

The Milestone Society

Newsletter 25

July 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

John Haynes

Derek Turner dt@milestonesociety.co.uk

David Viner dv@milestonesociety.co.uk

Specific Roles and Responsibilities

County Representatives	See <i>Newsletter 24</i>
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
Milestone & road history & heritage	Mervyn Benford, Carol & Alan Haines
	David Viner
Highways Liaison Manager	Alan Reade
Theft & Recovery Liaison	Robert Caldicott
Insurance	Mike Buxton
Canals and Waterways Liaison	David Blackburn
Database co-ordinator (canals)	Mike Hallett

This year the Society's AGM and Autumn Conference takes place in Stafford. The cover photo, taken by Mike Hallett, shows a typical Staffordshire bobbin. This one is ST_LKBOX05 on the A53 Leek to Buxton road at Stake Gutter.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

One of the most interesting features of milestones is that they are distinctively 'local', reflecting available materials and vernacular designs. The structure of our Society mirrors this and the *Newsletter* does the same. Indeed, I hear from many of you that you only read the pages relevant to your home county! I hope you will look more widely in this bumper bundle of news items – we can learn much from each other's efforts. You can also find local information, activities and events on the website, 'Around Your Region'. Please supply more information and news snippets as well – it's there for you to share.

Our membership numbers have held up again this year (lost 52, gained 50) despite the hard economic times, to the delight (and relief) of your Committee. We've also been working hard to spread the word to those who are the guardians of our heritage. Some of those are studying Historic Environment Conservation at the Ironbridge International Institute so we are making an Annual Award to an outstanding student in Terry Keegan's name. The donations received totalled £800, including an anonymous donation of £500 – thank you! – which will fund the award for five years. The presentation to Fiona Deaton will be held on 11 July, and we will tell you all about it in *Milestones & Waymarkers*.

We've also become actively involved in Geocaching. Do you remember car treasure hunts? This is similar – people hide 'caches' and others follow clues to find them, aided nowadays by GPS devices. Milestones provide interesting material for clues and it introduces our wayside heritage to these enthusiasts. One new member has written an article in this *Newsletter* and you will be able to follow the progress of the Society's 'Travel Bugs' on the website and in *Milestones & Waymarkers*.

This year has been rewarding and fun, as well as hard work! I'd like to record my thanks to all the Committee for their dedication and to all members with whom I have had the pleasure of corresponding. Please let your Committee know whether we are delivering what you expect of us – and how we might do better to spread the milestone story.

Your support remains vital to our continuing success and is greatly appreciated.

Yours, optimistically,

Jan Scrine

A GEOCACHING MILESTONE SOCIETY MEMBER

Many thanks to Jan and Brian for extending such a warm and personal welcome to the Society. I decided to join having been inspired by the hobby of Geocaching and how the Society has helped me. This is how:

Geocaching is a great hobby and a really positive combination of the old and the new. In a nutshell then, hidden all around the world are over two million little boxes ('caches') being found by over 5 million people. The aim is to find the boxes and to confirm your find by filling in a log book. To find these boxes you use a GPS which is now readily available on most mobile phones. This gives your exact location (down to a metre or so) and a clue helps tell you exactly where the box is. Oh and you can take part for free!

From this simple concept different variations have emerged. Some geocaches mark out the route of a good walk. Some geocaches take you to an interesting site – often one you may have known about, some are cleverly disguised (what looks like a snail could actually be a little box) and to find some you need to solve a puzzle or crack a code. Each cache has its own web page, usually telling you interesting facts about the location.

The boxes are all hidden by Geocachers themselves. I've been finding them at an average of about one a day and after finding about 250 decided I should set some myself.

Near me nearly submerged and hidden in some bushes is a milestone. This seemed like a good spot to hide the cache. To complete the cache I need to provide some details. This opened my eyes to the world of milestones and the Milestone Society. I have to admit I copied from the site to give details of milestones and also used the Google Earth site to find out more – I had no idea for example that this or other milestones could be 'listed'. After a bit of a clean-up and cut back of the undergrowth, the cache was ready to be put in place (in a tree near the stone) and the site was up and running, called 'The Sinking Milestone' on the Chippenham Turnpike.



In its first month the site has had 25 visits, each visitor writes a comment about their visit on the webpage. Many referenced that they enjoyed the history lesson and had no idea the milestone was there.

My second cache was also near a milestone; this one was a bit harder to find and the Geocacher needs to solve a puzzle to get there. In this case I have used the Society's

video of the Milestone by the Rabbit Burrow. I have changed Thomas Hardy's poem to indicate that you should find out what is written on the stone and used the distances to Sarum, Blandford and Dorchester (S, B & D) as part of the clue.

This has proved a bit harder to find and it is more recent; we have only one visitor so far. This milestone is well hidden and covered in ivy. There was no picture of it on the Society's website so I have been able to upload a snap as well.

If you want to find out more about Geocaching then here is the link:

<http://www.geocaching.com/>

If you want to see the sinking milestone Geocache here is the link:

<http://coord.info/GC45NTZ>

If you want to see the Bunny Stone Geocache here is the link:

<http://coord.info/GC45XHN>

So if you want a new way of exploring the area around you or something extra to do when visiting an area, try Geocaching and if you want some new people to visit your favourite milestone – then why not give Geocaching a go. Not only will you find others to share your passion but you will get to read exactly what they think of our highway heritage as well.

Andrew Baddeley-Chappell (BadChap to Geocachers....)

.....And we've taken up the challenge thrown down by Andrew and fellow caching Society member Nick Mortimer (*flipflopnick*)

Look on the Society's regional web pages for details of our Travel Bug 'trackables' as they make their way from cache to cache.

Highway Hazel ☺

IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

We hope you enjoy reading the *Newsletter* and *Milestones & Waymarkers*. Membership renewals fell due on 1 June and most members have already renewed. Unfortunately, if you have not yet renewed, this is the last Society publication that you will receive. You can use the renewal form that was sent with the Spring mailing or you can go to the Society website and follow the procedure in the 'Join Us' pages.

Brian Barrow

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 to John V Nicholls by e-mail to **jv@milestonesociety.co.uk** or by post to 220 Woodland Avenue, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1DA.

Mike Hallett

MILESTONE SOCIETY BOOKLIST

Christine Minto has a limited supply of books for sale. If you would like to purchase any of these please contact Christine at **frankminto@talktalk.net** or on 01226 753599

Title	Author	Price	P& P
Marking The Miles	Carol Haines	£12.00	£1.50
The Milestones of Fife	Alex Darwood & Paula Martin	£5.00	£1.20
Manx Milestones	Stuart Slack	£7.99	£1.20
Milestones	Hartpur Historic Land & Buildings Trust	£2.50	£0.60
You've Reached a Milestone	Chris Woodard	£16.00	£1.50
Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road	Jamie Quartermaine, Barrie Trinder & Rick Turner	£17.50	£2.30
Roads – Archaeology & Architecture	Richard K Morriss	£19.99	£3.50
Scottish Milestones	Compiled by Terry Keegan		£1.20
Turnpike Roads	Geoffrey N Wright	£4.99	£0.60
Milestones	Mervyn Benford	£4.99	£1.20
Road Signs	Stuart Hands	£4.99	£0.60
The Tollhouses of North Devon	Tim Jenkinson & Patrick Taylor	£8.95	£1.50
The Tollhouses of South Devon	Tim Jenkinson & Patrick Taylor	£8.95	£1.50
The Tollhouses of Cornwall	Patrick Taylor	£7.95	£1.20
The Tollhouses of Essex	Patrick Taylor	£7.95	£1.20
The Tollhouses of Suffolk	Patrick Taylor	£7.95	£1.20
The Tollhouses of Norfolk	Patrick Taylor	£7.95	£1.20
Fifty Four Miles to Yarmouth	Linda Sexton	£5.00	£1.20
The Green Lanes of Herefordshire	Heather Hurley	£11.95	£1.50
Southern Milestones (set of 6 A3 leaflets—Kent, Surrey and Middlesex)	Colin Woodward	£0.60	£0.60
Southern Milestones (individual A3 leaflets—Kent, Surrey and Middlesex)	Colin Woodward	£0.10	£0.50

ENGLAND

Cornwall

Ian Thompson writes that work continues to bring the story of Cornwall's roads in the 18th and 19th centuries into the covers of a book of Cornish milestones. At present Ian is trying to match over 600 milestone photographs, etchings, drawings and maps with the text divided into 10 main chapters. The publishers are confident that the finished product will be out in the autumn, so you can start dropping hints about what you would like for Christmas.

The first 300 fingerposts in the **Cornwall Fingerpost Survey** have been uploaded onto the National Database and are accessible from the Google Earth link. Two enthusiasts, James Biscoe in mid-Cornwall and Pete Goodchild in the east of the county, continue to survey and photograph new discoveries. It is a long way from a complete record but it is interesting to note how many more freshly painted fingerposts turn up. There are local initiatives, big and small, in many corners of the county, showing that the Milestone Society is moving with a groundswell of local support.

Devon

County representative *Tim Jenkinson* provides the following update. There are a number of road building projects in progress throughout the county during 2013-2015. Some of these are threatening the county's roadside heritage including milestones and boundary markers. The building of a new town at Cranbrook near to Clyst Honiton some 5 miles from Exeter has necessitated a watchful eye over at least three milestones on a section of the old A30. To date Devon County Council has taken action to reposition one of the stones, at the 3 mile point close to the M5 junction, which has been returned to a grassy knoll in the heart of the road improvements. Another stone, a Grade II listed marker at the 4 mile point from the city, is now completely cleared of vegetation and set upon a concrete base. The proposed construction of a cycle path close to the 5 milestone will also necessitate some protection at that site.

Other road builds are taking place on the A380 between Newton Abbot and Torquay with the long awaited Kingskerswell by pass (aka South Devon Link Road) planned for completion in December 2015. There are no known milestones surviving along this stretch but DCC has been alerted to the position of one boundary stone and have confirmed that it is situated outside of the construction work area and not at risk. Another road, the B3193 between Kingsteignton and Chudleigh in South Devon, is to be realigned by mineral company Sibelco UK Ltd to access ball clay reserves under the existing route. There are concerns over two milestones on this road and DCC has been alerted to the risk of loss or damage. This latter development is on-going and will require considerable perseverance in the coming months.

Milestones continue to be discovered across the county's roads especially in the winter months when the vegetation has died back. Alan Rosevear has been at the forefront of these important discoveries adding to the database numbers for Devon. Most importantly Alan has found a possible pre-turnpike stone in West Devon at Harford Bridge near Tavistock (SX 506767) that is inscribed 'O/14/' for Okehampton. Other significant finds have been on the A382 between Newton Abbot and Moretonhampstead at the two mile point from the former and on the A384 from Ashburton to Totnes where Alan has discovered two milestones at the 5 (SX 771636) and 4 mile point (SX 759644) respectively, the former of which is set in the wall on the approach to Riverford Bridge over the River Dart and had been overlooked for years.



Ashburton 5 on Riverford Bridge

The Plotting Plymouth's Past Project continues apace with the survey team consisting of Milestone Society members Ernie Stanton, Mark Fenlon and Tim steadily working their way across the streets of Plymouth. As previously reported the project aims to identify literally hundreds of boundary stones that can be found within a 5 mile radius of the city in order to create a digital archive for public use. Working with early 20th Century OS maps and previous survey work undertaken by Ted Masson Phillips and the Old Plymouth Society as well as Mark's independent study of 2005, the team has already discovered several previously unrecorded stones.

Herefordshire See **WELSH BORDERLANDS** on page 18.

Hertfordshire Brian Warren of the Potters Bar and District Historical Society made contact to say that he could no longer see the XV / MILES / TO / LONDON milestone on the A1000 at Little Heath (HE_LY15). On investigating, it was found that the stone had been broken and the top part was missing. The broken stone has been reported to Hertfordshire Highways.



HE_LY15 in 2005

Colin Woodward reports that three milestones have been added to the database. These were originally recorded by John Donovan but had been omitted. Two of the stones are embedded in Vineyard Bridge, Northaw, on an unclassified road, one reading '8/M(ile)s/To/HARTFORD' and the other '17/Miles/to LONDON'. This route is obscure and may not have been a turnpike. It may, however, have been used as part of an established route between London and Great Yarmouth. According to one of John Donovan's papers, *The Mystery of the Old Road*, there was once another milestone a mile further along the route at Carbone Hill and a toll cottage.

The other milestone added is a milepost 23 miles from London, 2 miles from St. Albans and 8 miles from Luton. This milestone is almost lost deep in a hedge along the A1081.

Several boundary stones have been added to the Hertfordshire list, including a rare terminus stone of the St. Albans Trust which may be seen in St. Albans Museum.

Kent

Colin Woodward reports that Addington Parish Council has restored a milestone on the north side of London Road (A20) between Wrotham and Maidstone. The parish had been hoping for the milestone to be restored by Kent County Council for a number of years but funding was not available. The Parish Council therefore decided to fund the project itself. This milestone was originally 18th century but in the early 19th century it was radically altered and a pentagonal shaped mileplate was fitted, probably by Ransomes of Ipswich, such as can be seen in a number of surviving milestones along this route.



However, restoration to include a replica mileplate was beyond the resources of the parish and it was feared that such a plate might become a target for metal thieves. The stone was also in poor condition and had an embedded metal pin which made restoration difficult. The contractor, Burslem, was able to add three stone panels displaying the original inscription whilst retaining the old stone (left). The milestone is now once again legible for the first time in many years.

Five more milestones have been added to the Kent database, from Staplehurst, Mereworth, Biddenden (x2) and Hawkhurst. Only one of these, at Biddenden, is in reasonably legible condition with the others having major problems such as encroachment by vegetation, missing mileplates or progressive sinking into the ground. As with many other Kent milestones, they are not easy to see in the summer months.

Member Debbie Greaves has sent a letter to a number of parish councils in the Tenterden area requesting help in the location and conservation of local milestones, and giving information about the work of the Society. At the time of writing, responses are awaited.

Lancashire *John Armstrong* writes that the milestone at Billington on the Whalley Road (LA_BBCL05 - SD 71847 35315) went missing in February this year. Local residents remembered a coach pulling up on to the wide grass verge about the time the milestone disappeared. Lancashire County Council Highways and Billington parish council have been notified, but no further information has come to light.

'Brian Jones has obtained approval from Lancashire County Council for his proposal to restore the 8 milestones on the Lancaster to Burton-in-Kendal road, subject to production of a full project risk assessment. With no funding available from the County Council or Lancaster City Council, Brian is seeking funding from local parish councils and private sponsors.

'With no council interest, our proposal for a glass fibre plate replacement for the milestone on Leyland Lane, Leyland seemed to have stalled. However, a private sponsor has offered to provide a donation towards the cost. I am now working on the best method of producing a mould for the plate.

'My approaches to Lancashire County Council Highways Authority and Public Realm Office to reinstate the milestone from the Preston to Blackpool road at Aston (LA_BPPS15) currently in a Preston Council Parks & Gardens yard



proved completely fruitless. Bishop Michael has recently met the new head of Parks & Gardens who has agreed to investigate whether his department could reinstate the milestone.

'Bishop Michael has been busy re-painting milestones and boundary markers. This is a picture of him painting the milestone on the old LA_CYBB03 which has its plate missing. The message 'Being Cleaned' had been chalked in the plate cavity some two years ago but we reckoned by now that the plate was not going to be returned. I have been helping Bishop Michael with some re-paintings but, given a decidedly unsteady painting hand, my assistance has been

largely limited to moral support and holding the paint tin.

'Standish Community Forum has obtained approval from Wigan Council to relocate the obtrusive sign post from the boundary marker between Wigan and Standish in Wigan Lane (LA_WGPS01pb - SD 57888 08386). We have offered to re-paint the boundary marker when the post has been moved.

'Heath Charnock parish council contacted me late last year requesting advice on restoring the boundary marker between Chorley and Heath Charnock near Limbrick (LA_CHOCH01pb - SD 59863 16610) that had been defaced during the Second World War. Chorley District Council had agreed to re-engrave the stone and I provided details of original legend. Chorley District Council also agreed to re-engrave another defaced boundary marker nearby on Bolton Road Chorley between Chorley and Duxbury (LA_BOCY09pb - SD 59171 16271) and move the boundary marker to a more suitable location across the road from its original position behind playing field railings. Bishop Michael has subsequently repainted both boundary markers.

'Following a request from Anderton Parish Council for advice on restoring the milestone on the Bolton to Chorley road in Adlington (LA_BOCY07 – SD 61983 12837, I agreed with Bishop Michael that we would re-paint this milestone and the two other remaining milestones on the road. The parish council was so pleased with the results that they have provided a donation for the re-painting.

'Duncan Armstrong has provided full details and pictures for all the fingerposts he has recorded in the Ribble Valley and surrounding districts; these are now available in the latest repository Google Earth release. He is also being kept fully occupied with the various fingerpost restoration projects commissioned by local councils.

'Brenda Fox and I have given talks on Turnpike Roads and Milestones and the work of the Milestone Society to Chorley and Lancaster Historical Society with the fees going to Lancashire group funds.

'There are only a few new finds to report. Phil and Juliette Platt spotted a guide stone in Plodder Lane, Bolton (LA_XFAR01 - SD 70135 05970) that has evidently been defaced. Phil and Juliette have also reported a number of new bridge boundary markers and seem to be becoming specialists in this type of boundary marker where the parish names are engraved in the bridge wall.'

Middlesex *Colin Woodward* reports that large numbers of parish boundary stones have been added to the database. These are mostly, but not exclusively, from Inner London Boroughs and in particular the Cities of London and

Westminster. They are reminders of a time when many people lived cheek by jowl in the City and parishes were extremely small, only covering a few streets. Some of the parish markers commemorate not only churches lost in the Second World War but some that were lost in the Great Fire of 1666! If you visit the City of London it is worth trying to spot some of these boundary markers, which are often in pairs at first floor level. The markers are usually dated, sometimes as early as the 1690s, although it is virtually impossible to tell if they are the originals or later creations. The Society's database is by no means a full list even though it shows many markers, which are so numerous that it is almost impossible to catalogue them all.

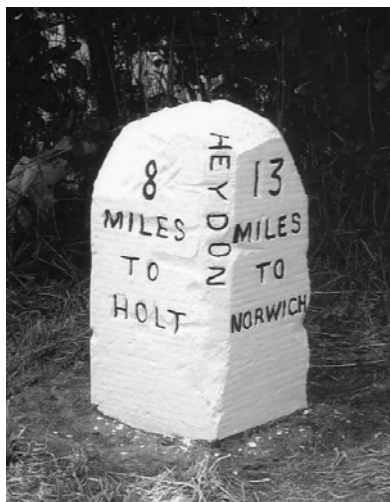
Apart from the Society's database, a very good selection can be seen on the web site: <http://www.metadyne.co.uk/Parishboundaries.html> This web site concentrates on boundary stones in the Inner London Boroughs.

Norfolk

Carol Haines writes that months of rain and snow severely curtailed outdoor activities but provided an opportunity to tidy the archives and catalogue photos. Nigel Ford's Jubilee Project to renovate 60 milestones has been completed. Norfolk CC had funded the project at £60 towards each milestone but because of severe budget cuts future council funding will be much harder to obtain. Nigel has been asked by Gorleston Heritage Group to paint their two mileposts cast by Jacob Garrett of Ipswich in 1818 and the boundary post cast in 1822. Alan and Carol have been painting some of the stones on the Norwich to Holt road, including NO_NH13 (right). Due to damage to the top a previous painter had left out the Holt mileage and shortened the parish name. The full inscription has now been restored.

Another 1921 place name sign at Weasenham has been reported by Tim Richards and after giving a talk to Holt Rotary in December Carol met the owner of the Plumstead AA village sign. He had found it being used as a cover for a water butt, with a hole cut in it for a pipe. He restored it and fixed it high on the wall of his house. He has had offers to buy it, but thankfully it remains on public view in the village.

Other records are now being gathered. Many parish boundary markers in the countryside seem to have gone but Norwich has nearly 90 to be hunted for (see page 24). Over 100





crosses were listed in an article written in 1935, but for some only the pedestal survived. The base of Stump Cross (left) at Southrepps was found by road workers in 1932 and part of the shaft was retrieved from the Rectory garden in the nearby parish of Trunch. It dates from about 1366 and marked a manor belonging to the Poor Clares of Bruisyard, Suffolk.

Northamptonshire

'Another

milestone to add to the list!' writes *Helen Crabtree*. 'After giving a presentation on Northamptonshire Milestones at the Midshires meeting in March, Rob Caldicott kindly informed me of one at Farthinghoe! I went to investigate and found it and it is now logged on the Repository. There are now 33 logged in Northamptonshire, that's 4 more than when I became rep for the county last year.

'After 2 years of trying to have the writing on the Desborough milestone (NR_KEMHO6) highlighted, I am currently working on a solution with a local stonemason who is prepared to make the writing visible. As it is Grade II listed the renovation procedure is taking a long time.

'At a recent Milestone talk I gave in Oundle a lady told me of a Roman milestone which was on display at Oundle Museum. It was found near Barnwell and is thought to have come from the section of a Roman road between Waternewton and Thrapston.

'Two pleas for help!

1. Does any one have any old OS maps of Northamptonshire?
2. Any info. you might have on 2 missing milestones (NR_SFHEa and NR_SFHEb) at Elkington. There is a stone in undergrowth in a lay-by just south of Towcester NR_OXNH31 which could be a milestone but needs more investigation.'

Contact Helen at helenmcraabtree@tiscali.co.uk or on 01536 762127.

Shropshire

Alan Reade relates that systematic searches by John Haynes throughout the county are indicating that there have been a significant number of losses and damage to milestones since the survey carried out with assistance from John Higgins in 2005-7. This has been compensated to some extent by new finds of previously overlooked examples and the restoration of several by Shropshire Highways and (memorably) by a local farmer on the Welsh border,

but the balance is regrettably towards overall loss. Attempts to involve the Highways Agency and Amey, the maintenance contractor for the A49 south of Shrewsbury, with the repair of several damaged milestones have been fruitless so far, but one part-flattened milepost has been re-set informally. A possible collaboration with Staffordshire members may see some Shropshire milestones/posts re-painted, particularly near the boundary between North Shropshire and Mid-Staffordshire.

Somerset

Janet Dowding reports 'The Somerset group met on 20 April for our Spring meeting. The best news was that two mile plates that were believed to have been lost for ever have turned up. The first was notified to us by the owner of Lodge Farm, Higher Durston (Somerset). It stood originally on the A38 at Thurloxton (ST 281299/W) but, when this road was improved, the plate was lost in the roadworks. It was later found and taken to the Durston farm by the owner's grandfather and there it has been for the last 40 years (ST 29102820). When I searched Durston village for this milestone some years back, I had no idea it was on private property, could not therefore find it and declared it missing. We hope to contact the present farm owner to arrange to photograph it but at present it is apparently painted green instead of the traditional black and white! It says '5 miles to Bridgewater'.



The second plate was brought to my notice by a man living in Yeovil who had found this plate (left) in the 1960s when he was working on a building site. He took it home and it has been stored in his garage ever since. It has on it '3 SHERBORNE / SHASTON 13' and is therefore actually a Dorset plate. I think it may come from the old milestone at

the junction of the Purse Caundle road with the A30, this site being 3 miles from Sherborne, and from which the plate has been missing for years (ST 695 181). Shaston is the old name for Shaftesbury. I advised him to get in touch with Dorset Highways Dept. to see if it can be reinstated.

We hope to have a table and notice board at the local Shepton Show in August for the Milestone Society Somerset Group with relevant photos of local milestones, toll houses, fingerposts and other written information.

Staffordshire

In *Staffordshire Miles*, *Howard Price* reports that David Wright has been working with Chebsey Parish Council and the highways department to replace a missing finger post arm. He has found a company in

Buxton, Leander Architectural, who hold the mould for this type of finger arm, and is well on the way to restoring the feature. The post will be replaced by the county council and David will re-paint the entire finger post.

David is working closely with Shane Latham of the Stone highways depot to conserve and restore an unusual 'hooded' milestone from the A34 on the northern edge of Stafford. A stone mason is involved, and the milestone will be fully restored and re-located following the major roadworks in the area.

Howard has managed to prepare and paint the finger post at Hazelslade, despite the cold weather through the winter months. The final touches are still outstanding to paint the post and to remove the unsightly repair to the broken arm.



Hazelslade fingerpost

The County Council Historic Environment Team have sent the County group the first batch of milestones from East Staffordshire so that we can help record their condition as part of the local listing process. We are hoping to hold regular update meetings with the Stafford team and the Highways community liaison officer so that we continue to work together effectively in the future.

Surrey *Janet Dowding* reports that the Surrey Group met on Saturday 6 April at Send Manor. 'The details of vanished Surrey milestones have now been collated and sent to Alan for the database. We felt it was important to have these on the milestone database so that people need not waste time looking for ones that are lost. The ones detailed are where they have appeared on old maps with full details of mileages or on modern maps and found to be missing. So far the details of 53 have been sent to Alan.

'Compared to other counties, Surrey does not have many surviving fingerposts but Colin Woodward has provided the Group records with details of 18. He is also sending details of existing Surrey boundary markers (of which there are quite a few) to the relevant database for the Group.

'We have details of more of Colin's 'finds'. One is a Roman Memorial (Grade II listed) at TQ 29152 75479 (not original site) at the entrance to Clapham Library (disused) on Clapham Common North Side (B 303). It has a Latin inscription on

it which translates into 'To the shades of Titus Licinus Ascarius. He erected it for himself, in his own lifetime'. A second 'find' is a Roman milestone in Winchester City Museum, again with an inscription which translates into 'For the emperor...Pius Felix Augustus. The canton of the Belgae set this up'. A third 'find' is a remnant of a wayside cross, exhibited in Kingston upon Thames Parish Church, which is alleged to have been erected by King Egbert c. 9th century to commemorate the Great Council of 838 and used in Norman and later rebuilding works.

'I have obtained from Mike Hallett for the Group's records a list of the public and turnpike Acts for Surrey dating from Elizabeth I to Victoria. Also, thanks to the West Surrey Family History Society, another toll house has been added to our records. They had an article in *Root & Branch*, Mar. 2013, which gave the following details: 'Originally the turnpike gate at Godalming was in Meadrow but, when Godalming Wharf was opened in 1763, traffic going up to the wharf did not get as far as the toll house and therefore did not pay tolls. The gate was first moved to Ockford but that toll house was buried under a railway embankment when the Portsmouth line was constructed in the 1850s. The gate was then moved to its present site (66, Ockford Road). The toll house was originally single storey and became a private dwelling at the demise of the Trust'. The census for 1861 shows that Charles Mandeville was the toll collector with his daughter Elizabeth as his assistant.'



YW_WKPU15

Yorkshire

Christine Minto relates that whilst trawling through English Heritage listings for fingerposts Alan Rosevear found a Yorkshire milestone she didn't know about. 'A cold, wintry, early February ride up and down some seriously steep hills near Pudsey confirmed its site on a very minor road which obviously had greater importance in the past. Morley and Wakefield should be inscribed but only the former is still, mostly, legible. [YW_WKPU15]

'Having spent all but 5 years of my life in schools I still like to get away during school holidays! February half term gave me two nights at Osmotherly and three days riding in

North Yorkshire to and from York train station. YN_YOTK17 on the A19 has only just been missed by a very wide tyred vehicle and YN_YOTK22 is still in the farmyard where Dave Williams and Jeremy Howat painted it last year. No sign of the farmer to talk to though. Next day, a very cold ride over the Hambleton Hills to check out a boundary stone, Robinson's Cross, below Black Hambleton and the remains of Cooper Cross at Sutton Bank visitor centre. Most of the ride back to York via Leeming Bar on the old A1 was in falling snow and sleet. YN_NALB06, a North Riding of Yorkshire milepost, had not been found during three searches by Yorks members. But there it was hidden inside the bare hedge covered in ivy. However the best result was finding that a Mattison milepost photographed by Terry Keegan in 1989 was still there on the dead end piece of road in Londonderry that hadn't been checked. [YN_BBCT14]

'A few days in the Dales for the meeting at Hebden produced several results. Another of Terry's photos showed a post on the Ripon to Pateley Bridge road which wasn't recorded. But there it was, lopsided, in a high, narrow banking on a bend. However it will be too dangerous to paint and set upright. [YN_RPPB05]

'In 2005 an old stone that looked to be newly erected was found just off the B6265 at Greenhow. In 2006 it was reported as missing. In April Alan Rosevear pointed out a photo on Flickr of a stone on the B6265. It is the same stone, probably now in its original position with a new inscription on its blank side [YN_XGRH]

'The third result was running to earth a stone from the A683 at Four Lane Ends south of Sedburgh. Mervyn Benford and Brian Davey had photographed it prior to 2004 when we found it propped up by a fence asking to be stolen. It was reported to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and taken into 'safe keeping' but then disappeared. But now it has been found. More of the saga in the next *On The Ground*.'



YN_XGRH

'The Marsden Home Educators group of twenty parents and pupils listened to a talk by Toll-keeper Meg (ably assisted by Technician Colin) at Tolson Museum, Huddersfield, in April - Blind Jack of Knaresborough's exploits really captured their imagination. The mums were intrigued by the 'resource pack' provided by the Curator and the pupils had fun making lots of noise with the pack-horse bells, under the watchful eye of a model 'Turnpike Surveyor'. Before they set off homewards to prepare a heritage walk they sang a song specially written for them, The Jagger's Refrain, to a traditional tune 'A flaxen-headed ploughboy'. You can find the words and a spirited recording by Colin Parry on the Regional website for Yorkshire under 'Beyond Graffiti', our project to share our enthusiasm for ways and waymarkers with younger people.

WELSH BORDERLANDS

Tony Boyce reports that Sadie Cole, the Society's former Radnorshire representative, died unexpectedly in December 2012 at the age of 78. There was a large attendance at her funeral, held a stone's throw from her home at Discoed, near Presteigne, Powys, where the Society was represented by Herefordshire member and original Radnorshire rep Tony Boyce to whom Sadie, a couple of months before her death, was able to hand over her MSS branch records.

Described at the funeral service as having led 'an incredibly active life', Sadie was born in Birmingham and married there. She took up teaching but had a finger in many pies, including this Society. One of her great interests was Radnorshire's 'map reference' signposts, of which only a few survive, together with an armless map reference post at Maestreylow crossroads not far from Discoed. Whether this was once an actual signpost is not clear.

With membership fairly scattered in this part of the world, those who do belong have come together to form a new Mid Border group, covering north-west



Sadie Cole with Tony Boyce when he repainted this signpost at Ditchyeld Bridge in East Radnor

Herefordshire and that part of Radnorshire east of the A483 trunk road, as well as some South Shropshire parishes on the doorstep of the border town of Knighton. Taking in several hundred square miles in parts of three counties, most of this area is highly rural and thinly populated.

First meeting of the new group, which must rank as the first to span a national border and supersedes the former Radnorshire group and its non-functioning Herefordshire neighbour, was held at Presteigne in May. Another is planned for September by which time it is hoped to have drawn in a few more people who have expressed an interest in joining the Society.

Before the group's formation, Tony Boyce had a useful meeting with Robert Walker, the extremely helpful conservation officer for north-west Herefordshire, who has surveyed all of the milestones he can find in Herefordshire as a whole and put the results onto a CD.

WALES

Anglesey *Chris Woodard* writes that last December it was announced in the *Principality Press* that the Women's Institute has just signed a 25 year lease with the Anglesey CC with the intention to refurbish the old Grade II listed Tollhouse at Llanfair PG on the A5. With a grant of £25,000 obtained from the regeneration project Menter Mon, they are wishing to open it as a museum that will feature the History of the WI as well as that of the Telford gates upon Anglesey - 5 originally, with three surviving.

For those who may not be aware the WI has a long history with Llanfair PG. In 1915 the first branch of the WI in Britain was held in a member's house in Llanfair PG. In 1920, when they started to expand they needed a larger home, they moved into the building next door to the Tollhouse and have been there ever since. The museum is now open this summer on Tuesday mornings, Thursday afternoons and all day on Fridays.

Carmarthenshire *Chris Woodard* reports that on a recent visit to check up on the safety of the three milestones on the unclassified road between Llanddowror and Tavernspite, it was discovered that the one that was marked on OS maps had been removed due to the creation of the A477 Llanddowror bypass. Having brought this milestone to the notice of the road contractors it has been removed for safe keeping. It will be relocated to a site as close to the original as possible in due course. Hopefully a photo opportunity will take place in the not too distant future.

Sadly, the milestone on Brandy Hill a mile to the west has been broken by a heavy goods vehicle or tractor and attempts are being made to get the Carmarthenshire County Council to repair and re-erect the milestone.

Merionethshire

Chris Woodard suggests that any member of the Society wishing to retire might like to consider moving to Merionethshire. The 134 year old toll bridge and keeper's two bedroom cottage at Penmaenpool near Dolgellau is up for sale for £350,000. With a small annual income from passing motorists and ferry rights, it has 867 years remaining on the lease.

Monmouthshire

Ron Shackell brings some good news and some bad news from the county.

In February 2011 the remains of 'Abergavenny 7' was found after a little digging, enough to establish its authenticity. The plan was to continue the clearing and straighten its forward lean, but unfortunately this had to be put on hold for a while to deal with other priorities. Later a recce to establish the situation found that the verge had been cleared of a straggling hedge and the banking re-profiled which completely concealed the milestone. Meanwhile the County Council had decided to close the cattle market in Abergavenny and sell the land for a supermarket. The new cattle market will be located near Raglan on what is currently farmland. Driving along the unclassified road that had previously been the A40, it was obvious that a start was underway as the road had been widened to accommodate large animal transporters and kerbs set for the new entrance. This is exactly 7 miles from Abergavenny.

The unclassified road from Usk to Monmouth was a turnpike at some time in addition to the old A449 on the other side of the river. Both of these have been superseded by the dual carriageway trunk road. The reprojected OS map of 1919-26 clearly shows the first 5 milestones from Usk. Of these, the first is presumably lost in the construction of a spur to the new trunk road. After some serious hedge maintenance, the second was found safely tucked away from wayward motorists or passing hedge trimmers on what is now classed as the B4235 to Chepstow. The third stands proudly at an insignificant junction but where is the fourth? A number of attempts to locate this had failed.

Exploring another unclassified road from Raglan to Chepstow with the help of a re-projected map, Ron stopped in the village of Llansoy to prod about in a garden hedge. This naturally brought out the owner curious for an explanation. The production of a Society leaflet was the passport for an ensuing chat. Ron was told of a milestone down the road in a field belonging to the resident's husband. An arrangement was made to



Usk 4 at SO 430 039

see the stone which was being swallowed by the hedge. This is the 'Usk 4' milestone taken up to make access to the field easier. Face down, with lots of muscle power it was turned over to find that, sadly, the inscription had been defaced. The plan is to replace it in a safe position away from likely theft or motor accidents. But 4 months later it hasn't been moved and nature is trying to reclaim it. But at least it is there and not forgotten.

Chris Woodard reports that in early May he was checking on information that a milestone had been moved from the A48 to a boundary wall in the village of Shirenewton. It was actually discovered within the grounds of a house close to the church. Luck was on hand, as the solid driveway gates were open and the stone could be seen from the road. It turns out to be a milestone from the west side of Newport some 17 miles away. The inscription reads 'Newport 2, Cardiff 10, London 148'. When and why it was removed to its present location is a mystery. The only information that could be gathered at the time was that the present occupiers have only been the owners of the property for the past 12 months.

Pembrokeshire *Chris Woodard* writes that during the month of April an appeal was made in the county weekly paper *Western Telegraph* on the Nostalgia page for information on any milestones within the county that pre-date the present plated stones from the 1838-45 period. Also information on the location of a toll house that was situated near Haverfordwest, known as the Bethany Gate. The



Mesur y Dorth

problem has been that there are two Bethany Farms near the town. A reader supplied details concerning the whereabouts of the said tollhouse, which very sadly had been demolished to make way for a car dealer's forecourt. The newspaper was pleasantly surprised with receiving the largest response ever to its Nostalgia page. First was the donation of a milestone plate to the Milestone Society with the inscription of 'TO / H-WEST / 5 / MILES, TO / FISHG^D / 10'. This particular plate certainly pre dates all the other milestone plates within the county as there are not yards mentioned and secondly the road itself, the A40, has been straightened since the plate was first erected. Second surprise was the 'Mesur y Dorth' stone (measure of bread) on the A487 between Fishguard and St Davids. The inscription is of a cross within a circle. This stone was

erected during the medieval period for the benefit of the pilgrims heading to St Davids on route from North Wales. The pilgrims knew that when they reached this particular stone, they were to be offered a loaf of bread as their last meal before reaching St Davids, 6 miles away. Can Pembrokeshire claim to have the oldest post Roman milestone/marker in Wales if not the UK? The article has caused a lot of interest, and the odd new member has enrolled. A quiz is planned in a future issue of the *Western Telegraph* in which the winner will receive a year's subscription to the Society.

Radnorshire

See **WELSH BORDERLANDS** on page 18.

SCOTLAND

Christine Minto reports from Scotland

Arran

Diana Burns has been to Arran and provided some of the missing photos of the 79 milestones on the island.

Orkney

Mike Buxton paid a visit to the Orkney Isles last year and passed the milestones on the B9057 south of Dounby which have the one sixth mileage inscribed. The first one from Dounby, 0 and one sixth, has been reset in the verge because a new, modern church has been built in the field behind it. And it's called Milestone Community Church. We have Milestone Cottages and Houses but is this the first church?

South Lanarkshire

Amongst some papers Christine recently found a drawing of an obelisk in Carnwath in South Lanarkshire. Alverie Weighill tells Christine that it is still there. She has also found another of the plated series between Carlisle and Glasgow. This is in a farmyard on a long ago by-passed section of the A74 now B7076. So, a baker's dozen of these stones remain in various locations on the 94½ mile route.

Lothian

On Flickr Christine spotted a stone in Edinburgh that wasn't recorded. Contacting Scottish members by email elicited an instant response from Edward Hibbert. It is on Morningside Road in the wall by Studio One Furniture shop '1 Mile from Tollcross' making 29 known stones in the City of Edinburgh.

JERSEY

Following on from their work on Jersey surveying the island's milestones in 2010 and 2012, *Tim Jenkinson* and his wife Ann have been invited to speak on the subject to the Société Jersiaise in St Helier on 16 July 2013. The talk will give an opportunity to promote the work of the Milestone Society and hopefully recruit some new members.

LANGFIELD COMMON BOUNDARY STONES

Many boundary stones have their origin in the 18th or 19th centuries and mark parish, township or estate boundaries. In the South Pennines, 2 miles east of the market town of Todmorden, a moorland area exists that still bears the marks of local people confirming their ancient rights of pasturage for animals over common land. Even more remarkable is the fact that these stones can be dated to the 17th century and can be connected to the preservation of local freeholders rights against landowners.

The manor of Langfield was named Langefelt in the Domesday Book and passed to the Crown in 1537 following the execution of the owner of the manor, Sir Stephen Hammerton, for his part in the Pilgrimage Of Grace. This led to a system of tenure based on rights of pasture for local freeholders and survives to this day in the form of 'sheep gate' and 'cattle gate' where certain numbers of sheep and cattle can still be grazed on the common according to the size of individual freeholdings.



Figure 1

One is dated 1699 and includes the name Robert (Figure 2), possibly the local surveyor or stonemason. Perhaps the most interesting stone is one with the C17 terminology 'this common doth belong to' with the missing words having been chiselled away at some point, perhaps by the landowner !!!

The boundary also runs past the Te Deum Stone, a resting place for

Over a 2-mile stretch of the current civil parish boundary of Hebden Royd and Todmorden over ten C17 marker stones can still be found. Most are crudely carved on natural rocks with the most consistent markings small crosses and the letters 'L' and 'S' (Figure 1) which represent Langfield and Sowerby.



Figure 2

Boundary Markers



Figure 3—the Te Deum stone

coffins being transported between Cragg Vale and the Calder Valley (Figure 3). Adjacent are gateposts (Figure 4) that carry the inscriptions 'L' (Langfield) and 'S' (Sowerby) .



Figure 4

David Garside

NORWICH PARISH BOUNDARY MARKERS

Attention has recently turned to filling in more details of Norfolk's boundary markers. Many marked on county maps seem to have gone but they are more than made up for by the Georgian parish boundary markers in Norwich. In 1500 there were over 50 churches within the walls. There are now about 30, many of them redundant and put to other uses.

With so many parishes, it was important for people to know where the boundaries were and therefore who was responsible for various administrative duties within the parish. The practice of beating the bounds may date from the fifth century. It was to imprint in people's memories the area covered by their parish, and the ceremony seems to have been widely followed in Norwich in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

A perambulation started at the parish church and followed the boundary line even if buildings had been erected across it and the procession had to enter at the front door and exit via a window. In one case it passed through a newspaper office. Boys would beat the boundary with willow wands and sometimes a boy would be held up by the ankles and bumped on the boundary to make sure he remembered it. The perambulations were also accompanied by copious refreshments along the way. For some of these perambulations markers were made

which were placed on buildings along the boundary, usually high up so that they could not easily be removed.

In the 1930s Mr J Read hunted down many of the markers then existing in the city. Publicity in the local press brought more information and by 1935 he had found 205. Some were lost due to bomb damage in WW2, others due to later redevelopment, although in a few cases the markers were reinstated on the new buildings. David Berwick has spent over 20 years researching and tracking down the surviving boundary markers, which resulted in his book *Beating the Bounds in Georgian Norwich* (Larks Press, 2007; ISBN 978-1-904006-35-3).

Most of the markers are small rectangular metal plates with the initials of the parish and the date of the perambulation. Some also bear a symbol relating to the saint, such as a St Andrew's cross or St Peter's keys. A few markers have more elaborate shapes, and one or two are of stone. The dates range from 1710 to 1854. In several sites a number of markers are grouped together, such as the



*Five parish boundary markers
on the wall of an inn*

five pictured on the Coach and Horses in Bethel Street on the boundaries of St Giles and St Peter Mancroft parishes. Nearly 90 are still in situ around the city and over 40 are in the Bridewell Museum. The majority are at first floor level on buildings, some much higher, and they are therefore usually overlooked. Many buildings do not have visible numbers and where Berwick has given the location as a shop or office, the firm may now have changed, adding to the challenge of finding them.

The search is, however, proving a most interesting

exercise and the crick in the neck from gazing skywards is worth the satisfaction of finding another parish marker.

Carol Haines

THE CALDER AND HEBBLE NAVIGATION

An Act of Parliament was passed in 1758 for the building of a navigable waterway that joined Wakefield (reached from the east in 1702 by the Aire And Calder Navigation) with Sowerby Bridge. It reached Dewsbury (via a branch) in 1762, Brighouse in 1764 and finally Sowerby Bridge in 1770.

The first North Sea to Irish Sea navigable route was completed in 1804 when the Rochdale Canal connected Sowerby Bridge to Manchester where the Bridgewater Canal had been in operation for some time.

The Calder And Hebble Navigation was 22 miles long and had 28 locks at the time it was built. Along its course it has a number of interesting remains that are not always unique but certainly characteristic of the waterway.



Figure 5



Figure 6

Milestones – in Wakefield, the navigation started at Fall Ing Lock (Fall Ing was a small suburb south of the city). Accordingly, all the milestones recorded the distance as “From Fall Ing x miles”. Approximately 10 still exist, with particularly good examples at Salterhebble and Battysford respectively (Figures 5 and 6).

Half-Mile and Quarter-Mile Stones – only a handful of these remain, a Half-Mile Stone found at Brookfoot (Figure 7) and a Quarter-Mile Stone at Thornhill Junction (Figure 8). This idea of half- and quarter-mile stones was imitated by the later Leeds-Liverpool Canal where many still survive although in a metal format painted white.



Figure 7



Figure 8

Lock Markers – several of these can still be found; their purpose is simply to make boatmen aware of the proximity of locks. A 100 yards example can be found at Brookfoot near Brighouse whilst a 300 yards example can be found at Kirklees Lock (Figure 9).

Railway Company Stone Markers – as the canal boom was relatively short-lived due to the introduction of the railways, a number of canal companies ended up in



Figure 9

financial difficulties and were sold to railway companies. These often continued to use the canals, particularly for bulky materials, into the 20th century. A batch exist along the Kirklees Cut a couple of miles east of Brighouse (Figure 10). The initials stand for Lancashire And Yorkshire Railway. The stones probably marked the extent of land ownership beyond the towpath.

Towpath Bridges – Horses were the only source of power until the mid-19th Century



Figure 10

(and continued to be used well into the 20th). Where the towpath changed sides of the navigation (usually where canal and river met), a way had to be found to allow the horse to continue pulling the vessel without

unhitching. This was achieved by the 'turnover bridge' which used to exist at Mirfield, Cooper Bridge, Brighouse and Elland. All these are long gone but a good example can still be found at Battyeford where the canal reaches the river.



Figure 11

Lock-Keepers Cottages – it appears many locks had cottages for the Lock-Keeper and fortunately a number still survive. A good example can be found at Salterhebble (Figure 11).

David Garside

ABERDEEN CANAL

When Alan Rosevear set up the Scottish database he trawled through Historic Scotland and added listed milestones on the Aberdeen to Port Elphinstone (Inverurie) canal. It only survived about 40 years before the railways superseded it. Alan noted four stones within the City and another five in Aberdeenshire.

So on one of our visits to the area we decided to search them out. Many of the roadside milestones in Aberdeenshire are circular granite columns with just a number inscribed on the bevel. The canal stones proved to be the same style.

News from the Canal Towpath

We found a cycle route along a remnant of the waterway in Aberdeen but no stones. Just off the main road in Bucksburn and Dyce, probably not far from their original sites, were stones 4½ and 5½. To see the next one we had to knock on a house door. An estate has been built over the line of the canal and 7½ is in the hedge only visible from the garden. 9 is clearly out of place being displayed at the front of Dyce Parish Church alongside a large bell. Meandering through the lanes in the Shire, 10 is found next to a stone bunny in a garden at Beidleston. Many years ago the 'owner' rescued it from the dike between two fields, probably the banking of the long lost canal (AD_ADCAN10). In a few places the line of the canal is still evident. 12 is supposedly 100m west



AD_ADCAN10

of Kinaldie Station. That meant a walk along a path by the side of the railway lines but to no avail. 12½ reposes in the rockery by a garden lantern at Kirkton Farm but 14 was another that we failed to find. It is recorded as being in a garden at Kintore. However at the other end of the village 16 is preserved at Bridgend House.

Christine Minto

TO THE OUTER REACHES OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM



Neptune at ST 2449 2614

The long journey to the Spring Conference in Teignmouth provided the opportunity for an over-night stay near Taunton and an evening stroll to stretch the legs along the towpath of the Bridgwater and Taunton canal. The towpath is also part of the Sustrans cycle network. Here attractive new waymarkers have been erected marking the planets in the solar system and distances (in kilometres) to Bridgwater and Taunton. It's known as the Somerset Space Walk and it opened in 1997. The markers for Uranus and Neptune are close to Creech St Michael and the text on Neptune warns the walker 'Step out, it's a long walk to the next planet'.

Mike Hallett

2 MARCH 2013 - THIRD MIDSHIRES ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING, AYNHO, NORTHANTS

'Of ditches, skips, roundabouts, megaliths and military hospitals'



During excavations for road improvements in the 1960s, this stone from Codford in South Wiltshire was found buried adjacent to the road not far from where a Victorian cast iron milestone currently stands. Dated 1766, the stone originates from the start of the turnpike trust and was probably sold off when the cast-iron stone was erected. It is being offered back to Wiltshire by the man who saved it from landfill in the 1960's – one of many interesting stones from Doug Roseaman's talk (Photo: Doug Roseaman)

Twenty people attended the meeting. Last-minute illness and family commitments prevented a potentially record attendance. The breakdown of those attending was rather different from previous years, partly reflecting the geographical focus of the talks: Berkshire 1, Buckinghamshire 4, Northamptonshire 1, Oxfordshire 3, Warwickshire 6 and Wiltshire 5. Three non-members were welcome attendees.

Mike Buxton, Warwickshire Rep, led off with a stimulating talk about the early years of the Banbury to Birmingham and Stratford upon Avon Turnpike Trust and its three different routes before the trust was broken up into three separate organisations. He then moved on to describe a recent find along the Banbury to Warwick turnpike, between the damaged stone at Gaydon, hidden in a hedge in a lay-by, and the other buried in the verge near the bottom of Warmington Hill. The stone in between has long been thought lost until a local farmer's wife, recalling seeing it from her horse many years ago, led to its discovery half buried and broken in two in the ditch near Avon Dassett. Discussion focused on whether such finds should be left in situ or restored, with the consensus coming down in favour of restoration but re-siting slightly to a safer spot if possible. Exploring further north along the same turnpike and awaiting an answer to the doorbell of a house near the site of another stone believed lost, eureka! there it was, forming a handsome addition to the rockery in the garden. It had been given to a previous owner of the house when the road nearby was realigned 30 years ago. Wrong legally but at least we know where it is and it's being looked after.

Mike was followed by Doug Roseaman, Wiltshire Rep, who provided much illumination and entertainment not only about Wiltshire turnpikes and milestones in general but also the happy serendipity of being told about one milestone and

Meeting Reports

finding another in next door's garden. He also described the county's great good fortune in having no less than three meticulous recorders of turnpike routes and milestones in past decades. He regaled us with some of the bureaucratic hoops that needed to be jumped through in relocating a milestone close to a World Heritage Site – Stonehenge – and the new traffic systems and visitor centre currently being put in place there. The moral being to get in early to ensure your legally enforceable place in a 50-page development plan. In addition to strictly milestone stuff Doug, as a member of the Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes, provided much interesting information about the plans now reaching fruition for the re-development of the whole Stonehenge area to enhance its accessibility and interpretation.

After a break for lunch, variously used to visit the Cartwright Arms across the road and view the fine church a few yards away, the meeting continued with



Derek Turner's attempt to explain the complicated 'ebb and flow' of milestones along the Stokenchurch to Woodstock Turnpike as far as Oxford. According to the map evidence, not always entirely reliable, two stones in the Wheatley/Holton area moved no less than five times from their original locations in the mid 18th century, one having a 'holiday' in a military hospital.

London 49 at Wheatley spent some time in the 1960s in the office of Wheatley Military Hospital before being replaced by the roadside on the orders of an Oxon CC Highways Officer

The final session – the Regional Round-up – was bedevilled by technical gremlins with the consequence that presentations that had worked perfectly in earlier



'dress rehearsals' stubbornly refused to function. But the audience were patient and the gremlins finally defeated to allow Helen Crabtree, Northamptonshire Rep, to provide a quick visual tour of surviving Northants stones and to outline her plans for the renovation of some of them. Brian King, Wiltshire, complemented Doug's earlier talk with more photos of interesting Wiltshire stones.

Milepost found in a ditch at Dunkirk Hill on the Devizes to Chippenham Road

Finally, Patricia Burstall, Buckinghamshire, showed two recently restored mileposts near Marlow and talked of attempts to restore the fine obelisk milemarker in the centre of the town in the middle of a busy roundabout – a considerable but worthwhile challenge!

And what of Gloucestershire? Sadly, more or less a black hole milestone-wise. Julia Stanbridge, seemingly the lone would-be activist but unable to attend, sent a 'progress' or rather 'lack of progress' report. Better news next year?

Derek Turner

21 APRIL 2013 - NORTHERN SPRING MEETING, HEBDEN

The winter had ended just in time for this year's Northern Spring Meeting at Hebden, though spring had hardly got into its stride and a cool but dry day greeted the nearly 40 members who attended, from all over the North, including honorary parts such as Kent.

We were favoured with a number of most interesting sessions, starting with Michelle Atkinson who described a project to produce a series of walk leaflets in Kirkburton (in Kirklees, West Yorkshire). Each of the ten walks is based on one of the villages in the parish area and a local character and each features a stone guide-stoop carved by local sculptor Dave Bradbury, fashioned in the style of the notable Farnley Moor stoop and depicting a feature of the village. These can also be found at <http://kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk>.

Michelle managed the project and she described the entire process from conception to fruition – a most useful presentation for anyone planning anything similar. She discussed everything from how to manage volunteers to sources of finance (starting with www.fundingcentral.org.uk); who knew, for example, that landfill companies (such as SITA in Kirklees) have funds for relevant projects in their area? See <http://www.entrust.org.uk/home/lcf> for further details.

Some of us would also have liked to have seen some more of the guide-stoops, but this was more than compensated for in the next session, where Dave Bradbury enthralled us with his description, with photographs of every stage, of the processes involved in another of his works: the Milestone Society's Diamond Jubilee project replica Roman milestone at Wall, Staffordshire, by the site of the Roman town of Letocetum. See his website at <http://bydavebradbury.co.uk>.

Jan Scrine then went on to tell us about some of her many plans to interest young people and other groups, from geocachers to trainee bricklayers and home educators, in milestones – details of her activities can be found on the new 'Beyond Graffiti' section of the Yorkshire website. After which we all(?) joined in the chorus of The Jagger's Refrain.

After lunch we were entertained by Gordon Hallas and Jeremy Howat: Gordon showed us many fascinating old photographs of Holme (at the top of the Holme

Meeting Reports

Valley) on a historic magic lantern and Jeremy did 'The ones that got away – or did they?', telling the stories of some of our more elusive milestones.

And so with thanks to all involved, especially Christine and Frank for their anniversary cake, we look forward to next year.

Richard Heywood

11 MAY 2013—SPRING CONFERENCE, TEIGNMOUTH

Since the meeting was held in the Teign Room in the Teign Heritage Centre in Teignmouth, no-one could have been in any doubt where we were. It was a pleasant, light, airy modern room but we filled it and the overspill displays had to go on tables outside. Over 40 members had made what was, for many, the long journey to the south-west.

Jan Scrine welcomed us and thanked Tim Jenkinson and Alan Rosevear for arranging the meeting. She explained how the Society was trying to attract younger people to replenish the membership, working with the scouts and the beavers and trying to attract Geocachers.

Alan Rosevear opened the programme with a fast-paced and information-packed introduction to wayside features on the turnpike roads to Devon. There were no turnpikes in Devon before 1753 but milestones were in common use by 1750 and so many pre-date the turnpike era. The topology of the county influenced the travel routes. Dartmoor, Exmoor and the Blackdowns presented a barrier and there are a sequence of north-south rivers. Maritime travel was important and much of the road travel was in the east and south with Exeter as a hub for bringing goods to market. Then during the Napoleonic Wars people couldn't travel easily in Europe and there was an increase in wealthy summer visitors to the picturesque landscape around Totnes, Bridgetown and Pomeroy. This led to an increase in turnpike building around 1821-1831 with more detailed milestones being erected on the leisure routes. The toll bridge at Shaldon was built in 1827 but collapsed and had to be rebuilt in 1840; the bridge resulted in milestones having to be revised.

In his presentation on Cornish fingerposts Ian Thompson explained that most early fingerposts in Cornwall were wooden and few have survived. Cast iron fingerposts were put up at almost every junction from 1894 to 1964 but there was no central record of what is out there. In 2010 there was a sample survey based on three 10km map squares. Based on the survey it was estimated that Cornwall should have 557 finger posts. There was a follow-up survey in the Roseland and a further survey by the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies in 2011-12. Ian concluded his talk with a photographic tour of improvements to fingerposts in the Roseland.

Ian continued after lunch with a talk on the Judges' Road project (see page 36).

Then Nigel Overton, a curator of Plymouth City Museum, talked to us about a project on Plymouth boundary stones. Plymouth was originally three towns: Devonport, Plymouth and Stonehouse, each with its own boundary stones. The function of the stones is largely redundant but development is a big issue in Plymouth and vehicle damage and rising street levels are other risks to the stones. Some new stones have been discovered and it is hoped to have details in a database available on a website by the end of June: <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/boundarystones> . The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Old Plymouth Society, Plymouth City Council and the Milestone Society.



Nigel Overton

A busy and very interesting day was concluded by Tim Jenkinson who gave us a talk on non-turnpike milestones in Devon including parole stones from the Napoleonic War and some private milestones as well as stones on the Haytor Granite Tramway, the Zeal Tor Tramway and the Grand Western Canal.

The following morning saw a small but select group of members undertake a short walk in the nearby Shaldon area inspecting 3 milestones, 2 toll-houses and other interesting roadside artefacts, as well as clearing a boundary stone of vegetation from a hedge in the village of Ringmore.

Mike Hallett

11 MAY 2013—REPS MEETING, TEIGNMOUTH

Nine reps met during the lunch break, together with the membership secretary and one former rep. Only 30 minutes were available, so discussion was severely curtailed and some agenda items were omitted. Reps present agreed that their email addresses would be added to the reps list published in the *Newsletter* and it is likely that this proposal will be agreed by the committee in June and implemented for the next *Newsletter*. John Higgins, former Staffordshire rep, holds records and photos for a considerable number of counties and wishes to dispose of these to 'good homes'. They will be available at the AGM at Stafford and it is hoped that the relevant reps will take charge of them.

Other matters briefly discussed or reported were: the early demise of the Reps' e-forum, which was proposed at Snibston but attracted little response; an updated version of the reps list sent to all reps, a questionnaire to all members asking them to list their interests and ways in which reps can best make contact with new members in their area.

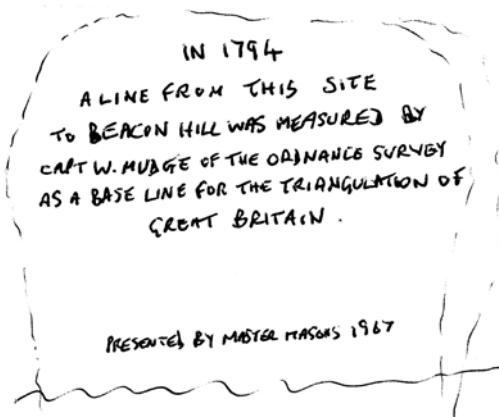
Derek Turner

Features

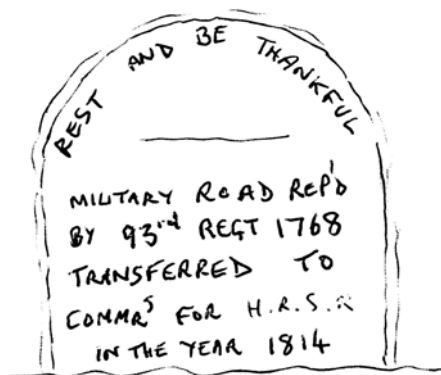
COMMEMORATING THE ORDNANCE SURVEY

Readers of Rachel Hewitt's book *Map of a Nation* will be aware of the surveying work of Capt. William Mudge.

Rod Smith of Swindon photographed and drew this stone commemorating the work of Mudge on the A345 at Old Sarum (SU 142 329).



Early surveying work for the Ordnance Survey was carried out on military roads in Scotland. Rod also photographed and drew this stone recording the repair of the military road at the Rest and be Thankful Pass near the A83 above Glen Croe (NN 231 073).



SYDNEY MILESTONES

Intriguingly, both Iain Davison and David Garside have written about milestones in Sydney, Australia.

Although Sydney is a very modern city by European standards, it possesses a number of interesting remains from the early days of colonisation, the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Within these are two milestones, one connected with the sea and one with land.

Sydney Harbour is a huge natural harbour that features many headlands. Just off one of these, Bradleys Head, stands a tall cylindrical pillar. Its purpose was to inform incoming ships that the distance to Fort Denison was one nautical mile. Fort Denison possesses the remains of a Martello Tower. Several of these were built in Britain to protect against the expected French attacks in the early 19th century. Sydney Cove itself, the main landing-place, was a further nautical mile away and seven miles from the sea in total.



In Macquarie Place in central Sydney, just a couple of hundred yards from Sydney Cove, is an intriguing monument to the early days of the colony. The main purpose of the Obelisk was as the central point of the colony's capital from which to measure distances to new settlements as they were developed.

The obelisk has two faces with inscriptions ;

North Face : PRINCIPAL ROADS / DISTANCE FROM SYDNEY TO BATHURST 137 MILES / FROM SYDNEY TO WINDSOR / 35½ D° / TO PARAMATTA 15½ " / TO LIVERPOOL 20 " / TO MACQUARIE TOWER AT THE SOUTH HEAD 7 " / TO THE NORTH HEAD OF BOTANY BAY 14 "

South Face : THIS OBELISK / WAS ERRECTED IN / MACQUARIE PLACE / A.D.1818. / TO RECORD THAT ALL THE / PUBLIC ROADS / LEADING TO THE INTERIOR / OF THE COLONY / ARE MEASURED FROM IT / L MACQUARIE ESQ / GOVERNOR.

Having seen the obelisk one wonders if milestones were placed every mile to these locations or if similar obelisks were erected in other major towns or cities.

Iain Davison and David Garside



THE JUDGES' ROAD PROJECT

The history of the Judges' Road from Camelford to Bodmin was outlined in the January *Newsletter*, but I wanted to mention the Judges' Road project again for two reasons:

Because it is a fascinating route and I would urge you to explore it

Because it highlights success in fund-raising which may provide ideas for others contemplating their own local project

Three disparate ideas came together to form the basis of the project:

A milestone near St Breward on Bodmin Moor had been smashed beyond repair and I was trying to find funding for a modern granite replacement.

The modern B3266 road between Camelford and Bodmin had milestones all along it, but the 9 mile stone was two miles from the 8 mile stone and I could not see why.

The letter about levelling the road and cutting back the trees to allow the Assize Court Judges to travel to Bodmin in 1716 intrigued me. I wondered what route they took.

I worked out that the Judges would go from Launceston to Camelford before turning towards Bodmin, then I realised that if they passed the 10 mile stone and the 9 mile stone then turned off the B3266 they would pass the milestone smashed beyond repair at exactly the right distance, and then come eventually to a 4, 3 and 2 mile stone, past the site of a missing 1 mile stone and in to Bodmin on a route I had never pieced together before.

Suddenly the project to replace one lost milestone on Bodmin Moor grew to a **project** to complete the set of milestones on this newly discovered route between Camelford and Bodmin, which I named the Judges' Road. This raised the stakes. Instead of replacing one lost milestone, we were looking for funding to replace four missing milestones, refurbish all the granite roadside features and publicise the Judges' Road as a recreational route.

The project name was charismatic and a great help but the crucial ingredient to the project's success was a **Local Champion**. I needed someone from within the local community and found a brilliant ally in Joan Webb from St Breward who was keen to see money from her local Protection Society spent on something. She helped me put my case to them and they offered to match any funding I could raise.

I wrote about the project to the three **County Councillors** whose wards the Judges' Road passed through. They offered encouragement but the next breakthrough was when Councillor Martin agreed to support an application for county



At St Breward

funding from a Community Grant Fund. This money, matched by the local Protection Society, would make the project viable.

A **County Charity** (Cornwall Heritage Trust) was persuaded to put some money in the kitty.

I wrote to all the **Parish Councils**. After some follow up letters and attendance at parish meetings, they all offered support. One put up some money and one agreed to pay for the new milestone in their parish.

I wrote to the **Town Councils** at Bodmin and Camelford. Bodmin offered some money towards their new milestone to replace the missing 1 mile stone. Camelford agreed to pay for the refurbishment of a granite fingerpost.

A **local farmer** worked to remove a pile of roadside rubble to reveal a milestone I thought was lost.

The **local quarry** (De Lank Quarry, St Breward) was persuaded to offer the four replacement milestones at a discount price. This was much better than quotes from monumental masons.

County Highways contractor (Cormac Solutions) gave a very good price to erect the four new milestones and to reset one of the original milestones.

The **local primary school** head suggested his senior pupils could do a 'Treasure Hunt' in the summer term as part of their 'Environment' topic.

The **Camel Trail** was approached to try to link the Judges' Road to other cycle routes in the area.

With all this local support, the project just had to be a success!

We are now working on the celebration stage – commemorative plaques for each of the replacement milestones, glossy leaflets, press release and web links. The existing roadside features have been cleaned and, where appropriate, repainted. The Judges' Road has 7 surviving original milestones as well as the 4 new milestones. It has no less than 5 county bridge stones, 4 granite guide stones, 2 granite fingerposts and 1 cast iron fingerpost, so there is lots to see on the Treasure Hunt devised by the local school. Come and explore it when you are next in Cornwall, but note the key constituents for a successful project that I have highlighted when you are planning your own local milestones initiative.

Ian Thompson

SHALDON BRIDGE TOLL BOARD A HIGHLIGHT IN TEIGNMOUTH

Roadside heritage items preserved in museums have generated debate amongst Society members in the past. One line of argument favours repatriation as a matter of principle; another that with its original provenance no longer available the preservation of the object is paramount, especially where it can be seen and enjoyed on display. Items held in museum reserve collections, albeit understood to be for long-term care, inevitably raise comments about lack of access.

The Spring meeting at the Teign Heritage Centre produced a rich batch of goodies for those attending. Before its comprehensive refurbishment, completed in 2011, it was (and remains) the Teignmouth and Shaldon Museum.

One of its pride and joys is the large wooden toll-board from the Shaldon Bridge toll-house which still survives on the north side of the crossing of the river Teign just to the west of Teignmouth,

The toll-house is probably one of the better-known of Devon's surviving and well-studied examples, very conspicuous on the approach to the bridge and passed by thousands of vehicles every day. It is also a fine building, dating from about 1827 when the bridge was opened, and an example of the high point in toll-house design.

As a bridge trust it continued well into modern times, the last tolls being issued on 8 October 1948; sometime later the toll board found a new home in the museum. It is impressive (see the editor's photo on rear cover) and drew a lot of interest from those attending the meeting.

The board is dated July 1935, being either a complete repainting or more likely a new board. The range of tolls is particularly fascinating, including items not usually found on turnpike toll boards of earlier date. A section is devoted to 'mechanically propelled vehicles including steam', the heavyweight traction engines and road rollers of the day incurring the highest charge of 5s.0d.

The museum also displays the large lantern which once sat atop the roof of the now-vanished porch of the toll-house, a reminder of weather conditions at this coastal site.

Also preserved is the final ticket at the 1d rate from 1948 and two Teignmouth and Shaldon Bridge Company bridge and ferry pass tokens, one for 'Col Keating and Family' – social history in its own right!

And more outside the museum but protected in its own niche in the building is the granite terminus stone dating from c.1823. The two line inscription T.D.T. T.T. stands for 'Teignmouth & Dawlish Turnpike Trust Terminus' - a fine conclusion to an enjoyable museum visit.

David Viner

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2013—AGM AND AUTUMN CONFERENCE, STAFFORD

See programme included with this *Newsletter*.

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2013—STOODLEY PIKE HERITAGE WALK

Stoodley Pike Heritage Walk to the South Pennine Walk And Ride Festival

(www.walkandridefestival.co.uk.)

SUNDAY 13 APRIL 2014—NORTHERN SPRING MEETING, HEBDEN

Talks, displays and laughter - put the date in your diary now!

SATURDAY 10 MAY 2014—NATIONAL SPRING MEETING, ROTHWELL

The Spring meeting will be held in the school hall at Rothwell Junior School, half a mile from the A14 near Kettering, Northants Pubs and cafes nearby or Tesco Express to buy sandwiches. Plenty of parking space and tables for displays. Places to visit include the Triangular Lodge, the chancel house in Rothwell church and heritage centres in Rothwell and Desborough.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2014

Contributions for inclusion in the January *Newsletter* should reach the editor Mike Hallett by Monday 2 December 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





Members attending the Society's Spring Conference at the Teign Heritage Centre in Teignmouth were able to see the 1935 toll board from the Shaldon Toll House, showing an interesting transition from horse drawn vehicle to motor car.