

The Milestone Society

Newsletter 45

Summer 2023



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ON THE COVER

Hilary Jones and members of The Milestone Society inspecting a milepost on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Gargrave, North Yorkshire 13th May, 2023

Photo: Richard Raynsford

Editorial

After a short intermission The Society held a very successful Northern meeting at Gargrave, North Yorkshire organized by Hilary Jones; despite disruptions to travel arrangements caused by a rail strike and roadworks in the village this attracted some thirty people. In the morning Bill Froggatt, Heritage Advisor with the Canal & Rivers Trust gave an interesting talk on the restoration of mileposts along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, he also reported on plans to restore mileposts along the Lancaster Canal.



Presentation by Hilary Jones, Gargrave
(Photo: Rob Westlake)

This was followed by a short talk by Hilary on the local highway heritage. Amongst her illustrations was a guidestone on the old Ilkley to Skipton Road near Addington and various examples of the standard Yorkshire mileposts which included those on her personal favourite turnpike - the Blackburn Addington & Cocking End Road.

Stop Press: Hilary has just agreed to hold another Northern Meeting at Gargrave next year on the 27th April.



Fingerposts, Read,
Lancashire

Yorkshire and Lancashire are particularly rich in fingerposts, guidestones and milestones; during my stay I managed to view many of them; my personal favourites are in the village of Read, nr. Whalley that has two old village signs, several old fingerposts and a couple of milestones. Of the numerous guidestones in the area, I consider that at Slack nr. Hepstonstall to be the best.



Village sign, Read,
Lancashire



Guidestone nr. Addington, N. Yorks.



Milepost nr. Addington, N. Yorks.



Milestone, Read, Lancashire



Guidestone, Slack
nr. Heptonstall, N. Yorks.

(Photos: Richard Raynsford)

There was an error in the Winter Newsletter, the photos of CE_EDWS07 and BD_NT7138stichills were transposed.

As you will have noticed The Milestone Society now has a new Honorary Secretary. We are very pleased that Alison Montgomery has agreed to take on the role. Below is a rather belated pen profile.

Alison is a comparatively new member of the Milestone Society, joining in autumn 2022. She has a background in the heritage and historic environment sectors and currently works for a conservation architect and historic building consultancy. Living in the north of England, she's a keen walker with a passion for historic street furniture, old boundary treatments and rural vernacular architecture. She has a love of historical geography, place names and the 'pots and pans' history of everyday life.

I received several responses to the Winter Newsletter, including the following:

The Swedish milestone depicted on the rear cover of the Winter Newsletter resulted in several responses. Alan Cooper informed me that the milestone post dates from 1737 and that King Fredrik I's monogram comes from the inland northern district in Bohuslän. In the middle of the 17th century, it was decided that all major roads in Sweden should be measured and that milestones should be set up. The posts marked out every full, half or quarter mile. The maintenance of the roads was managed by the farmers and County governors were responsible for the building of the roads and erecting milestones. Local farmers were obliged to keep the roads in a state of repair.

PS: A Swedish mile is 10km, and many Swedes still use the term mile.

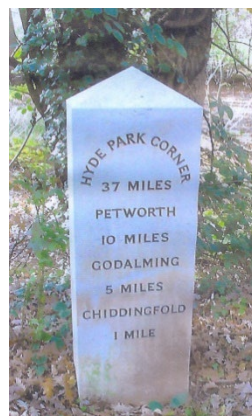
Using Google image search and then google image to text the right-hand side of the plaque it is possible to see an English translation. Isn't it helpful that the Swedes are bilingual.

Richard Raynsford

Lionel Joseph Obituary by Janet Dowding

We in the Surrey Group were very sorry when the articles appeared in *Milestones and Waymarkers* Vol. 15 2023 to learn about Lionel Joseph's death – we had not heard about it independently.

From the moment I set up the very first meeting of what became the Surrey Group in Nov. 2005 in Great Bookham, Lionel became an enthusiastic and supportive member. He came along to every meeting in Send near Ripley for many years, bringing along photographs, templates of mileplates he was making for replicas, and often the mileplates themselves. He always had a lot of interesting information to regale the meetings with. He also produced the Surrey Milestone Photographic Record of every milestone existing in Surrey and Metropolitan London. The photographic sheets consist of a close-up of each milestone and one of it in its location – see photo. This was invaluable for tracking down each milestone for surveying purposes. From it I was able to produce a working record with written information,



Chiddingfold
(Photo: Lionel Joseph)

surveying details, name of turnpike trust etc as well as photos. Thus, I was able to keep intact his photographic records which he had produced for the Milestone Society itself but which he entrusted to my care as the Surrey Rep.

He kept us informed of each step of his project to produce the Bucklebury milestone for the birth of Prince George in Berks, and its eventual realisation.

Towards the end of his years of coming to Surrey Group meetings, he once admitted to me that “he was having too many birthdays”! Once he was unable to come any more due to age and infirmity, he was very much missed at the meetings. He will be remembered by the Surrey Group as a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable man on milestones both in Surrey and Sussex.

Ed. Coincidentally, I walked past the milestone illustrated on my way to Primary School, long before I became interested in such things.

Databases

The excellent online resource of data and images contained within the Milestone Society Repository was frozen in November 2018 to allow replication of the images onto the Ordnance Survey supported Geograph website (www.geograph.org.uk). In the background however the individual Excel spreadsheet databases for milestones, boundary stones, etc. have continued to be updated by our hard-working team of members, new images being added to Geograph.

The task of making this updated information readily available online has been a significant one due to requirements for reformatting and checking of thousands of entries plus ensuring compatibility with available mapping software. The task was taken up in March 2022 by John Armstrong as Repository Manager under the direction of Jan Scrine and he has put in many hours to make it happen. The aim was for the separate Repository website to become redundant with all the data becoming available through the main Milestone Society website. This will hopefully encourage users to explore the other information on our website.

Jan worked in partnership with Really Good Digital, our website hosting company, and John has been supported in 2023 by the recruitment of Paul Barnett as Database Manager. To help delivery of the project our committee members, Hilary Jones and Mike Hallett, have been holding regular Zoom meetings with John and Paul.

All this hard work has now paid off and in July 2023 we'll be launching a new **“Where Are Milestones** page on the Milestone Society website ([Where Are Milestones? - The Milestone Society](#)). This will take you to the databases and Google Earth mapping options plus provide a number of FAQs to support users. At the moment only the databases for the England & Wales milestones, Canal Milemarkers and Toll Houses have a 2023 spreadsheet available. Work is on-going by Mike Rayner and Chris Minto to format the other databases ready to provide current versions online.

There will inevitably still be some errors in the spreadsheets arising from the original member submissions but if you spot any of these please be proactive and let Paul Barnett our Database Manager know. The spreadsheets cannot be edited online by Paul so corrections will need to take place offline and be published through scheduled uploads of revisions to each database. Please remember all the work is being done voluntarily by members and isn't a 24/7 operation!

The revision of the website has now been completed and went live on the 28th June, 2023, it will replace the current 'Where are Milestones' page and will supersede the separate Repository website. Anyone finding the old sites on the web will be redirected to the main website.

The link is <http://www.milestonesociety.co.uk/databases-information-copy/>

Hilary Jones

Message from Mike Buxton received on the 29th June, 2023

I am very pleased to report that today the newly restored decorative milepost, the seventh in the series of mileposts along the former Long Compton-Stratford upon Avon turnpike, has been reinstated on the former turnpike road just to the north of the Honington turn in the parish of Tredington, near Shipston on Stour - GR: SP2605 4225. I am attaching a photograph of the finished installation.

Three members of the Milestone Society, Robert Caldicott, Mervyn Benford and myself attended the installation.

Thanks must go to the generosity of the Kenilworth resident who donated the post to the Milestone Society following its discovery in her garden and all the other contributory parties and especially the Heritage Lottery Fund without which this second phase of the Project wouldn't have been possible.

This now completes all the physical work involved with the project, the three smaller Alderminster mileposts having been restored and installed in the highway in January 2023. The remaining work involved with the Project is all in hand and it is anticipated it will be completed soon.

Further information is available on <https://warwickshirewayside.co.uk/portfolio-item/honington-milepost/>



Reinstated milepost, Tredington
(Photo: Mike Buxton)

Message from Mervyn Benford

Never more than an Oxfordshire branch helper for the Warwickshire branch, I was delighted to be invited to attend this seventh restoration of the truly remarkable set of mileposts that originally marked the Long Compton to Newbold-on-Stour section of the long road from Southampton to Manchester that became A34 under original national numbering; this section now A3400, and from Oxford changed to A44. In both cases closely passing by Chipping Norton.

I had been involved with Mike Buxton, Robert Coldicott and their endeavours to restore and replace six of the original set that had become found. Members learned that the design of these milepost was rare and unique. Tall like lampposts, very Victorian in style, these boards were specifically at the height for a stage coach driver to read relatively easily, but with nameboards as wings either side at the top showing distances.

As co-Founder of the Society with dear Terry Keegan I have to say that this project must rank as one of the proudest achievements we have managed. And what hard work and dedication it has taken was in evidence again with the seventh replacement. The company restoring for us were insured against damage where the post entered the soil of the lawn, and the good lady and her family in Kenilworth who had years ago rescued it, finally agreed to let us acquire it. The company strengthened the vertical hold even further by inserting an additional metal post, of course invisible once erected.

Having already seen what falling trees or branches could do to one of the set the work team employed for the job very willingly removed potentially damaging nearby trees at our request while the work digging a deep enough hole in rock-hard earth saw real commitment on their part. The post is back where it started life. The background work by Mike and Robert again in this case had been considerable and the Warwickshire branch- a small team- have again excelled themselves.

As with all heritage items on-going maintenance needs securing. The rare Oxfordshire guidepost in Wroxton, and the village's milestone, have been accepted by the parish council as local responsibility. We still need to negotiate with the villages on the Warwickshire road including Shipston-on-Stour, the town passed through and whose council and history society have been helpful so far, to ensure each milepost gets a caring lick of fresh paint every three or four years. These markers really do open the mind to history that as years roll by will become ever more intriguing and illuminating to future generations. We can set a standard that all our branches and members can take on board, and we may rightly be astonished at what Mike and Robert have achieved for us. Very well done indeed!

News from Ian Thompson - Restoration & Listing Enquiries Officer

Milestones in the Forest

The Milestone Society received two queries from unusual sources.

Forestry England is not an organisation that usually deals with milestones, but one of their team in Cornwall asked for information and management history for a milestone in the wooded Glynn Valley on the A38. This section of the main road from Plymouth into Cornwall is a classic turnpike valley road, twisting along beside the River Fowey with gentle gradients and distinctive triangular milestones. It was built by the Bodmin Trust, following an Act of Parliament in 1835. The milestones are now cared for by National Highways, which has a very good record in this respect in Cornwall.



This milestone was last repainted during an overnight road closure in the winter of 2008. Sadly, the paint did not last long, since the milestone is constantly blasted with road spray from heavy traffic, but it did highlight the milestone's presence and help to get the milestone Grade II listed in the same year. It was good to be able to give a positive response to the Forestry England enquiry.

Glynn Valley milestone
SX153652 A38 Broadoak
(Photo: Ian Thompson)

The Bracknell Forest Society is 'an independent local voice safeguarding heritage, environment, community and future development' according to their website. They were concerned about a missing milestone on Forest Road, Binfield, Berkshire and asked who was responsible for the milestone and could they force the owner to replace it. The milestone was Grade II listed in 1986 and has list number 1390273, with an amendment in 2002 at grid reference SU85748 71295. It is square in plan with a pyramid top, incised in Roman letters on the north face 'HYDE / PARK / CORNER / 29 / MILES / READING / 11'. It is not recorded in our Repository, not shown on our google earth map, and there is no image on Geograph. It seems this milestone has disappeared. No local Milestone Society member was available to go out and look for the milestone. While the Milestone Society could tell the Bracknell Forest Society that the milestone was the responsibility of Bracknell Forest Borough Council as highway authority, it seemed unlikely that the council would, themselves, fund a replica replacement. We do not know if the Bracknell Forest Society is willing to raise funds themselves, but this case does emphasise how important local 'eyes on the ground' are to the success of our Society in preserving and protecting our historic milestones.

FixMyStreet, LoveCleanStreets

Members may have encountered a website called FixMyStreet when trying to report a milestone related issue to their highway authority. Be aware that FixMyStreet is an app, and it will merely pass your issue on to the highway authority and record your request on a map. FixMyStreet seems to work very well for getting potholes fixed, but it is very difficult to pursue a more sophisticated problem like a fallen milestone, because the app in effect comes between you and the highway engineer who could deal with your request.

LoveCleanStreets is a similar set up but seems to be more tightly linked to the highway authority.

In Lancashire an issue with a milestone which appeared to be falling down an embankment was reported through LoveCleanStreets and was duly logged, but weeks went by, and nothing happened. When nagged, LoveCleanStreets assured us that the message had been passed on, but they could not provide details. It was only when an email was sent to the County Council Cabinet Member responsible for Lancashire Highways that an engineer took action, investigated the milestone and reassured us that it was safe and secure. Job done.

In Oxfordshire a milestone had been knocked over and was reported through FixMyStreet. Weeks later nothing had happened. There seemed to be a way to contact Oxfordshire Highways directly, but this only produced a 'do not reply' automated response. The next step was to try the County Councillor, and we wait to see if this produces the desired result.

FixMyStreet and LoveCleanStreets may get better at handling our sort of issues, but in the meantime be prepared to make the extra effort to contact your highway authority directly. If you find this impossible, the next best course is to pursue the issue through your own County or Borough Councillor.

The national Milestone Society is here to support you. If you are having no success with a local issue yourself, perhaps we can help.

County News

Cornwall (Ian Thompson)

The news from Cornwall in 2023 is about moving milestones. The Milestone Society would always prefer a milestone to be in its original location, but sometimes circumstances make relocation along the road the only practical solution. The distance moved should be as small as possible. In this Newsletter, one milestone was left in its original location, three were moved along the road, each for its own valid reasons, and one is to be moved from a field back to the roadside.

Callington 1 Tavistock 8½

In January the one-mile stone on A390 to the east of Callington was reported to Cornwall Council Highways as being knocked sideways.

In February the one-mile stone was set upright again in its original location. What a brilliant service we get from our highways department in Cornwall!



Milestone set upright again
SX373709 A390 Callington
(Photo: Ian Thompson)

Famous Milestone repaired and moved



'Famous Milestone' repaired and
moved 40m north to a safer location
(Photo: Ian Thompson)

The Grade II listed capped guidestone on B3266 in St Mabyn parish, known as the 'Famous Milestone' because it featured in a 1930s booklet of that name (see NL44 P16), has been moved. The new shaft had been broken but was successful pinned together by De Lank Quarry. It was agreed with Cornwall Highways that to return it to the same place would invite further serious damage. The guidestone gave directions to places in four directions. It was opposite one turn of a staggered crossroads. To improve its chances of survival, it was moved 40 yards closer to the other turn of the staggered crossroads, where it would be less vulnerable to damage either from traffic or from the verge cutter.

Slipperhill Milestone repaired and moved

The milestone on B3254 near the hamlet of Slipperhill was at the very edge of the verge in a narrow, fast section of road. It was hit by a vehicle and snapped in two. It was repaired with pins, but the highway engineer was reluctant to return it to its original location. He had identified a safer site where the road was wider and there was slightly more verge. This was 70 yards from its original position, which is a long



SX 286788 Slipperhill, North Hill milestone
moved 70m north to a safer location
(Photo: Ian Thompson)

way to move a milestone. Reluctantly, the Milestone Society agreed, since this was the best option for the safe survival of the milestone. The milestone is much more visible in its new position, and occupants of the houses opposite can now keep an eye on it, which is good.

Bodmin 4 moved and set upright

The Bodmin four miles stone just a short distance from the ‘Famous Milestone’ mentioned above, was repeatedly knocked over sideways by farm vehicles turning out of the widened field gateway beside it.

Cornwall Highways agreed to move it just a few feet along the verge, allowing the farm vehicles more room to turn and protecting the milestone.



SX055716 on B3266, St Mabyn moved 3m north for safety



SX055716 on B3266 St Mabyn, leaning and vulnerable. (Photos: Ian Thompson)

Milestone in a field

In September 2018 a milestone was spotted standing in a field behind Deep Hatches Farm on Bodmin Moor by a milestone watcher. Its story was researched. The landowner was approached. Cornwall Highways made a site visit. It was agreed that the milestone would be much better placed beside the highway. Unfortunately, the landowner developed health issues that delayed moving the milestone. It remained in the field. Eventually, Deep Hatches Farm was sold and this year new negotiations were begun with the new owner. It is hoped that this will result in a successful outcome for all involved. The saga of this milestone would make an interesting article in a future *Milestones & Waymarkers*.



Milestone in a field at Deep Hatches Farm, Bodmin Moor (Photo: Ian Thompson)

Cumbria (Terry Moore)

The Penrith Town council funded the restoration of milestones CU_PRCL's 1, 2 and 3 located north of Penrith on the A6. Council Highways provided Traffic Management where necessary, and the project was carried out by Terry Moore and Gordon Allen. CU_PRCL 02 was involved in a collision where the "16" plate was about to fall off with the stonework severely damaged. The "2" plate was buried in rubble on the verge. It was decided to recycle a replacement stone and move its location 30 metres north to avoid further collisions with the hedge cutters.



CU_PRCL 02 Penrith
(Photo: Terry Moore)

CU_PRCL 04 at Boggle Hall, on the A6 near Plumpton has been removed by the author so that it can be rotated and fashioned to accommodate new plates as both have been lost. Thankfully a "4" plate was recovered from CU_PRCL 14 some 8 years ago by the author. The "14" plate was completely destroyed as was the stonework. A new "14" plate is being cast and is joint funded by Heskey Parish Council and the Milestone Society.

CU_KWWM 01 at Castlerigg on the A591, Keswick to Windermere turnpike was funded and restored by Bill Richardson of Keswick Lions.



CU_PRCL 03 Plumpton Head



CU_PRCL 01 Penrith
(Photos: Terry Moore)

Devon (Tim Jenkinson)

Yealmbridge Toll-hut South Hams

The curious stone toll-hut on the north side of the A379 at Dunstone Cross near Yealmbridge in the South Hams between Modbury and Plymouth at SX 594521, has received a most welcome renovation courtesy of Yealmpton Parish Council (YPC). Grade II Listed in July 1984, it was described at the time as *'Toll-keeper's shelter. Circa later C18 or early C19. Small stone rubble hut, square on plan with very steeply pitched stone corbelled roof with gable to front. Arched entrance at front. Small square look-out opening on west side. Circular interior with small square niche (or blocked opening) on east side. Completely overgrown with ivy at time of survey 1983/4. Note: This toll-hut is on the Plympton to Modbury section of the Modbury Trust turnpike (Turnpike Act of 1759).*

One of the earliest references to the hut comes from Walter Minchinton in 1974 from the book *'Devon at Work: Past and Present'* who explains *'Nearby there is also a tollhouse, and it has been suggested that this was associated with the bridge over the Yealm and that the hut was erected later around 1824 in connection with the proposed new road linking Yealmpton and Ermington. Another theory is that the hut was erected to catch the local farmers who joined the toll road from a sideroad without passing the tollhouse'.*

Interestingly the listing identifies the threat of ivy, and the hut has certainly succumbed many times to the creeper since then and was seen to be once again in a similar state in May 2022 shortly before the work to restore it began. At a cost of around £2000 the hut has now been repaired and cleared of vegetation at the instigation of the YPC who conclude in the minutes of July 2022 that it has been *'refurbished to an excellent standard'.*

County Bridge stone discovery Ventiford Bridge

In March 2023 another County Bridge stone inscribed with a large 'C' was discovered by Max Piper of the Milestone Society at Ventiford Bridge near Teigngrace. Set to the



Tim Jenkinson at Yealmbridge Toll hut



Yealmbridge Toll hut front
(Photos: Tim Jenkinson)

north of the bridge at SX 8472 7482 it is part buried in the bank on the west side of what is now a minor road through the village opposite Summer Lane, but it remains at risk of downgrowth of vegetation during the summer months. Well done to Max for finding this elusive stone however, it appears that the one to the south is now missing.

Torquay Water Main Stones Update

Dating to 1858 a short article on the history of these stones first appeared in the *Milestones and Waymarkers* Vol Eight of 2015 (p41-42) explaining that they marked out the route of the original underground pipeline from Tottiford Reservoir high on East Dartmoor in the parish of Hennock way down to the seaside resort of Torquay some 15 miles away. A follow up article on the same subject appeared in *Dartmoor Magazine* number 148 Winter 2022 (p59-60) and at the time of writing there were known to be ten survivors



Dunley Cross

along the route all inscribed with T.W./M./1858./. Since the publication of the latter piece there has been considerable interest in the location of other stones along the route and the number of those still extant has since doubled mainly due to the combined efforts of Paul Rendell and Max Piper (MP) of the Milestone Society. While most of the stones tend to reside in the rural aspect of East Dartmoor within the largely undisturbed copses of Tottiford and Greatrock there have been, nonetheless, two Dunley Cross notable finds by Max at the roadside further down the line. There is one set on the south side of the B3344 at

Dunley Cross between Chudleigh Knighton and Bovey Tracey at SX 8375 7755 and another along what is now a section of the old A380 Torquay Road in Kingskerswell near enough opposite the Hare and Hounds pub at SX 8831 6693.

This fascinating collection is fast becoming an important historical record of the early water supply to the growing conurbation of Torquay in the mid-19th Century and there may still be more to find. The quest continues.



Ventiford Bridge C stone
(Photo: Tim Jenkinson)



Kingskerswell
(Photos: Tim Jenkinson)

Abbotskerswell Beating the Bounds

In superb conditions Max Piper and I accompanied around thirty other villagers on the Beating the Bounds walk for Abbotskerswell in South Devon on May 28th 2023. It had been over twenty years since the last perambulation. The route took in around eight miles of rural countryside much of which



Abbotskerswell,
Stoneman's Hill
(Photos: Max Piper)

followed a wayside boundary leading to the discovery of three previously unrecorded boundary stones. The first was found under a hedge on the west side of Kingskerswell Road near the rugby ground at SX 8472 7482 and is inscribed with AK on one side and NA for Newton Abbot on the other. The second marker set at Stoneyhill (SX 8558 6720) marks the boundary between the village and Ipplepen and the third stone buried deep in a hedge on Stoneman's Hill on the east side at SX 8562 6959 is inscribed with a simple 'A' marking the village boundary with that of Wolborough.



Abbotskerswell, Kingskerswell Rd.

Dorset (Richard Raynsford)

On a recent trip across the border to Dorset I found a fingerpost at Evershot that I hadn't seen before. I was also alerted by a picture on Facebook of a guidestone at Halstock that I must have passed numerous times.



Fingerpost, Evershot



Guidestone nr.
Halstock (Photos:
Richard Raynsford)

Lancashire (Hilary Jones)

Milestones along the A6 from Preston to Kendal

One of our newer members in Lancashire, Chris Leather, has been recording all the milestones along the Lancaster Canal and his findings will soon be featured in a *Milestones & Waymarkers* article. As an offshoot from that project, he also completed in 2022 a condition survey of the milestones along the A6 from Preston via Lancaster to Kendal.

This survey identified milestones south of Garstang were generally in good condition but less well-maintained further north. One in particular, at Lancaster (LA_LAGS02) appeared to have slipped down the slope and be at risk of falling over. It was also completely overgrown.

Our conservation advisor Ian Thompson, after many frustrating attempts to obtain a reply from Lancashire Highways, eventually received a reply that an engineer had visited the milestone and confirmed it was stable. The large branches had also been cut back to make it more accessible. Rather than the stone moving it seems the verge has just built up over nearly 200 years so the road is almost now level with the top of the milestone.



LA_LAGS02 Scotforth
(Photo: Lancashire Highways)



LA_LAGS02 Scotforth (Restored)

The Scotforth area, adjacent to Lancaster University, is identified in the South



LA_LAGS04 Galgate



LA_LAGS04 Galgate (Restored)

Lancaster Action Plan for substantial development. Being concerned this milestone and the Grade 2 listed LA_LAGS03 opposite the University could be adversely affected I contacted the conservation officer at Lancaster City Council (Megan Hainsworth). She replied promptly *"The milestones are within the area boundary and any negative impact on their significance will be avoided as part of this work."*

Chris and another local member, Brian Jones, were keen to provide some TLC for the milestones in the interim and in particular, make them more visible. Initially they visited in March to clear some more vegetation and then in June it was given a repaint.

LA_LAGS03 is more difficult to repaint due to its proximity to the road so for



LA_LAGS07 Forton



LA_LAGS07 Forton (Restored)
(Photos: Hilary Jones)

now has been put on hold. Instead, two other mileposts further south, LA_LAGS04 at Galgate and LA_LAGS07 at Forton have been repainted.

Rescuing a canal milestone

In March 2023 a fallen canal milestone (LAN_05), discovered by Chris Leather during his 2022 survey of the Lancaster canal, was re-erected. Chris and Hilary Jones (Lancs Rep) joined a Canal & River Trust work party to dig it out and lever back into position on the towpath near Salwick. The Garstang plate retains most of its blue paint. C&RT are going to clean up the milestone on another visit. An article by Chris about his Lancaster Canal survey work will be featured in our next *Milestones & Waymarkers*.



Original blue paint



Milestone as discovered

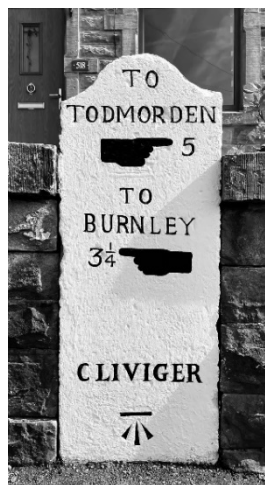


The work party (Photos: Chris Leather

Cliviger Parish project

An exciting project has been underway in east Lancashire involving not only the restoration of local milestones and boundary stones but the creation of new ones. Cliviger Parish Council began the project in 2021 with the aim of restoring the 19th century turnpike milestones between Burnley and Todmorden and the boundary stones and way markers on the historic Long Causeway trans-Pennine trade route between East Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

Funding was sourced from the Scottish Power Renewables Coal Clough Windfarm Benefit Fund, which supports projects which directly benefit the residents of Cliviger. Up to £40k per annum is available.



Old milestone, Cliviger

Year 6 pupils from St John's CE Primary School created a special milestone to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Working with artist Shane Johnstone, the children came up with an idea spelling out their love for Burnley Football Club and the moon!

The new stone shows the distances from the village to Turf Moor and the moon and back. It matches the exact dimensions of the familiar white milestones seen locally. Its quirky design has certainly brightened up the outside of the school!

Shane has also created an interpretation of the Butter Cross in Habergham Eaves parish. The original Grade 2 listed wayside cross is now

only a shaft base located in the middle of the field. The new cross is a lot more accessible being positioned on the parish green and it is hoped it will encourage interest in the story of the original. The stone used is the same as that of Liverpool Cathedral.

A longer article about this great parish initiative will be appearing in our *Milestones & Waymarkers*.

It is planned to gradually work north now along the A6 from Lancaster to repaint more of the neglected milestones later this year.



New stone, Cliviger



Butter Cross,
Habergham Eaves
(Photos: Hilary Jones)

Norfolk (Carol Haines)

With the help of a local villager, and encouragement from the parish council, Tony Langford has straightened and repainted the milestone on the Holt Road in Corpusty (NO_NH15; TG 1141 3021). The village was bypassed by the B1145 some years ago. The Holt Road never became a turnpike, but by 1823 there was a coach service to Norwich three times a week.

Tim Richards found a note in the minutes of a meeting of Sandringham Parish Council on 8 February about progress on refurbishing Butlers Cross at Babingley, at the junction



Butlers Cross

(Photo: Milestone Society/Geograph)

of the A149 and B1439 (NOKL SAN; TF 6759 2638). The matter is now with Norfolk CC Highways Department, and the PC was awaiting their response. The Norfolk Heritage website describes Butler's Cross as "the remains of a medieval standing stone cross, consisting of the base and a fragment of the shaft, set on a modern plinth of stone and tile with a plaque. It once marked the boundary of Rising Chase. The name of the cross derives from the de Boteler family who held the manor of West Hall, Babingley from the C13. It stands on Crown property."

NO_NH15 Corpusty
(Photo: Tony Langford)

Somerset (Janet Dowding)

In addition to the constant surveying, photographing etc of milestones, boundary markers etc over the past 20 years, new items are still turning up. The latest addition to the database is the Bristol Turnpike Trust boundary marker in Axbridge Museum.

I was actually apprised of its acquisition by the Museum in 2018 when Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society wrote to me about these boundary posts and told me they had encouraged the deposit of one in the Museum. I could not get there at the time and then covid interrupted things for a couple of years. I have just now been able to visit the Museum to see, survey and photograph it.

It actually comes from a position on the A 38 near Badgworth Bow Farm where the old Badgworth and Biddisham parish boundaries cross the road. ST 3905 5315.

These 1823 fluted columns are unusual in their shape, and many must have existed in the area of the Bristol Turnpike Trust at the time. Fortunately, a few still exist south of the River Avon

e.g. at

Saltford - ST 68741 67275

Corston/Saltford ST 69131 66217

North Stoke ST 692 690

Corston ST 698 657 (badly damaged)

Churchill ST 46379 60681

Brockley ST 477 676

Compton Martin ST 55655 57604



I also have photos of ones now missing from Long Ashton, High Littleton, Clutton and Dundry. There may be others still to be located north of the River Avon in Bristol itself and South Glos. Please let me know if any have been located or are known about.

Milepost at Axbridge
Museum

(Photo: Janet Dowding)

There are also two well preserved ones in Breamore House Countryside Museum in Dorset (acquired somehow by someone connected to the family):

1. From the parish boundary between Windscombe (now Winscombe) and Rowborough (now Rowberrow)
2. From the parish boundary between Badgworth and East Brent.



Fingerposts, Halse *(Photos: Janet Dowding)*

While pottering round the lanes and villages west of Taunton recently (20.5.2023), I came across these two fingerposts in their very patriotic Coronation colours! They are both in the main street through Halse village (Somerset), only yards from each other. There was no one about to ask who took the initiative in painting them as such so we will never know whether it was an enterprising resident or the Halse Parish Council.

Ed. I've also come across the use of red letters on fingerposts and guidestones where it was presumably used as a variation to black.

The Newsletter editor recently gave a talk on Highway Heritage to a group near Taunton, afterwards a lady told him of a milestone in her garden at Othery, as this was on his way home, he asked if he could see the stone. It had been rescued by her husband and is the only remaining milestone on the Glastonbury to Taunton turnpike. The stone has now been added to the database, it is visible from the road and well protected by the present occupant of the property.



Surrey (Janet Dowding)

Re-sited milestone, Othery
(Photo: Richard Raynsford)

A new milestone for Surrey

The turnpike road of the Limpsfield Trust between Croydon and Limpsfield – now B 269 – once appeared to possess a full set of mileposts according to old OS maps and a plan of Sanderstead Court Estate of 1931. The area of the latter shows the mileposts Croydon 2 to Croydon 5 and the old OS maps show Croydon 1 to 10. Only two of these old mileposts now exist which is a great shame as their design appears to be unique in Surrey (there are other one destination designs but not like these).

It was therefore with great interest that the Milestone Society received an inquiry from Limpsfield about how to go about the installing of a replica milestone – the Croydon 10 one – opposite St. Peter's Church on the bank where the original once stood. As the result of a recent Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan carried out by Limpsfield Parish Council, Surrey's Historic Buildings Officer had recommended that, as part of the Limpsfield Village Conservation Area enhancement, the Parish Council could install a replica milestone made from cast iron like the original, to represent the village's unique heritage and history.



Croydon 2 (Photo: John Payne)

Although a case of replication, not restoration, the inquiry fetched up with Ian Thompson who advised the inquirer – Ann Osborn – to talk to an engineer from the local highway authority who could advise on the erection of a milestone beside the public road and even perhaps install the milestone once made.

He suggested talking to a cast iron foundry willing to make a pattern and cast the replica. Ian also suggested such a foundry – F. Bullett & Co., in West Molesey – and in the event this was the one used. Ann would need to send the foundry as much

detailed information as possible to enable them to make an accurate pattern and casting. Fortunately, the B 269 had an old version to use as a template – Croydon 2 – so that accurate measurements and photographs could be taken of it; also, a brass rubbing to show the style and thickness of the lettering. He pointed out that at least a third of the milepost would be below ground to make it stable.

In due course Ann confirmed that she had been in touch with F. Bullett & Co. who agreed to do a quote. This was obviously taken up because we heard that the replica milepost had been made and installed, placed as marked on the 25" OS map of 1895 labelled "Croydon 10 M.P." on the south side of the road at TQ 40497 53184.



Replica Milepost, Limpsfield
(Photo: Ann Osborn)

The Limpsfield turnpike greatly added to the ongoing development of Limpsfield in the late 17th and 18th centuries. It was abandoned on 30 June 1870 but its part in Limpsfield's history is an important one. The new small but not insignificant milepost marks Limpsfield's unique history.

Worcestershire and Herefordshire (Jan Scrine)

Incoming Mayor of Worcester Louis Stephen congratulated Debbie Branford, apprentice stonemason at Worcester Cathedral at the ceremony to unveil the new milestone at Red Hill, on the A44 Whittington Road, beside the Oak Apple pub; this took place on Saturday 20th May. The milestone had been commissioned by Milestone Society member Jan Scrine, funded from the talks she had given topped up with a Local Partnership contribution from the Society, to raise awareness of the significance of milestones, especially with young people. The attached plaque commemorates the Worcester Turnpike Trust, which charged tolls to maintain and improve 160 miles of radial roads between 1725 and 1875, by which time the railways had taken away the lucrative long-distance traffic.

Debbie explained that she had enjoyed researching the variety of local milestones to determine the shape to sculpt for this unexpected commission. The Mayor noted the importance of the skills that she was learning, commenting that heritage is not permanent and our historic buildings such as the Cathedral, Guildhall and milestones require on-going restoration and repair; Debbie would be part of the future in keeping our heritage alive.

The new milestone also marks the WEG's Wild about Worcester Way and the Worcester Civic Society's Heritage Trail around the city. The sunny unveiling ceremony was attended by representatives of a wide range of organisations, including the WEG,

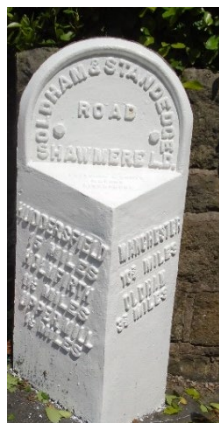
the Civic Society and The Milestone Society, as well as former and current councillors, Worcestershire Highways and their contractors Ringway Co (UK) who helpfully installed the milestone. Lively conversations continued after the event, sharing local knowledge and raising awareness of the historic significance of these waymarkers, a reminder of the ways our forebears travelled for work, commerce or leisure. Long may the partnership with Ringway continue!



Unveiling of the Red Hill milestone (Photos: Andrew Cross)

Yorkshire (Chris Minto)

New member John Gibbs has been cycling around the Skipton area and beyond and is sending me photos of milestones and fingerposts I have not visited for some time. This is ideal for



YW_ODSDO3
(Photo: C. Minto)

Geograph because most are rustier than when I last saw them! Hilary Jones keeps me up to date too when she is out and about. And Phil and I often have a 'grand tour' somewhere checking the milestones we know should be there. A new find by a benchmark enthusiast on a bit of old cut off road near Otley made us check the whole of the Tadcaster to Otley route. All 18 stones are still in situ with one shared, in Harewood, with the Leeds to Harrogate Road, although only the top remains of one in Pool.



YW_TCOT18
(Photo: C. Minto)

Dave Williams has bought a new pot of paint and has already painted a milepost and a boundary post on the York to Thirsk

Road. We went over the Pennines into Saddleworth where many folk still yearn to belong to Yorkshire after being given away to Greater Manchester in 1974. Several WRCC milestones looked well painted, and we even found one in the middle of its makeover.

East Yorkshire

I did manage to spot a couple of milestones from the coach window on a recent club outing to Bridlington but much work is needed to check the state of the many milestones we know about. The local Parish Council are hoping to repaint the two I did spot.



YE_BRBV19



YN_STTKO7

North Yorkshire

A sad tale that Hilary related at the Yorkshire meeting. On an old piece of road, ex A172, at Ingleby Arncliffe, the last remaining North Riding post on this route has disappeared. The villagers are extremely upset because it was well cared for even though it wasn't 'listed'.

Probably stolen to add to someone's collection. Very little scrap value. It has been reported to the police. The A19 north of York still has unresolved problems (see

NL44 P26/27.) We eventually found the 'listed' York 14, residing near Pateley Bridge, first reported to us by David Garside.



YN_YOTK14



YN_RPDF02

(Photo: Hilary Jones)

A local said that the previous occupant of the cottage was a collector. It should be returned, repaired and reset but with Helen's experience of York 17 that will be difficult. The minor 5 miles of road from Ripon to Dishforth has just 2 posts remaining, both in need of some TLC. Vigorous stamping down of the long, dead grass by Hilary revealed Ripon2/Dishforth 3.

A few years ago, Frank and I found two stones close to each other near Thruscross Reservoir. Sadly in 2023 the interesting one with Otley and Ripon engraved plus two styles of being a gatepost had disappeared.



YN_XTHRa&b

(Photos: C Minto)

South Yorkshire

About 2008 someone stole the attachment from a West Riding milestone on the A1 north of Doncaster. Last year the Highways Agency decided to have a new front forged and it is now in place fastened securely to its rather sad backing stone. It was made at the Hargreaves foundry in Halifax. They have cast their name and 2023 on the bevel so that adds to the milestone's history. Another difference is that on the original Brayshaw & Booth casting, because Ferrybridge is a long name they set the legends at an angle.



YS_DNTC06

(Photo: C Minto)]



YW_XHUDe

(Photo: Brian Davey)

West Yorkshire

Brian Davey discovered that one of the old guideposts northwest of Huddersfield had been 'attacked' along with a length of dry-stone wall. He's tried to find out how to get it reinstated with no luck so far even though it is 'listed'.

It isn't dated but a similar stone, also 'listed', a short distance away is dated 1755. On a journey to Aberford I couldn't find the WRCC milestone, Wakefield 11/Aberford 2. It should have been quite high on the verge but no sign of it.

Between us, since the beginning of last year, we have checked about 500 of our 1470 recorded milestones and we know quite a number were recorded as lost many years ago.

So, Yorkshire members and visitors please let me know when you see milestones and the database can be kept up to date. And that goes for Scotland too.

North Yorkshire (Hilary Jones)

An impressive repainting of a Grade 2 listed milepost has recently been completed at Kildwick in North Yorkshire. The milepost, on the route of the Keighley to Kendal Turnpike Road, is sited in the centre of the village and in 2022 was definitely in need of some TLC. It is at least 20 years since it was last painted.

The work nearly didn't happen however due to misunderstandings with permissions. A local resident, with experience in restoring classic cars, had volunteered to do the work on behalf of Kildwick Parish Council. Knowing it was listed he contacted the local planning authority (*Craven District Council at the time - CDC*) to ask about repainting



YN_KEKN05 – in 2022
(Photo: Hilary Jones)

it. They forwarded the enquiry to North Yorkshire Highways as owners of the milestone. Highways then forwarded to the County Archaeologist (!) who referred it back to CDC. This time an application form for Listed Building Consent was sent out. All this took two months, and he was no further forward...

At this point he was getting ready to give up but fortunately found out about the Milestone Society. He contacted us via our website and as the local representative I gave him a call. I sent him a copy of the Historic England guidance notes on Listed Buildings and reassured him that a simple repaint would not require consent. I also offered to meet him to discuss the project.

In October 2022 I met a couple of members of the Parish Council on site and we agreed the work required for the repaint plus safety issues. The latter primarily related to PPE plus pedestrians passing during the work as the milestone is at the rear of the footway and just round a corner. The work got underway in May 2023 once the good weather had arrived. The old paint was carefully stripped back using a combination of hand tools (*small brass hammer, narrow chisel, shave hook*) and a DeWalt DCS355 18-volt brushless cordless oscillating multi-tool. This worked by rattling against the brittle paint to break it off the iron rather than scraping the metal itself. Two types of blades were used; those with parallel sides and those with pointed corners. The latter were perfect for cleaning the sides of the characters.



Paint removal in progress

As well as making the destination lettering much clearer it also revealed the foundry maker details – William Towler, Leeds. The milepost was primed with a rust converter (*Bilt Hamber Hydrate 80*). This only required around 100ml or two coats of the milepost. The paint used was two coats of white Hammerite and black for the lettering.



Primer being applied and painting underway

(Photos: Kildwick Parish Council)

The final reveal shows the milepost looking as good as new!



The resident who completed the work is to be complimented both for the standard achieved and also the excellent photos provided showing the work in progress. The details of the tools and items used have been included to provide guidance for other Parish Councils who might be thinking of embarking on a similar project. It should be emphasised that the restorer was very experienced in the use of the DeWalt power tool. Anyone without that prior knowledge should not use a milepost for practice while they learn!



The Grade 2 listed milepost (YN_LBHW10) on the A684 west of Aysgarth in Wensleydale was hit and broken in 2019 by a vehicle impact. The two side pieces, with the destination lettering, had survived and been recovered by the National Park. At a seminar in October, 2022, I approached Peter Reynolds, the listing officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP), to enquire what had happened to it. He confirmed the bits were still in his office and subsequently followed up by putting the repair and re-installation out to tender. David Gosling of Signpost Restoration Ltd in Cumbria won the contract. David visited the site and using a metal detector managed to find and recover the top triangular section as well.

He has made a steel framework to support the original plates and provide an extension piece to go into the ground. The framework has a slot cut into it so the original makers mark (F Mattison & Co, Bedale) can still be seen. The separate pieces have been patched and welded back together.



YN_LBHW10 Repaired YN
(Photo Terry Moore)



LBHW10 Re-instated
(Photo: Hilary Jones)

It was impractical for it to be reinstalled at the original location as the previously narrow verge has now virtually disappeared. Instead, by agreement with the YDNP listing officer, it has been moved 140m to the east to a wider section of the northern verge. It's now at **SD 97610 89554**.

David, with valuable assistance from Terry Moore our Cumbria County Representative re-instated the milepost on 13 June 2023. The milepost has been surrounded with a small area of matting to suppress weeds topped off with 20mm gravel.

It was interesting to meet them both on site and gain some experience of what was involved. My contribution to the work was minimal and basically involved taking lots of photos and trying not to get in the way. As it was a hot sunny day the adjacent Wensleydale Ice Cream parlour was an obvious choice for a debrief when the work was finished.

Scotland (Christine Minto)

Aberdeenshire

Richard Barron went through Ballater and spotted a new addition to the records on Bridge Street. A typical Aberdeen column, just a number on the sloping top.



AD_ADBM42
(Photo: Richard Barron)



AB_TGOF07 (Photo: Peter MacBride)

Argyll & Bute

Peter MacBride has been busy again, clearing brambles and repainting the Tighnabruaich 7 milepost. There are 11 of these posts (1 broken) still in situ on the B8000 from Otter Ferry. Until a road north of Tighnabruaich along Loch Riddon was built, this route was the only road access.

Bruce Keith gave a talk at Craignure on Mull recently and the local history group is keen to start work on their mileposts and milestones as the weather improves.



AB_CTSEUCE10
(Photo: Jon Glew)

The lighthouse on Kintyre, a walk of over a mile steeply down from the car park and steeply up again has been visited by Jon Glew. The previously white milestone is now bright yellow.

The light had been built in the 1780s and possibly the 5 milestones set up then. However, in 1832 David Stevenson who later built the light on Muckle Flugga in 1854, oversaw improving the road. Jon



AB_CTKT16
(Photo: Jon Glew)

has also explored the coastal route southeast from Campbeltown to Southend and found two CAMPBN/10 stones. One is measured via the B842 and the other via the minor road down the east side of the peninsula. This makes a total of six stones with 'FROM CAMPBN 10 MILES' on them.



AYN_IRGR21

(Photo: Bill MacMillan)

Ayrshire

Cycling friend Bill MacMillan from Fairlie has found another milestone from the Irvine, Saltcoats, Greenock tollroad. This one, 13 miles from Greenock, is on a minor road south of Meigle. Most of the 35 miles of the tollroad is now by-passed by the modern A78.

Borders

On the A701 to Moffat, John Riddell found 3 new stones. Edinburgh 13 needs a lift up. E14 is easily spotted at the entrance to a new house with E21 only revealed when grass is trampled down.



BD_EDMF13

(Photos: John Riddell)



BD_EDMF21

Dumfries and Galloway

Son, Phil, and I had a few days travelling to and around Wigtownshire. Casualties between Annan and Dumfries, one detached plate and one, Annan 11 smashed completely.



DG_GLNL02

(Photo: Phil Minto)

For its area, Wigtownshire must have the largest number of milestones still in place. Jacqueline Crowther is still busy painting all the stones with P, for Port William, on them. Many stones are sunken and/or leaning but professional help, not forthcoming, is needed to work on them. Exploring a 'new' piece of road north of Glenluce to New Luce and on to Barrhill in Ayrshire we found 7 unrecorded stones.



DG_ANDF10

(Photo: Phil Minto)

Back home and there was an email from Derek Turner about a milestone in a garden in Dunragit. And we'd passed through there! The owner is a Bradford man. His wife found it in the rockery after they'd bought the house from a man who worked at an industrial estate near Sandhead. The milestone would have been opposite the entrance!



DG_GLSH08
(Photo: Donald Peers)

East Lothian

No new milestones in this area but John has found a picture of the milepost, now on display at Heriot/Watt University. Its original site was south of Dunbar. [EL_EDBE29old]. John also sent old postcards with pictures of tollhouses. This one was at Gosford [EL.GOSFORD]



ED_EDBE29 (Photo: John Riddell)



ED_EDBE29old



EL.GOSFORD

Midlothian

Bruce Keith was given a copy of a slide by the Roslin Historical Society. John Riddell has researched it and the picture was taken in the Gorebridge area. The milestone is no longer there. Would anyone like to date the cyclists? Just a bit before my time!



ML_EDGS10ros

West Lothian

More exploring by John Riddell and 4 new stones to record. On the A704 towards Lanark, Edinburgh 19 at Longford and 21 at Rashiehill. On the A71 at Brucefield, in an area still changing with the development of Livingston, is this stone from the Calder District Trust. But this is not its original site. Another one that has been moved. It was rescued by a farmer in 2000 during roadworks and moved about 400m to be displayed at Gavieside Farm. Another of John's finds is Breich tollhouse, dated 1723 above the door. But renovation seems to have stopped.



WL_EDLK19



WL_EDLK21 (Photos: John Riddell)



WL_EDWS15A



WL_EDWS15 (Photos: John Riddell)



WL.BREICH (Photo: John Riddell)

A mystery solved

The A171, that runs across the North York Moors between Whitby and Guisborough, has most of its original 21 mileposts still in situ but one has been a bit of a puzzle – until now.

All the mileposts are of a triangular North Riding of Yorkshire County Council design, as shown here with YN_WYGU18 at the top of Birk Brow.

They are all on the northern verge of the road.

The next milepost to the east however (YN_WYGU17) is in a completely different style



being a plaque showing “Guisborough 5” only. It’s affixed to the eastern face of a small bridge over Lockwood Beck.

From the old OS mapping the milepost should have been on the verge at the western end of the bridge as shown by the yellow arrow on this photo.

It was in this plaque format when recorded by Christine Minto in 2006 for the Milestone Society database. Turns out if she had been there before 2004, she would have found it looking very different.

In March 2023 I gave a talk about milestones, by Zoom, to a group based in the Redcar and Cleveland area. After the talk I was contacted by a local resident, Graeme Aldous, and he has been able to fill in the history of this anomalous milepost.

He lives near to Lockwood Bridge and in summer 2004 the original milepost was hit by a vehicle and smashed. The bridge parapet was also damaged by the crash.

The ‘Whitby’ side was shattered, and the triangular top section (NRYCC) broken in half. Graeme was very unhappy to see it broken like that and rescued the larger pieces and took them home. Returning to collect the smaller bits shortly afterwards he discovered the local authority had been to make the parapet safe, and he was told



All photos courtesy of Graeme Aldous

had put most of the broken bits into the void between the two outer stones of the wall.

All that he was left with was the Guisborough 5 side with part of the top still attached.

There was no way to reinstate it to its former shape, so he tidied up the top left edge, and then cut the top right to match, which left him with a 'plaque', which he repainted in his workshop. Graeme's painting was clearly a thorough job as it's withstood the weather very well for 17 years.

It was put back as a plaque on the eastern end of the bridge where it made more sense to show the Guisborough 5 mileage.

One of the pleasures I've found from giving talks to groups about the Milestone Society is the local information like this that comes to light. Very much looking forward to hearing some more tales in the future.

Hilary Jones – North Yorkshire County Rep

The Turra Coo and a milepost to London....

Bizarre though it sounds, licensing of the automobile organisations such as the AA, RAC and RSAC to provide distance signage, in even the remotest of locations, was conditional upon them including the mileage to London. London-centric bureaucracy gone mad!

However, not all London mileage markers share the same pedigree. In the case of the milepost located in the centre of the Aberdeenshire town of Turriff, the 577 miles to London is emblazoned on the fingerpost to remind locals and Westminster-based politicians alike of an incident over 100 years ago.



Photo: Keith Bruce

In 1910, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, David Lloyd George, introduced compulsory National Insurance contributions, payable by the employer for all workers between 16 and 70 years of age. The Aberdeenshire farmers complained that the payments were too high, citing that as absence due to ill health was a facility rare in the agricultural sector, it was unfair for them to pay for a service they were unlikely to use. Protests in the Turriff livestock market followed, with Lendrum farmer Robert Paterson refusing to stamp the national insurance cards of his farm workers. Paterson was charged under the National Insurance Act and fined £15 plus the arrears of contributions. He paid the fine but refused to stump up the arrears. So, in November 1913 the Turriff sheriff, George Keith, tried to seize property to the value of £7 (about £733 in today's money)

from Paterson's farm. The locals supported the farmer and refused to help with the removal of property.

The only easily mobile piece of property was Paterson's Ayrshire-Shorthorn cross dairy cow, but the auction at Turriff invoked a riot of a 100-strong mob pelting the sheriff officers with rotten fruit and soot. In the fracas, the cow, or coo, escaped and sought sanctuary in a nearby barn. Paterson and seven workers were tried in Aberdeen for disorderly conduct, but all received "not proven" verdicts. The coo was sold to farmer Alexander Craig, but local girl Bryony Miller rallied the local community to buy the animal back for Paterson. The return of the coo was a major public event, with over 3.000 locals turning out to witness its saunter through Turriff and back to Lendrum Farm, accompanied by a band playing "*See the Conquering Hero Comes*".

In 2010, a sculpture of the 'Turra coo', to give its Doric appellation, was unveiled in Turriff town centre at a junction known locally as 'Coo Corner'. A milepost, indicating 5 miles to Lendrum and 577 miles to London, is a reminder today that imposing taxes, however virtuous they might at face value appear, aren't necessarily wholeheartedly welcomed as a panacea for all ills.

Bruce Keith

My Father and His Brother Bob

Australian milestone expert, David Thomas, writing from his home in New South Wales said this photograph of two men and a milestone had 'surfaced', and could the Milestone Society help to identify the location.

What a wonderful photograph! It is full of the atmosphere of the 1930s. Two chaps are out in the countryside for fresh air and exercise, with their pipes clamped between their teeth. Do the trousers tucked into long socks suggest hikers or cyclists?

Clearly, they are 63 miles from London, but in which direction and on which road? It is a round topped milestone with the inscription on one face. Many milestones around London are triangular or other more complex shapes. This narrows the search.

The inscription is unusual. There are milestones on the Milestone Society database which read 'TO London 63 miles', but not 'FROM London 63 miles.' There is a '65 miles FROM London', with the distance before the destination. Is this a milestone that has now disappeared? Perhaps it is still there, but the inscription is no longer legible?

Can you help identify it?



The photograph was given to David by Terry Scott of Melbourne, Australia and shows Terry's father and his Uncle Bob 'somewhere in England' in the 1930s. Terry was born in London but moved to Australia in 1957 to live permanently. The photo is from his father's collection which remained with his sister in England. Upon her recent death all her personal effects were sent to Terry in Melbourne.

If you think you know where the photo was taken, please tell the Editor using the contact details inside the back cover of the Newsletter.

Ian Thompson

The Milestone Society AGM 2023

The AGM will be held on the 7th October at The Old Market Hall, Coleshill, full details will be sent to members in the near future. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

A Northern Spring Meeting will be held on the 27th April, 2024 at Gargrave, North Yorkshire.

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Contributions for inclusions in the Winter *Newsletter* should reach the editor Richard Raynsford by 31 January 2024. 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 or call Richard Raynsford on 01749 890418 for further information and address details.

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To
Worcester
Cross
2
Miles