only admire the commitment, expertise, encouragement and downright persistence which goes into such a creation, as the growing number of users of our Repository can and do endorse. Well done, John, we are indeed in your debt!

*David Viner, Society Chairman*

## **IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?**

If you have not yet renewed your subscription then this is the last Society publication that you will receive. Why not choose the easy way to renew by using the Society website and follow the procedure in the 'Join Us' pages?

*Brian Barrow*

## **AND DID YOU KNOW?**

If you pay your annual subscription through the website, using PayPal with your credit or debit card, you receive an immediate acknowledgement of this as a 'donation' from PayPal, followed by a note from the Treasurer. You can use the PayPal message as evidence of the donation for your tax return, and the amount will be added to your personal allowance whether or not you have paid with Gift Aid. So you can benefit from your payment as well !

*Jan Scrine, Outgoing Hon Treasurer*

## **SPREADING THE WORD –**

There's always pleasure in receiving a letter addressed to you personally that does not come from a bank or utilities company! So our newsletters and magazine and mailings will always be a high priority for our Society's links with our members.

There are also some publications that have a circulation round a smaller group, for example the newsletters produced by some County reps, but they are fascinating for a wider audience. There are local activities that are arranged at shorter notice than can be given in our newsletters and items of general interest that have been put on the internet by radio stations and newspapers. Terry Keegan has always posted his splendid Worcestershire newsletter to the Committee and to reps, but even with the healthy state of Worcestershire's hard-won finances, the postage costs are becoming disproportionate.

We also need to be able to attract more people in younger age brackets who are accustomed to using the power of the internet to discover much more than we geriatrics ever thought was possible.

What to do? We are preparing a new section for our brilliant website to give you news of 'What's going on in your Region'. It will be easy for a Regional Rep to upload newsletters, photos, articles, details of events and links to other useful websites and publications, for anyone to see, locally or nation-wide. Do watch for the tab appearing on our website homepage!

*Jan Scrine*

## **CATCH THEM YOUNG !!**

For years, we've been working on ways of interesting youth in our wayside history; we've generated flickers of interest from The Duke of Edinburgh's award team and the Home Educators in Kirklees, but not been able to bring anything to fruition. Then while doing a First Aid course (as a preliminary to launching a Ramblers'

Special Interest group, maybe) I encountered some Beaver leaders - who responded to my offer to give a presentation to their young charges. It's the entry level for the Scouting movement, boys and girls aged 6 - 8. Twenty-four of them assembled boisterously one hot evening in May, and listened attentively to my introduction to 'finding the way' and 'measuring distances' which will help them with their later orienteering activities. After lots of questions (including what tools were used to inscribe milestones!) they walked to an old milestone up the road and enjoyed sitting on it as well as viewing it. Hopefully, we may be able to develop a 'Resource Pack' that can be used nationally by the movement; the District Commissioner happened to be present and gave it his blessing.



An update follows in *Milestones & Waymarkers*, but in the meantime, if you are interested in spreading the word to the younger generation, have a look on our website in the Links section, click 'Other Organisations' and view the lively, comprehensive piece produced by Historic Scotland *Investigating Heritage on your Doorstep* - English Heritage Regional Champions, start here!

Jan Scrine

## WAYSIDE VERSE – SOME GOOD, SOME LESS SO...



Having experimented with our first YouTube effort, the interpretation of Hardy's *Milestone by the Rabbit Burrow*, we've had fun illustrating a poem by Ian McMillan, the Bard of Barnsley, called *In Search of the North South Divide*. Ian came for a tour of our milestones then wrote a super article about the Society's work in the *Yorkshire Post* magazine section.

Have a look – go to the Links section of our website and click on the new 'Wayside Verse' tab! And if you fancy writing a poem yourself, or you know of a suitable offering, just get in touch with Jan Scrine.

Jan Scrine

## MILESTONES & WAYMARKERS

The preparation work for this year's edition has already started but there is still plentiful space and the opportunity for the submission of new material. Please send material, preferably by 04 August, to John V Nicholls by e-mail to [jv@milestonesociety.co.uk](mailto:jv@milestonesociety.co.uk) or by post to 22 Woodland Avenue, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1DA.

Mike Hallett

### ENGLAND

**Cambridgeshire** As part of a £9 million project, Morgan Sindall are rebuilding Botanic House in Cambridge. Grainne Farrington found that the 1-mile stone outside the building (CA\_CAHV01) was being relocated. Working with local preservation society Cambridge Past, Present and Future and the builders, Grainne has ensured that the listed milestone has been relocated to a safe and prominent position near the entrance to the botanic gardens. The area around the milestone will be part of a paved pedestrian area when the work is complete.



**Derbyshire** Derbyshire County Council has secured funding from the Arts Council and the Legacy Trust to install 9 milestones at key points along the Olympic Torch Route, as a permanent reminder of the Olympics in Derbyshire. The milestones will be sited in each of the nine towns and villages that the Torch is carried through on 29 June. The nine towns and villages are: Glapwell, Bolsover, Calow, Chesterfield, Matlock, Darley Dale, Bakewell, Buxton and Ashbourne. The Torch will then go in to Derby for an evening celebration.

The stone will be sourced from local quarries, and is specifically chosen to match the local stone in each place. Each milestone will be engraved with the name of the town or village, London 2012, and the distance in miles to the Olympic Park. It will also have a line of poetry on it. Each milestone will be part of an overall Olympic Torch Relay poem, making a kind of poetry trail through the county. A local stone carver will be commissioned to design and carve the milestones. Matt Black, the Derbyshire Poet Laureate, will be commissioned to write the county's Olympic Torch Relay poem, and he will run poetry workshops in each town/village to involve local people in the making of the poem.

**Devon** Tim Jenkinson reports that following a recent meeting at County Hall in Exeter plans are afoot by Devon County Council to identify certain areas of the county's roads as possessing 'special verge' status following a run of recent incidents where there has been considerable damage to milestones from verge cutting machinery. This initiative would enable contractors to be alerted to the presence of a milestone in an overgrown bank or verge, similar to the process that is used for identifying rare flowers, so that damage is hopefully avoided. Unfortunately not long after the meeting Alan Rosevear reported that there had been recent terminal damage to two North Devon stones both showing distances to Barnstaple (BARUM) on their faces. These latest incidents highlight the urgency with which milestones in that part of the county need protection. To this end DCC has now been furnished with a list of 'at risk' rural North Devon markers for attention and hopeful-

ly soon the protection scheme will be put in place before any more roadside heritage is lost.

**Hampshire - The New Forest** *Mike Faherty* writes that members travelling across the New Forest on A31 have mentioned the sad state of the stone on Poulner Hill, junction with Nouale Lane (HA\_RORI16), SU 166 055. It was hit obviously with great force, as the shaft landed up several metres away; this happened almost four years ago. Since then, the shaft has been moved next to its base. Although illegible, the stone is listed by English Heritage. New Forest District Council has been informed, as have the Highways Agency. The Highways Agency have made all the right noises, passing the case on to their contractors; despite a reminder, nothing has been done. Time for some nagging!

A mile further east, towards Romsey and Lordon, was another listed stone (HA\_RORI15), SU 161 033, at the junction with a lane leading to Hightown Common. This was photographed for Images of England in 1999, when it looked fallen. Sadly, no information has been forthcoming from the Highways Agency about its fate.

Yet a mile further towards Romsey, another stone in this series has surfaced (not strictly true, it must have been there all the time; recorders were not looking in the right place!). Shown on OS Explorer, but not clearly exactly where, as a parish boundary gets in the way. Other stones in this series are on the southern side of the road, so it could reasonably be expected that this would be there as well. Not so; driving along the road a few months ago, and not looking where I should have been, I noticed a stone in the central reservation. Lo and behold, this is HA\_RORI14, at SU 195 065. Possibly when the road was doubled in the 1970s, engineers moved its carriageway to the south, leaving it stranded. David Viner found it when surveying in the 1960s. Visitors to the stone will need to wear hi-vis clothing and cross the road very cautiously; traffic speeds are fast.

Move on to the south of the Forest, to the A337, Lymington to Christchurch. Ordnance Survey clearly shows a stone at Hooper's Hill, but without an exact location. Looking at old maps, the current route at Ashley Bridge is modern; the road originally formed a dog-leg, which is now partially isolated from the main road. The dog-leg is now so much a minor lane that the stone (HA\_LYCC05) should still be there. Visits proved fruitless until, finally, in March 2010, the site was re-visited. There was the stone [right], exposed probably by a well-motivated gardener from the neighbouring care home, deep in a prickly hedge (visitor John Higgins can confirm that it is prickly!).



The stone only becomes visible when the hedge has been clipped, and then returns to seasonal invisibility; SZ 263 942 (gardeners' gloves advised).

**Hertfordshire** The 23-mile stone on Watling Street at Red bourn (HE\_LH23) was reported as fallen and *John Nicholls* has been trying to get Hertfordshire Highways to re-instate it.

**Huntingdonshire** Following on from the reinstatement of the Huntingdon 7/Thrapston 10 milestone at Spaldwick. (NL22 p10), *Michael Knight* reports that two more markers of the same site were re-installed in January 2012. The District Council highway team erected Huntingdon 9/Thrapston 8 and Huntingdon 10/Thrapston 7 in the adjacent parish of Catworth, through which runs the old A604 nowadays bypassed in many places by the A14. Neither milestone could be placed at their original locations, but two convenient slip-roads sufficed to have them safely away from heavy traffic. This has followed after years of negotiation by Grainne Farrington. One more Spaldwick milestone remains to be redeemed, when the 'custodian' reluctantly relinquishes his ownership.

In February 2012 another milestone (London 65) on the northern section of B 660 at Tilbrook was renovated by Michael Knight, consequent upon its realignment by the District Council Road Agency.

Also in February a group of Godmanchester Civic Society members assembled in front of Ethnic Origins Emporium - a Listed Building from the 1840's - to celebrate the restoration of four Ketton stone plaques built into the corners of the house-wall. Each plaque extends a 'finger' TO HUNTINGDON and TO LONDON along the Ermine Street and two plaques TO CAMBRIDGE along the Via Devana.

Thought to be the only waymarkers of their kind in the UK, they are sited at the junction of two important Turnpike Trust routes. Their restoration was achieved at a cost of £2000 and marks the 800 years since Godmanchester was granted a Royal Charter.

**Kent** *Colin Woodward* reports that the very dry weather in late winter provided excellent conditions for searching, with eight more milestones added to the data base, bringing the total of known surviving milestones in the county to 220. Most of the milestones noted in the winter will be very difficult to locate in summer when the vegetation is high, as they are buried in hedges or only just protruding above ground level. An exception is an example still by the A2 at Bishopsbourne





near Canterbury which is in good condition although unlikely to be not iced by drivers speeding towards the Channel Tunnel. Canterbury City Council has agreed to add this milestone to its list of locally listed buildings.

In carrying out the survey, an assessment has been made of the condition of each milestone. Taken together, the results illustrate the enormity of the problem, with over half the County's 220 milestones estimated to be in dire need of restoration [see pie chart opposite].

**Lancashire** *John Armstrong* reports that a county group meeting has been arranged for the 28 July at Brenda Fox's home in Garstang to find out more about members' interests and to organise some group conservation initiatives, building on members' current activities. Topics to be discussed include maintaining up to date records of milestones and other waymarkers, restoration projects, liaison with county and local councils, funding, and local awareness raising initiatives.

Phil and Juliette Platt have reported a number of new milestone discoveries in the Bolton area. The first find was a milestone built into a wall in Winchester Way, Brightmet (LA\_BOBY01a) with an indistinct engraved legend that begins 'To Bolton Cross'. The next was a base stone without a plate in Chorley New Road, Heaton (LA\_BOBYA03). Two milestones were then found on the A675 Preston to Bolton road, in North Turton (LA\_PSB012) and in Astley Bridge, Bolton (LA\_PSB017). The North Turton milestone is currently propped up by a rotting piece of timber and also missing its plate. The Astley Bridge milestone has a clear engraved legend rather than a plate.

Bishop Michael has reported another milestone of the same design as the Chorley New Road discovery, also without its plate, in Horwich, which is to be investigated.

Two further finds reported by Bishop Michael are on the A59 Preston New Road, close to the M6 (LA\_PSBBA03) and on the old Preston to Wigan road in Farington (LA\_PSWG04). The A59 milestone is in good condition, while the Farington milestone is missing its plate. Bishop Michael has also reported that the 14 mile stone on the A583 Blackpool to Preston road is in a county council yard and that the 15 mile stone not currently recorded is still in place.

All of the above confirmed new discoveries are now registered in the Society's National Database and can be viewed in Google Earth via the Society's repository web site.

Many members have a special interest in boundary markers and the county group will in particular be considering ways to review members' own records to identify updates or additions to the Society's national database. Phil and Juliette Platt have been particularly busy finding and reporting over 30 boundary markers in the Bolton and Chorley districts. Unfortunately, Chorley Borough Council and surrounding rural

councils were particularly zealous during World War II and many of the discoveries have been totally defaced.

One interesting very recent find is an almost buried mushroom shaped stone in Little Scotland between Wigan and Bolton on the boundary of Haigh and Blackrod parishes. The visible legend above ground is indistinct but seems to include the letters J M A W. Initial research has not come up with any explanation for these initials.



LA\_PSOK07

LA\_CYBB05

LA\_BBCL05

Bishop Michael has been restoring milestones and boundary markers throughout Lancashire for many years. Having only joined the Society last year, we are only now beginning to appreciate the extent and quality of his work. Some recently completed examples of his restorations are the milestone on the Liverpool Old Road in Much Hoole (LA\_PSOK07), the milestone on Chorley Road, Withnell (LA\_CYBB05), and the milestone on Whalley Road in Billington (LA\_BBCL05)

Kath Almond reports resorting to somewhat unconventional tactics to restore what she affectionately calls her Noddy fingerpost, an old wooden fingerpost which she thinks is the only survivor of its type in Chorley, if not Lancashire

When first discovered, it was covered in ivy and moss, with barely any paint on it. The only reason it had survived for a hundred years is because it is on a narrow rural road that has not been widened, and luckily was not removed during World War II. Telephone enquiries to Lancashire County Highways, Chorley Borough Council, and Euxton Parish Council failed to determine who was responsible for its maintenance. In the end, she decided publicity may help and hung a sign on it saying HELP! As still nothing happened, she put a second sign on it: 'In need of TLC – Chorley's last remaining fingerpost'.

Euxton Parish Council then took pity on it. It was removed, renovated and returned to its original position. The parish council even put cobbled sets around the base to stop ivy growing up it. The fingers are still the hand carved originals. There was only one difference: the post was now painted with wood preservative, whereas the original was painted white. Euxton Parish Council was subsequently awarded a certificate from Chorley Civic Society for the renovation of the fingerpost.

It is evident from recent discoveries and tours of milestones in central Lancashire that there are many milestones with missing plates. There is one particular example on the old Blackburn Road in Wheelton (LA\_CYBB03) where 'Being Cleaned' has been chalked on the stone. A local resident says that someone removed the plate about 3 years ago and left the message. He thinks it was just a cover and doubts that the plate will ever be returned.

This incident has sparked some discussion amongst members whether it is worth restoring any plates, particularly given the recent increase in metal thefts, or whether cheaper alternatives such as wood or resin would be suitable. The Worcestershire group's practice of drilling screws to prevent plate removal is a very practical measure and we would be interested in any other views on the subject of restoring missing plates.

**Leicestershire** *Michael Knight* writes that following a talk given to the Claybrookes Historical Society in April, several members re-appraised their local heritage of milestones which had been erected on the (now) B577 & A5 consequent upon a 1762 Turnpike Act.

Whilst Carol Haines was unaware of the two milestones, she had recorded in *Marking The Miles* the mile-irons along this route. Mervyn Benford, however, had noticed in his wanderings an eroded 'plunging neckline' stone in the grounds of Claybrooke Parva House. He remarked in his Shire Book *Milestones* that another example, can be seen at Burbage. One local Society member travelled to High Cross [the junction of two Roman highways] and noted a matching stone which gives distances between Hinckley and Lutterworth.

It is concluded that these milestones are survivors from a mile-iron replacement, probably in the early 19th century. Those now standing at Ullesthorpe and Claybrooke Parva i.e., LONDON 92/93 MILES respectively, the latter half-buried in subsoil and overgrowth.

On this same turnpike route are preserved two tollhouses - one, modified, at High



Cross, the other in near original condition on the stream boundary between Lutterworth and the small village of Bitteswell.

**Middlesex** *Colin Woodward* writes that the London Borough of Ealing has restored a cast iron milestone in Uxbridge Road, West Ealing following damage sustained when it was hit by a motorcycle in 2008. Listed building consent was approved by the Secretary of State in September 2011. The restoration has included sealing the cracks using a cast iron stitching method rather than welding, with replacement cast iron installed to replace the missing metal. The milestone, [right] previously half buried, is now repaired and displayed at its original height, including the foundry inscription at the base reading 'R.U. and J.B. Arrett, London, 1832'.



Two milestones and two boundary stones displayed at a Church Farmhouse Museum, Hendon, face an uncertain future following the closure of the museum last year. Barnet Council wishes to dispose of the museum and has invited bid submissions. The two milestones are a Barre tt cast iron type removed from Edgware Road near Staples

Corner reading 'LONDON/5/WATFORD/9', which has undergone some recent restoration, and a very worn stone reading 'V/MILES/FROM/LONDON' taken from North End Road, Golders Green. Both examples have been exhibited in the grounds of the museum for many years. At the time of writing Barnet Council has yet to make any announcement on the future of its museum collections.

**Norfolk** *Carol Haines* reports that much has been achieved so far this year. Two milestones on the Dereham Road (A1074) in Norwich which had been without their metal plates for decades, now have replacements. The project gained impetus with Norwich City Council's Bus Rapid Transit Scheme which also aims to improve the historic environment along the road. Another major restoration was the reinstatement of the Thetford 4/Norwich 25 stone on the A11 which had been lying several miles away for about 20 years. Thanks to the Highways Agency and their

contractors, Atkins, the stone is now back in place at Bridgham, after Carol and Alan were given a day to paint it at the contractors' depot. Both these restorations will be written up in more detail for the next *Milestones & Waymarkers*.

Nigel Ford's Jubilee Project has received much publicity in the local press and his restoration work is progressing steadily. He has received funding from individuals, local businesses, parish councils, charitable trusts, Norfolk CC and the Milestone Society, and is trying to involve local people as much as possible to spread knowledge and awareness of their local milestones. There has also been a good liaison with Norfolk Historic Environment Service, who are in the process of adding details of the county's milestones to their records of historic buildings.

Some new records have been added to the database. A milestone in the grounds of a farmhouse at Honingham may have been made for the Norwich, Swaffham and Mattishall Turnpike in 1780 and disposed of when superseded by a cast iron set in 1823. The attractive lettering reads: '9/Miles to/Dereham' on one side. Only a large '6' can be made out on the other side, but was probably the mileage to Norwich. Just before Christmas, Carol and Alan had an opportunity to be guided through the Stanford Training Area in south Norfolk to visit the sole surviving stone on the Thetford-Watton road. The Watton 4/Thetford 8 stone was dug up in about 1995 when a nearby bridge was being strengthened at Tottington, one of three abandoned villages in the MoD's 17,500 acres of live ammunition firing ranges (and a replica Afghan village!). We were able to search four other milestone sites shown on old maps, but the stones were either still buried or, probably, had been used for target practice.

Other roadside records include a fine cast iron boundary post dug up by a household-er installing a new fence on the borders of East Tuddenham and Hockering parishes, and the Grade II listing of a 1904 prohibition sign in Coast Road, Overstrand. The black and white post topped with a red disc once had a weight restriction sign attached to prevent the vibration of heavy vehicles dislodging the cliffs.

**Northamptonshire** Helen Crabtree writes 'I have recently been appointed as the rep for Northants probably because I have given 56 talks on milestones over the last 4 years in Northants, Leics and Bucks! There are 32 milestones in the county; I have photographed them all and will hopefully add the missing photos to the repository in the next few weeks. Sadly a lot of the milestones, especially the Telford ones do not have plates; is it worth putting new plates on them? I recently found a milestone on Stamford Road in Kettering and a second one in Blisworth. I would like to thank Tony Kirby from Wellingborough who kindly photographed the Blisworth ones for me a few days before the Burton meeting. I am in the process of trying to get permission to make the writing on the Desborough stone more easily seen by either painting or re-carving the details. I was unable to locate the piece of stone at Elking-

ton near Stanford Hall which was photographed a few years ago, I only found the top. I would also like to have the ball on the top of one of the stones in Stanford on Avon on the Clay Coton Road replaced. Colin Woodward sent me photos of the milestone in Plaistow, formerly from Rushden which I will endeavour to find out if it can be returned to its rightful place. If you would like to help with any restoration please contact me on

### Northumberland

reports on the milestone uncovered in the red



Following on from the article in NL21, *Iain Davison* reports on the milestone uncovered in the redevelopment of the Royal British Legion site at Stobhillgate, south of Morpeth. After consultation with the housing developers, Cussins Ltd, and the County Council, the milestone has been restored and re-sited close to where it was found. The restoration was featured in the *Morpeth Herald* of 13 October 2011. There is still uncertainty about the origin of this stone. Whilst found on the line of the original turnpike road from Tynemouth to Morpeth, it is not shown on any of the early OS maps. Also the original stones on the route appear to have been measured from Tynemouth (this one would have been about 15½). At some time the stones were replaced with cast iron mileposts made by Smith Paterson, Blaydon on Tyne and gave distances at this site of Morpeth 1 and North Shields 15½. Fairly close to the site there was a

milestone shown on the Morpeth to Choppington road which may have been moved to the Royal British Legion site when the road was re-aligned.

Whilst discussing the Stobhillgate milestone, mention was made of a cast iron milepost in a garden two miles south of Morpeth on the A192 Morpeth - Cramlington - North Shields road [photo opposite]. Sure enough the milepost was in a private garden and fairly well maintained. In conversation with the householder it transpired that about 25 years ago a contractor uprooted the milepost whilst laying a duct for British Telecom and it was never re-instated. Several months after the contractor had left the site, the householder found the milepost and decided to take care of it which he has done for the past 20 odd years.



## Oxfordshire

*Derek Turner* reports that as one lot of challenges is met, others pop up. The long-running saga of the 'Deddington depot stone' came to a happy ending when 'Oxford XIV' was finally replaced in its previous position – more or less – with the assistance of the recently re-badged Oxon Highways and Transport. On the same day in December Highways also replaced the Swerford milepost including its smart new plate, modelled on the one in the Hook Norton brewery museum, celebrated modestly of course – with its fine ale. In April a more ambitious ceremony involving local MP Tony Baldry and Oxon CC cabinet member for transport, Councillor Rodney Rose, celebrated the marriage of the rejuvenated original plate and a well-carved modern stone, as 'Coventry 24', a couple of miles east of Banbury.



*Celebration at Swerford*



*Coventry 24*

Good media coverage of the ceremony held during a rare break in the monsoon elicited news of a long-unrecorded milestone at Wendlebury that the parish wanted to restore as a Jubilee project. Initial hopes that this would be a simple 'lift and re-carve' job turns out after partial cleaning and excavation to be another conundrum like 'Oxford XIV' about what the original legend actually read, where it was – map evidence suggests it was moved at least twice – with the added complication that the stone

was found to be fractured below ground. But the activist Oxon team will persevere, even though one of its members likened us to the 'Last of the Summer Wine' gang; and hopefully this saga can be brought to a happy conclusion before the end of the Jubilee year. A letter has gone to Magdalen College suggesting it might like to restore the iconic but badly weathered 'London LIV' that stands up against its buildings by Magdalen Bridge. Early indications are that there might be a positive response; fingers are being kept firmly crossed.

**Shropshire** *Alan Reade* provides two photos by the Society's Salop member John Haynes showing recovered/repainted/replaced mileposts on the A458 Shrewsbury-Bridgnorth road:

SBBN08 at Cressage which had been knocked down in 2008 allegedly by a French



*SBBN08*



*SBBN10*

lorry, was recovered by the local farmer, collected by Shropshire Highways, repaired and repainted at the Longden Road depot (Shrewsbury) and replaced at the roadside in April 2012.

SBBN10 at Harley which disappeared in 1966 during roadworks, was seen for sale on eBay in 2008 by a Society member and Shropshire Highways, was bought off eBay by

Shropshire Representative Alan Reade, repainted at the Longden Road depot and replaced at the roadside in April 2012.

**Soke of Peterborough** (Unitary Authority) *Michael Knight* successfully wooed a genial manager at George Farm to lift a milepost situated in St.Martin's parish, just south of Stamford on the former Great North Road.

The marker, standing on the original main route, is damaged and the top section 'LONDON 88' had been removed and stored in Michael's garage since 2006. This has now been re-united with its cast-iron stump, on the farm, and efforts are being made to have the Unitary Authority repair the milepost and re-site it at the entrance to George Farm. Photographs appeared in *Milestones & Waymarkers* Vol 4 p17.

**Somerset** *Janet Dowding* reports that the Somerset Group met in April for the spring meeting. Since their last meeting she had to report the theft of one of their best milestones and the likely disappearance of another. The stolen one is that at ST 62194782 in the parish of Ashwick near Shepton Mallet. It had been repainted in



July 2009 and was very unusual in that it had 'Gloster 52' on the top. Both Mendip D.C. and Somerset C.C. confirmed that they had not removed it, and, although I wrote to the police with details, no acknowledgement has ever been received from them.

The likely disappearance of the Leigh-on-Mendip plate (ST 70144671) has also occurred. The stone had been smashed in two in an accident some 2 or 3 years ago and the plate on its remaining half of stone put into the Frome Highways depot. Just as we had negotiated a new stone from a local quarry, the plate which should have been safe in the depot seems to have been mislaid, thrown out or even been stolen. The whole restoration project is now at a standstill.



However good news reported was that persons unknown in the Bridgwater area have repainted two mile plates (just the white background to date). These are at ST 29923395 near North Petherton (on A38) and ST 288632386 in North Petherton. It could be the same person who repainted the '1 mile to Bridgwater' plate (ST 31453824) near the old cellophane factory sometime after 2003. We have yet to discover if they have done the black lettering to finish off.

Further good news was Janet's discovery of a milestone and terminus plate in the newly refurbished Taunton Castle Museum on a visit there in March 2012. The plate is unpainted and says '4 miles to Taunton'. The terminus plate says 'Here ends the Taunton Trust'. The original location of both are unknown.

We hope to restart milestone painting in our area once the rain ceases for an appreciable length of time!

**Staffordshire**      *Howard Price* reports that following receipt of the latest Staffordshire County Highways contacts and map of the various areas for Highways, it has been decided to share the fielding of milestone issues around the county between four active Staffordshire members of the Milestone Society as follows:

David Wright: Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke on Trent, Newcastle, Stone. David lives in Meir Heath and will be restoring the majority of the mileposts in Staffordshire Moorlands this year. He is an experienced member and has a history of civil engineering contracting.

Alan Bloor: Stafford (not Stone), Cannock Chase and South Staffs north of the A5. Alan lives in Little Haywood and has an engineering background.

Peter Leigh: South Staffordshire as far as the A5 and Kinver. Peter lives in Albright-

on on the Shropshire border, is a keen historian and formerly was director of a national road sign company.

Howard Price: East Staffordshire, Lichfield and Tamworth. Howard lives in Yoxall and has some experience in milestone restoration. He is acting as the county coordinator following John Higgins' 'step back' from the rôle over many years. Howard has taken on around 15 mileposts to restore in 2012 in the Moorlands area.

John Higgins has written to James Bailey at the Highways Department to set out the work we are undertaking this year; some 67 mileposts to re-paint in Staffordshire Moorlands District, excluding the Peak Park.

The Churnet Valley Living Landscape Partnership is all about protecting and enhancing the built and natural heritage of the Churnet Valley. One of the projects is regarding waymarks proposed by John Higgins.

The project has been successful in securing funding for heritage projects via the Heritage Lottery Fund, and it means that

a) We can have a new cast of the unique bobbin post (Leek 2 on the A523) that was demolished a couple of years ago; and

b) We can cast new canal mileposts for the Uttoxeter canal, pending its possible re-opening at some time in the dim and distant future.

They will all be cast by James Shenton of Great Bridge, who cast the Cald on replacements forty or so years ago.

**Warwickshire** *Mike Buxton* and Robert Caldwell have been carefully re-examining three areas of Warwickshire over the first months of this year. Using pre-war OS information as a base they have discovered six previously unrecorded milestones that had been presumed missing. This is a substantial addition (about 10%) to the low number of way markers known about in the county. Furthermore, thanks to John Higgins' research, two out-of-place Warwickshire Roman milestones have been discovered in museums, one at Rugby, the other in Alcester.

Robert has been instrumental in getting one of the gas-lamp style mileposts on the Stratford on Avon to Long Compton turnpike listed by English Heritage. Further efforts by the Shipston and District History Society and the Milestone Society to try and get one of the gas-lamp style mileposts reinstated and fully restored have so far not resulted in any significant progress.

Restoration efforts on other planned projects are slow, being somewhat hampered by the current liaison difficulties with Warwickshire CC.

**Yorkshire** *Christine Minto* says it is a mazing th at with so many milestones already found and recorded that 'new' ones still turn up.

In April, after studying an old map, Jeremy Howat and Dave Williams went to an

original part of the Knaresborough to Green Hammerton turnpike near Allerton and found a stone just where it was on the map. No remaining legend but 5 miles from Knaresborough.

Some time ago Lionel & June Scott in Leeds told Christine of a stone in private hands but they were not able to divulge its location. Now they have and she finds she has been cycling within a short distance of it for several years. It is outside



YS\_DNDL07

Home Farm at Brodsworth, on a lane that only leads to footpaths. She has spoken to both the lady who lives at the farm now and her father in law who erected the stone there when he had the farm.'

It was originally on the Great North Road north of Doncaster near Robin Hood's Well. When the road was dualled in the 1960s the well canopy was taken apart and the stones carefully rebuilt on a remnant of the old road at the side of the south-bound carriageway. A potato merchant who lived nearby rescued the old milestone which no-one wanted and stood it in his garden a mile to the east in Burghwallis. After the death of his widow, the Brodsworth farmer was given the stone and so it moved once again, 2½ miles southwards. Unfortunately the top of the stone has been lost so we can only surmise that at 6 1/2 miles

would take the rider or stagecoach to Darlington.

There are carved ridges on the left hand side of the stone as if the stone was part of a building before it became a milestone or was reused when it became redundant on the roadside. That may explain the loss of the top part and other damaged areas. The style of inscription suggests a pre-turnpike stone. The ubiquitous WRCC milestones were set up on this road in 1893/4 but before that there would have been Turnpike Trust stones. The only possible known survivor of these [right] is now in a garden in Worcestershire, a plated stone having mileages to Ferry bridge, York, London and Doncaster. Richard Heywood found a picture of the well on a 1930s calendar. This shows a parish boundary stone next to it but that is



no longer there.

Saddleworth, a part of Yorkshire given away in the 1970s, probably has the largest concentration of markers for its size anywhere in the country. There are 24 WRCC milestones, five older turnpike stones, and fourteen Parish, Urban District and county boundary stones. In 2007 Oldham MBC recorded all these stones and 2011 saw the metal attachments (one was missed) painted. From this record it was discovered that both Chris Marcus who lived nearby and Christine had missed this first WRCC one on the Oldham to Standedge route!

David Garfield is providing some photos of the stones and crosses on the North Yorks Moors. But with pictures of only about a quarter of over 80 already known about there is still a long way to go. Many are on the ancient tracks across the moors so, hikers get your boots on.

Christine says 'During journeys both on two and four wheels I always check that milestones are in place. If I have already done a GPS on them I don't usually stop. But for some reason I did stop at the turnpike stone Bawtry 1 on the A631 in April. In summer this is hidden in bracken and even in winter mostly hidden. What I found was very disturbing. Someone had dug a deep hole at the back as if trying to lift and steal the stone. Usually 70cm are above soil level but having dug down another 45cm the would-be thief hadn't even been able to make this chunky stone rock, thankfully. Next day, armed with spade, two bags of ready-mix cement and water, Frank and I filled in the hole and covered the cement with soil. Hopefully this 200 year old stone [left], one of only three, unfortunately all plateless, still in situ on the Bawtry to Tinsley turnpike will survive for



many more years.

'On our annual visit to Hebden near Grassington for the Yorkshire Group together a new West Riding halo with a Grid Ref was spotted on the fingerpost at the bridge. This is another of the replacements made to enhance the historic environment of the Yorkshire Dales. And Phil Platt has sent me pictures of two halos in private hands for Bashall Town and Great Mitton. These villages are in the last bit of Yorkshire in the boundary between the Ribble and Hodder now administered by Lancashire.'

*John Harland* writes from the East Riding.

On a recent drive it was noted that two thefts of metal plates have occurred in recent months.

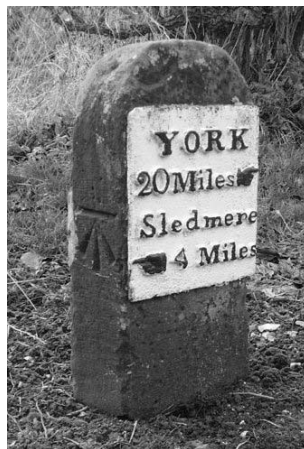
The first is the large self standing tombstone shaped cast iron plate situated on the A165 Beverley to Bridlington road at TA 133 529. It was one of a set of four still in situ and the legend was BRIDLINGTON 11 BEVERLEY 12 in raised lettering.

The second is a cast iron plate fastened to a stone block adjacent to a layby on the A1079 Hull to York road at SE 833 446. This one has 13 BEVERLEY 16 YORK incised into the metal plate and it has just been pulled off the stone and removed.

One of our oldest milestones situated on the B1246 Pocklington to Driffield road at SE 853 501 has been broken off at ground level and removed. It was a very weathered rectangular slab, with chamfered top corners, with DRIFFIELD \* Miles incised into it.

On a more positive note the Wilberfoss in Bloom Committee asked if they could move a mounting block milestone from its position on a dead end section of road into the village itself in order to make a feature of it. East Riding of Yorkshire Council Highways Unit excavated the new hole with local volunteers carefully excavating around the stone, lifting it out utilising a local farmer's tractor and placing it in its new position. It is approximately 50 yards east of its original position on a well maintained verge on the main street and reads 21 BEVERLEY 8 YORK. The original location was SE 724 509 and the new one is SE 725 508.

*Jeremy Howat* writes on the Society's Facebook page that the sole surviving complete milestone on the Fridaythorpe to Sledmere road (YE\_YOSL20) has suffered from a severe impact. It is the only complete survivor of this short series of combined stone and cast-iron mileposts, the other being in private hands. It is hoped that East Yorkshire Highways will respond to the challenge and restore it. The picture [right] shows it in 2009.



## **WALES**

*Chris Woodard* reports from Wales.

**Carmarthenshire** Between St Clears and Redberth in Pembrokeshire a new road is being built which will act as a by-pass avoiding the villages of Llanddwor, Llanteg and Kilgetty but will still be known as the A477. Sadly this new road will now directly dissect the traditional thoroughfare which for centuries ran from

St Clears to Tavernspite and was the acknowledged route into Pembrokeshire. This ancient road has one milestone recorded on OS maps of the area but two more have recently been discovered. Sadly one of these is badly damaged. An urgent appeal was sent to the County Council, the road contractors and the local press in April, asking that the authorities should take care of these stones.

**Glamorganshire** During the past twelve months Ron Shackell of Monmouthshire and Chris Woodard have nearly completed the survey for the county. What has come to light is that there are two sets of milemarkers along the A48 between Cardiff and Swansea. The cast iron mileposts from the 1835-41 period are well marked on the OS maps whilst their cousins the milestones, which are not marked, are to be found on the other side of the road and date from the pre-1835 period. Eight have been discovered.

**Merionethshire** We learn from the eminent historian R T Pritchard in his paper *Merionethshire Roads and Turnpike Trusts* that during the construction of the A496, the present coast road between Dolgellau and Barmouth, a 24 foot rod was used. It was estimated to cost 2½ guineas per 8 yard rod to build the road, whilst in the neighbouring county of Caernarfonshire, a local antiquarian considered 4s 6d a rod of 8 yards a reasonable charge for making the road through Nant Gwynant between Pont Aberglaslyn and Penmorfa (A498).

**Monmouthshire** The Wye Valley AONB has been very active over the past twelve months. First came the re-erection of the milestone on the A466 just south of the turn-off to Tintern Abbey. This stone had been on its side, uncared for over five years. Then in March of this year the AONB was finally able to do massive restoration work on Bigsweir Bridge tollhouse between Tintern and Monmouth on the A466. With the help of the Welsh Assembly and others, this sadly decayed and vandalised grade II listed building has been lovingly renovated. Throughout the summer of 2011, a bat survey indicated that the building was playing host to the rare Lesser Horseshoe bat. This means that a watchful eye will now protect both the bat and the building.

Sadly it came to the notice of the Society a week after the event that a Scottish milestone had been sold for £250 at an Abergavenny auction house. Details remain sketchy.

**Pembrokeshire** In May a talk was given to the Llanteg History Society entitled 'The History of the Toll Road and its Milemarkers'. The mystery and search continues to find a pre-1838 milestone within the county. A milestone has been found at Templeton and may have been erected privately; because of its condition it may have been erected far later than the 1850s.

## SCOTLAND

*Christine Minto* reports that the winter months have been quite productive for north of the border with contributions from several members.

### Borders

Iain Davison has been searching the minor roads in the Kelso, Yetholm, Carter Bar triangle on the moorland rising up onto the Cheviots and found four more milestones. Iain also reported that two stones in the Bowmont Valley had been uplifted on this ancient Reivers route into England.

### City of Glasgow

Diana Burns has found a stone near Ibrox with the legend 5 Miles from Paisley, 21 Miles from Greenock, 2 Miles from Glasgow. On Queen Street station there is a milepost from the Glasgow to Edinburgh railway line. *(For more from Diana on this topic see pages 28-29 - Editor).*

### Dumfries & Galloway

With the discovery by Alverie Weighill of the 8 mile stone, the set of thirteen plated stones on the B 724 from Annan to the A 75 near Dumfries is complete. Other Alverie finds are a stone 2 miles north of Kirkcudbright and two on the A 713 Castle Douglas to Dalry road set up by the Parson Turnpike Trust with another possible in a garden. From Dumfries, the 4 mile stone on the Cumnock road brings the tally for the 30 miles to the Ayrshire border to sixteen and towards Moffat a new find means twelve stones remain in place. However some have lost the plates that were made by J Affleck of Dumfries, the makers of the two multiname plaques on Mid Steeple in Dumfries and on the Douglas Arms in Castle Douglas. On the Dumfries to Moniaive route another of Alverie's finds means there are ten still there on that 16 miles. In a cul de sac west of Newton Stewart, originally the A 75 but by-passed twice, is the first of the stones giving the distance to Glen Luce although the plate is missing. Also found on the A 75 or in private gardens Alverie has brought the tally of the Affleck plated triangular stones with the distances to London and Port Patrick on



the top plate to ten. Adrian Sumner had told Christine of three stones on the B road from the A 76 at Menzies up to the highest village in Scotland, Wanlockhead where she spent her first night in a Scottish Youth Hostel over 50 years ago. On their journey to Renfrewshire in February they checked them out. Two have no legend but the one in the village has a 47 on the top but where to is a mystery.

**East Dunbarton** Diana Burns has also photographed [right] three of the Glasgow Royal Exchange plates known of from the Historic Scotland website but not confirmed until her visit in January.

### **Renfrewshire, East Renfrew & Inverclyde**

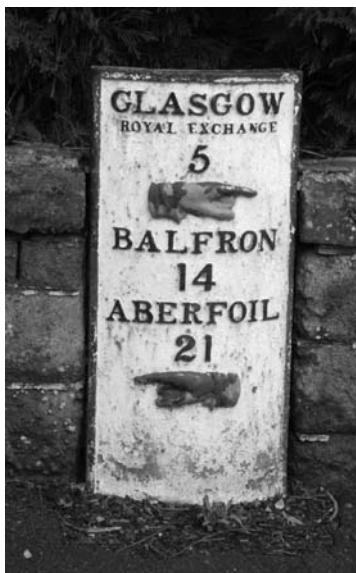
Christine and Frank took a few days holiday in February in an area new to them and armed with some thirty year old photographs two stones were rediscovered in Lochwinnoch being used as entrance posts with another near a gate in Shillford on



the Glasgow to Irvine road.

Another ridge along an old railway track and then by road to Gourrock resulted in the

first find for Inverclyde, an anonymous stone but preserved by a garden wall two miles from Greenock. But the best find was the boundary milestone at Soame Bridge on the B 764 road between Renfrewshire and Ayrshire. Eaglesham is 4 miles 3 furlongs and Kilmarnock 9 miles 1 furlong [left]. On reaching Kilmarnock in Ayrshire they also found a few more of the MSs marked on their map.



**Shetland** – Christine's cyclist friend who lives south of Lerwick has found another of the concrete milestones erected on the road to Grutness that was the base for the building of the Sumburgh lighthouse. As the airport is at Sumburgh the road has been 'improved' over the years so several of the stones are on disused sections. Grainne Farrington had been there in 2009 and has provided photographs of the 1 Mile and a bit to the Lighthouse stone plaque that probably postdates the Stevenson lighthouse milemarkers.

*Christine Minto*

### **Travellers, Turnpikes and Tar**

Scottish Local History Forum Conference, Glasgow, Nov, 2011

Further to my summary in January's Newsletter, I can now report that the Forum's official report is in Scottish Local History, Vol. 82, Feb 2012, pp21-22.

*Alverie Weighill*



## ROSELAND HISTORIC HIGHWAY FINGERPOST PILOT PROJECT

When Cornwall County Council became the unitary authority renamed Cornwall Council, each Councillor was given a small prescribed budget to spend within their ward. Councillor Julian German chose to spend his budget on the fingerposts in his ward, the beautiful Roseland peninsula, to the south-east of Truro.

Ian Thompson of the Milestone Society pointed out that no-one knew what fingerposts there were in the Roseland. In September 2010, with the agreement of the county's Historic Environment Service, he undertook a survey of Roseland fingerposts using the Milestone Society fingerpost survey sheets designed for the Cornwall Sample Survey of the previous winter.

Twenty-four fingerposts were found, all made in Cornwall. Two were in 'good' condition, three were alloy copies, the others were cast iron and in need of 'improvement'. Nineteen new arms would be needed, together with at least three new finials and other parts. All would need repainting. Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which includes the Roseland, contributed some funding and from May 2011 AONB officer Nigel Sumpter co-ordinated the project.

Fortunately, the Milestone Society had access to detailed records of Roseland fingerposts from 1964, before the Warboys Report was implemented and reflective aluminium boards adorned the county's road junctions. These records gave details of wording, dimensions and design for missing arms and finials, enabling Irons Brothers foundry at Wadebridge to make patterns for accurate cast iron replicas.



Public involvement was sought through local advertisement and a public meeting in Vryan Village Hall which was well attended. Support was received from Gerrans, Vryan and St Just in Roseland Parish Councils, from the Portscatho Regatta Committee and from the King Harry Ferry, which links Truro to the Roseland.

The main contractor for work on site was Cormac Solutions, but individual local people were encouraged to be involved, especially with painting. Health and safety issues made this challenging. One solution was the drop-in painting session in May, at the Grampound Road Highways Depot. Children from Vryan primary school and local historians were

among those who made their carefully supervised mark on newly cast arms.

There is still much work to be done, but this pilot project has seen 'improvements' happening to other fingerposts throughout the county. Perhaps Cornwall will soon be as famous for its special collection of fingerposts as it is for its marvellous milestones!

*Ian Thompson*

### **TAX-FREE TOLL BRIDGE**

Herefordshire seems a good place in which to become a tax exile, but only if you're interested in running a rural toll bridge.

Whitney Bridge went on the market in 2011 for only the third time in its long and eventful history, and was sold in January 2012. It's one of the very few privately-owned toll bridges left in Britain and is the only remaining toll bridge over the Wye. It is also the only extant timber bridge on this long and unspoiled river. As a notice-board explains, in 1774 a Bill was placed before Parliament for the construction of a bridge at Whitney and by 1795 three with five stone arches had been built. All were washed away, the Wye being anything but sylvan in time of flood. In 1796 a fourth bridge was proposed, this time with timber for the three central arches.

The bridge, a privately funded venture which remained in the ownership of the Taylor family until its sale in 1981, was reconstructed in 1992-3 at a cost of nearly £300,000. Brian Howard, a former bridge builder and High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, bought the Grade II listed bridge in 2002 and a couple of years later introduced an auto toll system controlled by traffic lights at both ends and a barrier outside the toll cottage at the north end. Mr Howard died in 2010, hence the bridge being advertised for sale again, with an asking price of £450,000.

Legislation passed in 1797 ensured that the bridge 'shall not be rated, assessed for or towards any public or parish rate or duty whatsoever.' Thus it is that the takings from up to 70,000 vehicles which use the crossing every year remain free of all taxes, business rates, council tax and stamp duty. The present stone and timber bridge carries the B4350 over the river although when roads were first classified in the 1920s the main A438 road from Hereford to Hay and Brecon was routed over the single-track bridge and this remained the case for several decades. These days a 7.5 tonne weight limit is in force.

Being a statutory tolled undertaking, Whitney Bridge's scale of charges is controlled by the Secretary of State for Transport. Such small ancient bridges built and tolled under private Acts of Parliament can only impose charges that meet operational costs, although some are allowed to make a reasonable return on their investment. In Whitney's case any surplus funds are used to benefit local charities. Shortly before the Second World War Herefordshire County Council discussed the possibility of erecting a toll-free crossing at Whitney and sought counsel's opinion on its right to do so. But nothing ever came of this idea.

In 1951, when there was a 10-ton weight limit, the charge for a car, lorry or trade van was 4½d, with 3d for a motorcycle (or 4d if fitted with a sidecar), and a penny per passenger. Today's rates are 10p for a pedal cycle, 20p for a motorcycle, 80p for a goods vehicle, car or minibus and £1.40 for a passenger vehicle designed to carry more than 16 people, with an extra 40p if actually carrying passengers. Turnover in 2010 was about £70,000.

*Tony Boyce*

## **PLYMOUTH BOUNDARY STONES**

*Tim Jenkinson* and fellow Milestone Society member Mark Fenlon are currently in negotiation with Plymouth City Museum and the Old Plymouth Society to assist in their project to record the many dated 19th Century boundary stones that are located around the city. It was decided by project leader Nigel Overton of the



*The boundary stone in Carlton Terrace on Eldad Hill in Plymouth. One of the very few to be Grade II Listed, it is inscribed with J.C.C./1840./IV.A/. These are collectively known as Plymouth Corporation Boundary Stones and there were at one time seventy set up around the city. They commemorate the mayor of the time, this being Joseph C Cookworthy, and are always dated. Most are of limestone but some are made of granite*



*This stone in Wyndham Square off Stoke Road in Plymouth is inscribed CN/IV/1864 after Mayor Charles Norrington.*

City Museum that a permanent record of the various stones, their locations, condition, style and inscriptions should be held in the museum for future reference. To that end the museum is seeking to acquire Lottery funding with the Milestone Society and the Old Plymouth Society acting as partners in the bid, in order to set up the project and eventually create a digital archive that the public can access to raise awareness of the need to preserve and protect these artefacts. Recently there have been a number of building and renovation projects occurring within the city boundary and it is known that some of these stones have been lost as a result. Thankfully four markers from the Millbay Dock area of the city have been taken into storage for protection as part of a building contract agreement at the site.

*Tim Jenkinson*

### MANCHESTER BOLTON AND BURY CANAL



Last December members of the Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal Society repaired milestone 3 at Agecroft (Salford). The front had fractured, probably due to frost damage and had been in storage for several years. Salford Council obtained a grant to re-surface the towpath, and it seemed a good time to repair the milestone. Advice was taken from local stonemason Kevin Crowley, who also provided the materials to do the job.

*Paul Hindle*

### Railway Mileposts

---

#### RAILWAY MILE MARKERS IN SCOTLAND

On the concourse of Queen Street Station, Glasgow, between platforms 2 and 3, stands a milestone. Bright yellow and beautifully restored, it is one of the survivors of a set of 45, and once stood at Dullatur, near Culternauld. When the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway opened in 1842, distances were indicated on distinctive white cast-iron mileposts, based on the turnpike system, showing the distances between Queen Street and Haymarket stations, the latter being the terminus of the Glasgow - Edinburgh line until 1846. These markers are unusual in giving mileage from both cities.

The Railway Heritage Committee wanted a milepost to be placed at one of the stations on the route between Glasgow and Edinburgh, and from its store First Scotrail organised the installation of Milepost 14, unveiled on 26 November 2008. Originally white, this post is painted yellow, the colour used for speed restriction indicators since 1963 to give improved visibility in snow.



This design of milepost is unique to the Edinburgh & Glasgow railway line, and

Historic Scotland, the Railway Heritage Committee, Scotrail and other interested parties regard them as well worth preserving. Consensus is not so clear over the number still extant. Milepost 5 has been restored *in situ* at the Cadder Yard, Kirkintilloch, East Dunbartonshire by First Engineering employees, and has been listed by Historic Scotland as a Category C Listed Building. No. 6 is with the National Museum of Edinburgh where it has been restored and this year has appeared in an exhibition 'See Scotland by Train'.

No. 13 is with the Auld Kirk Museum in Kirkintilloch (presently in store).

In 2006, the Railway Heritage Committee agreed to the disposal of a further three markers - to the National Railway Museum in York, the Railway Preservation Society at Bo'ness and Glasgow's new Riverside Museum. My request for photos, however, clearly caused puzzlement. It quickly became apparent that the markers had never reached their new homes and that relocation, staff changes etc. had left the three mileposts still standing by the track side. I contacted everyone involved, all parties are now in discussion and hopefully three more Edinburgh & Glasgow markers will be preserved.

I do not know which of the remaining mileposts will be allocated to the museums, but there are at least four to choose from (Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 9), with a question mark over the continued existence of No. 7 (at Woodilee, east of Lenzie) and a challenge to find the now missing No. 8 (at Waterside). Nos. 1 and 15 may survive in private hands. After donating the three markers to their respective museums, Network Rail has kindly agreed to the suggestion by the Railway Heritage Committee that the fourth known survivor should be placed at Haymarket Station, where rebuilding started in April.

I only joined the Milestone Society last autumn, but I hope my dogged persistence has helped preserve this unique set of mile markers north of the Border. I appreciate that the Society's main remit is the preservation of roadside milestones but round Glasgow, there are few examples of such markers surviving. Can I submit a special pleading on behalf of my (unique) railway milestones?

*Diana Burns*

Sources and acknowledgements:

Scotrail External Relations Manager, Atrium Court, 50 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6HQ

The Secretary, The Railway Heritage Committee, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EB

The Railway Herald Issue 157, 1 December 2008

The Scotsman, Wednesday 3 September 1997

### MID-SHIRE GROUP MEETING AT WROXTON, 3 MARCH 2012

The third annual meeting of the 'Wroxton group' attracted 23 people, near enough the same number as in previous years but from further afield. The counties represented were: Bucks (2), Devon (1), Dorset (1), Essex (1), Middlesex (1), Northants (1), Oxon (7), Shropshire (1), Warwickshire (4), Wiltshire (4). A fair number of 'regulars' were unable to attend for a variety of good reasons, such as being in New Zealand!

Three talks illustrated the themes for this year - 'Research and Restoration' - and the meeting finished with a 'regional round-up' and contributions from the floor. Alan Rosevear provided a masterly overview of all aspects of road travel in Berks and Oxon from pre-historic times to the end of the turnpike era and the modern trend back towards toll roads, all illustrated with a skilful collage of illustrations including, amongst other things, maps, documents, stage coaches, tollhouses, statistics and, of course, milestones. It is impossible here to do justice to the wealth of detail included, nor the breadth and depth of research on which it was based.

The talk prompted many questions and much discussion, only ended by the march of time and the need to make way for Mervyn Benford's talk on the work, challenges and decisions to be made by the Oxon county group. He began by explaining the long-drawn out process that finally led to the restoration of the 'Deddington depot' stone and why it has been re-carved on both front and back with different legends. (Look out for a forthcoming article in *Milestones and Waymarkers* giving the full story.) He then moved on to consider a number of other milemarkers in Oxfordshire and the sometimes difficult decisions to be made on how best to restore them. As always with Mervyn's talks, the tone was upbeat and challenging, encouraging us all to get out and do more.

After an hour's break when most repaired to one of the two nearby pubs, the meeting resumed with Peter Gulland's talk on all aspects of turnpike trusts in Bucks, also based on years of research into the subject. Peter touched on some of the same issues as Alan had for Oxon, such as the clustering of tollgates round commercial centres where they could bring in the most revenue, but with an interestingly different perspective. Amongst a wealth of fascinating detail, again impossible to summarise comprehensively, was the surprising fact that at least one turnpike trust was continuing to contemplate or actually to replace rotted with new wooden milemarkers until well into the nineteenth century. (The similarity of this short-term approach to the use of 'cheap and nasty' pressed-steel mileposts a little later as described last year by John V Nicholls prompts the thought that Bucks road authorities were a cheese-paring lot!) Ensuing discussion chiefly concerned Peter's mention of the moving of milemarkers as road improvements shortened distances, and the fate of tollhouses and their adjoining gardens once the trusts were wound up; those houses

built off the highway often surviving into the 20th century and those on the highway demolished with the building materials sold off as soon as the trusts were wound up.

In the regional round-up Mike Buxton reported 'good news/bad news' in Warwickshire, including two Roman milestones located in museums, two new milestone finds on the Fosse Way, and some slight progress at last with the gaslight-type milemarker project that he described last year. On the downside the Upton House stone has recently been wrecked for the second time in a year. On behalf of absent reps and members from other counties as well as Oxon, Derek Turner mentioned: two ongoing restoration initiatives in Berkshire and the Hampshire border; the same for the 'Stonehenge' milestone in Wiltshire; the notional return of a milestone from Oxon to Glos; Helen Crabtree taking over as rep for Northants, and the Oxon Highways' recent discovery of a Parliamentary boundary stone across the Thames from Abingdon. Robert Caldicott described the restoration of a mileplate on the A361 thanks, amongst other things, to the support of a local farmer. Derek Turner rounded off the day with a quick update on the Tollgate Keeper group research project.

*Derek Turner*

### **NORTHERN SPRING MEETING AT HEBDEN, 15 APRIL 2012**

Another glorious Spring day in the Yorkshire Dales, the pee-wits decoying, the pheasants whirring, the tiny lambs shivering pitifully on the frosted grass, as 38 milestoneers and guests gathered at Hebden near Grassington, to hear our guest speaker Christopher Evans describe his findings on 'Trods - paved ways in NE Yorkshire', as used by panniermen, fish merchants and smugglers. David Garside's illustrated talk on Boundary Stones (a wide variety, plain and fancy!) was followed by 'Cross at the cross roads, 230 miles to Clovelly and a real puzzle' by Dr Lionel Scott, who showed us some intriguing waymarkers at junctions, ending with a plea for anyone to identify the obliterated destination '67 miles north' on a pre-turnpike milestone from the Great North Road at Robin Hood's Fountain, seven (country?) miles north of Doncaster. Plenty of lively contributions from the floor ensured that this was another enjoyable meeting!

*Jan Scrine*

### **MEETING OF COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES AT BURTON-IN-KENDAL, 11 MAY 2012**

Twelve people gathered at Burton Memorial Hall on the Friday afternoon before the Spring Meeting. Unsurprisingly, most were from the northern half of the UK. Starting with Scotland and working southward, each rep recounted recent achievements and the obstacles to progress. Some of those who were unable to attend provided notes, the gist of which were shared with the meeting.

Some common themes emerged though there were also some notable differences

between counties. Amongst the more negative points to emerge was the general lack of real interest by most highways authorities though some, such as Oxfordshire, are a welcome exception. Also frustrating to some reps are parish councils who assume that the Milestone Society has unlimited time and resources to undertake the simple re-painting of milemarkers that could easily be done locally. Against that, however, are splendid examples, described in detail at the spring meeting, of parishes and civic societies that have undertaken or organized often ambitious and extensive projects.

All the reps present were able to point to positive recent achievements by their local groups, in one instance a group of one! These covered most of the normal range of the Society's activities: recording, photographing, restoring and raising public awareness. Amongst the highlights mentioned were: the hyper-activity of one Norfolk member restoring 60 waymarkers as a Jubilee project, the formation under the leadership of John Armstrong of a sizeable and active group in Lancashire - that held its successful inaugural meeting at Burton the following day - and the 56 talks given in recent years by the new Northamptonshire rep, Helen Crabtree.

Because the meeting started a little late for unavoidable reasons and needed to finish in time to get to the local pub for a meal before all the locals piled in, no time was left to discuss whether this new meeting format and timing should be continued.

A more detailed report of the meeting appears in the latest issue of *The New Reporter*, the occasional newsletter designed specifically for reps.

*Derek Turner*

### **SPRING CONFERENCE AT BURTON-IN-KENDAL, 12 MAY 2012**

The beautiful countryside, the well illustrated and annotated direction leaflet and change in the weather obviously encouraged people to travel to Burton-in-Kendal for the Spring Meeting as there was a record attendance of seventy six.

David Viner welcomed members and visitors to the meeting which had a strong local theme, with special thanks to Ken Brodhurst for the arrangements. David also said that Terry Keegan was now making progress and he was grateful for all the contact he had received from members.

On behalf of the committee, David presented a framed certificate to John Armstrong in recognition of all he has done on behalf of the Society.





Members were reminded about the funds which could be made available by the Society for projects to encourage parish councils and other local bodies to restore items in their respective areas.

The first speaker, Paul Hindle, spoke on routes across the sands of Morecambe Bay. The sands have been in use since medieval times by monks, carters, stage coaches and others and their use shortened the journey around the estuary by over twenty miles. The safe routes were marked by twigs, which practice still persists today, and they were of sufficient importance to be marked on Ordnance Survey maps.

The second speaker, Colin Smith, then used the Society's logo on the screen while setting the scene for his talk and said what a useful tool this was for advertising the Society. Cumbria's landscape produced great challenges for turnpike trusts which, by and large, missed the area. There are however milestones in the county, with many on winding roads which have become neglected and which are being lost at the rate of 3% - 5% annually. This loss is not only down to theft as hedgerows and vehicle impact are an ever present threat. The County Council expresses very little interest and members cannot deal with all those at risk. However, encouragement given to parish councils has produced results and some local inhabitants and farmers have been helpful, others less so. Colin and his group have been successful in obtaining grants for their work and all new stones or plates have the year of replacement marked somewhere. The current project is for renovation of township signs.

After lunch, we were treated to a magic lantern show. The audience was enthusiastic in guessing the nature of some of the slides. The majority of the slides had a link to transport, but there were some fascinating animated slides.

Mike Lea, Mike Kingsbury, David Gosling and Duncan Armstrong brought the meeting to a close with details of their very hard work in various capacities in the local area. What was especially interesting was the work and innovation which had been necessary to repair finger posts and bring them back to as near their original state as possible. The photographs of the before and after illustrated far better than words the successful conclusion of the individual projects.

Jan Scrine was pleased to be able to report that the new leaflets were available to take away for distribution.



*Andrew Gill (standing) with the magic lantern*

*Bronwen Parr*

### SOME OLD DIRECTION MARKERS IN NORMANDY



On a recent visit I was intrigued to find these survivors from a previous age. For example this plaque [left] was found affixed to a building at a street corner in Bayeux, giving very precise distances.

Further south, near the little village of Ste Gauburge in the department of Orne, two further examples were found attached to buildings. Note that an accompanying modern sign is given its own support.



Nearby a fingerpost in similar style was found.

All these items appear to be made of cast iron with blue painted backgrounds and raised white lettering but are hard to date. They may possibly pre-date the Second World War and all the traumas that this region experienced at that time. I would be interested if anyone has any further information.



*James Weightman*

### THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Located in Freeling House, attached to the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office in Phoenix Place, Clerkenwell, this modern archive houses 2½ miles of shelved material. It justifiably claims to be the leading resource for British postal heritage. The building is named after Sir Martin Freeling who was Secretary to the Post Office from 1793-1829.

Open on weekdays 1000 to 1700 hours and occasional Saturdays, the archive is free of charge and requires visitors only to provide proof of identity, upon which a permanent Archive Card is issued.

The facility holds a bank of computers, equipment to scan micro-fiche & film, large map tables with magnification accessory, a comprehensive 'hands-on' library, much original archival paper-work, a few large town surveys and a multitude of postal

records from the 1660s through to modern times.

Of greatest interest to 'milestoners' will be the extensive records on the coaching era which for postal services overlapped with early railway expansion.

All facets of postal history can be found:- philately, poster-art, postcard publications, red letter-boxes, transport systems and Turnpike Acts. The library contains rare texts, all readily available on the shelves and include the famous road books published by John Cary and Daniel Paterson, both in their several editions.

There is a comprehensive collection of Charles Harper's 'great roads' sagas such as Dover, Bath, Norwich, Portsmouth et al. Even the corridor to the toilets is worthy of perambulation as it is hung with several prints of coaching scenes; there is a glass case displaying coaching ephemera.

Photo-copying is permitted but limited to A3 size. The usual archival procedures apply and the only setback to a good day's researching is the Museum's distance from rail connections. The site stands mid-field between Kings Cross Rail Terminus and tube stations at Russell Square and Farringdon - all a substantial walk away. Anyone can stay in touch by filling in a Mailing List card. The Museum may be contacted by phone 020 7239 2570 or e-mail [info@postalheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@postalheritage.org.uk).

*Michael Knight*

## PUB MILESTONES

Two pubs fairly close to each other in north Manchester have terracotta milestones.



The Smut Inn at Hollinwood on the Manchester-Oldham road [left] and the Red King in Whitefield on the Manchester-Bury Road [right] both have milestones. Both pubs were rebuilt in the 1880s, the Smut Inn in 1884 and the



Red King in 1885. It is hard to believe that the same architect was not used, not least because they both have milestones giving distances in miles and yards. Both pubs were later bought by Boddingtons, and both are now closed.

*Paul Hindle*

*(It's good to know the staggering distance when leaving the pub! - Editor)*

### AA SIGNS



Mike Faherty has found a wooden AA village sign on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour! It has been made to look authentic but there are subtle differences in the lettering. It is in a shed at The Villa which is the HQ of the Dorset Wildlife Trust. Was there ever an enamel sign on the island? Not many passing motorists wanting to know how far it was to London.

*Christine Minto*

### COUNCILS REVIVE MEDIEVAL TRADITION OF LENGTHSMAN

The *Daily Telegraph* reports a medieval solution to a very modern problem. The ancient role of the lengthsmen, who would 'walk the length of the parish' to ensure ditches and drains were clear, is being revived across the country. It is hoped the practice will help cash-strapped local authorities by spotting highway problems early before they become too expensive to fix. Nottinghamshire County Council is the latest authority to reintroduce the scheme, planning to create 40 jobs. In addition to checking ditches, modern recruits will trim grass verges, clear snow from roads, clean grates and report potholes. The council plans to spend £54,000 on a one-year trial involving four lengthsmen and hopes the scheme can then be extended to a team of 40 workers, with parish councils meeting half the bill.

Lengthsmen date back to the Middle Ages when parish councils were responsible for roads and employed men to maintain an area or length of road. But the rôle began to fall into decline after the late 1880s when road maintenance became the responsibility of county councils and it had disappeared by the 1960s. But recent years have begun to see them return, with parishes in counties including Worcestershire, Lancashire, Surrey and Dorset reviving the role.

Will they help look after our milestones too?

*Mike Hallett*

### KIRKBURTON WALKS

*Jan Scrine* draws attention to a splendid example of a parish, Kirkburton in the East Peak district not far from Huddersfield, obtaining heritage funding from the EU's rural development programme and DEFRA's LEADER programme for a series of ten walks with a new milepost or guide stoop on each walk, carved by David Bradbury. This one [right] has wuzzing holes...

Details of the walks can be found on the web at

<http://www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk/>



## SOCIETY ACHIEVEMENT

by *Mervyn Benford*

I found myself reflecting on the January *Newsletter* and its admirable and abundant contents. It is 12 or 13 years since those first *Daily Telegraph* articles featuring my interest in milestones steered the start of the society and yet what a tremendous body of work has been done, all faithfully recorded. We have well fulfilled the charity status terms so ably shaped by Laurence Dopson.

Visiting Ireland recently I found a beautiful old stone on Mountbellew Bridge which at that time was the only one known to me surviving in the county apart from a scattering in the UK north. Now we have Colin Woodard's fine holiday collection. Early in our history I found in Fife the amazing example (among others) on the cover of my SHIRE book (now under Osprey in its second edition). It showed over a dozen very local places many of which are now hard to locate. Other Scottish markers are in my slide collection but this is not easy to transfer this information to the database. However, Christine Minto's dedication has now given us a significant Scottish section.

Wales has equally been thoroughly treated to say nothing of English counties such as Devon and Cornwall, Staffordshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Essex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Somerset, Worcestershire, Cumbria and Yorkshire. A Northumbrian dossier is on its way. That is not to ignore counties where the stock of survivors may be thin, or counties adjacent to strength areas or scoured by enthusiastic milestone tourists such as John Nicholls, Michael Knight and John Higgins.

They are the core of an effective branch network, despite gaps and occasional slow-downs. They set an example that infuses many others who join them or support their efforts locally. They steer their efforts beyond milestones. Indeed any aspect of travel and road history summons their interest and attention. Our work significantly enhances the national heritage. The emergence of real co-operation and interest from local authorities, heritage organisations, historical associations and others is a direct result. Our links with the National Trust, English Heritage and the National Monuments Record Office speak volumes of the name we have made for ourselves and the respect in which our work is regarded.

Thanks to Alan Rosevear's dedicated decade developing conservation practice we have set standards of preservation that are at least as high as those set by responsible commercial conservation companies some times commissioned to protect local monuments. And we have not just done the hard, practical work. Our literature and meetings have generated scholarly research, effective local studies and news of everything we do. In addition we have a very sophisticated electronic database tied into such as Google Earth enabling anyone to access relevant evidence and through which hitherto unknown surviving markers may often turn up on our computer screens as a result, or at least spark further local investigation.

I have given numerous talks over these years. Every time there is an interested response among people who have never heard of us before. We do need a publicity team to exploit this goodwill and raise wider awareness. My talks do not necessarily generate membership, but there is an audience out there interested in our message. The 5000 first edition copies of my book sold out in about five years but that is far more than the total of individuals we have had in membership.

At my meetings people rush to tell me of markers they know and, until that moment, tended to ignore. Raising the profile raises the chance of protective interest and concern. We should spend more on wider publicising of our cause, because still we must deal with problems like theft, eBay, antique fairs and markets, even reputable dealers. These precious heritage items are still too often seen as just another category to be bought and sold.

Raising the profile raises the potential interest of such villains but we can build security into our surviving markers, making them far more difficult to remove, using powerful new materials and strategies. For restoring several Oxfordshire plates Charles Hughes found very powerful adhesives. We must urge responsibility and co-operation from eBay, county councils and the antiques trade. It is a more urgent duty facing our new Chair. Members fond of computer time need to be vigilant - a 'Milestone Watch!' Google alerts me to rural school references worldwide- let's ask for milestone references! There are counties where conservation is urgent. Nottinghamshire CC once listed all its markers but now neglects four rare, unique examples simply left to erode and disappear.

Another unresolved issue is membership loss. We replace large chunks - so far. But why do we lose so many - and not always death or infirmity? Many once thought our work worth supporting but are no longer convinced. What did they expect? What have we not achieved for them? We need to sing the praises of those who do so much to justify the subscription such as Terry Keegan, Jan Scrine, Carol and Alan Haines, Robert Caldicott, Mike Buxton, Mike Hallett, Mike Faherty and that string of branch stalwarts I have not yet mentioned.

On the other hand, with so much done, including tollhouses, finger posts, boundary stones and canal milestones, one wonders what remains to be done? Jan long ago asked this. Our new executive officers must shape a future as well as today. What will 2020 demand? How will rapidly advancing technology impact on us? What member services will our resources displace? Will only conservation remain, and even that assigned to relevant external agencies? Will we be but the default service?

Leaving these questions pre-supposes no ready-made answers but an invitation to debate. Meanwhile we owe a fulsome vote of thanks to Jan Scrine, and of course to David Viner, not forgetting Terry Keegan who retired earlier from the Hon. Secretary role. We must retain their valuable knowledge and support. The January *Newsletter*, under an analytical scrutiny, oozes the quality of these first years of our operation.

**14-29 JULY 2012 - FESTIVAL OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY**

We've organised nine walks and talks around the country to spread the word about the work of the Society in an enjoyable manner. See the flier enclosed with this *Newsletter*.

**6 OCTOBER 2012 - AGM & ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COALVILLE**

The AGM & Annual Conference will be held on Saturday 6 October 2012 in the historic Century Travelling Theatre at Snibston Discovery Park just off the A42/M1 at Ashby Road, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3LN. Our guest speaker will be Howard Smith, 'Finding the Way - How our Ancestors crossed the Peak'. There will be opportunity to tour the site and inspect some wonderful examples of road, rail and canal transport, or the renowned Fashion Gallery. Free to members, guests very welcome.

**21 APRIL 2013 - NORTHERN SPRING MEETING, HEBDEN**

Sunday 21 April 2013 is the usual Northern Spring Meeting at Hebden, near Grassington. Everyone is welcome! Doors open 10am for a 10.30 start. Speakers, questions, lots of displays and laughter - as well as cuppa's and cake, all for £2 admission fee. Put the date in your diary now!

**11 MAY 2013 - NATIONAL SPRING MEETING, TEIGNMOUTH**

Devon County Representative Tim Jenkinson is delighted to announce that next year's Spring Meeting of the Milestone Society scheduled for 11 May 2013 will be held at the Teign Heritage Centre in Teignmouth, South Devon. Home to the Teignmouth and Shaldon Museum, the new Centre in French Street opposite the rail station was opened on 28 May 2011.

Teignmouth is an historic seaside town situated on the estuary of the River Teign and whilst it is probably better known for its port and docks, it nonetheless formed a Turnpike Trust with neighbouring Dawlish in 1823 to chiefly manage and improve roads between the two towns and beyond towards Exeter as far as Exminster, on what is now the A379.

Various toll-houses and milestones survive from this era including a rare Trust terminus stone which is positioned outside the Heritage Centre. Inside the museum, that will be available to view throughout the day, the toll-board and lantern from the nearby Shaldon Bridge Toll-house are preserved. It is intended that the day will have a South Western theme with speakers from both Devon and Cornwall planned. Details on how to reach the venue, parking facilities and location of eateries will be available in due course but in the meantime you can visit their web site at [www.teignheritage.org.uk](http://www.teignheritage.org.uk) for a preview of the venue and its position in the town.

## ***Forthcoming Events (continued)***

---

Elsewhere in the county, Alan Rose has uncovered several milestones on the road (A3124/B3220) between Great Torrington and Morchard Road in North Devon. The stones that have been neglected for many years were mostly buried deep in vegetation. They record distances to Exeter (shown as Exon) and Torrington on their faces. These important new finds now mean that there are 11 known survivors of the original 20 stones that were set up on this route in c1835.

## ***Notes and Queries (continued)***

---

### **HOW TO ESCAPE THE HORDES OF EMMETS:**

The Saints Way from St Petroc's at Padstow in Cornwall to St Finbarrus's at Fowey provides an opportunity to view some peculiarly Cornish milestones plus bonus Celtic crosses, millennium and standing stones, and churches dedicated to mysterious saints. The thirty mile route is mainly on quiet tracks and paths, although often undulating, and can comfortably be walked in three days overnight at pub/farmhouse accommodation. (Tregolls Farm is recommended.)

See <http://www.oliverscornwall.co.uk/saintsway.html>

*Colin Williams*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2013**

Contributions for inclusion in the January *Newsletter* should reach the editor Mike Hallett by Monday 3 December 2012. Contributions are very welcome but are accepted on the understanding that the editor reserves the right to modify submitted material to achieve a suitable length or style consistent with the overall size, aims and content of the publication. Submission of articles in electronic form using Microsoft Word (\*.doc, \*.docx or \*.rtf) or Open Document Format (\*.odt) and pictures in JPEG format (\*.jpg) is particularly convenient but paper copy is also accepted.

E-mail the editor at [newsletter@milestonesociety.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@milestonesociety.co.uk) or call Mike Hallett on 01763 246521 for further information and address details.

Opinions and statements expressed in this publication are those of the contributing individuals and are not necessarily those of the Milestone Society, its Executive Committee, the editor or the general membership. Photographs and drawings are by the contributors except where otherwise stated.

© The Milestone Society MMXII [www.milestonesociety.co.uk](http://www.milestonesociety.co.uk)

Registered Charity 1105688

Printed by Hales Printers, Jarman Way, Royston, Herts. SG8 5HW



ISSN 1476-3136