

The Milestone Society

Newsletter 24

January 2013



ISSN 1476-3136

MILESTONE SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2012/2013

Jan Scrine	- Chair	jhs@milestonesociety.co.uk
John V Nicholls	- Vice-Chair	jv@milestonesociety.co.uk
Alan Rosevear	- Hon Treasurer	ar@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
Derek Turner	dt@milestonesociety.co.uk
David Viner	dv@milestonesociety.co.uk
(vacancy)	

Supporting Roles and Responsibilities

County Representatives	See page 5/6
County Network co-ordination	Derek Turner
Database Managers	Alan Rosevear, Mike Faherty
Web Presence Co-ordination	Jan Scrine
Repository Manager	John Armstrong
Editor, <i>Newsletter</i>	Mike Hallett
Editors, <i>Milestones & Waymarkers</i>	John V Nicholls, David Viner
Editorial Panel (in addition to above)	Carol Haines
Heritage & Conservation Agencies	
Liaison	Jeremy Milln
Theft & Recovery Liaison	Robert Caldicott
Compliance (insurance, constitution & charitable status)	Mike Buxton
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 David Viner

The cover photograph courtesy of Alan Rosevear shows the 'Teignmouth 2' stone. The National Spring Meeting is being held in Teignmouth on Saturday 11 May 2013. See page 38 for details

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

First of all, a big 'thank you' to all of you for your continuing support of the Society and our activities. I hope your Committee is delivering what you expect of us? We don't hear from most of you so we make our best guesses - we'd like to hear more!

We are sad that we've finally been compelled to increase membership subscriptions in 2013; those attending the AGM voted for £12.50 for an individual, £15 for a couple and £20 for Corporate membership to cover the substantial increase in postage rates but we hope we can count on your continuing support.

As I observed when Treasurer, our expenditure is exceeding our income. Your Committee has been carefully trimming costs without reducing our services to members, to the public and most importantly to the Highways and Conservation Officers as the owners of milestones.

However, having a wider membership would be more effective, so please would you spread the word? What do you do with your copy of this *Newsletter* or *Milestones and Waymarkers*? Please don't put them in the recycle bin, put them in the waiting room of your dentist or your doctor, in your library or a charity bookshop. We've invested a small amount in a colour cover so that they will catch the eye better! Tell everyone about our fascinating, informative website, even if you don't have internet access yourself. Tell ramblers and walkers about our Heritage Walks on the website.

And please put on your thinking caps - whom do you know who might be willing to join your Committee? Or to take over leadership of our Society? I agreed to cover the Chair's role for one year, in the gap left by Terry Keegan's death. We need a Membership Secretary, too - and someone to co-ordinate Publicity, getting articles into the media. We hold three Committee meetings each year, plus the AGM - we're a friendly bunch and the discussions are always lively. While much of our work is done by email or Skype, there's no substitute for personal exchanges. Please let me or our Hon Sec have any suggestions - John Atkinson's telephone number is 01299 832338 and our email addresses are jhs@milestonesociety.co.uk and honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk.

Your support is vital to our continuing success and is much appreciated.

Yours, optimistically

Jan Scrine



POSTERS



When you hold a local meeting, why not advertise it and encourage members of the public to join in. Many villages have noticeboards which anyone can use. In towns, there is often a library or community centre with a notice board for public use. The Society has developed two colour posters featuring the Society's logo, web address and QR (quick response) code. The posters are available in A4 and A5 sizes as Microsoft Word documents with a large blank space in the middle for you to enter details of your meeting. The posters will be available to download or can be requested by e-mail from Mike Hallett at newsletter@milestonesociety.co.uk

Mike Hallett

HIGHWAYS PACK

Alan Reade has written articles to raise awareness of milestones for the *Institution of Civil Engineers Panel for Historical Engineering Works Newsletter* No 135 September 2012 (pp3 and 4) and for *Highways* magazine (August/September 2012 pp30 and 32). These will be developed into a Highways Pack for use by Highway Authorities and local councils which will be available on the Society's website.

Mike Hallett

DOWN YOUR WAY

Do you remember the programme with Franklin Englemann on Sunday evenings? Our very own version is now live on our website, with details of events, local articles and links to local websites.

See www.milestonesociety.co.uk

Go on, have a look: there's a tab on the homepage labelled 'Around your Region'. If you don't have a computer, ask your friendly librarian to show you - they may become a convert too...

And the 'Wayside Verse' Collection is growing, including a Regency comic opera/melodrama complete with villain to hiss ! Look under 'Links'.

Jan Scrine

YOUR COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Contact details for county representatives are available from Derek Turner (telephone 01844 212448 or e-mail dt@milestonesociety.co.uk).

<u>Bedfordshire</u>	<i>Michael Knight</i>
<u>Berkshire</u>	<i>Derek Turner (point of reference)</i>
<u>Brecknockshire</u>	<i>Chris Woodard</i>
<u>Buckinghamshire</u>	<i>Derek Turner</i>
<u>Cambridgeshire</u>	<i>Grainne Farrington</i>
<u>Cardiganshire</u>	<i>Chris Woodard</i>
<u>Carmarthenshire</u>	<i>Chris Woodard</i>
<u>Cheshire</u>	<i>Mike Griffiths</i>
<u>Cornwall</u>	<i>Ian Thompson</i>
<u>Cumbria</u>	<i>Colin Smith</i>
<u>Derbyshire</u>	<i>Mike Le-Baigue</i>
<u>Devon</u>	<i>Tim Jenkinson</i>
<u>Dumfries & Galloway</u>	<i>Alverie Weighill</i>
<u>Durham</u>	<i>Iain Davison</i>
<u>Essex</u>	<i>John V Nicholls</i>
<u>Glamorgan</u>	<i>Chris Woodard</i>
<u>Herefordshire</u>	<i>Tony Boyce</i>
<u>Hertfordshire</u>	<i>Mike Hallett (point of reference)</i>
<u>Huntingdonshire</u>	<i>Michael Knight, Grainne Farrington</i>
<u>Kent</u>	<i>Colin Woodward</i>
<u>Lancashire</u>	<i>John Armstrong</i>
<u>Leicestershire</u>	<i>Patrick Timperley</i>
<u>Middlesex</u>	<i>Colin Woodward</i>
<u>Monmouthshire</u>	<i>Chris Woodard</i>
<u>Montgomeryshire</u>	<i>Chris Woodard</i>
<u>Norfolk</u>	<i>Carol Haines</i>
<u>Northamptonshire</u>	<i>Helen Crabtree</i>
<u>Northumberland</u>	<i>Iain Davison .</i>
<u>Oxfordshire</u>	<i>Derek Turner</i>
<u>Pembrokeshire</u>	<i>Chris Woodard</i>
<u>Shropshire</u>	<i>Alan Reade</i>
<u>Somerset</u>	<i>Janet Dowding</i>
<u>Staffordshire</u>	<i>Howard Price</i>
<u>Suffolk</u>	<i>John Nicholls (point of reference)</i>
<u>Surrey</u>	<i>Janet Dowding</i>

County News

<u>East Sussex</u>	<i>Michael Worman</i>
<u>West Sussex</u>	<i>Glenda Law</i>
<u>Warwickshire</u>	<i>Mike Buxton</i>
<u>Wiltshire</u>	<i>Doug Roseaman</i>
<u>Worcestershire</u>	<i>David Beacham</i>
<u>Yorkshire</u>	<i>Christine Minto</i>
Yorkshire (East)	<i>John Harland</i>
Yorkshire (North and York)	<i>Jeremy Howat</i>
Yorkshire (West)	<i>Jan Scrine</i>
<u>Scotland</u>	<i>Christine Minto</i>
<u>(ex Dumfries & Galloway)</u>	

ENGLAND

Cornwall *Ian Thompson* reports that the very wet summer has reduced the number of milestones repainted under the Milestone Society/Cornwall Council Painting Partnership to 38 so far. A warm dry spring would help achieve the target of 60 milestones during this financial year.

Devon member Mark Fenlon reported a fallen county bridge stone near Lanhedrock in Cornwall and Ian grabbed the opportunity for cross border co-operation. He met Mark at Bodmin Parkway railway station near Lanhedrock and together they dug round the fallen stone and slowly levered it upright. It took an hour and a half, giving Mark the rest of the day to explore the Cornish countryside before catching the train home.



Marilyn Thompson gave a talk 'Travellers on Cornish Roads' to Par Old Cornwall Society using the records of visitors to the county in the 18th and 19th centuries.

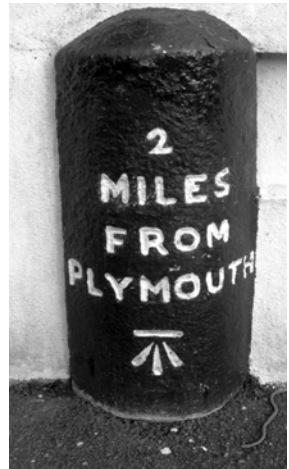
Cumbria *Colin Smith* writes: Work has nearly finished restoring thirteen township stones in the parish of Mungrisdale, progress being severely hampered by the appalling weather. All that remains is the installation of an interpretation board giving the location and history of the stones. It is hoped this work will be completed over the winter. We have also started in earnest surveying boundary



and guide stones throughout Cumbria. Already we have found county, city, hospital board, parliamentary, railway, mining, parish and township boundary stones – there is a lot to go at ! It will probably take a few years to complete. We already have several bookings for talks in 2013 following the four we provided in 2012 – one to the West Cumbria Vintage Club in Whitehaven.

Devon

Tim Jenkinson reports that in late October 2012 Heritage Lottery Funding was awarded to the Old Plymouth Society and Plymouth City Museum in order to undertake, in conjunction with the Milestone Society in Devon, a detailed survey of all surviving boundary markers, mile and guide stones within a 5 mile radius of the city, with the eventual intention of creating a digital archive that can be accessed by the public. The 12 month project officially launched on November 22nd is entitled 'Plotting Plymouth's Past' and will involve on the ground surveys by local members Mark Fenlon and Tim Jenkinson and Old Plymouth Society recruit Ernie Stanton.



Plymouth is unique in that it retains literally hundreds of inscribed stones that were set up in the mid 19th Century to designate the limits of Parish, Naval, War, Manor, Municipal and Corporation boundaries. Previous surveys have offered a rather sketchy view of the locations of the stones but working with records of Dent (1956), Masson Phillips (1985), Old Plymouth Society (2004), early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps and Mark's impressive review of 2005, it is hoped that the current assessment will bring together all these observations into one complete, comprehensive and definitive record of what is still out there at the start of the 21st century.



Slade cross

There have been a couple of recent and important milestone discoveries in the county. Firstly Alan Rosevear has found the elusive Slade Cross milestone

on the A382 between Newton Abbot and Moretonhampstead on the eastern edge of Dartmoor, at SX 799813. The stone was thought to be missing as it had eluded several searches in the area but was discovered lying prone in vegetation and has been re-erected by Alan. It shows distances that are recorded in miles, furlongs and poles and stands at the 8 mile point from Newton.

Next up is a milestone discovery by Mark at Caseytown on Whitchurch Down near Tavistock at SX 502734. Showing '13/Miles/To/Plymo/ ' that is carved diagonally, the stone is set beside a minor road leading to the hamlet and is leaning back against a wall, it is one of six rough granite markers that are set across the down between Tavistock, Peter Tavy and Horrbridge on an old route heading towards Plymouth.

Herefordshire Two strikes and you're out! *Tony Boyce* reports that during the summer of 2009 a cast-iron milepost near Weobley, Herefordshire, was decapitated by a passing vehicle, but nothing was done to piece it together again. Then, in autumn 2012, what remained was chopped into

little pieces during verge-trimming operations.

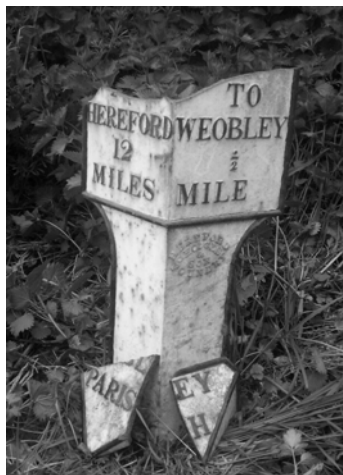
Until moved nearer the road by the parish lengthsman, this milepost - made at Hodges' Hereford

foundry - stood well back in the hedge. It is seen after Strike No 1. The other photograph, of another milepost on the same road, gives an idea of what's been lost. Note that this features an alternative

spelling common in times past.

Huntingdonshire *Michael Knight* writes: At Kivells Vintage Auction in Lifton, Devon on October 13, 2012 a magnificent county boundary iron plaque HUNTINGDONSHIRE went under the hammer for £100. Do any members know of its new owner or whereabouts?

Kent *Colin Woodward* reports: 10 members met at Maidstone Museum on 27th October. Colin Woodward reviewed the progress made in



milestone surveys of the county and the growth of the Society's data base records. He circulated photographs of recent milestone restorations by Kent C.C. and others. It was estimated that about half Kent's surviving milestones, or approximately 110 in total, require urgent restoration to bring them up to a reasonable standard. It was agreed that the 'Boughton under Blean' method of inscribing destinations and mileages in the space(s) uncovered by missing mileplates would be a useful treatment in cases where there is concern that new mileplates, if installed, might be stolen.

There was a discussion about whether enough was being done by Kent C.C. and parish councils to restore milestones. It was agreed that an appropriate letter should be drawn up to be aimed at and sent to parish councils, local history groups and amenity societies. It was considered that such a letter would encourage restoration of local milestones and might have the added benefit of increasing knowledge of, and membership of, the Society.

It was agreed that further meetings should take place annually and that Maidstone was a good central location for such gatherings. A number of members present brought along their photographs and images of Kent milestones and toll houses.

Lancashire *John Armstrong* reports: Brian Jones is continuing to work with the Lancaster City Conservation Officer on a project to restore the 8 milestones in Lancashire on the Lancaster to Burton-in-Kendal road. A meeting with the Conservation Officer and a county highways representative has been held and a recent proposal is to include a replacement for the missing first milestone in Skerton, Lancaster.

Kath Almond contacted South Ribble Borough Council with a proposal to replace the missing plate on the milestone LA_PSWG07 on Leyland Lane, Leyland with a fibre glass replacement to be made by Duncan Armstrong. Kath was told that the council did not have a conservation officer and that the county council highways unit was responsible for milestones in the borough. We have therefore decided to try next at local parish council level for funding.

My request to re-instate the milestone currently in a Preston City Council yard (LA_BPPS14) has been referred to the county council Public Realm department. An officer has been to inspect the stone but as yet there has been no response to my enquiries on proposed action.

Kath Almond has made an excellent job of repainting the local boundary marker on the Southport Road, near Croston (LA_CRSULW01pb). Kath's next project

is another boundary marker just further along the Southport Road (LA_ULWECC01pb). Bishop Michael has had to suspend re-painting activities following a recent back operation but is hoping to be back in action soon.



Sabden Fold

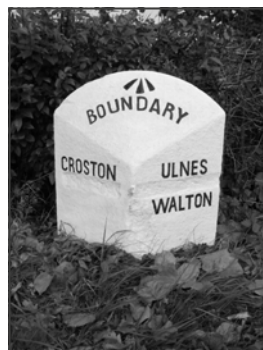
Duncan Armstrong's fingerpost restoration skills are still very much in demand, with some 14 commissioned fingerpost restoration projects in the Ribble Valley, Burnley and Pendle boroughs currently on his books. His latest completed project is a replacement fingerpost in Sabdon Fold to his own design.

Following up a contact established by Clive Atty within Bolton Council Highways, I have registered details of the milestones and boundary markers within the borough to the highways asset management officer. The prime objective was to help safeguard the waymarkers against road improvements and verge / hedge cutting equipment, but I also enquired about routine maintenance. Although highways asset maintenance has been reduced to reactive

level as a result of local government budget cuts, budget provision is being sought next financial year for verge clearance to make any overgrown waymarkers visible.

I also took the opportunity of asking for repair of the boundary marker in Stitch Mi Lane (LA_BOL02pb) that had recently been sliced into 2 pieces, presumably by hedge cutting equipment. Highways have subsequently confirmed that the stone will be repaired, in accordance with the society's published guidelines on conservation of milestones and other waymark features.

Steve Lister had an article on the Milestone Society published in the Garstang Focus magazine, producing a couple of enquiries resulting in one membership application. I had an article on milestone conservation published in the quarterly newsletter of the National Association of Lancashire Councils, representing over 200 councils in Lancashire. The response was somewhat disappointing, however, with only 2 enquiries from parish clerks. One was asking whether there were any grants for moving a boundary marker and the other asking for advice on restoring a boundary marker in Limbrick near Chorley (LA_CHOCH01pb) with vertical legends that had been totally chiselled out during the Second World



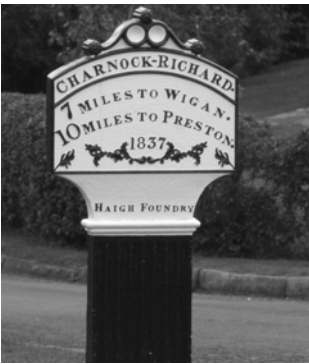
LA_CRSULW01pb

War. We provided advice on the lettering layout and engraving method and also a copy of the Society's published guidelines for waymarker restoration. Chorley Borough Council has subsequently confirmed that they will fund the re-lettering and we have offered to re-paint the stone.

Eight new milestones have been registered since the last report: a milestone on Preston New Road in Blackpool, LA_BPPS03, notified by Bishop Michael; a milestone plate mounted on a brick column in Church Avenue, Penwortham, Preston (LA_PSOK02), reported by Alan Rosevear; a milestone in Whalley Road, Wilshire (LA_BBCL02) and 2 guide stoops, one dated 1769 now in private ownership in the Ribble Valley, and the other one dated 1762 now one of the posts in a set of village stocks in Huncoat, between Accrington and Burnley (LA_XHUN01), all reported by Margaret Panikkar; 2 milestones that are now

being used as a pair of gateposts to the entrance of an old house in St Helens on private ground, reported by a local resident; and a milestone in Charnock Richard on the A49 Wigan to Preston road (LA_WGPS07), reported lost but now restored and re-erected at the junction with Brook Lane, about a 1/3 mile north of its original location.

Bishop Michael and I went to survey the mounted milestone plate in Penwortham and found out that local residents had discovered it in the back garden some 11 years ago when they first



LA_WGPS07

moved into the house. They were undecided what to do with the plate when a next door neighbour suggested mounting it on a brick column he offered to build on the front grass verge. The offer was quickly accepted and they had the plate sand cleaned and painted. The original milestone would have been located on the main Liverpool Road only about 1/2 mile away. We will never know how the plate ended up in a back garden but at least it is now on display in a safe location.



Penwortham plate

The 2 guide stoop discoveries arose from an interesting paper on Guide Stoops in the Ribble Valley Margaret Pannikar had published in the *Lancashire Local Historian* a few years ago. The Huncoat guide stoop has directions to Haslingden, Blackburn and Burnley, but the names are incomplete because a groove has been cut down one side for the stocks.

The St Helens milestones were originally on the old turnpike road between Prescott and Ashton-in-Makerfield and are the first milestones to have been discovered for this route. One would have been located in Cropper's Hill, Eccleston, St Helens (LA_AS LV06) and the other a mile away in Parr Street, St Helens (LA_AS LV05). When the turnpike trusts were wound up, it was common practice to sell off milestones as gate posts, so these milestones have probably been in their present location for well over a century.

The number of Lancashire boundary markers recorded has increased substantially since the last report by 85 to 234. This includes some 37 county boundary markers provided by David Garside, one of our Yorkshire county members, covering a 2½ mile stretch of the old Lancashire – West Riding of Yorkshire county boundary around Blackstone Edge on the A58 road between Littleborough and Ripponden. Other significant contributions have been made by Phil and Juliette Platt, and Bishop Michael.

Bob Dobson, Publicity Officer of the Lancashire Local History Federation informs us that free 2013 membership is available to individuals and societies.

Norfolk *Carol Haines* writes: A wedge-shaped milestone on the B1108 at Barford (NO_NW08) was hit by a vehicle many years ago. It was reported lying in pieces in a field just afterwards but then disappeared from view. With the help of a local farmer Nigel Ford located it, repaired it, and it is now back in place - albeit with a few pieces missing as a result of its 'accident'. In the same series, the stone east of Hingham (NO_NW13) was broken in half in about 2001. The top part with the inscription was destroyed, but on digging it out, Nigel found there was enough stone below ground for the whole milestone to be up-ended and a new rounded top with inscription made. This was returned to the verge in August. Eighteen of the original milestones from the Norwich-Watton Turnpike are now back in place and another is waiting to be exhumed.



NO_NW13

Following the restoration of the Norwich 14/Ipswich 29 stone (NO_NIP14) at Tivetshall St Margaret in 2009, Scole Parish Council decided they would like to have the Norwich 18/Ipswich 25 stone (NO_NIP18) renovated as some lettering had become illegible. The work has recently been finished and the cost was divided equally between Norfolk CC, Scole PC and the Milestone Society. Thelveton is now part of Scole parish.

A brand new Jubilee milestone was unveiled in Thorpe St Andrew in August (NO_NGY02b). It was donated in memory of the late Brian Fitzmaurice, haulage firm owner, by his family. The inscription reads: '2/MILES TO/NORWICH; 18/MILES TO/GT YARMOUTH'. On the bevelled top is a crown with a band underneath reading '2012 DIAMOND JUBILEE'. The stone is of grey granite, certainly not traditional for Norfolk, but it stands close to a blue plastic milepost that was installed for the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

The group had a stand at the Attleborough & South Norfolk History Fair in November. Attendance was disappointing, which seems to be the trend these days. However, there was a lot of interest from those who came, and useful information was gleaned.

On the Society's Facebook page, *Nigel Ford* posts: "We had the honour of Prince Charles painting Roman numerals on the Anmer milestone on Sandringham Estate. He showed lots of interest in Nigel's project and commented that he likes wooden finger posts. Despite the really cold weather and muddy ground we all enjoyed the event."

And back in August the *Eastern Daily Press* reported that Nigel had painted his 100th milestone in Norfolk. Appropriately this stone is in Milestone Road in Wicklewood and shows 'LONDON/100/MILES'.

Somerset *Janet Dowding* writes: The Somerset Group met on Sat. 13th October 2012 for our Autumn meeting. I reported that, after a further approach to the local police, we now have full communication with them concerning the stolen milestone from Ashwick (ST 621947820), details and photo in *Newsletter* 23. Any developments on this in the future will be reported to me.

We have only been able to renovate and repaint two milestones this year due to the bad weather. The one at Evercreech was renovated and repainted by member Peter Banks who, after finding out that the road through Evercreech village was going to be closed imminently, took the opportunity to do this one. He had first to rescue it from the encroaching hedgerow vegetation which had obscured it from view for years. Indeed some Somerset



members did not even know it was there! He then found it was cemented firmly into the ground so that it could not be taken away for renovation and repainting which had to be done roadside (but in complete safety). It is now fully visible to

all on the B 3081 road at ST 65163865/S.

The second one is in the parish of Whatley at ST 74674754. While Peter Banks, my husband and I were assembling at the site to carry on painting the plate, we were approached by a man who claimed the milestone was 'his'. Although we pointed out that milestones are the property of the Highways Dept. of Somerset C.C., he insisted on his claim and eventually told us the story. Apparently some 10 years or more ago, the stone had stood a couple of hundred yards further east of its present site and had got broken. He rescued the plate and, after obtaining a large block of stone from a site near Bovey



Tracey in Devon, attached the original plate and positioned the milestone at its present site outside his industrial premises. This is why he maintained the stone was 'his' but acceded to the fact that the plate was not. We had noticed in cleaning it that the plate was fixed to the stone with lead and that the bolts were also of lead. This is very unusual so we had guessed that there was something not original here. It is now cleaned and repainted. The grid ref. given is of its original site as it comes from *Somerset Roads - the Legacy of the Turnpikes*.

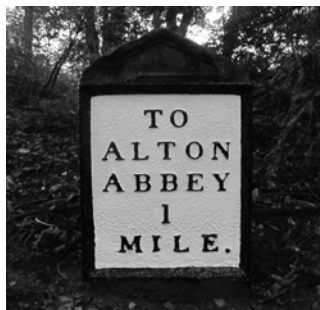
This completes the painting of the easiest of Somerset milestones and plates, at least in the Mendip D.C. area, but there are plenty of others in less accessible places to start on next year. With good communications with Somerset Highways concerning future road closures, we should be able to do more.

Staffordshire In *Staffordshire Miles*, Howard Price reports that the 2012 restoration season is now almost completed, and David Wright has completely refurbished 38 milestones in the Staffordshire Moorlands area, including straightening three slumped examples.

Howard managed to do just 13 including the Kings Bromley 'found' milestone; the remainder were in the Staffordshire Moorlands District.

The voluntary effort which the restoration work represents has benefitted the Churnet Valley Living Landscapes project and will contribute to the 'in kind' funding needed to secure the Heritage grant for the project.

Howard managed to complete the Alton Abbey milepost sited within the Alton Towers theme park, thanks to the cooperation of staff at the park who



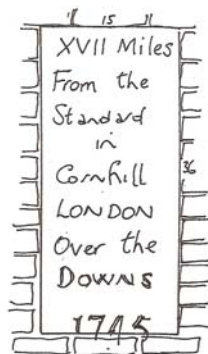
found a discreet way in without having to run the gauntlet of the rides and visitors whilst carrying an array of paint tins, rollers and other equipment. The milepost had been neglected on a woodland walk for many years.



Burton Civic Society have completed the restoration of the re-located stone on the A511 at Horninglow (left) by producing and fixing a cast iron plate to the stone in the style of the original. The work was undertaken by Leander Architectural, a long established restoration company from Buxton who undertake a wide range of traditional and contemporary castings.

Surrey *Janet Dowding* writes: Although our November meeting had to be cancelled due to rough weather conditions, there are several items of interest to report. Firstly the Group decided that Lionel Joseph's practice template mile-stone which is now on his garden wall should be put onto the database. It is at TQ 125408 in Forest Green and reads '32M 6F from THE STANDARD IN CORNHILL LONDON / 8M 5F HORSHAM TH / 5M ABINGER HAMMER'. Not strictly 'turnpike' but of local interest.

Member Derek Renn has drawn our attention to the continuing existence of what we think is a 'courtesy' direction stone which was found in the grounds of Ashstead House – TQ 196584 – and re-erected on a pillar of the garden wall prior to 1949. It is on private land, facing the front door of Ashstead House so cannot be seen from the road. It reads 'XVII Miles From the Standard in Cornhill LONDON Over the Downs 1745' (see drawing). Its original site is not known but it could have been erected by the 18th century owners of Ashstead House.



We are also considering a possible milestone at Great Bookham – TQ 134543 – on the south side of A246 on a wide grass verge among trees. Derek Renn states that pre-WW2 OS maps mark a milestone exactly opposite on the other side of the road. This may have been lost and the later one erected on the south side of the road. However the latter is an oddity in that it does not match existing milestones on the A 246 which have several faces with directions on and a mileage to London on a curved face. It has four completely flat sides with no vestige of any inscriptions and an over-hanging top with two holes in it. Its

existence as a proper milestone is speculative apart from its site which conforms with milestones either side of it.

Colin Woodward continues to provide us with details of interesting objects in the area. These include a parish boundary marker with 'Battersea 1874' on it on Clapham Common (TQ 287750); a city post at TQ 320566 in Coulsdon with a City of London crest and 'City of London 1996' on it, marking a position formerly occupied by a coal tax post; also a boundary obelisk at TQ 164714 in Ham marking the boundary of the Port of London and saying 'Thames Conservancy / Lower Limit 1909' and Thames Conservancy badge; also outside of 94 Chiltern Road, Belmont a well looked after boundary marker saying 'Carshalton' and 'Sutton & Cheam' – TQ 267624. All these are recorded in the Group's records and photos of each can be supplied to anyone interested.

Wiltshire Member *Rod Smith* writes about 3 neglected milestones on a minor road from Great Bedwyn to the A4. The stones are one mile north of Great Bedwyn (SU 254652), at Belmore Copse (SU 252663) and at Little Frith (SU 247676). It took Rod until 2005 to locate all three stones and he cleaned them up. All three stones are missing their plates and the stone at



Little Frith is fallen. Recently he has been back to survey them again and found the Great Bedwyn stone covered in ivy. One of the most attractive milestones in North Wiltshire is the privately



Gt Bedwyn stone in 2006

-erected stone in Savernake Forest giving directions to Marlborough via the A346 and to Tottenham House via a forest ride. Rod photographed it back in 1982 (left) and he reports that it has become badly stained and indistinct since then.

Yorkshire *Christine Minto* reports: Jan Scrine gave a talk to the Penistone History Group and she was told of a milestone in a garden. I delivered *On The Ground* personally to the Secretary, Peter Moody. (My maiden name was Moody but no relation) He told me that it was in the grounds of a house opposite Midhopestones Toll Bar Cottage where the father of a member of my cycling

club was born! The property looked unoccupied but enquiring at the toll house I was given permission to look around. At the side of the cottage covered in brambles was a superb milestone [YS-SFHU12A]. Secateurs came out of my saddlebag before a photo was taken. Then another picture with the legend chalked in: Shef 11, Man 28, Hud 13, Holmf 8 doesn't quite tally with the mileages on the 1893 WRCC stone a few yards away on the roadside: Huddersfield 14½, Holmfirth 9/ Sheffield 12. Presumably the stone dates before the statute mile was adopted locally or perhaps measurements were taken to and from different points. Peter tells me that it was rescued from the workmen when the main road was upgraded about 1917 so it has only moved a few yards. In the grounds is a derelict outbuilding which has stalls for horses. The minor road which crosses the main road here is called Mortimer Road. This was 'A Turnpike that Failed' from Grindleford in Derbyshire to Penistone. Howard Smith produced a booklet about this toll road which was first enacted in 1771, renewed in 1793 but had lapsed 21 years later. It traversed some very hilly countryside and extra horses were needed to help the carts up some steep hills. Two 'Take Off' stones remain, one near the Strines Inn and the other above this crossroads where the horses would be stabled.



from Grindleford in Derbyshire to Penistone. Howard Smith produced a booklet about this toll road which was first enacted in 1771, renewed in 1793 but had lapsed 21 years later. It traversed some very hilly countryside and extra horses were needed to help the carts up some steep hills. Two 'Take Off' stones remain, one near the Strines Inn and the other above this crossroads where the horses would be stabled.

Just east of the A162 Ferrybridge to Tadcaster road is the village of Hillam. The local historians decided to renovate the village pump. At the side of the pump was a modern fingerpost so that needed a makeover too.

Leander Architectural of Buxton cast new fingers and finial and in September everything was assembled and painted. Although Hillam is now in North Yorkshire it was in the old West Riding. So their new finial is in the West Riding style with a grid reference but says North Yorks.

WALES

Chris Woodard reports from Wales:

Anglesey

In *On the Ground* No.5 there is an excellent report entitled *The Milestone Survey on Anglesey* by John Higgins. It is now four years since the publication, and so a couple of stones from the report need to be mentioned here. In September, it

was discovered that on the B5109 - which was part of the Old Post Road, prior to Thomas Telford's A5, the 13th milestone, no longer "....stands proud of a grassy bank at Pen-Rhos, and at 32 inches high is one of the tallest in the run." Very sadly, the Irish granite stone has been damaged and only an inch or two of the said stone is exposed. The top piece seems to have gone missing. The occupants of Pen-Rhos were not at home at the time of the visit, so no information was forthcoming.

A little further down the road, in Llangefni, part of milestone No 17 no longer stands on a grassy bank outside the local library. It originally "....stood in Llangefni, close to where Telford's spur road to the town met the original Post Road." Having made enquiries with the chief librarian, she told me that the stone - (actually two sections of the stone - as well as a local millstone) had been stored in the library garage for a number of years. She very kindly permitted the taking of pictures.

The library authorities on Anglesey are in a dilemma as to what to do with milestone No 17, as they would very much like to have this stone, which is also Irish granite, on display somewhere, rather than in store hidden away from the public. It was suggested that they might approach Treftadaeth Menai Heritage (*Menai Bridge Community Heritage Trust - Ed.*). - Is there anything at all that the Milestone Society could do to help?

Merionethshire

In May this year, Gwynedd County Council put up for sale the 18th century grade II listed tollhouse at Friog, Fairbourne (A493). Originally built with stone walls and under a slate roof, it was saved from demolition in the 1970's, but soon after, fire caused extensive damage. It needs complete renovation, and planning permission. It also has a 28ft long garden.



Radnorshire

A series of cast-iron boundary markers and two milestones have been found in ditches along the Presteigne Road, outside Knighton. They have lain there since around 1960. The local community is involved in a restoration project.

SCOTLAND

Christine Minto reports from Scotland:

Perth and Kinross

Iain Davison has paid another visit to his native county, this time teaming up with Christopher Dingwall to search out more stones in Perth and Kinross. They had over 30 'new' finds, many of them just lumps of shaped stone with no legend but in the right place on the map. Another day was spent around Edinburgh filling in photographic gaps. Adrian Sumner had written in an earlier NL about a stone at a Bank in Corstorphine. Not only is the tall triangular stone there but higher up in the wall is a stone plaque with the same legend. [CE_EDGW03].



South Lanarkshire



When Iain was in Perth and Kinross, Frank and I were in South Lanarkshire. We rediscovered another of Adrian's finds. This stone is in the grounds of the ruined Penicuik House and has a deeply incised 10. A first thought was that it had been moved for safety from the main road about ½ mile away. But deeply incised on the back is a vertical 770. Unable to scrape away the banking I presume there is a 1 hidden under the soil. Adrian says the house was built between 1761 and the early 70s so perhaps visitors needed to know they were 10 miles from Edinburgh. [ML-EDBG10].

Dumfries and Galloway

In May Mike Faherty discovered that the plated Carlisle to Glasgow stone on the B7076 (old A74) near to the Gretna Services exit had been pushed over. In July Hugh Gregory checked it was intact but a week later the plate was missing. There are no marks on the red sandstone to show it had been prised off intact so presumably thieves have smashed it for a few pence worth of metal.

MENDIP HILLS FINGERPOSTS, SOMERSET



It was reported recently in the local paper that the Mendip Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund is funding the restoration of fingerposts on the Mendip Hills. This involves cleaning, pattern cutting, casting of new signs to replace broken and missing fingers and painting. A new 'collar' with the name of the junction, grid reference and 'Mendip Hills' is being added to each post and the SCC finial is being kept.

To date 10 posts have been done and these include the ones at Hunters Lodge (ST 549502), Townsend Pool (ST 518519), Yoxter Cross (ST 508541), Charterhouse (ST 502558) and Cheddar Cross (ST 525551). The posts were introduced as a result of the 1903 Motor Car Act. The next phase is apparently being planned with the Highways Authorities. The renovated posts

will aid visitors and raise awareness of being in the AONB Mendip Hills area.

Janet Dowding

FINGERPOST SURVEY

Milestone Society member Andrew Langdon led the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies' fingerpost survey in 2011 and 2012. The project produced a wealth of information, but has not covered the whole county. Surveying to fill in the gaps continues, with sterling work being done in East Cornwall by Pete Goodchild and in mid-Cornwall by James Biscoe.

Ian Thompson

THE TOY FINGERPOST

It was some time ago that Milestone Society member Paul Phillips helped to get new arms made for a rather special fingerpost on the Lizard. The original fingerpost was made at the foundry of John Toy in Helston. It has the special disc mounting for the arms that seems to be unique to Cornwall and has three dimensional pointing hands modelled on the hand of the son of one of the foundry workers.

Funding was found to have new arms cast and the fingerpost refurbished, but Cornwall Highways could not fit all the arms because one arm would be too close to the highway. The result was that one brand new arm has been languishing in a highways depot and no solution seemed in sight. Paul has galvanised the local parish council into action and pressure has been applied to the newly structured county highways department to resolve the situation. The most likely solution seems to be to move the fingerpost one metre further from the road edge.

Ian Thompson

USING ON-LINE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES FOR TOLL GATE RESEARCH

Archives of local newspapers dating from before 1900 are a primary source of information on all sorts of subjects, often with an amount of detail not found anywhere else. Turnpike trusts are particularly well served, with toll gate lettings regularly advertised as they fell vacant and with trust meetings advertised in advance, and afterwards reported on, in some cases almost word-for-word. In the case of toll gates, which leave little behind on the ground, this is an invaluable addition to the evidence provided by old maps.

Of the archives on-line, British Newspapers 1800-1900, from the British Library, has been around for some years, and at the time of writing covers 49, mainly local, newspaper titles: see <http://newspapers11.bl.uk/blcs/>

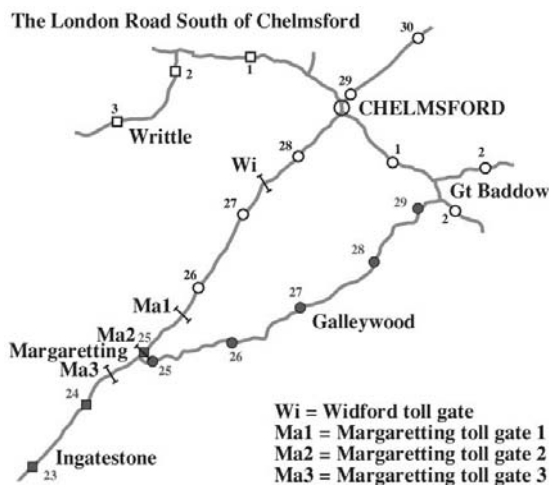
This was joined at the end of 2011 by the British Newspaper Archive, with a large and actively increasing number of titles:

see <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Both sites allow you to search for keywords and judge context from small, and sometimes rather approximate, extracts free of charge. Articles of interest can then be viewed and page images downloaded for a moderate fee (about £10 for 200 articles).

Here's One We Did Earlier

As an example of what can be found, here is the story of an Essex toll gate. The Margaretting gate, on the London road south of the county town of Chelmsford, had proved difficult to pin down without the help of the news archives. Its complicated history involved several changes of position, and it had long been a thorn in our side. Luckily the British Newspaper Archive provided no less than three titles covering Essex: the *Chelmsford Chronicle*, *Essex Newsman* and *Essex Standard*.



At the beginning of the 19th century there was no gate in the parish of Margaretting. Instead, travellers going south from Chelmsford would very soon encounter a gate at Widford, but then be unbarred for more than 8 miles until reaching Shenfield. This remained the situation until 1834, when the *Essex Standard* of 26th September announced a meeting of the trustees in Chelmsford "for the purpose of taking into consideration ... removing

Turnpikes and Tollhouses

the Toll Gate at Widford to some more convenient spot on the same line of road as near as may be to the twenty-sixth mile mark from London." This was confirmed on 12th December by a brief announcement that "The Widford Toll Gate is about to be removed to the parish of Margaretting, near the 26th mile stone." The exact position can be seen on the 1st edition 1" OS map near Three Mile Hill, where it is marked as TG between the 26th and 25th stones.

The second move was proposed by a similar meeting some seven years later. On 18th February 1842, the *Chelmsford Chronicle* reported a meeting of the trustees to be held at Chelmsford to consider "... the removal of the Turnpike Gate in the parish of Margaretting and placing the same between the present site and the Spread Eagle Inn, in that parish." The Spread Eagle was located within yards of the 'London 25' milestone, and was still in business until recent times, when it burned to the ground in 2009.

Yet one more move followed in 1846, when the *Essex Standard* of 13th February announced another Chelmsford meeting to consider "... removing the said Toll Gate at Margaretting to some spot between the Butcher's Arms in that parish [now the Red Lion], and the road leading from Margaretting to Writtle by Coptfold Hall". The latter road was significant because it had enabled the Margaretting Gate to be bypassed, avoiding the tolls. The exact position of this final location was discovered by John Nicholls on an 1867 plan of the adjoining land among the Disney family deeds in the Essex Record Office.

And Finally

The repositioning of toll gates almost inevitably raised suspicions that some places were doing rather better out of it than others. At the annual meeting of trustees in 1847, reported very fully by the *Essex Standard* on 29th January, and where "the attendance of trustees was unusually numerous", a motion was proposed by one of their number, J. Disney Esq., "for the erection of a toll-gate at the entrance to [Chelmsford] on the London Road."

Mr. Disney commended such a gate by saying: "Thus, then, within the last few years had they not only not taxed the people of Chelmsford, but had taken the tax further from them ... by three successive movements, ... that was, they had removed a gate, which was within a mile of town, to the place called Three-mile Hill (for what reason he did not know); from thence it was removed to near the Eagle, at Margaretting; and then it was farther removed to please an individual, who, it appeared, had paid £280 for the expence of it."

This summary seems to tie it neatly together with a pink ribbon. Incidentally, the Chelmsford toll gate was never actually built, and the Essex Turnpike Trust was dissolved in 1866.

Peter Nelson, with help from John Nicholls

SADDLEWORTH RE-ASSERTS AN HISTORIC COUNTY BOUNDARY.

Yorkshire and Lancashire folk are notoriously proud of their heritage, and nowhere more than at the historic boundaries between them. Now in Saddleworth new road signs keep that ancient tradition alive.

In the comprehensive nationwide reorganization of English local government in April 1974, various parts of the West Riding found new homes outside Yorkshire, some into the new county of Cumbria and elsewhere into newly-created unitary authorities based on large urban areas. One of these was the new Metropolitan Borough of Oldham, to include Saddleworth, Delph and the area around, formerly proudly Yorkshire.

The old links died hard, indeed never have been allowed to fade away, so much so that Saddleworth White Rose Society (SWRS) was set up to 'preserve & promote the Yorkshire history, culture & identity' of the place. It is not alone, for across the great divide much the same championing of roots drives



forward the Friends of Real Lancashire (FoRL).

In the face of new names and signage for these new authorities, continuing to mark these traditional boundaries between Lancashire & the West Riding was an obvious ambition, achieved by new signs recently unveiled on the

A669 at the boundary of Lees & Springhead, at a location appropriately known as 'County End'.

Both signs are mounted on stone plinths constructed of reclaimed local stone. Appropriately, civic representatives from both sides of the line attended the launch ceremony, together with representatives from both SWRS and FoRL.

*David Viner
(Photos: Geoff Bayley)*

CANALS BETWEEN GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH

There are about 30 miles of the Forth and Clyde canal between the Clyde and Falkirk although I only rode the 22½ miles from Stockingfield junction at Maryhill. After Falkirk it continues northwards to enter the River Carron and then the Forth near Grangemouth. To transport goods on to Edinburgh there were eleven locks that lifted barges up to the Union Canal.

National Lottery Funding to celebrate the Millennium resulted in the construction of the Falkirk Wheel to lift vessels up and down to connect and make the two canals navigable again. Tourist trips are taken on the Wheel, up to the Union Canal, through the oldest, longest canal tunnel in Scotland, turn round and back again.

The Strathclyde European Partnership funded distance markers on the Forth and Clyde. These are at good access points for the local communities onto the well-maintained canal towpath. Each is a large lump of plated stone that says where you are and how far it is in opposite directions, in kilometres!



On the 31½ miles of Union towpath to the capital the first milestone is ½ mile from the Wheel. Although the numbers are cut in an old style the stone is smooth and new looking. Similar stones then appear every ½ mile. Occasionally an older, worn or damaged stone is passed. I missed a section between Winchburgh and Slateford but assume the sequence of stones continues. On the stone nearest the basin an MM is inscribed near its base. So lost stones were replaced as part of the Millennium project. There are aqueducts such as the 12 arch one over the Avon, the second largest in Britain. (The Pont Cysyllte must be the largest.) There are graceful bridges numbered on their keystones. Most of the towpath is wide enough for two people to walk or run side by side and

cycling is reasonable on the hard packed stone and sometimes tarmacked surface but on some less used stretches the path is more overgrown and narrower. Although there are 39 locks on the Forth and Clyde to and from its summit near Kilsyth the Union was built along the contours and has just one lock.

Christine Minto

6 OCTOBER 2012 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND AUTUMN CONFERENCE, SNIBSTON

The former site of Snibston Colliery at Coalville in the East Midlands is now operated by Leicestershire Museums Service and includes Snibston Country Park and the Snibston Discovery Museum with many outdoor exhibits. Our meeting was held in the Century Theatre, the largest exhibit at Snibston. Once David Viner had welcomed us to the meeting, John, one of the volunteers, told us about the theatre. At the end of World War II many theatres had been damaged and the Century Theatre was conceived as a fully mobile travelling theatre. The brainchild of John Ridley, it was largely made of aluminium and designed to be folded away into four ex-army trailers 33ft long. Work started in 1948 and the theatre opened in September 1952 with a performance of Othello. Sir Tom Courtenay, Dame Judi Dench and Dame Helen Mirren all had associations with the theatre. The theatre toured Britain for over 20 years until changes in road traffic regulations in 1974 meant it could no longer tour. Then it was static in Keswick for a few years before coming to Snibston.

David Viner opened the AGM and asked everyone to stand to remember Terry Keegan and Laurence Dopson. John Atkinson and Brian Barrow gave the Hon Secretary's and Membership Secretary's Reports. Brian noted that there was a small increase in membership this year although some members are still to renew their subscription. In giving the outgoing Hon Treasurer's report, Jan Scrine highlighted that income was less than expenditure, in part due to increases in postal charges. The proposal from the Committee was that subscription rate for single members be raised to £12 and that for joint members be raised to £14. Group membership would be increased to £20 and overseas membership to £25. On an amendment from the floor, the proposed rates for single and joint members were changed to £12.50 and £15 respectively and the increased subscriptions were agreed. David Viner presented his final Chairman's Report, saying how much he enjoyed being part of the team effort. The AGM was concluded with the election of Hon Officers and Committee and the re-appointment of John Armstrong as Hon Auditor. Please see page 2 for the list of Committee members.

Howard Smith started the Autumn Conference with a talk on the Guide Stoops of the Dark Peak, telling us that 'stoop' was just another work for stone. His photos showed us just how inhospitable the Peak District can be, often foggy, with areas of cotton-grass bog. Very few roads in Derbyshire were suitable for wheeled traffic; pack horses were used and the area was criss-crossed by bridleways. There were no maps and travellers used to memorise the route using features with a recognizable shape, including cairns, crosses and aiming stones. A 1697 Act of Parliament required parishes to erect stone posts showing the name of the nearest market town but in

Meeting Reports

Derbyshire nothing was done until 1709 when the surveyors were told to enforce the Act. Many of the stoops therefore bear the date of 1709.

During the lunch break, county representatives met and John Armstrong led an informal discussion asking what the representatives expected from the committee.

When the conference reconvened after lunch newly qualified teacher Mike Le-Baigue gave a presentation on milestones in the classroom. Government policy is that opportunities to teach and learn outdoors should be embraced. Mike showed us how milestones fit into the national curriculum for history, sciences, geography, art and design, media studies, English and mathematics. Anyone who expected to have an after-lunch snooze would have been disappointed as Mike kept us on our toes analysing a poem about the stoops.

In a change of theme, Philip Thomas showed us photos he had taken of street furniture. Philip has been photographing buses since 1955 but extended his interest to include street furniture. Many of his photos were of cast iron artefacts from the



Derby area in the 1950s and 1960s, including cast iron letter boxes, bus shelters, public conveniences and gas lamps.

As David Viner closed the conference Jan Scrine presented him with a certificate recognizing his contribution to the Society. Many members then headed off to tour the museum but some stayed to hear Jan Scrine give a talk on commissioning a milestone. Jan gave examples of new plates and milestones with a wide range of costs from £200 up to £3500. She noted that a new milestone has to be appropriate to the occasion, affordable by the commissioner and deliverable by the mason. More elaborate designs need to be produced by a sculptor rather than a mason and this added to the cost.

Jan Scrine presents David Viner with a certificate recognizing his contribution as Chairman

Mike Hallett

MILESTONES FOR SALE

A unique opportunity to purchase some of Dumfries and Galloway's rare historic landmarks at prices to suit every purse.



CLOSEBURN

On the Dumfriesshire Trust's Dumfries to Cumnock Turnpike. Wedge-shaped white-washed granite with incised figures - (Dumfries)12. Included in the price is a substantial attached 3-bedroomed matching white-washed house with black trim. Needs slight decorative attention. An absolute snip at guide price £100,000. Please quote ref: NX 89659225.



LOCKERBIE

On Thomas Telford's great Glasgow to Carlisle road in a prime town centre location. Substantial red sandstone in good order with original iron plate - Glasgow 70 Carlisle 24½. It benefits from a traditional 4-bedroomed former manse. Competitively priced at offers over £252,000. Please quote ref: NY 1359 8126.



CLAREBRAND

Possibly from the Parton Trust's Castle Douglas to Parton Turnpike in Kirkcudbrightshire. Granite, marked CD 2. Although it has been re-positioned it is much sought-after due to the mystery surrounding its origins. It boasts an open rural setting and generous grounds which enhance its impact. Also included in the price is a substantial detached 6-bedroomed house. Offers in the region of £335,000. Please quote ref: NX 76666593.



BARHARROW

Crafted in granite by mason R Tait of Castle Douglas, with all three of its original iron plates by founder J Affleck of Dumfries, indicating London 360. Port-P(atrick). 54. G(atehouse) 3 C(astle) D(ouglas) 12. It has been moved slightly from its 1827 location on the Mail Trust's Dumfries to Portpatrick Turnpike (now by-passed) which is reflected in its asking price. It benefits from a delightful garden setting with a 3-bedroomed house to the rear. An opportunity to purchase a high quality example of this series at a competitive price. Offers around £225,000. Please quote ref: NX 62165288.

All enquiries to: Dumfries and Galloway Branch Manager: *Alverie Weighill*

NEW MILESTONES IN CORNWALL - THE JUDGES' ROAD PROJECT

It is difficult to imagine today that at the start of the 18th century, three hundred years ago, wheeled traffic was only just beginning to make an impact on our roads. At this time the main road to Bodmin ran down the Camel Valley from Camelford. We know this because some of the original milestones remain on the verge beside the road. Sadly, not all the milestones have survived. The most recent loss was the 6 mile stone in St Breward Parish, destroyed by a hedging flail in 2007.

It has been suggested that the historic importance of this road would justify making replica granite milestones to replace the missing milestones. Support and funding for this project is being sought in the local community.

In 1716 Cornwall's Assize Court was to be moved to Bodmin. The Courts had always been held at Launceston, on the border between Devon and Cornwall, but the government was persuaded that the Summer Assize should be moved to a more central location within the county. The judges would be travelling by coach, and the road between Launceston and Bodmin would need some improvement if they were to make the journey, even in summer. The winter Assize Court remained at Launceston until the 1830s.

A letter sent to the Town Clerk of Bodmin in 1716 sets out the requirements:

"The Bill for removing the Assizes being now passed, and the Judges having nominated Bodmyn for the place where they designe to hold the same this summer, his Lordship would have you and the Mayor to apply to the Bishop of Winchester (Trelawny) if in the country, and other Justices of the Peace, that they take some effective care, that the roads and ways, from Launceston to Bodmyn, be levelled and the trees and hedges be cut fit for travelling with coaches, etc. You are also to observe that both the Judges are to lye in one house, and that bedding, furniture and other accommodations are to be provided accordingly." (The Bodmin Register)

This is one of the earliest references to road improvement in Cornwall and was to ensure that the road around the northern edge of Bodmin Moor via Camelford was fit for carriages.

Which road did the judges use? The road across Bodmin Moor, which is now the A30, was not built until 1769. Travellers from Launceston in 1716 would have headed for Camelford. From Camelford they would have to follow the recently designated Post Road to Bodmin.

It must be remembered that at this date long distance travel was usually only undertaken on the King's business. The Royal Mail was carried on horseback, by

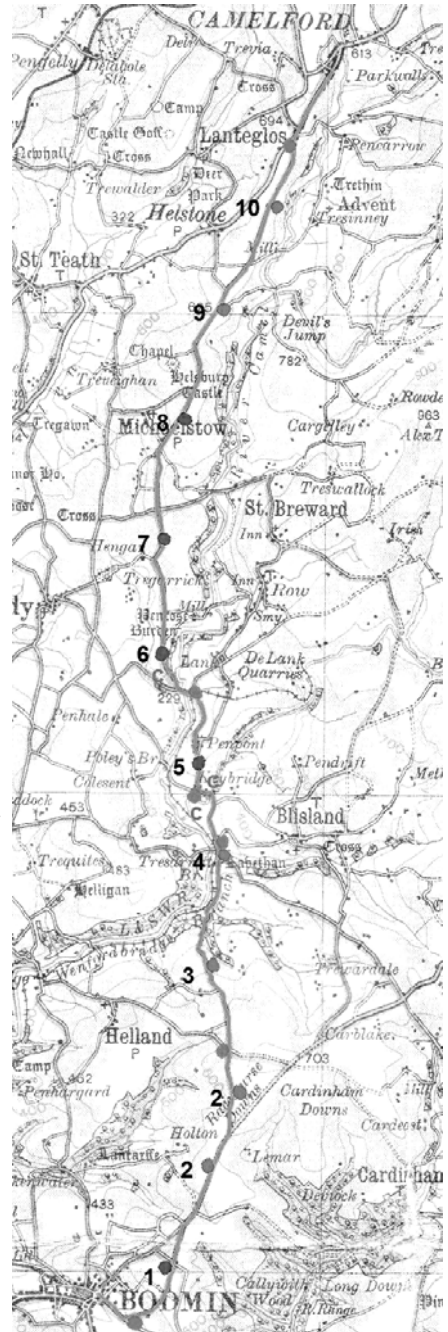
postboys like the later 'Pony Express' in North America. In the 17th century, the post road went from Camelford to Padstow and then to St Columb and Truro. It did not go to Bodmin. (Ogilby, 1675)

In 1703 a Warrant was issued by the Treasury to the Post Master General "to settle a new post for the midland Towns" in Cornwall (*Treasury Money Book XVII p24*). In 1707 the Postmaster at Bodmin was paid an annual fee of £54 to receive and distribute the Royal Mail. From 1707 the post road ran from Camelford to Bodmin and then to St Columb and Truro.

The route from Camelford to Bodmin in 1707 used the existing lanes. It left the St Teath road at Valley Truckle, stayed to the east of "Michael Stow" and "Hengarr" and crossed the River Camel at "Wenvir Bridg", then the De Lank River at "Key Bridge". It went through "Merry meting" and stayed to the west of "Coldrinnick" and to the east of "Lancar" onto "Bodmin Down", dropping into Bodmin town itself from above the church. All this is shown, with the place names as indicated, on a beautiful map of Cornwall published in 1699 by Joel Gascoyne.

And this is the road the judges must have used in 1716 – Valley Truckle to Wenfordbridge, Keybridge, Merry Meeting, Racecourse Downs and Old Callywith Road into Bodmin.

Remember, the post was carried by post-boys on horseback. This is why the special letter needed to be sent to the Justices in Bodmin to make sure the route



Features

was made fit for carriages.

How do we know this was the main route into Bodmin? Because the milestones still remain.

At least some of them do. The milestones were erected in the middle of the 18th century, probably before the Bodmin Turnpike Trust was established in 1769. The 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10 mile stones survive; 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are missing.

When the Royal Albert Bridge across the River Tamar was opened in 1859, the Royal Mail came by train to Bodmin Road Station. The mail then travelled north by cart along our route from Bodmin to the Postmaster at Camelford. (*Philbrick Archive, PHIL/A/37, RIC, Truro*)

What needs to be done? The initial proposal was to replace the 6 mile stone which, as we have seen, was smashed by a hedge flail in 2007. This was a Grade II listed building, regarded as of national importance by English Heritage.

However it would make sense, if funds permit, to make granite replicas for all five missing milestones on this route. These would be the same size and the same style as the missing milestones, but would clearly be replicas. It is proposed to attach a discrete plate to each replica with details of sponsors.

It is hoped that the other special roadside features of this route, including granite-capped guidestones, ancient bridges, county bridge stones, wooden armed granite fingerposts and parish boundary stones would feature in literature to accompany the completion of the project.

Note that Cornwall's milestones have a very high survival rate and that this road has lost a much higher proportion of its milestones than any other route in the county. This makes its renovation of particular importance. Funding is actively being sought within Cornwall for this project.

Ian Thompson

DERBYSHIRE'S NEW MILESTONES

2012 has seen a number of commemorative milestone projects around the country to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Here in Derbyshire we are perhaps unique, with a project to commemorate the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It's on a big scale too, with eleven (yes, eleven) new stones now in position.

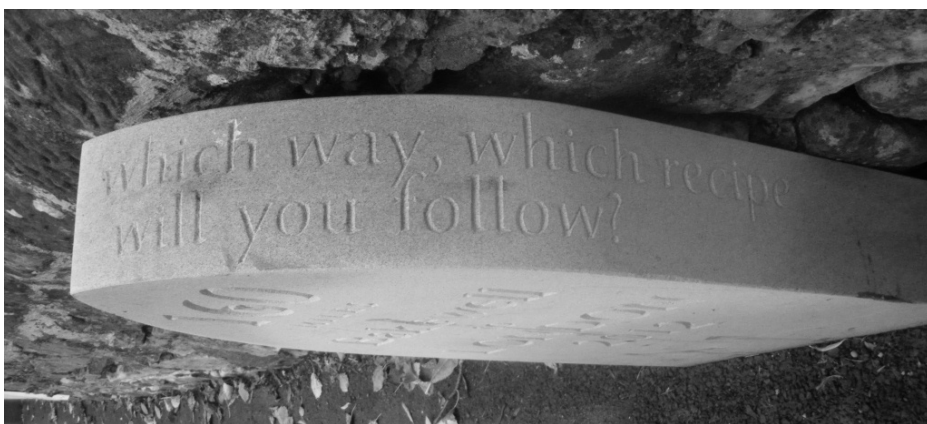
The milestones will leave a permanent legacy of the Olympics. They have been located in a way that mirrors the Torch Relay route through the County, in towns and villages that the torch passed through. Olympic Torchbearers unveiled them

at a 'relay' to each site on September 9th, coinciding with the closing ceremony of the 2012 Paralympic Games

The stones are located in Glapwell, Bolsover, Calow, Chesterfield, Matlock (x 2), Darley Dale, Bakewell, Buxton, Ashbourne and Derby. They are all of the same overall design and each is engraved with the name of the town or village and the distance to London 2012 (actually to the Olympic Park).



The Arts Service of Derbyshire County Council initiated the project. Andy Oldfield of The Fringe Workshop, a local designer, carver and restorer, produced the design. He worked in consultation with the Council's Conservation and Design service. Andy also carved the stones. A variety of stone has been used, carefully chosen and sourced from different local quarries, to make sure that it fitted in to the distinctive areas of Derbyshire.



Each stone has a short poem engraved around the edge, which together form an overall Olympic Torch Relay poem. Derbyshire's Poet Laureate, Matt Black, wrote the poems. They are based on what can be seen when you are standing at

Features

a milestone, as well as ideas based on local history. To see the poem in full, along with more information about poet and carver, go to https://www.artsderbyshire.org.uk/projects/cultural_olympiad/olympic_milestones/default.asp.

The site also gives access to a large number of photos, mainly taken at the unveiling ceremonies but with some views of the actual stones.

Overall cost was around £27,000. This paid for the stone itself; installation; design fees for the carver; fees for dressing the stone and cutting the words; commission for the Olympic Milestone poem; fees for the Derbyshire Poet Laureate to run poetry workshops in all the towns and villages which have a milestone; costs for the unveiling ceremonies; photography; and evaluation. About half the money came from The Legacy Trust and Arts Council England and the remainder from Derbyshire County Council and borough, town and parish councils. The Milestone Society gave its support.

In milestone terms at least, this must be the largest project of its kind in decades (unless you know better.....). All those involved deserve thanks and congratulations for a job well done and providing a lasting legacy to events that really did inspire the nation in 2012. Particular thanks must go to the County Council's Arts Service for conceiving, developing and managing the project. Just imagine getting all the components agreed and in place, culminating with 11 different unveiling ceremonies on a single date that permitted no slippages. Well done indeed.

I hope at some future date to design a trail which drivers will be able to follow in order to view all the stones. It will cover quite a few miles, though, and will perhaps best be combined with spending a few days stay in the County. There are a wide variety of different milestones to see, and we also have our ancient moorland guide stoops, a dozen of which now have a modern 'companion stone' – details of this arts project are at www.companionstones.org.uk.

David Blackburn

THE MUGGERIDGE COLLECTION OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, TEMPLEMAN LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF KENT

William Burrell Muggeridge and his son Donald W. Muggeridge were primarily photographers and researchers into mills. They took vast numbers of mill photographs, which form the bulk of the collection, but they also snapped other subjects which interested them, including milestones, fingerposts, crosses, and other highways memorabilia.

When William died in 1978, aged 94, he bequeathed a massive photographic archive, which was eventually acquired and later catalogued by the Templeman Library at the University of Kent. These photographs may now be viewed on the internet.

The photographs are of particular interest because they were mostly taken in the 1930s, predating the removal of milestones and signposts in the Second World War. By subject, the number of photographs which can be seen are as follows:

Milestones	75
Signposts	13
Tollhouses	14
Wayside Crosses	8
Village Signs	7

The locations of the photographs (but not grid references) are given in each case. In nearly every instance the inscriptions are clearly shown. Where they can be compared with the Society's recent photographs, the milestones usually appear, as might be expected, in better condition than today. However, it is possible that the Muggeridges deliberately sought out only good, legible examples. One can view familiar stones, but also some missing or relocated ones. The photographs are mostly, but not exclusively, from southern counties. There are also a few from Wales. Whilst not as extensive as the Diamond and Ward collections, they certainly provide a useful adjunct, and in some cases may be the only visual record of a lost marker.

To view the collection on the internet, go to <http://www.kent.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/mills/muggeridge/index.html>. Then, look for the blue box 'collections in brief' and click on 'mill collections mode'. Then, under 'subject' click on '(more)'. An extensive list of subjects appears which you can click on and browse. Note that milestones have been catalogued in two places under 'roadside milestones' and 'milestones'. Both of these have to be viewed to see all the photographs.

Colin Woodward

TWO INTERESTING HIGHWAY STONES IN SOMERSET

Somerset is fortunate in that it has a survey of its historic highway infrastructure carried out in the 1980s by J B Bentley and B J Murless in two volumes *Somerset Roads – The Legacy of the Turnpikes*. This is very comprehensive but has other omissions; two stones that were missed by the authors are located at West

Features

Lydford and Cannards Grave, Shepton Mallet. The survey mentions the bridge at West Lydford erected in 1821 but not the stone located to the south of the bridge. This marks the limit of the county's responsibility for maintenance and reads 'HERE ends the County Bridge'. These stones occur across the country and often have a capital 'C' on them; the example at West Lydford is particularly fine.



The other stone is located beside a no through road to Whitstone Farm on the parish boundary between Shepton Mallet and Doulting. It is difficult to read but has the words 'HERE END DOW ? ROAD 177 ?' I at first thought the Dow was downs as the road passes over Doulting Sheep Sleight, an area of open pasture shown on the 1809 tithe map but, thanks to detective work by Janet Dowding, I now think it is a variation of the name Doulting i.e. Dowlton. The present road is part of an ancient route from Glastonbury Abbey to their estate at Mells and seems to have gone out of use in the early nineteenth century; it connects to a bridleway that leads east across fields that occupy the former Sheep Sleight.

The discovery of this stone indicates that there may be other discoveries to be made on roads that were not subsequently turnpiked.

Richard Raynsford and Janet Dowding

ROMAN MILESTONES IN CORNWALL

In response to John Higgins' splendid piece of work on *Roman Milestones in Britain (Milestones & Waymarkers Vol.5, 2012, pp7-12)*, Ian Thompson has put together a few comments on Roman milestones in his county of Cornwall.

In Cornwall 5 Roman milestones have been identified. None gives a distance. Unlike most Roman milestones, the Cornish stones are basically rectangular in cross section, not cylindrical. A study of the sources of stone for Britain's Roman

Features

milestones showed that the materials used for the Cornish milestones were unique. Where the material was identified, only one milestone was slate, and only four were granite. These are the five Cornish milestones (*The Roman Milestones of Britain*, Jeffrey Sedgley, British Archaeological Report number 18, 1975). This may explain their unusual shape, first because slate shears to give a flat surface and is very difficult to cut into a cylinder, and second because granite is very hard and difficult to carve compared with the other types of stone used for cylindrical milestones.

The Imperial dedications of the Cornish milestones seem a random selection from the large number of emperors of the 3rd and early 4th century AD.

1. SW 719418 Menheer Farm, Redruth. AD 238-244. Found during ploughing in 1942, it is now in the (private) garden of Menheer Farm. Granite slab, roughly rectangular 100cm high by 20cm wide (EH66917), it is described as illegible in the English Heritage listing notes.

"IMP CAES ANT GORDIANO PIO FEL"

Attributed to the child emperor Gordian III who was proclaimed emperor at the age of 13 and who ruled for five and a half years before being defeated and dying in Persia.

2. SX 076891 St Piran's Church, Trethevey, Tintagel. AD 251-253. It was discovered in 1909 being used as a gatepost. It is a squared granite pillar.

"IMP C DOMI N GALLO ET VOLVS..."

Emperor Trebonianus Gallus was proclaimed emperor by his troops while fighting the Goths and made his son Gaius Vibius Volusianus co-emperor when he returned to Rome. The joint emperors failed to fend off incursions from the Persians in the east or the Goths in the north and were murdered by their own troops.

3. SW 618284 Breage, Helston AD 260-268. Discovered in 1924 being used as a gatepost, it is now inside the church of St Breaca and listed with the church (EH65731). It is a rectangular granite pillar.

"IMP C DO NO MARC CASSI ANIO...."

This refers to Marcus Cassianus Latinus Postumus who was declared emperor by his troops on the Rhine and established a separate Gallic Empire, which in 261 included Britain. He evaded the central Emperor Gallienus and co-existed with the main empire for several years, before an internal rebellion led to him being murdered by his own troops.

4. SW 550313 St Hilary. AD 306-337. This is described as a restored granite milestone. It is listed as part of the contents of the church of St Hilary (EH70042).

"IMP CAES FLAV VAL CONSTANTINO PIO NOB CAES DIVI CONSTANTINI PII FEL AUGUSTI FILIO"

Constantine I was born in Serbia. His father was a soldier called Constantinus who rose to high rank. When his father died on 25 July 306 while campaigning in Britain against the Picts, the soldiers proclaimed Constantine emperor. Constantine defeated Maxentius at the battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312 to become sole ruler of the Western Empire. Believing that the Christian god had aided his victory, Constantine became a Christian.

In 324 Constantine defeated Emperor Licinius to become the sole ruler of the Roman Empire. Constantine died of natural causes in 337.

5. SX 050884 Tintagel. AD 308-324. This was found in the wall of the churchyard of St Materiana in 1888 and is a rectangular slate pillar. It is the only known slate Roman milestone in Britain and now stands inside the church.

"IMP C G VAL LIC LICIN..." or "MPCQ VA LIC IIV (or LICIN)"

(The Buildings of England – Cornwall, Nikolaus Pevsner, Penguin, 1970)

Valerius Licinianus Licinius came from a Dacian family. He rose to become Emperor of Thrace Illyricum and Pannonia in 308. Following his marriage to Constantine's daughter, Licinius was attacked at Byzantium and driven from the city by Emperor Maximinus Daia in 313. However, Licinius then defeated Daia to become ruler of the Eastern Empire. Licinius was defeated and killed by Constantine in 324.

There seems very little to connect these inscribed stones except their reference to a Roman emperor. The emperors mentioned are an odd selection. The teenage emperor Gordian III who fought and died in Persia would seem to have no connection with Cornwall. There is no evidence that Gallus ever visited Cornwall, though he spent his time in Europe rather than in the East. Postumus established an independent Gallic empire, including Britain. When this empire finally collapsed and rejoined the main Roman Empire, why was not this memorial stone to Postumus destroyed or re-carved? Constantine the Great was proclaimed emperor in York and ruled the Western Empire for many years, so this dedication seems appropriate.

The slate stone to Licinius is the most unusual. Although he was not always at war with Constantine, he ruled the Eastern Empire from Byzantium. Not only did he never visit Cornwall, but Cornwall was never ruled by him.

None of these 'Roman milestones' in Cornwall gives a distance, either in Roman miles (MP) or in Leagues (L). Nor do any have a place name, such as the Roman fortress town at Exeter (ISCA DVMONIORVM). In that sense they are not truly 'milestones' at all. It seems likely that these are a handful of surviving commemorative stones erected by someone, or to the memory of someone who had a connection to a particular emperor, perhaps during their military career before they

retired to Cornwall.

Commemorative stones continued to be erected in Cornwall after the Romans had left. Pevsner records 22 post-Roman inscribed stones from the 5th to the 10th century AD. (*The Buildings of England – Cornwall*, Nikolaus Pevsner, Penguin, 1970). Thirteen of these date from the 4th to the 7th century. Dating seems to be by the language used in the inscription as it changed from Latin on the earlier stones to Hiberno-Saxon, as the ruling peoples of Britain changed during these six centuries. Without expert knowledge it is impossible to tell some of these post-Roman stones from the 'Roman milestones', except for the lack of an emperor's name, yet these have never been referred to as 'post-Roman milestones'.

Ian Thompson

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HIGHWAYS IN THE CHILTERNS AREA OF NATURAL BEAUTY

The Chilterns Conservation Board has produced a set of guidelines for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which covers parts of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. The recommendations are arguably applicable generally as a policy if conservation of milestones is to be successful. The advice given is as follows:

"68. Milestones are historic features in the countryside and highways authorities should record the location and regularly survey the condition of all milestones.

"69. All milestones must be conserved and repaired where necessary and should be retained in their historic location. In exceptional circumstances milestones could be located within the immediate vicinity beside the highway in the way originally intended.

"70. In conservation areas consideration should be given to producing new milestones as a special feature, as part of any major works such as traffic calming."

The guidance also includes advice on fingerposts:

"154. Traditional finger posts should be retained and conserved. New finger posts to a traditional design should be considered as replacements for modern standard signs in villages and along routes of special character subject to meeting safety and TSRGD requirements. (*Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions* - Ed)

"155. At appropriate locations, such as crossroads within a village, new traditional style fingerposts can be fitted with a traditional ring finial. Public consultation indicates that the most popular legend for the finials is 'Village Name' (top) and 'County' (bottom) and this should be considered in any design".

Colin Woodward

Forthcoming Events

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2013 - MID-SHIRE MEETING, WROXTON

As before, the Mid-shires meeting takes place at Wroxton Village Hall. All members and their friends are welcome. The programme is still being finalised but will include contributions about milemarkers from Wiltshire and Warwickshire, and hopefully from Northamptonshire. The programme and other details will be sent to all Mid-Shires members in mid-February and placed on the South-East regional website.

SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2013 - NORTHERN SPRING MEETING, HEBDEN

As usual the Northern Spring Meeting takes place at Hebden, near Grassington. Everyone is welcome! Doors open 10am for a 10.30 start. Dr Keith Lawrence will enlighten us about Toll-keepers' Professions, Michelle Atkinson will tell us about the Kirkburton stoops & walks project and Gordon Hallas will take us for a Magic Lantern tour round Holmfirth - with questions, lots of displays and laughter - as well as cuppas and cake, all for £2 admission fee. Free roadside parking. Put the date in your diary now!

SATURDAY 11 MAY 2013 - NATIONAL SPRING MEETING, TEIGNMOUTH

The meeting this coming Spring will be held beside the seaside at the Teign Heritage Centre, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8ST. Home to the Teignmouth and Shaldon Museum, the new Centre in French Street opposite the rail station was opened on 28 May 2011. 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 (and surviving) Shaldon Bridge Toll-house are preserved.

The town has good road and rail links and offers plentiful accommodation for those who wish to extend their visit. The programme explores the range of roadside features in the South-west. Alan Rosevear will discuss the turnpike tollhouses and milestones in Devon, Ian Thompson will talk about the fingerposts of Cornwall, there will be a presentation on the Boundary Stones of Plymouth and Tim Jenkinson will speak on the non-turnpike milestones of Dartmoor. The event will appeal to a national audience with opportunities for informal browsing of work from outside the region and a chance to visit sites in the surrounding area. Entry charge to include tea/coffee will be £3 per member or £6 for non-members.

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2013 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, STAFFORD

The 2013 AGM and Autumn Conference will take place in the Mount Street Church Hall, Stafford.

The programme is provisional and still to be finalised but the theme will be restoration.

In the morning it is planned to have an introduction to the work of the Staffordshire milestone group by David Wright, Howard Price, Alan Bloor, Peter Leigh, with a background set of continuous slides showing examples of the rolling programme of restoration around the county over the last few years. The group hope to introduce the county historic environment team and show how they have helped to list milestones and to record their condition. The group was founded by John Higgins and his contribution will be central to the talk. Postcards produced recently by David Wright will be available on sale with proceeds to the Society's Staffordshire Group.

In the afternoon it is planned to have a director of James Shenton founders of Tipton as the Terry Keegan Memorial Speaker . The modern process of casting traditional artefacts will be described, including milestones and the craft of founding.

Rounding up the afternoon, Jeremy Milln will describe the successful and well publicised project to install the Jubilee milestone at Wall, Staffordshire (see page 40).

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 2013

Contributions for inclusion in the July *Newsletter* should reach the editor Mike Hallett by Monday 3 June 2013. 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 or PNG format (*.jpg or *.png) is particularly convenient but paper copy is also accepted. Please note that due to postage costs, material submitted is not normally returned unless specifically requested.

E-mail the editor at 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 MMXIII www.milestonesociety.co.uk

Registered Charity 1105688

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



And finally

THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF STAFFORDSHIRE ROUNDS OFF THE JUBILEE YEAR BY UNVEILING A 'ROMAN' MILESTONE AT LETOCETUM (WALL)



Mr Ian Dudson CBE commented that it was the most innovative of the Jubilee events he had attended! The project was designed and managed by Jeremy Milln to a text finalised by Roger Tomlin and lettering form & layout by Richard Grasby. Dave Bradbury sculpted the feature to Roman dimensions from a 1500 x 500 x 500 block of Derbyshire sandstone.

The text, in Latin, with distances cited in Roman miles, may be translated as:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth by the Grace of God in the sixtieth year of her reign the people of Wall set up (this milestone/monument) at the centre of (Great) Britain. Distances from Wall to London 124 miles, Gloucester 66 miles, Chester 68 miles and York 122 miles.

Funding for the project, which cost almost £4,000, was raised from Staffordshire County Council, the Friends of Letocetum, Past and Present Builders, Wall Parish Council and others, including the Milestone Society.

Guests and parishioners, plus two Roman legionaries in full regalia, assembled on Saturday 24th November on Watling Street, near the site of a lost milestone (properly an honorific pillar) of Marcus Aurelius Claudius (268-70) for the unveiling of the milestone by the Lord Lieutenant. *Jeremy Milln and Jan Scrine*