

# The Milestone Society

Newsletter 36

February 2019



IN MEMORY OF  
ERIC YOUNG  
KEEN BOATER AND  
LOYAL MEMBER OF IWA  
NORTHAMPTON BRANCH  
1946 - 2015



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**MILESTONE SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2018/19**

Robert Westlake	Chair	<a href="mailto:rww@milestonesociety.co.uk">rww@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Richard Raynsford	Vice-Chair	<a href="mailto:newsletter@milestonesociety.co.uk">newsletter@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Jan Scrine	Hon Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jhs@milestonesociety.co.uk">jhs@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
John Atkinson	Hon Secretary	<a href="mailto:honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk">honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Brian Barrow	Membership Secretary	<a href="mailto:members@milestonesociety.co.uk">members@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Mike Buxton		
Mike Faherty		<a href="mailto:mf@milestonesociety.co.uk">mf@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Paul Gibbons		
Mike Hallett		<a href="mailto:mwh@milestonesociety.co.uk">mwh@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Ken Hawkins		
John Haynes		
John V Nicholls		<a href="mailto:jv@milestonesociety.co.uk">jv@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>

**Specific Roles and Responsibilities**

Local Representatives	See Newsletter 35
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Web Presence Co-ordination	Jan Scrine
Repository Manager	John Armstrong
Editor – <i>Newsletter</i>	Richard Raynsford
Editor – <i>Milestones &amp; Waymarkers</i>	John V Nicholls
Editorial Panel (in addition to above)	Carol Haines, Mike Hallett
Heritage & Conservation Agencies Liaison	Jeremy Milln
Milestone and road history & heritage	Mervyn Benford, Carol & Alan Haines
Archives	David Viner
Highways Liaison Manager	Alan Reade
Theft & Recovery Liaison	Robert Caldicott
Insurance	Mike Buxton
Canals and Waterways Liaison	
Database co-ordinator (canals)	Mike Hallett
Patron	Sir Neil Cossons

**ON THE COVER**

Rob Westlake beside the recently installed Milepost No. 2 on the Northampton branch of the Grand Union Canal NHA\_02

Photo: [Helen Crabtree](#)

## **Editorial**

At the AGM and Autumn Conference held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October at Marlow, Robert Westlake and myself put ourselves forward for the vacant posts of Chair and Vice Chair of the Society, Rob was voted in as Chair and myself as Vice Chair. This still leaves the Society to find replacements for a Secretary and Treasurer; if no volunteers are found before the next AGM the Society will need to make serious decisions need to be made on its operation, I therefore urge you all to consider whether you would be able to fill either of these important posts. I'm pleased to announce that Ken Hawkins has agreed to take over from Brian Barrow as Membership Secretary and has been co-opted onto the Committee.

Continuing on this rather sombre note I have to report the death of three of our members in the last few months, unfortunately this is a consequence of the aging membership. I would particularly like to praise Christine Minto who lost her husband recently but has still submitted reports for this Newsletter in her usual efficient manner. Obituaries to Ron Bubb, Frank Minto and Connie Swann follow this Editorial.

At the November Committee meeting it was emphasised that any members involved with unsupervised children on Milestone Society projects should ensure that they have CRB clearance.

One error in the list of County Reps. included in the last Newsletter has been brought to my attention – the telephone number of Chris Woodard who covers Wales should be 01437 720499.

*Richard Raynsford*

## **Our New Chairman - Rob Westlake.**

So – who is he and where did he come from?

I am Rob. I've been a member of the Milestone Society for about 6 years. I joined the committee in 2017 but my interest in Milestone started I think ever since I was able to read a map.

I was born in Bath and lived with my parents in Winsley, Wiltshire until I left home in 1967 to start a career in Map making with the Ordnance Survey.

I could 'read' / enjoy a map before I could read a book and spent my teenage years exploring the area around our home on my trusty push bike. I hunted out many of the Turnpike Markers and Milestones around Bath and along the Kennet and Avon Canal. I discovered unrecorded milestones along the Somerset Coal Canal and was encouraged by Geoffrey Wright – one of my school teachers to make a record of the various milestones, crosses and boundary stones, along with the OS benchmarks and other items of interest around the Bradford on Avon area. This was added to the School library under the section – Local Interests.

I was hooked. My career with the Ordnance Survey took me to many parts of England until I settled in Northamptonshire where I became a Land and Engineering Surveyor for the development of the new Town of Milton Keynes.

I set up my own engineering and surveying practice in 1992, which after a successful 25 years of working on many development projects around London, East Anglia and the East Midlands, I retired in 2017.

My spare time for many years has involved messing about on boats – canal boats to be precise. I have volunteered with the Canal and River Trust since they took over from British Waterways in 2012, the operation of running our wonderful networks of canals and waterways.

I now lead 2 volunteer groups based at the Canal Museum at Stoke Bruerne. One group is involved with the care, maintenance and operation of their historic narrowboat ‘Sculptor’ whilst the other group has ‘Adopted’ the Grand Union Canal from Blisworth Tunnel, through the village and down a flight of 7 locks.

I also am Chairman of our village History Group.

I have been married to Helen my wife for 42 years and we have two daughters and 2 grandsons.

So now – what are my hopes and aims for the Milestone Society as we move towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

I believe that the work that the Society has done and will continue to do is now ever more essential if our heritage waymarkers, boundary stones and fingerposts are recorded and preserved.

The work that has been done to create our impressive databases has been tremendous, but it is a continuing task to maintain and revise and ensure these records are up to date and accessible to everyone.

We need our members’ help to be our watchful eyes around the country to ensure these wonderful artefacts are not discarded or lost forever.

That over 500 Facebook members help in this task is superb and new stones and posts are frequently being discovered and recorded for adding to our databases.

Our role in being the ‘Friends’ of our Highway Heritage waymarkers is ever more necessary as the Highway Authorities and Councils have to make financial saving and cut backs across all their areas of responsibility.



*Stanford Hall  
milestone NR\_SFHSb  
SP 5938 7789  
Photo: Rob Westlake*

Together we can make a difference. We urgently need some members to step forward into the officer positions of the Society which will enable this Society to remain as a well respected and essential organisation for the future.

I look forward to leading the Society forward, but need the cooperation and help of all our members to ensure our wonderful heritage is cared for, for our future generations.

*Rob Westlake*

## **Obituaries**



The Society was most grateful and pleased to receive a legacy of over ten thousand pounds in the will of Ron Bubbs who died on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 aged 88. Ron joined the Milestone Society shortly after its formation and was a keen member of the Worcestershire Group actively led by Terry Keegan. He was born in Kidderminster on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1929 and spent the major part of his life in the town. At the

age of 11, the local church band master persuaded him to take up the trombone and this activity became one of his passions, playing with various bands well into his eighties. He left school at 14 and joined the British Sugar Corporation factory as an office boy, but after two years moved over to the laboratory. In 1947 he was called up for National Service and joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars cavalry regiment. After training at the Norton barracks outside Worcester he was assigned to an infantry regiment and ended up at the Wavell barracks in Berlin. Two years later he returned to his post in the British Sugar Corporation where he remained for the next 30 years before joining the Pipeline Agency in Stourport where he stayed for a further 15 years before retiring. In his spare time he joined the TA where he played in their band for the next 30 years attending camps all over the country. On leaving them he became a member of the West Mercia police band where in addition to playing, he was their archivist and librarian. At the age of 82 he stood down from playing although carried on with his administrative duties. He was a member of the Royal Observer Corps, the British Legion and innumerable local groups and societies, including the Kidderminster Civic Society, Severn Valley Railway, the Twinning Group, the Historical Society, and many others including of course the Milestone Society. He travelled all over the country and abroad in connection with his love of brass bands and one function he enjoyed most was the Edinburgh festival which he attended for 65 consecutive years, a feat marked on reaching the 60<sup>th</sup> occasion by an invitation to a commemorative dinner. We shall miss him at our meetings.

*Alan Scaplehorn*

## **RIP Frank Minto 1930 - 2018**

On a bright crisp December afternoon, there was an excellent turnout for Frank Minto's funeral at Barnsley Crematorium, honest and unpretentious like the man himself. Many of the attendees were cyclists. Working at Rotherham Steel Works, Frank had joined a cycling club in 1948, doing long weekend rides to get fit. He had immediately volunteered to represent the club at meetings. In 1969 he joined the team helping Christine in her third 24 hour time trial when she upped her own National Competition Record to 427.86 miles. They married in 1973 and spent their honeymoon cycling round East Anglia. From 1967 until 2008 he held a number of National and District posts within the body organising road time trials. After Frank was made redundant from his role as a metallurgist in 1985, he passed several GCSE courses and also studied with the Open University.

It was Frank and Christine's love of photography, recording wayside artefacts including milestones (and drain covers!) on their many rides that brought them to the inaugural meeting of the Milestone Society at the Black Country Museum in 2000. Christine became the Yorkshire Recorder, eventually broadening her remit to Scotland, and Frank was a keen supporter. They took on the task of sorting the Diamond Collection photo albums that had been given to the Society and Frank digitised these, producing a CD which is still available. Although a cycling accident in 2013 reduced his mobility, Frank continued to take a keen interest and their displays have always been a splendid feature at our Hebden meetings. He will be greatly missed and we extend our sincere condolences to Christine and their son Philip.

*Jan Scrine*



Members were saddened to learn of the death of Connie Swann, a founder member of the Worcestershire Group of the Milestone Society, on 23 August 2018 and four of us attended the Service to commemorate her life at St Bartholomew's Church Tardebigge on 25 September 2018.

Connie was born on 2 October 1936 to Hugh and Frances Miller, a gamekeeper and teacher on the Parkanaur Estate at Castlecaulfield, a few miles west of Dungannon, in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

Moving to Belfast to train as a teacher, she met Robbie Swann who was studying structural engineering at Queens University and their combined skills

subsequently proved invaluable in designing moulds and casting replacement Bradley milestones so unique to Worcestershire.

They married in 1961 and shortly afterwards moved to Liverpool and then to a series of other homes around the country before finally settling near Bromsgrove in 1980.

When Terry Keegan divided up the jobs in the early days of the Group, Connie became our archivist and researcher and spent countless hours in the local record offices seeking out information on local turnpike trusts and then handing out photocopies to us at meetings. These gatherings were originally held in rotation but soon gravitated to Tutnall where Connie and Robbie's legendary hospitality always included a delightful choice of homemade cakes to accompany our tea and coffee. Her artistic abilities were called upon for innumerable presentations.

At the service, James, one of Connie's two sons, read a tribute from which we learnt a lot more about her life beyond teaching and wondered how she fitted it all in along with raising a family and volunteering for so many community activities. She served in the TA as a lorry driver and nearly went to Suez, was captain of Hockey of the 1st team in High Wycombe as well as competing in many athletic sports. In addition to the Bromsgrove local history group where she organised the meetings and the Milestone Society, she was Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board at Hewell Grange prison and Parish Clerk at Tardebigge for many years. Gardening was another passion and she won innumerable prizes every year.

We shall all miss her warmth and friendship.

*Alan Scaplehorn*

### **AGM and Autumn Meeting**

The 2018 AGM and Autumn Meeting was held on a rather wet day at All Saints Church Hall, Marlow; after realising that the Church Hall was not actually attached to All Saints Church and negotiating the market which was located outside the entrance, the venue turned out to be fine.

Because of the vacancy on the Committee of a Chair and Vice Chair, Trustee Alan Reade chaired the meeting; he outlined the present state of the Society and put forward three alternatives for the future.

Plan A – Carry on as at present.

Plan B – Close the Society.

Plan C – Scale back activities.

It was also proposed by the Hon. Treasurer that if the Society does not carry out all its present activities, it was not necessary to ask for a subscription but merely to keep a list of members. This proposal was not accepted.

Reports were presented by the current officers following which the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer announced that they intend to retire from their post in 2019. It was also stated that a Hon. Auditor was required for 2019/2020.

The current Trustees and Officers were re-elected for 2018/2019 with Robert Westlake and Richard Raynsford being elected as Chair and Vice Chair.

Discussion took place on the future of the Society with the majority view being to carry on as at present with some scaling back of activities. This will relate mainly to the holding of the meetings which in the past have mainly been organised by Jan Scrine. Jan will not be arranging further meetings after Hebden in April, 2019 and organisers will have to be found if members wish to continue with such meetings.

After the formal business, Ian Thompson gave a thought provoking presentation on Roman 'milestones' arguing that as they rarely record mileages they should be called honorific pillars as this is the main reason for their erection i.e. to commemorate a local ruler. (An article setting out Ian's argument will be included in the next *Milestones and Waymarkers*.)

After lunch Peter Gulland gave a presentation on Marlow Turnpikes entitled 'David & Goliath', this outlined the history of the Reading and Hatfield Turnpike Trust and the Marlow and Stokenchurch Trust. This long distance road seems to have been constructed mainly to allow Lord Salisbury to travel from his home at Hatfield to Reading on the Bath Road and was never a major routeway.

The last presentation given by Roger Templeman, ably assisted by Robert Westlake covered benchmarks; these are often found cut into milestones but also take other forms which make a fascinating subject for anybody interested in ancillary aspects of our highway heritage.

*Richard Raynsford*

### **Weekend Away in Gloucester**

Seven members took part in a survey of milestones in Gloucestershire on the weekend 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October, 2018; enthusiastic member Ron Shackell from Wales brought along a large number of neatly annotated photographs for our archives. Some 23 stones were visited and photographed including one new to the record and one listed stone which had not been found before because it was located on the wrong side of the road! Unfortunately the weather was very inclement which hampered the survey, 21 of the milestones were in Gloucestershire and two in Monmouthshire.

*Richard Raynsford*



## **INSURANCE COVER for MILESTONE SOCIETY ACTIVITIES**

Our Insurance Broker has asked us to remind you that our cover does NOT extend to accidents while doing Milestone Society activities, whether that is roadside restoration, cutting back vegetation, leading walks or organising meetings. This applies to both personal accidents and damage to property/vehicles. The Society is only indemnified against claims of negligence on its part.

So when you are undertaking any such activities, please ensure that you do an appropriate informed, thorough risk assessment beforehand, and make up your own mind about the practicality, safety or otherwise of the activity, for yourself, your colleagues and other road users (both pedestrians and vehicles), and safe access/evacuation of meeting rooms.

In particular, restoration work close to a live traffic lane is potentially dangerous; you must liaise with the local Highways Authority in advance and always follow their health & safety advice.

Details of our insurance policy can be obtained from Mike Buxton, [mbuxton295@btinternet.com](mailto:mbuxton295@btinternet.com); you may need to show a copy of the certificate to get approval from a Local Authority to do roadside restoration work.

Do keep up the good work but please remember that responsibility and liability lie with you personally, not the Society

*Jan Scrine*



*Photo: Jan Scrine*

## ENGLAND

### Cornwall (*Ian Thompson*)

#### **Back garden fingerpost identified, restored and returned**

In Newsletter 34, February 2018, we reported that a fingerpost found during a house renovation had been identified from an old survey form from 1964 and it was hoped to have it restored and re-erected in its original location. This required obtaining the agreement of the house owner, the parish council, Cornwall Council and the highways contractor. Estimates were needed for making a pattern and casting a new arm, using the measurements and sketches in the 1964 survey. Note that the surviving arm is single-sided, but the survey showed that the other arm should be double-sided. This project started in the summer of 2017 and reached a successful conclusion in October 2018. The restored fingerpost joins the splendid collection of the Roseland's cast iron fingerposts as a tribute to local initiative and sense of place.



*Restored and returned fingerpost at SW8545 3909  
Penperth turn, Couches, Ruan Laniorne, the Roseland,  
with replacement King Harry arm October 2018  
Photo: Ian Thompson*

#### **A30 Temple to Higher Carblake Dual Carriageway**

In Newsletter 30 in February 2016 there was a report on the progress of a multi-million pounds road improvement scheme on Bodmin Moor. The Milestone Society had been involved at the planning stage and identified a granite pillar dated 1893 which was once the base of a fingerpost with wooden arms. This design is a distinctive feature of Bodmin Moor, but this was the only known example with a date.

A photograph from 1972 showed the fingerpost complete with wooden arms, and it was hoped that the road scheme would incorporate the fingerpost's restoration.

By February 2016 work on the new road was well under way and Ian Thompson visited the site office to check on the safe storage of the granite pillar. Winter weather made progress slow. Regular checks were made with the contractor, but little seemed to be happening. It was a shock to hear from the contractor's public liaison officer in October 2016 that they would not proceed with funding the estimated £800 to restore the fingerpost.

## County News

A flurry of emails from the Milestone Society resulted in a senior officer for Cornwall Council pointing out to the contractor that restoration of the fingerpost and its re-erection in a suitable location were part of the contract between the contractor and Cornwall Council. The job must be done.

The new dual carriageway opened late in 2017, but the granite pillar still lay at the site office. Contact was established with a site engineer who was responsible for the highway furniture on the new road. A site visit was arranged on the new overbridge which had replaced the old crossroads where the granite pillar had stood. It was February 2018 and freezing rain was blowing horizontally across the moor. Ian Thompson agreed the new location for the granite fingerpost and recommended a suitable location for a historic boundary stone, which also needed to be moved due to the road construction.



*SX136736 A30 Temple crossroads in March 2008 Photo: Ian Thompson*

In March 2018 the Bodmin Turnpike Trust 'B 4' milestone was re-erected behind a steel barrier on the eastbound carriageway. This had been lifted and put in storage like the granite post, under the watchful gaze of the Milestone Society. The re-erection work was exemplary and it was a disappointment that the site engineer was moved to work at Hinckley Point nuclear power station before his plans for the granite fingerpost could be completed.

Contact was made with his replacement. Promises were made each month as spring moved into summer. Finally, in August 2018, the restored granite fingerpost, with galvanised metalwork and incised wooden arms, was erected on the Temple overbridge above the westbound carriageway of the A30. The boundary stone was erected at the other end of the bridge, beside the cattle grid and wooden gate.



*SX136736 A30 Temple overbridge with restored granite fingerpost August 2018 Photo: Ian Thompson*

If you are visiting Cornwall, do look out for the fingerpost, rather dwarfed by the scale of the modern road as you whizz under the Temple overbridge. If you have time, turn off, park and have a look. The restoration work was excellent. How it will withstand the harsh winds and horizontal rain of Bodmin Moor's winters remains to be seen.

## Good News from St Columb Major

In September 2016, two stones close together in St Columb Major were reported broken in half. They were reported to Cornwall Council's contractors, Cormac, who agreed to undertake restoration. Phil Ellery of the St Columb Major Old Cornwall Society reminded Cornwall Council every month that they were awaiting repair.

In September 2017, Ian Thompson visited the highways depot at St Columb Road where the two stones, one milestone and one guide stone, lay in pieces on a pallet.

Phil continued his gentle reminders. Funding was found. Repairs were done by De Lank Quarry at St Breward. In September 2018, two years after they were damaged, the milestone and guide stone were restored to their original positions, looking good.



*SW907624 Trekenning, St Columb Major broken in two, September 2016*



*SW907624 Trekenning, St Columb Major restored September 2018*



*SW904623 St Columb Major restored September 2018*  
*Photos: Ian Thompson*

## Boconnoc Boundary Stones

Boconnoc House is a stately pile near Lostwithiel. The two milestones on the drive to the house were mentioned in Newsletter 35. There are nine boundary stones, marked as BS on the OS 1:25000 Explorer sheet 107, around Boconnoc House, but they all lie on parish boundaries, rather than the Boconnoc estate boundary. Six of the nine marked on the map survive, on the ground, including one still waiting repair.

SX 1742 6218, the boundary stone between Broadoak and St Pinnock parishes was broken in two. It was repaired by the Cornwall Milestone Society hit squad in June 2018. It is on the west side of the road on a bank. The side facing the road

has a bench mark in the centre. The side facing away from the road is inscribed 'Boc1 / 1816'. Not all the surviving boundary stones have this inscription and date, but a number do.

While Pete and Ian were putting the finishing touches to their repair, a gentleman stopped his car and engaged them in conversation. He said he had a similar boundary stone in the yard of his farm. He found it lying on the roadside some years ago. After a welcome cup of tea at the farm, they checked out the stone and agreed it was a 'Boc1 /1816' boundary stone. The base of the stone was probably still beside the road, but in June the grass was too long to search for it. Guided by the farmer's memory, Ian thought it was probably the boundary stone between Boconnoc and Lanreath parishes at SX17279 61185 on the east side of the road to the south of the one they had repaired. In November 2018, with the help of Pete's gps and the grid reference from the on line 25 inch OS map of 1907, the base was found in place on the grass verge. When told the good news, the farmer volunteered to organise and fund the restoration of 'his' boundary stone - an excellent outcome.



*SX174621 Boconnoc boundary stone repaired with inscription picked out in charcoal.*

*Photo: Ian Thompson*

### **Damaged by BT**

In October 2018, a friend of the Milestone Society was showing her young niece the replica milestones which completed the run of pre-turnpike milestones on what we had christened the Judges' Road between Camelford and Bodmin. She was shocked to find that one of the milestones '7 B' had been knocked over sideways and a lump broken from it by the erection of a new wooden telephone pole. It looked as if BT had chosen the exact location of the milestone to position their new pole and had simply pushed the milestone to one side with some mechanical equipment, breaking off part of the inscription on the stone in the process.

A notice on the new pole gave details of how to complain to the 'BT Pole Objection Team' in Liverpool. Once upon a time there would have been an office in Bodmin. A letter was duly composed and sent to Liverpool, with a further letter to Cornwall Council's highways team, notifying them of the



*SX082773 St Tudy replica milestone damaged by the erection of a new BT pole*

*Photo: Ian Thompson*

damage done and the thoughtless behaviour of the erection workers. Highways pursued the matter through their contacts with BT, but with little hope of recompense. At least an objection had been made, which may reduce the chance of a similar incident recurring. Meanwhile, the highways team has set the milestone upright again. The Milestone Society hit squad plans to get in with the paint brushes when the weather improves to make the milestone legible once more.

## **Haylestones**

This was the punning title of a book of drawings, photographs and notes about a variety of stones found on local walks by Linda from Hayle. Linda recorded and researched any interesting stones she found. These included prehistoric menhirs, Dark Age inscribed stones, crosses, boundary stones (there were lots of boundary disputes in 19th century Hayle), markers for the causeway across the river at low tide, and some milestones. It was the sort of project anyone might do, to motivate them to get out in the fresh air in the winter months, but Linda had done it very well, producing a self-published A4 book of eighty pages.

The milestone in Foundry Square in the heart of Hayle is at the end of a long run of early 18th century milestones marking the pre-turnpike route between Mitchell in mid-Cornwall and Lands End. This milestone is built into a garden wall so one of the carved faces is obscured. It would be nice to see it revealed again to tell its story more clearly.



*SW559370 pre-turnpike milestone in Foundry Square, one of the Haylestones*  
*Photo: Ian Thompson*

## **Cornwall Archaeological Society**

In November 2017, Rosy Hanns, a member of the Cornwall Archaeological Society, spotted a cast iron milepost in the drive of Torr Farm while surveying listed buildings as a volunteer working with Cornwall Council's Archaeological Unit and their Historic Environment Record (HER) team. She was put in touch with Ian Thompson of the Milestone Society, who identified the milepost as a Liskeard Turnpike Trust post from the 1830s, lost during road improvements in the 1970s. He spoke to the farmer and to a contact at Highways England, and it was agreed that the milepost should be put back beside the modern A38 dual carriageway. The bureaucracy for this took quite some time. In November 2018, the milepost was erected in a safe location beside the eastbound carriageway at the turn for Torr Farm.

## County News

Since making contact with the Milestone Society in 2017 Rosy has surveyed the Boconnoc boundary stones for the HER and is just completing a survey of 26 milestones and boundary stones around Kit Hill near Callington. Rosy is an exceptionally enthusiastic volunteer, but she is not alone. The Cornwall



Archaeological Society has a network of area representatives covering the whole of Cornwall. Ian Thompson arranged a meeting with the Cornwall

*SX277614 milestone returned to the roadside*

Archaeological Society's Secretary and Convener at County Hall, where they agreed that they could work together for the benefit of both the Archaeological Society and the Milestone Society. Ian could write in the Archaeological Society's monthly email newsletter, edited by Roger, encouraging archaeologists to look out for their milestones and offering help with identification and problem solving. Ian's first piece in the newsletter produced a lively correspondence with Susan in North Hill who asked for details of her local milestones to survey and check.



Milestone Society members might like to investigate their own local archaeological societies, where they may find like minds willing to work with them to identify, record and watch over their local milestones.

*SX277614 A38 Torr Farm turn Photos: Ian Thompson*

## Cumberland and Westmorland (Cumbria) (Terry Moore)

Restoration of three mileposts was carried out by Terry Moore and members of the SHAP History Group on the A6 between PENRITH and SHAP. WM\_SPPR01, WM\_SPPR02 and WM\_KDSP16 were cast iron designs from the foundry of "T WINDER" of "Gatebeck". Sadly, when revisiting WM\_SPPR04 near PENRITH to commence restoration it was found to be stolen.

Police reporting and local newspaper stories failed to catch the offenders. WM\_KDSP15 was reported earlier this year as damaged, it is now safely housed in the SHAP History museum until a decision is made on repairs and reinstatement.



WM\_SPPR01



WM\_SPPR0-4 January, 2018



CU\_WHSB03 St Bees

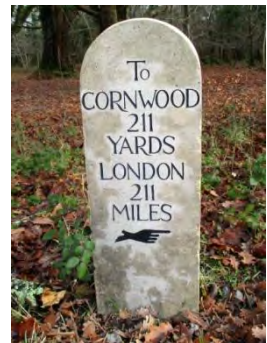
Photos: Terry Moore

During survey work on the west coast of Cumbria Tony Calvin and Terry Moore revealed two new finds near ST BEES at NX967140 and NX969124. These are the only surviving milestones on the short 4 ½ mile road from WHITEHAVEN to ST BEES, as others have disappeared during housing and industrial development. This was the first turnpike road to be built in Cumbria, under the Whitehaven Harbour Act of 1739 to bring coal and ore to the harbour. This turnpike initially served the local area and was not connected to the rest of the county until 1762. Both mileage plates on each milestone are missing and are now referenced as CU\_WHSB03 and CU\_WHSB04.

Other restoration projects include the casting of two new plates for CU\_CLNC01 in the Stanwix area of CARLISLE, which will be fixed next spring by Fiona Robson and Terry Moore. Tony Calvin is planned to restore the severely damaged milestone CU\_WHKD04 at BIGRIGG.

### Devon (Tim Jenkinson)

A rather unusual milestone has appeared at the roadside near the village of Cornwood on South Dartmoor. Recording a curious distance of 211 yards to the village and an impressive 211 miles to London with a black painted hand beneath, it stands on the north side opposite Delamore Lodge on the road to Lee Moor at SX 6014 6006. Following an enquiry to the nearby Arts Centre regarding its purpose Devon member Mark Fenlon was advised that it is a 'sculpture' and not a milestone. Nevertheless it is a very nice piece of work, certainly quirky and will be of interest to passers by. Thanks goes again to perennial milestone and boundary mark spotter Mike Peek for advising the Devon members of the stone's location.



Cornwood Milestone

Photo: Tim Jenkinson



## County News

A well known cast iron finger post has finally been reset at the roadside after being repainted and spending nearly three years in storage at a Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) depot in Bovey Tracey. The attractive post which also possesses a white painted pointing hand shows directions to 'Hingston Rock' a local feature high above and to the east of the town of Moretonhampstead. It is set on the south side of the B3212 road to Exeter



DNPA Depot Photo: Tim Jenkinson

at SX 7672 8617 about a mile out from the town. Tim Jenkinson wrote to the Dartmoor Magazine in the autumn of 2018 regarding the plight of the post his letter is as follows:

*'I took this photo this evening (May 28<sup>th</sup> 2018) of the forlorn Hingston Rock cast iron finger post still in storage at the Bovey Tracey DNPA depot but now joined by numerous uninteresting wooden finger posts. Might we be able to jog the National Park's conscience to get the post put back through Dartmoor Magazine. It's been missing from the roadside (B3212 near Moretonhampstead) for two years or more now I fear'.*

We like to think in Devon that the letter did the trick as it was reported to be back in place as early as November 2018. A recent visit to the site in January 2019 gave an opportunity to not only photograph the replenished post but also allowed for a spot check on the 1 /Mile/ From/ Moreton/ milestone nearby on the north side of the road at SX 7660 8622.



Hingston Rock fingerpost  
Photos: Tim Jenkinson



Moreton milestone

**Norfolk** (*Carol Haines*)

Two milestones that have been damaged in accidents are at present undergoing repairs. NO\_HD04 on the B1110 at Briningham was hit by a car in September 2017 and broken off at the base. It is in a difficult location on a bend very close to the wall of adjacent property. A stainless steel rod is being inserted to rejoin the two halves and the cost is expected to be borne through the driver's insurance.



*NO\_HD04 and NO\_NC15, both shown before their accidents. Photos: Carol Haines*

The second stone, on the A140 at Erpingham (NO\_NC15), was hit by the council's verge mowing contractor in August 2018. This stone suffered a major accident in December 2006 when it was hit by a car and broken in two, one half ending up nearly 30 yards away. The first repair was organised by the county highways department, and they are arranging the present repair.

Work continues steadily on restoring cast iron mileposts from the former Wells to Fakenham turnpike, many of which were in poor condition.

Over 60 people are now signed up to Nigel's milestone adoption scheme. Each person is given a "certificate" signed by the county representative and the Head of Environment at NCC, with a photo of the milestone, any known historical details, and guidance on cleaning and clearing.

**Northumberland** (*Iain Davison*)

A milepost on the A197 at Clifton, south of Morpeth NB\_NCMP 13 has been re-sited and painted, it had been leaning substantially into a hedge and during the annual hedge trimming season last year the distance plate to Morpeth was damaged and could not be found. After protracted discussions with the Council they finally agreed to site the milepost one metre away from the hedge, so that in future it would be more visible and less likely to be further damaged.

Persons unknown have taken it upon themselves to take care of two mileposts on the A1 north of Morpeth, NB\_MPAN01 has been painted and NB\_MPAN03 has been made upright and painted.



NB\_NCMP 13 2018 NB\_NCMP13 damaged NB\_NCMP13 2015  
 Photos: Iain Davison



NB\_MPAN03 2001 NB\_NPAN01 2001 NB\_NPAN01 2018 NB\_NPAN03 2018  
 Photos: Iain Davison

**Somerset (Janet Dowding)**

A project is underway to save the surviving Bristol Trust Turnpike Mileposts along the A38, from East Brent to Churchill Rocks. The Grade II listed cast iron mileposts, made in 1837, will be temporarily removed, repaired and then reinstated.

Unearthing the mileposts has exposed their full size, shape and revealed some of their secrets. Foundry marks on previously concealed plinths reveal the posts were cast by the Bristol Iron foundry of John Winwood & Co in Cheese Lane, St. Philips, Bristol.

Behind the cast iron mileposts we found rounded stones. These appear to be earlier milestones along the route. We have only been able to decipher the Roman



A38 Milepost, Churchill  
 Photo: Richard Raynsford

## **County News**

numerals “XX” and the word “BRISTOL”. The stone milestone also bears a surveyor’s bench mark on its side.

Repairs to the milestones will take place over the winter to be re-installed next spring.

The locations of the mileposts are mapped on the Historic Environment Record:

**Rooks Bridge Milepost** – At the side of the A38, east end of Rooksbridge

**East Brent Milepost** – On the A38 at East Brent near the junction with the Old Bristol Road.

**Badgworth Milepost** – On the A38 in Biddisham.

**Weare** – On the A38 in Lower Weare near the Weare Culvert.

**Compton Bishop** – On the A38 near Yeo Bridge.

**Shipham** – On the A38 in Star near Broadway.

The project to repair these protected mileposts is being carried out by the South West Heritage Trust on behalf of Somerset County Council, which has a statutory duty to maintain and repair listed assets on the highway.

## **Staffordshire (John Higgins)**

### **Local Company funds casting of new milestone**

The Uttoxeter Canal was opened in 1811 from a new junction of the Caldon Canal at Froghall down the Churnet and Dove valleys to Uttoxeter. However, its life was short as it was abandoned with the coming of the railway which followed the same route. Only one milepost survives in situ, although a further two were rescued when the JCB works was constructed over the canal’s line in the 1960’s – these were placed on the bowling green at nearby Denstone.

Now JCB themselves have kindly sponsored the re-casting of new mileposts produced by James Shenton & Co. Re-casts had already been commissioned by the Churnet Valley Living Landscape Partnership through the Heritage Lottery Fund from Froghall to Denstone in the Churnet Valley, and now with JCB’s kind support, the line will be complete down to Uttoxeter.

During 2019, the new posts will be erected as close to the line of the canal as possible; with restoration of the canal a real possibility at some stage in the future, the mileposts will have already been re-cast. It is nice to see that mile markers are the first phase of the complete plan. The Milestone Society is indebted to JCB – who you will remember, helped us out at our Spring 2018 meeting at Uttoxeter with an excellent talk on the Company’s history.

**Surrey** (*Janet Dowding*)

The Surrey Group met on 20 October 2018 at Send Manor. It was reported that several favourable letters had been received about the preservation and care of the milestones affected by the widening of the M25/A3 junction in the Wisley area. There seems to be nothing further we as a group can do now.

Colin Woodward had received a letter from Guildford B.C. concerning the Guildford Local Plan: Strategy and sites – Main modifications 2018 but did not consider that there was anything in it that we as a milestone group needed to respond to.

Member Derek Renn who is now in a care home had donated his milestones/toll houses etc slides, file and information, brochures etc to our Group. The slides have a good home with Richard Raynsford and the file is lodged with me. This can be brought to meetings if anyone is interested in reading it.



*Photo: Janet Dowling*

We were fortunate in having some interesting presentations again. Jenny Hills showed some road signs at “Christmas Hill”, Wonersh Common, and “Christmas Pie”. “Christmas” was a local name and “Pie” comes from an old word meaning small area of land. She had also found a milestone stating “To London 48 miles, to Chichester 15” set into the wall of the former Midhurst Union Workhouse (SU 89105 23241).

Paul Smith gave another of his road sign presentations, giving the facts behind the various names: for instance “Buci Crescent” in Shoreham comes from Robert de Buci of 1199 who was the former owner of the manor there. In Chichester there is “Shippam Street” on Shippam’s meat factory site and the sign has the city arms on it. “Hyde Lane” in Marlborough is named after John Hyde c.1740 and was previously known as “Blind Lane” and “Sun Lane”. “College Lane” in Ellisfield, Hants, is so named because Winchester College once owned lots of land in Hampshire. Paul also showed slides of fingerposts and milestones, including one of the latter at Weyhill which has on it “Devizes 23, Everleigh 9” but the plate has come off the stone block and is resting against it at present. Hopefully someone in the area will notice this and get it reset. He also told us about the Royal Label Factory.

To round off the afternoon Richard Raynsford gave a presentation on World War II defences, not strictly a “milestone” subject but one which it was thought would interest everyone which of course it did. These included photos of anti-tank devices, pill boxes, stop lines, the Minsmere coastal defences, air raid shelters and the airfield control tower at Zeals, Wilts, and remains of a mulberry harbour

in Weymouth Bay. Surrey was catered for with photos of the pill box and “dragon’s teeth” along the River Wey near Waverley Abbey.

Everyone thought it had been a very interesting afternoon, especially after we had spent several hours in the morning photographing and surveying milestones along the A30 as far as Camberley and along the A325 from Camberley to Frimley. Most of these were the ones that Tim Dodds and his colleague had repainted fairly recently. They are large stone blocks with multi faces and now look splendid with their covering white paint and black lettering (photos already on the database). The next meeting will hopefully be in April or May 2019.

## **Yorkshire** (*Christine Minto*)

### **South Yorkshire**

There are many reservoirs in the hills to the west of Sheffield. In the last Newsletter the review of the book 'The Long Causeway' by Howard Smith noted that milestone 6 from Sheffield was usually submerged. Since Redmires reservoir was built in 1894 it had only been empty in 1911 and 1973 during droughts. In 2007 it was drained for remedial work when I precariously negotiated the mud to take photos. (See NL 33) This year extensive work on the dam has been taking place since spring so the opportunity for another visit, this time officially escorted and drier, was taken. Yorkshire Water wondered if the stone should be uplifted and set by the roadside. Howard and I talked this over with the YW rep. It was decided that it should be left in its original, historic position but an illustrated Information Board will be placed at a suitable place overlooking the reservoir. This is 'work in progress'. In 2007 when it was only visible for a relatively short time the stone was just stone coloured. After several months in the open this year it has turned a peaty brown. Remarkably the inscription is very clear, more so than Sheffield 5 a mile away, moved and reused as a gatepost. However in 1911 a graffiti artist added a 1 before the 6 and inscribed his initials. We shall never know who SH was.



YS\_XSHEFc &  
YS\_XSHEFb

Photos: [Christine Minto](#)

## North Yorkshire

In NL33 it was reported that of the two 'listed' mileposts 'rescued' from an auction, the Staffordshire 'bobbin' had been reinstated. Now, after extensive roadworks the Yorkshire one is back in place at Spital Bridge on the A64, 11 miles from York.



YN\_YOMA11  
Photo: Helen Kirk



YN\_SYLE00 Photo:  
Christine Minto

The 19.8 mile Selby to Leeds Turnpike lasted from 1741 until 1874. Seven of the stones remain, all but one having the original metal attachment. Recently I was told of a flat attachment at the start of the turnpike in Selby but not visible from the road as it is attached to a garden wall.

Two stones have been the victims of 'hit and runs'. There is no further news from Scagglethorpe Parish Council although they were advised to contact Ryedale

Council who have instigated much milestone refurbishment over the years including theirs photographed in 2010.



YN\_MASCO3 Photo:  
Jeremy Howat



YN\_YOTK17 - CM  
Photo: Christine Minto

Helen Kirk advised that the York 17 post on the A19 north of Easingwold had been smashed. The base has now been dug up and various pieces collected [YN\_YOTK17 - CM] (including a bumper bar!) The New Year should see it repaired and set back up thanks to Helen's persistence.

Until the 1920s the route to Penistone from Sheffield dropped steeply down Thurgoland Bank to cross the River Don where there is a West Riding 'bridge stone' [YS\_RDON - CM]. A little further on is the last milepost of the route. It is on a very narrow verge, was quite rusty and had a crack on the bevel. Passing on my bike I decided to clear some of the soil and vegetation. The local farmer was interested. On the next visit to clean off old paint I couldn't remember clearing so much soil! The farmer came by again and said 'I've cleared it to make it easier for you'. The post is now repaired, repainted and has a new surround.



W. Riding 'bridge stone' YS\_RDON  
Photos: Christine Minto



YS\_SFPN09 – CM

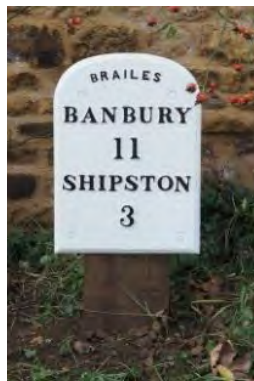
### Warwickshire (Mike Buxton)

Facilitated by the Warwickshire Branch of The Milestone Society, supported by the local highway Authority and financed by Brailes Parish Council the two grade II listed mileposts in Brailes, south Warwickshire, have been restored.

The mileposts are, as far as we know, the only surviving mile markers along the former Banbury, Brailes and Shipston Turnpike Trust, created by Act of Parliament in 1802. The former turnpike road runs westwards from Banbury and meets the Oxford, Woodstock to Stratford road at Shipston on Stour.

The mileposts are very unusual in that they are curved cast iron caps mounted on wood which is set into the ground. Unfortunately the use of timber in this fashion is the achilles heel of the mileposts making maintenance and ultimately periodic replacement of the wood element a relatively regular requirement. This was the case recently where both sets of timber had rotted at ground level rendering the posts unstable, indeed the one in Upper Brailes had fallen and was rescued and safeguarded by local resident.

The local planning authority agreed with us that as there was evidence that the rotten timber was an earlier replacement, then, provided the timber for each post was replaced with the same type and in the same form, listed building consent would not be required for the work, being an act of repair using like for like material, not affecting the posts' character or appearance. This meant that a large piece of oak was used for the Upper Brailes milepost and four separate lengths of treated softwood used for the Lower Brailes post.



Photos: Mike Buxton

Both mileposts were successfully re-instated in November 2018.



**SCOTLAND** (Christine Minto)

**City of Edinburgh**

In 2017 John Riddell found an Edinburgh 4 stone half hidden lying under a hedge. It was on the east side of the A720 just north of the Edinburgh ring road. He contacted the farmer and the local Highways and was able to uplift and store it. If it had been reset on the east side it would have been in danger from hedge cutting equipment again. It was decided that it would be safer on the west side. Although it has lost its plate the legend would have read TO/EDINR/4/Miles so either side of the road is appropriate. There are similar stones on the Lasswade and Straiton Turnpike Trust road with one, at 2 miles, still retaining its plate. So there is a possibility that this 4 mile stone could be re-plated.



CE\_EDGS04h



CE-EDGS04 Photos: John Riddell



CE\_EDPB02 Photo: Hal Jacob

**Argyll & Bute**

Many of the mileposts radiating from Dunoon are very similar. But one was seen on a website residing in a garden near Drumnadrochit in the Great Glen. Its site was near Inveroaden on the A815 and it arrived 160 miles away via Fife where its previous 'owner' lived.



AB\_DNSC17

Photo: website



DG\_DFSQUC12 –

Photo: Alverie Weighill

**Dumfries & Galloway**

There are two routes north of Dumfries either side of the River Nith. Alverie Weighill and a friend have found 5 more stones on the UC road on the west side at 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 miles.

## **The First Finds of 2019!**

On the 2nd of January John Riddell found a stone on the A70 in West Lothian just over the border with the City of Edinburgh. [WL\_EDLK11 - pic J

Riddell] And on the same day in Aberdeenshire Chris Mcbrien found the 20 mile stone, a typical Aberdeen granite cylinder on the A920 route towards Huntly.



*AD\_ADHN20 – Photos: C Mcbrien*

## **Singapore**

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018, a large, circular, engraved brass disc was embedded in the paving beneath the elegant rear porch of the Fullerton Hotel.

This was done to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the magnificent building as the new General Post Office. The engraving outlines the coastline of Singapore Island (an independent state since 1965) and identifies all the main routes to east, west, and north to the Straits of Johore. Marked SINGAPORE MILE ZERO, the roads emanating from the GPO at Fullerton Square were measured in miles during the colonial period of Edward VII, long after the demise of the British turnpike era.

The Fullerton Hotel, opened 2001, proudly records the zero point from which, amongst other uses, postal charges were assessed. Aside from originally having a postal counter 90 feet long, the building also housed the offices of the Singapore Administration.

No highway commencing at MILE ZERO exceeds more than 20 miles, often less, and residual milestones, hewn from sandstone or granite and measuring up to 6 feet, may still be seen in more rural areas. Is this the closest zero point to the Equator anywhere on earth?

Since the Colonial days, the independent State has revised all its distances into kilometres and thereby associates more closely with European capitals, of which three examples having a zero base are Paris, Budapest and Vaduz.

*Michael Knight*

## **Ayton Castle Milestone**

There are many milestones/mileposts in the old county of Berwickshire with maybe several still to be found, however, one in particular required examination. It is located in the grounds of AYTON CASTLE, approximately 7 miles north of Berwick upon Tweed and first came to my attention through examination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. OS map for Berwickshire (Sheet XII), published 1860, in which an "Old Milestone" was marked on the driveway from the South Lodge to the Castle. The 1898 OS map for Berwickshire (Sheet XIIIINW) had it marked as a "Stone", it was not marked on the 1909 OS Edition. The "stone" was added to the list of milestones to be visited.

In the book *The Hidden Ways - Scotland's Forgotten Roads*, Alistair Moffat mentions the milestone as being in the grounds of Ayton Castle when he undertook a walk along the original route of the Great North Road from Berwick upon Tweed to Cockburnspath. This same route was that taken by Robert Carey to inform King James VI of Scotland that Queen Elizabeth I of England had died on the 24<sup>th</sup> March and that he would become King of the United Realm of Great Britain and Ireland. He would ride to Edinburgh and Holyrood Palace and hoped to be the first to kneel before the king. Although Robert Cecil, the de facto prime minister, had tried to thwart Carey's plan, he managed to overcome obstructions and was soon on his way up the Great North Road. Carey at one time had walked from London to Edinburgh to settle a wager so knew the road well. He reached Doncaster in the late evening having ridden 160 miles, changing horses every 10 to 15 miles. Next day he covered the 130 miles to Widdrington in Northumberland continued his journey by way of Norham into Scotland and then on to Berwick. This route could have been chosen because the old wooden bridge at Tweedmouth was impassable. Leaving Berwick by way of Scotland Gate he headed northwards on the Great North Road over Lamberton Moor where he fell off his horse and was kicked in the head. Undaunted, he continued by way of Ayton, Cockburnspath and Haddington to reach Edinburgh in the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> March and was able to hand over a "blue sapphire ring from a fair lady, Queen Elizabeth I" that was enough evidence of his kingship.

In tracing the route taken by Robert Carey, Alistair Moffat followed the original line of the Great North Road over Lamberton Moor to Ayton Hill where there is a two mile stretch heading directly to Ayton Castle, however, this route deviated westwards where the railway line cuts across the old road and leads to the new bridge across Eye Water. To retrace the line of the Great North Road access to Ayton Castle is by way of the South Lodge. It was on the driveway to the castle that Alistair Moffat found the old milestone with the number 7 incised on the front of the stone, presumably referring to the distance to Berwick. From the site of the milestone the original route of the Great North Road was thought discernible to the south over Eye Water towards Ayton Hill. According to the Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1790 and 1830 there had been an old ruinous

## **Other News**

bridge on this exact line which formed part of the very old road to London and was also in use as a kirk (church) road. The route continues northwards through the policies of Ayton Castle towards Cockburnspath. It is interesting to note that Blackadder's 1797 map of Berwickshire shows the location of all the 20 milestones from Cockburnspath to Berwick with the exception of milestone 7 in the grounds of the castle.



*Ayton Castle BD\_ACBE07 Photos: Iain Davison*

Turnpikes were set up in Scotland in 1751, the Great North Road, also known as the Old Post Road, was turnpiked in 1753 from Edinburgh to Berwick. The mail coach service between Edinburgh and London was established in 1786. By the time of the Ayton Statistical Account (1834) three mail coaches were travelling the road every day – two London coaches, the Mail and the Union with four horses and one from Edinburgh to Newcastle with two horses. However, this might have been the height of its usage as a post road as the service was short-lived, the coming of the railways bringing the demise of the mail coaches over the 1830-1850's.

*Iain Davison*

## **What about the websites?**

We'd like to pay tribute to Alan and Carol Haines who not only set up and ran an entertaining newsletter (printed by a firm in Norwich) but also ran our first website, from 2001 -2007. This was designated [www. milestone-society.co.uk](http://www.milestone-society.co.uk), programmed in html, and kept members informed of the Society's raison d'être and activities. In 2006, English Heritage's Yorkshire region offered us some funding which we used for a new website, [www.milestonesociety.co.uk](http://www.milestonesociety.co.uk) , diligently maintained by Maggie Kennedy, as well as the forerunner of the Repository, a Yorkshire section with the now-familiar images on line, with text maintained by Richard Heywood. John Armstrong took over the images project in 2008 and expanded coverage to the whole of the UK; Alan Rosevear and subsequently Mike Faherty and Christine Minto have beavered away updating the master Excel spreadsheets over the years. The final update is now available on line, for anyone to download and view in Google Earth.

This has over 31,000 records, with 21,768 photographs - 8,780 of milestones plus a huge new fingerposts and boundary markers section, curated by Mike Rayner. Although it is becoming too big for the software to manage so will not be updated further, the Repository will remain as a permanent feature on the website.

## Other News

However, to widen the access to our information to enthuse the general public, it is being duplicated onto [www.Geograph.org.uk](http://www.Geograph.org.uk) where we have our own section – just key in ‘milestones’ to see the details. Keep sending those updates and new finds to [mf@milestonesociety.co.uk](mailto:mf@milestonesociety.co.uk) and Mike Faherty will upload them to Geograph or do it direct yourself.

There are around 2k ‘listed’ milestones and the staff at Historic England has offered to load our information on all of these to their ‘Enrich the List’ project, another significant step in the recognition of the Society as a reputable heritage body. Ordnance Survey are considering adding links, too.

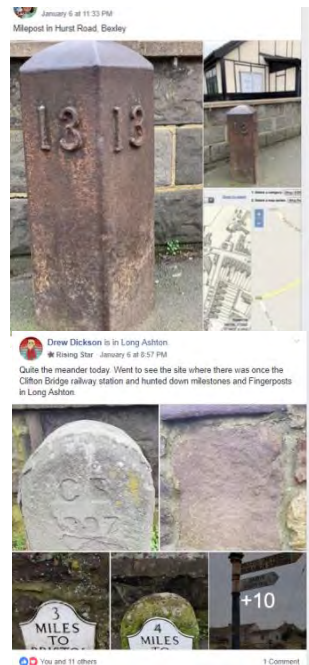
What about our websites?! Some people are having problems viewing the main website and the Repository. Google took the decision recently to designate any site without a specific SSL certificate as a ‘security risk’. This particularly affects those of us who use Google Chrome as our browser but can be overcome by using Firefox or other browsers temporarily. We are addressing the issue, though it takes time and all our crews are volunteers. The website itself has grown like Topsy and is about to be overhauled and simplified, with lots more illustrations to reflect the changes in expectations of the viewing public. Much easier with the advent of digital cameras than when it was set up ten years ago!

Now that the recording and databases are substantially completed, our emphasis is on encouraging people (Highways and Conservation Officers, parish councils, civic societies, individuals etc) to look after their local milestones, by explaining their heritage value, where they are found and how to care for/repair them. Along with details of the Society, this will form the basis of our new website. It will also showcase our many projects, bringing together their separate websites:

[www.FindingtheWay.org.uk](http://www.FindingtheWay.org.uk), [www.TeachtheHighwayman.co.uk](http://www.TeachtheHighwayman.co.uk),

[www.beyond-graffiti.org.uk](http://www.beyond-graffiti.org.uk), [www.CrossingthePennines.co.uk](http://www.CrossingthePennines.co.uk), the A34 blog, the Judges Road and our collection of Highways Heritage Walks.

We’ve also revamped our YouTube presence recently, where you can find videos of our projects and other anecdotal items, from Thomas Hardy’s ‘Milestone by the Rabbit Burrow (on Yellham Hill)’ and Ian Macmillan’s ‘North South Divide’ to Sculpting the Millennium Milestone and the Grand Opening of the Pennines Heritage Trail. Just enter ‘Milestone Society’ to view the playlist.



*Typical facebook pages*

*Photos: Jan Scrine*

## **Other News**

And there is our facebook group where over 500 people now share photographs of milestones and other waymarkers, information on new finds, restoration tips and interesting stories. This helps the Society to engage with a wider audience, across the age spectrum, throughout the UK and around the world, sharing our enthusiasm for those quirky little bits of rock and rusting metal sitting quietly by the wayside.

*Jan Scrine*

## **Folding signpost**

A photo on display at the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Museum at Coningsby, Lincolnshire, shows an aircraft being taken down the A15 in 1953. They had to be moved between repair workshops at Bracebridge Heath, which had no runways, and Waddington which had runways. Signposts along the A15 were fitted with joints so that they could be lowered to go under the aircraft wings.

*Carol Haines*

## **Pastures New**

I recently visited Angola for the first time.

Getting there and back involved twelve airports and eight trains as well as 2800kms in a double cab pickup, much of it at painfully slow speeds in low range 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> gears along roads much in need of maintenance.

However, one part of this journey yielded an unexpected pleasure. The absence of being thrown about either by the road itself or swerving to avoid potholes had lulled me into a soporific state. I was not driving.

There in front of me on the road from Lubango was a milestone. And a few minutes later, another and another. And so it continued for many kilometres.

I persuaded our driver to halt for the 'easing of springs' at an appropriate spot and plied my camera to acquire the following images.

Each milestone would have been individually cast in concrete and still well maintained compared to many in the UK for instance.

I spotted similar on another road in my travels as well so not confined to this road. A far cry from the 'mile pegs' in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in Southern Africa



*James Biscoe*

## **Other News**

### **Dates for the Diary**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019 South West Spring Meeting - Frenchay Village Hall, Bristol Start 10.30am Admission £3.

Speakers: Tim Jenkinson on the Plymouth to Exeter Turnpike, Richard Raynsford on Somerset's historic fingerposts and Guest Speaker Gareth Davies on Transport by Severn. Finish 3.30 (See flyer enclosed)

Northern Meeting, Hebden Village Hall, Hebden, Nr. Grassington, W. Yorkshire Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 Start 10.30am.

AGM and ANNUAL CONFERENCE Saturday 5th October, 2019 Milton Masor, Northamptonshire.

### **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR SUMMER 2019**

Contributions for inclusions in the July *Newsletter* should reach the editor Richard Raynsford by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. Contributions 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 high definition JPEG or PNG format (\*.jpg or \*.png) is particularly convenient but paper copy is also acceptable. 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](mailto:newsletter@milestonesociety.co.uk) or call Richard Raynsford on 01749 890418 for further information and address details

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*And finally*



Terry Moore revealing Milestone CU\_WHSB04 at St Bees, Cumbria