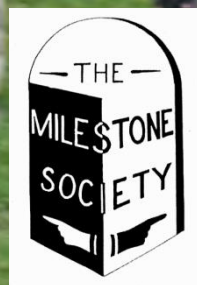


The Milestone Society

Newsletter 43

Summer 2022



MILESTONE SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2022/23

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Specific Roles and Responsibilities

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Database Manager	Vacant
Web Presence Co-ordination	Jan Scrine
Repository Manager	John Armstrong
Editor – <i>Newsletter</i>	Richard Raynsford
Editor – <i>Milestones & Waymarkers</i>	Derek Turner
Editorial Panel (in addition to the above)	Carol Haines, Mike Hallett, David Viner
Heritage & Conservation Agencies Liaison	Jeremy Milln
Milestone and road history heritage	Mervyn Benford, Carol Haines
Archives	David Viner dv@milestonesociety.co.uk
Highways Liaison Manager	Alan Reade
Theft & Recovery Liaison	Robert Caldicott
Insurance	Mike Buxton

ON THE COVER

Hon Secretary John Atkinson playing with a hoop

Photo: Jan Scrine

Editorial

I'm starting this Newsletter rather late due to the holding of the Glastonbury Festival in the village where I live. I thought it may be a rather thin edition but thanks to the receipt of contributions from my usual correspondents it contains plenty of news on the activities of Society members. Publishing of the Newsletter has been slightly delayed due to my Desk top Publisher – Gail - having Covid. The most important news, however, is the retirement of our Honorary Secretary - John Atkinson - after many years of service. John deserves his retirement, but it is essential to find a replacement if the Society is to continue. The situation is outlined by our Vice Chairman – Bruce Keith and I urge you to read this and consider ways that we may fill the vacancy.

Richard Raynsford

THE MILESTONE SOCIETY – THE WAY FORWARD?



The Milestone Society is at a crossroads. We need to think seriously about which direction to follow. Let me take you on a possible journey.

Firstly, it's worth reflecting that over the last two decades the Society has travelled a highly successful route, becoming the go-to organisation for advice and information on milestones and waymarkers across the UK. Some very significant restoration and conservation project work has been undertaken and there have been some notable successes in getting these roadside artefacts, an important element of our cultural and transport heritage, officially Listed. The information which has been so diligently collected and collated over the years has been captured in our database resources, and the history and the work of the Society has been promoted widely through our excellent Journal, Newsletter publications and our conferences. Several members

have also contributed to raising awareness of the milestones legacy more widely through writing books and giving talks. The Society benefits from charitable status. Moreover, we've a membership of over 400; indeed, on our Facebook page we've around 1,000 followers, so there remains a healthy interest in our activities.

All the above are positive achievements and should stand us in good stead to continue with these endeavours. But we are at a crossroads. Why?

The Society faces several challenges on which we need to reflect. Doing so constructively, yet realistically, will allow us to chart the future direction to best effect.

The first challenge is a demographic one. The majority of our membership has a significant number of miles on their clocks and, whilst remaining passionate about our areas of interest, is less able to participate as fully as hitherto in practical restoration work. That's not to discount anyone, of course, as enthusiastic support and passing on the benefits of knowledge and experience are invaluable to the Society. But we do need to look to encourage active engagement from a younger generation of supporters if the Society is to continue to deliver on its aims and objectives and yield benefits into the future. How do we nurture that wider community of active interest?

That first dilemma is common to most membership organisations, of course, and I'm hopeful one of you will come up with an answer which helps change the current direction of travel.

The second challenge is in some respects a consequence of the first. We used to enjoy having a Society Representative in each county, with responsibility to coordinate activities and liaise with local highway authorities, contractors, and volunteers. They were a one-stop shop for all milestone-related queries. If they didn't know the answer, then they'd surely know someone who did. An invaluable resource. Sadly, we've nothing like national coverage nowadays, with swathes of the countryside bereft of a local champion. The prospect of replenishing this resource seems daunting – or do you know differently?

The third challenge is the nub. After 15 years at the helm as Honorary Secretary, John Atkinson is hanging up his Society boots at the AGM on 1st October. John's done sterling work in this capacity, as well as being a Trustee and a County Representative. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude. However, we all recognise that he'll be a very hard act to follow and that has proven to be the case. Despite a recruitment exercise extending across our membership, our partners in the Heritage Alliance and volunteering organisations both locally and nationally, we've drawn a blank.

In many respects, the role of Honorary Secretary is fundamental to the sound governance of any organisation, and most particularly to a membership and charitable association such as The Milestone Society.

At its meeting on 18th June the Executive Committee reflected at some length over the way forward for the Society and concluded that, without an Honorary Secretary, we need to develop a roadmap for the journey ahead. We propose to convene a workshop on this topic at the AGM to be held at Long Compton in Warwickshire on Saturday 1st October 2022, at which some tough decisions need to be reached.

We are first and foremost a membership organisation, so the decision should be a democratic one. That's worth re-iterating, because we seem to live in an era where democracy and the right to self-determination are held in scant regard. But we're a Society who value the principle. Whilst we encourage as many of you as possible to attend the workshop, we recognise that's not feasible for all, so we are alerting you now, to canvass your views on the best road to follow. **Please take this as your invitation to let the Committee know your thoughts.**

The Committee's view is that the Society needs to review and reach a conclusion on the following matters:

- 1) What are the benefits of membership we should aim to protect?
- 2) What are the Society's strengths in terms of its public benefit offering?
- 3) What opportunities exist for collaborative and partnership working with other heritage organisations?
- 4) What should be the Society's focus for the next one, three and five years?
- 5) What is the best structure to ensure the delivery of this focus and the assurance of sound governance?

As a Committee we recognise that the Society's strengths lie in its reputation as the go-to authority on all things milestone-related. This includes our databases and our publications, which we seek to maintain for the benefit of members and the public alike. We would also wish to continue to help support restoration projects, especially where partnership working brings leverage opportunities.

But without an Honorary Secretary and with an aging membership we need to be realistic about our ability to deliver. "Less may be more" in terms of structure and the model going forward may be a more streamlined and centralised body corporate, but never letting our enthusiasm wain.

There are several models which we need to consider as a modus operandi. Hopefully this consultative debate will inform the decision-making process. There are no

definitive conclusions as yet, but amongst the options being appraised are the following alternative models.

OPTIONS

- 1) Do nothing – increasingly problematic to ensure sound governance with no Honorary Secretary in post.
- 2) Contract a Secretary (so not an honorary post) to act as the principal point of contact, undertake Committee organisational tasks such as agendas, Minute taking, etc., completion of the Charity Commission’s statutory returns, liaison with the Honorary Treasurer and other tasks as required. The cost of this appointment is likely to be in the order of £15 per hour, with a time commitment of an average of approximately 7 hours per month. Total annual cost of £1,260. Allowing for reimbursing expenses, a provisional budget of £1,600 is envisaged. Taking account of existing IT, publications, postages and other costs incurred to run the Society, the current membership income is sufficient, with a narrow margin, to cover the cost of this model without resort to the Society’s financial reserves. Thus, we would continue with the existing level of activity in terms of advice, publications, database management and conferences, with a similar Committee structure, but with outsourced secretarial services.
- 3) Scale back activity to a small, dedicated team of specialist restoration advisers and database managers, with publications on a less-frequent basis than hitherto, but with opportunities for occasional conferences to be held remotely by Zoom, collaborating with other heritage organisations where possible. The organisational structure would be managed by a streamlined joint Trustee/ Executive Board.
- 4) For each of the above options the overarching aims and objectives of the Society would remain unaltered; a 5-year plan would be developed by the Board to steer activity, new memberships would be encouraged and the benefits of continuing charitable status would be reviewed.

Join the discussion and have your say on the best way for the Society to proceed towards the next milestone.

Please send your comments to Bruce Keith the Vice Chair, who’ll coordinate these for the Executive Committee. (lbrucekeith@yahoo.co.uk). It would be particularly helpful if you would send your comments and observations to Bruce by 15th August 2022 so that pertinent issues can be brought before the Executive Committee who meet on 20th August.

Obituaries

Yorkshire has lost three valuable Society members this year. Andrew Baggett from York was a regular supporter with his wife of the Yorkshire meetings in Hebden organized by Jan Scrine. Then Jeremy Howat, also from York, died after a long illness. He helped Dave Williams refurbish quite a number of milestones and had given numerous talks. Stephen Skellern from Wakefield had researched the milestones put up by the newly formed West Riding CC in 1893/94 and his information helped immensely with talks and articles about the original 615 stones.

Christine Minto

The Buxton Conference – a great success

Collaborative working often yields the greatest successes, and that's certainly true of the Conference held in Buxton on Saturday 21st May, jointly-organised by the Milestone Society and the SW Peaks Partnership Project.

Over 30 Society members and non-members attended the event, staged in the Buxton Community School's Sixth Form Study Centre, an excellent venue. Our Chair, Rob Westlake, acted as master of ceremonies, introducing our four speakers and facilitating the discussion.

First to speak was Jan Scrine, actually by Zoom, proving that it is possible to blend in-person meetings with remote contributions, and Jan's introduction to our milestone and waymarker heritage was well-received. Moving back to the venue for our other three speakers, we were fascinated to learn from Catherine Parker-Heath of her work as Cultural Heritage Officer on the SW Peaks Partnership Project

This has been very much a hands-on project embracing cultural aspects of this part of the Peak District National Park and harnessing local volunteers to become actively involved in restoration and conservation measures to protect and enhance the wider environmental quality. One strand of this is the milestone heritage and we witnessed, through Catherine's images, the extent to which she's championed the project's aims and objectives, with some notable success stories. Besides the physical evidence of restored milestones, it's clear that the level



The venue: A Victorian façade but a warm welcome awaits the Conference delegates
Photo: Rob Westlake

of interest generated has brought dividends in terms of awareness raising and genuine enthusiasm to do more. Interpretation is key to bringing this work to the attention, and interest, of the wider public, and an area where shared knowledge from our Society has played an important part. Catherine's a great communicator – she even promoted the Conference through an interview on BBC Radio Derby the day before the event.

The question on everyone's lips was *"How do we help maintain the momentum of interest already generated by Catherine and her team in the South West Peak Partnership Project, specifically on milestone heritage?"* Regrettably, a bid for additional grant aid to take the project to the next level has been unsuccessful, but there must be more than one way to skin a cat (if skinning a cat is



Catherine Parker-Heath, in the environment in which she revels and encourages others to cherish
Photo: Rob Westlake



SOUTH WEST PEAK

LANDSCAPE AT A CROSSROADS

The logo – but which direction do you take at the crossroads? Peak District National Park Authority.

your objective?). Where there's a will, there's a way, so more power to your elbow Catherine! As a Society, we need to think about how the model can be sustained and how it might be rolled out to other areas - National Parks were mentioned specifically as "host areas".

The next speaker, our expert on restoration and heritage listing, Ian Thompson, had made his way north from Cornwall to share his experiences with working with other heritage bodies, local authorities and contractors. Ian's approach, enthusing but gently cajoling others to deliver, is matched by his own practical skills and pragmatism.

Quoting some examples from Cornwall, Ian demonstrated the techniques he's employed to achieve the best results, not only for the repair and restoration of historic milestones and mileposts, but also in ensuring that they are effectively protected for the future benefit of all through the Listing process. As with most things in life, endeavours reap rewards and Ian's abilities to deliver provide a lasting legacy across the country.

Ian's work is well-known, and acknowledged, by many in the Society, but it's always refreshing to hear also from a new member, and one who has turned her love of the outdoors into a worthwhile hobby. Hilary Jones is a Lancastrian living in Yorkshire, and she brings that northern spirit to the 'task' she has set herself – to restore the milestones along the country roads near her home. And there are quite a few of them, as Hilary has discovered from the Society's databases as well as from her sojourns exploring the beautiful Yorkshire countryside.



Ian Thompson in full flow, hi-viz jacket at the ready. *Photo: Rob Westlake*



Hilary Jones, giving a new member's perspective on restoring milestones; hi-viz vest already donned and ready for the next challenge
Photo: Rob Westlake

Hilary enthused us all with her passion for restoration, taking us through a number of projects she's undertaken, with remarkably impressive results. 'Well-organised' and 'having the correct kit for the job in hand' would be two pre-requisites for success and Hilary showed us first-hand what that involved. Everyone enjoyed Hilary's relaxed and informative style, and I'm delighted that she's agreed to speak again, on a slightly different topic, at our AGM and Conference on 1st October.

Very interesting speakers one and all, and much discussion around the best way to take initiatives like the one in the Peak District forward to other parts of the country. But by far the best aspect of the Conference was the opportunity to meet old friends and meet some new ones on an eyeball to eyeball basis. After the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 over the last two years, how refreshing all this felt. Good venue, good content, good chat, good networking and good food – what more could we wish for on a summer Saturday in Buxton. And a chance to explore the town in good weather, with John Higgins giving us an insight into how to make the most of our visit to this spa resort, the highest market town in England.

L. Bruce Keith Vice Chair of The Milestone Society



And the proof of the pudding is in the eating – here's an example of Hilary's skills and dedication in the Yorkshire Dales. *Photo: Hilary Jones*



SW64150 43270 Tehidy Country Park, Illogan *Photo: Ian Thompson*

Cornwall (Ian Thompson)

Another Tehidy House Milestone found

In Newsletter 40, more than a page was devoted to Linda King's discovery in 2020 of a milestone inscribed TEH / IDY / 2 / MILE on B3301, the north coast road in mid-Cornwall. This appeared to be the only survivor of a set of milestones erected by the Bassetts of Tehidy on the route from their home, Tehidy House, to the church at Gwithian.

In March 2022 Ian Thompson visited the grounds of Tehidy House to look for a stone described as a boundary stone on the HER (ref. MCO 56340). It was marked on the 1880 OS 25" map as 'Stone' in its current location at SW64150 43270, and sketched in Michael Tangye's book 'Tehidy and the Bassetts' (Truran 1984). The stone is the same size (10" by 10" cross section) and shape as

the two miles stone on the coast road, with similar lead filled holes in the top. It is inscribed in similar 2" lettering TO / THE / HOU / SE / 1 / MILE. Michael Tangye thought it was a boundary stone, but it must be the missing one mile stone, moved from the north entrance to the Tehidy Estate (SW6402 4380) to its current position sometime late in the 19th century. It is an OOPS (out of position stone).

Milestone Maintenance

In February, Dave Richardson spotted that the milestone on B3254 at Slipperhill, South Petherwin (SX285788), had been broken in two. This was reported to Cornwall Council highways, who removed the milestone for repair. The break appeared to be clean and could be drilled and pinned together again.



SX285788 Slipperhill
B3258 North Hill

Photo Dave Richardson



SW937682 A39 St Issey
fallen guidestone
Photo Phil Ellery

In April, Phil Ellery reported that the guide stone, at the St Issey turn on A39 road between St Columb and Wadebridge (SW937682), had been knocked flat. The stone appeared to be undamaged, but needed setting upright again. Cornwall Council highways made a neat job of this in May and agreed that Ian Thompson could repaint the stone, which now looks rather smart.



SW937682 A39 St Issey
guidestone set upright
and repainted
Photo: Iain Rowe

In June, the milestone Society received a flurry of reports from Cornwall's milestone watchers about the guidestone at Halwinnick Butts, Linkinhorne (SX3031 7409), which had been knocked by a turning vehicle and was leaning against the bank. Traces of red paint from the vehicle could be seen on the guidestone, which was undamaged. Once again, Cornwall Council highways were contacted and have agreed to set the stone upright.



SX303740 leaning
guidestone at Halwinnick
Butts, Linkinhorne
Photo: Iain Rowe

A30 Chiverton to Carland Cross Improvement

The work to build a new dual carriageway parallel to the existing A30 trunk road in mid-Cornwall is massively evident on the ground. It had been planned to lift two of the run of pre-turnpike milestones on the road, store them safely and return them to their original locations at the completion of the road scheme. In May, Ian Thompson went to check on progress.

The milestone at Carland Cross (SW845539) did not need to be moved after all. It was in its original position, guarded by stripy posts and yellow tape.

Kristina Pill, Costain's engineer in charge of archaeology on the road improvement scheme, showed Ian the other milestone (SW771486) stored on a pallet, swathed in foam plastic, in a locked shipping container in the site compound at Carland Cross, beside two boundary stones, also being stored for safety. One of the boundary stones was broken in two and Ian was able to supply Kristina with details of two Cornish stonemason's experience in repairing this sort of damage. The paperwork for the methodology of lifting, storing and reinstating milestones was exemplary. Any Society member involved in similar conservation projects is welcome to have a copy (from Ian) for guidance.



SW845539 A30 Carland Cross in situ. Photo: Ian Thompson



A30 Carland Cross depot, milestone from SW771486 in protective storage
Photo: Ian Thompson

Cumbria (Terry Moore)

Approval and funding continue to be provided for the restoration of CU_PRCL 04 as reported in NL 42; CU_PRCL 08 is approved and funded, it is hoped to be completed this summer.

The remarkable release of funds to restore the traditional Cumberland cast iron fingerposts has seen more than 10 being restored this spring, some in the Lake District such as ENNERDALE, WASDALE and HESKET NEWMARKET. A further 12 are also being restored in the EDEN Valley this summer thanks to the two Cumbria Highways authorities of EDEN and COPELAND.



Birkerthwaite Fell complete May, 2022. Photo: Terry Moore



Ennerdale (Hotel) complete April, 2022. *Photo: Terry Moore*

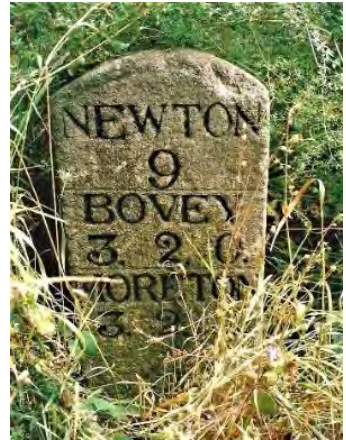


Greedale complete May, 2022. *Photo: Terry Moore*

Devon (Tim Jenkinson)

Lustleigh Beating the Bounds

On May 28th and 29th 2022 the picturesque East Dartmoor village of Lustleigh undertook a Beating of the Bounds procession taking participants to the edges of the parish boundary visiting numerous wayside milestones and boundary posts along the way. Both Max Piper and Paul Rendell who have links with the Milestone Society in Devon joined in and it gave the duo the opportunity to check on the condition of no less than ten markers, all of which were found to be in good condition. Of varying ages and longevity at the roadside, the oldest were two milestones that were set up c1826 by the Newton Bushel Turnpike Trust on what we now know as the A382 which show distances recorded in miles, furlongs and poles to Newton Abbot, Bovey Tracey and Moretonhampstead respectively. The stones visited are as follows:



Milestone SX 7864 8233
Photo: Tim Jenkinson

Boundary Stone SX 7798 8301 **L/M/**

Newton/9/Bovey/3.2.0/Moreton/3.2.0/

Newton/8/Bovey 2.2.0/Moreton/4.2.0/

Boundary Stone SX 7990 8123 **L/B/**

Guidepost SX 7993 8126

To/Bridford/and/Christow/To/Moreton/To/Bovey/

Boundary Stone SX 7791 7922 **Y/**

Boundary Stone SX 7684 7969 **L/M/**

Boundary Stone SX 7515 8457 **L/M/**

Boundary Stone SX 7481 8371 **NB/L/**

Boundary Stone SX 7823 7956 **LP/**



Milestone SX 7983 8134

Photo: Tim Jenkinson

Granite Guideposts on East Dartmoor

There is some excellent news to report relating to two of the Grade II listed granite guideposts on East Dartmoor which featured in the Milestones and Waymarkers Volume Eight in 2015 (page 10-11). Firstly, the post at Reddaford Water on the road between Bovey Tracey and Manaton at SX 7882 7899 has been totally cleared of overhanging vegetation by the landowner. Invasive rhododendron bushes have been removed and for the first time in a generation the marker is visible to passers-by. Inscribed with directions to S.Bovey, Manaton and Lustleigh on its faces and dating to about the 1820s it is one of twenty such markers known to survive in the area.



Reddaford Water Guide Post in context

Photo: Tim Jenkinson



Reddaford Water to Lustleigh



Reddaford Water to S. Bovey

Photos: Tim Jenkinson

Another guidepost at Pool Mill Cross near Tottiford Reservoir at SX 8072 8205 was visited on Bank Holiday Monday May 2nd, 2022, by Paul Buck and me, and was found to be completely hidden in a tall hedge of holly approximately 10 metres to the south of the finger post. Some preliminary clearance of branches was undertaken but much more work is needed to make it visible once more. After the visit I was able to establish contact with Mark Wells the Town Clerk for Bovey Tracey Council who responded promptly to my enquiry and gave a positive response that the stone will be attended to by Parish 'groundsmen'. Both stones described here were Grade II listed in July 1986 and are of considerable heritage significance.

South Zeal Boundary Stone and Interpretation Board

The plight of this Mineral Rights Boundary Marker was highlighted in the Milestone Society Newsletter of Winter 2021 (number 40). We have some very positive news to report on both the recovery, reinstatement, and erection of the marker along with that of an interpretation board for 2022. Thanks go to Society member Paul Buck and South Tawton Parish Council for their perseverance with this project as reported by Tim from the Devon Milestones Newsletter (NL) no 53 from September 2021:

'The Mineral Rights boundary stone in the village of South Zeal in West Devon that has featured in a couple of recent newsletters has been salvaged from beside the footpath where it had lain for decades and has been erected a short distance away in the Recreation Ground car park at SX 6518 9343. Inscribed with SZ/4/ one side and DC/4/ on the other it was first drawn to my attention by Dr Tom Greeves of the Dartmoor Society in 2008 but more recently important interventions by fellow Society member Paul Buck and South Tawton Parish Council have ensured that it will now be preserved as a permanent reminder of the dispute that once took place between the villagers and the Duchy of Cornwall in c1883.'

The work was undertaken by local contractor A.W. Webber after the original agreement fell through. A small interpretation board is being prepared by the Council to explain the purpose of the stone and will contain a commentary that has been compiled by Paul. For further information on the fascinating history of the stones and background to the dispute, visit:

<https://moorlandwalker.co.uk/2021/09/01/dartmoor-the-south-zeal-duchy-of-cornwall-stones/>

and again, in the latest NL number 55 from May 2022

'The mineral rights boundary stone that was recently erected in the Recreation Ground car park in the West Devon village of South Zeal has now acquired its interpretation board courtesy of South Tawton Parish Council. The text on the pristine display explaining the history of the stone and others that survive elsewhere has been provided by none other than our own Milestone Society member Paul Buck who was instrumental in drawing the Council's attention to the plight of the marker and encouraging them to have the stone rescued and positioned in a place where it could be appreciated by the public.'

Congratulations to all those involved. A job well done.



East Wray Boundary Marker 'M'
Photo: Tim Jenkinson



South Zeal Boundary stone upright
Photo: Tim Jenkinson



South Zeal Information Board. Photo: Tim Jenkinson

Lincolnshire (Christine Minto)

AA village signs

Cycling through Herefordshire in the early 1980s I spotted a yellow AA village sign in Collington and took a photo. Later that decade a cycling friend asked for reports of these village signs and he built up a list. Excuses for lots of detours on various cycle tours! Peter later gave me his 1988 slide of one on a red brick wall in Kirkby near Market Rasen in North Lincolnshire. Visits in 1994 and 2001 failed to find it. Detouring off our route this April, son Phil spotted it on a garage door which would have been hidden had not the householder been cleaning her car. We therefore learned of its recent history. They had been given it a few years ago by an old man from another village who said it had been on the smithy which had been next to their newly built property. They are pleased to preserve it and to learn more of the history of these signs. We have also checked that the signs at Alvingham and Thoresway are still in place although couldn't find Northorpe. A villager did say it was a plastic replacement and had gone away for repair because it was peeling!



LI KIRKBYCO. Photo: Christine Minto

If you watch Bangers and Cash on TV, it features Mathewson's in Thornton-le-Dale. They have several Yorkshire AA village signs in their showroom. A visit to check if they had any 'new' ones was on a day they were closed! But we had a chat through railings and, apparently, they are now too expensive if any come up for sale.

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Norfolk (Carol Haines)

The milestone on the B1149 (NO_NH10: Norwich 10/Holt 11) seems to have undergone the same lockdown as Covid sufferers. It was knocked over, possibly during verge mowing, in about September 2020. Cawston Parish Council was notified, and they informed the local Highways Engineer and soon afterwards the stone disappeared. It was eventually back by the road in April 2022.

Work is in progress on several other milestones. NO_NBU6 (Norwich 6/ Bungay 8) and NO_NBU7 (Norwich 7/Bungay 7) on the B1332 at Brooke will be having their

inscriptions made more readable. A milestone with a very chequered history is NO_NSM13 (Norwich 13/Dereham 3). The original Norwich, Swaffham & Mattishall Turnpike was bypassed some years ago by a dual carriageway on the A47, leaving the milestone at the back of a large layby near North Tuddenham. The layby was heavily used by fly tippers and by 2003 the top of the substantial stone had been smashed and the metal plate removed. Norfolk County Council was notified. In 2015 Nigel Ford arranged for the stone to be lifted and stored at a nearby farm.



NO_NSM13 being lifted. *Photo: Nigel Ford*

Five years later Nigel arranged for the stone masons Bretts of Watton to recut the damaged top and engrave a new legend on what had been the rear of the stone, to preserve the bench mark which was originally on the front. The stone will be re-sited near the layby but beside the road where it will be more visible and less susceptible to vandalism.



NO_FS03. *Photo: Roger Harvey*

A beady eye is also being kept on milestones that may be at risk from new developments. At present Persimmon are building a very large housing estate on the former Royal Norwich Golf Course, necessitating major alterations to the A1067. It had been hoped to persuade Persimmon to clean and paint a cast iron milepost (NO_NF02: Norwich 2/Fakenham 22), and thus help to preserve a little bit of local history. The post has always been in a location that was too dangerous for anyone to work on and, as it will have to be taken up and stored by them until work is finished, it would be an ideal opportunity to renovate it. However, Persimmon said: "due to the current strain on our contractors and supply chains we are unable to allocate resource to restoring the milestone". (Check how much their CEO was paid last year!) Hellesdon

parish council have now been approached, with a much more positive response and hopefully the post can be tidied up while it is out of the ground.

Earlier this year it was noticed that NO_FS03 at Raynham on the A1065 (Fakenham 3/Swaffham 13) was missing. It was thought at first that it had been hit by a vehicle, but no debris was found, just a hole. At about the same time there were reports of post boxes going missing. An article in the Eastern Daily Press on 21 June reported that there had been 350 metal thefts in the county since 2017, mostly of lead and copper. A letter was then published from the county representative to point out that cast iron street furniture was also disappearing, presumed stolen, and urging people to keep an eye on local mileposts.

Somerset (Janet Dowding)

Some Somerset mileplates

In 2021 I received a request from Sarah Potepa of Kingsbury Episcopi parish council for any information / details we might have on three milestones in her parish. The parish council was interested in replacing their three mileplates. I accordingly gave what details I had recorded and recommended she approach Cerdic Foundries Ltd for a quote. This was eventually received but the parish council felt the cost quoted was quite expensive and it was not prepared to spend that sort of money. So, Sarah put an article in their parish magazine, asking if any locals



Kingsbury Episcopi ST 4344
2141/W MS ci plate rl 4/
Langport / Crewkerne/ 9 2/84
Photo: Sarah Potepa



Kingsbury Episcopi ST 4270
2278/W MS (Langport 3).
2/84 plate missing
Photo: Janet Dowding

/ business would like to sponsor the possible new plates. I could not help with any other source of funding. This is how the situation stood in 2021. I have now received from Sarah photographs of the three new mileplates.

This milestone is S 245 on the Somerset list. It is outside of Thorney House.

"rl" is raised lettering

This milestone is outside of Norton House. It is S 53 on the Somerset list.



Photo of original plate: *Janet Dowding.*



Photo of new plate: *Sarah Potepa.*

Kingsbury Episcopi ST 4170 1901/N MS ci plate rl 6/Langport/ Crewkerne/7 2/84 plate damaged and removed 2/840. This milestone is outside of New Cross Farmhouse. It is S 246 on the Somerset list.

"ci" is cast iron

All three milestones were part of the Langport, Somerton and Castle Cary Trust.

S 245 is SO_LPCW03

S 53 is SO_LPCW04

S 246 is SO_LPCW06.

Below are "before " and "after" photos taken by Janet Dowding (before) and Sarah Potepa (after).



Yorkshire (Christine Minto)

North Yorkshire

In March Hilary Jones painted one of the more ornate Mattison castings 2 miles west of Thirsk YN_RPTK09 and then in April she found a new milestone south of Bedale at Carthorpe on the minor road to Ripon. As it is unlike any others she enquired at the nearby house and found that the owner had carved the stone himself. Now retired he has an interest in archaeology and local history and one hobby is stone-carving. A lovely Yorkshire rose and hands. A lovely Yorkshire rose and hands.



YN_RPTK09

Photo: Hilary Jones

Hilary has also taken newer photos than mine of several milestones in the Skipton, Northallerton, Ripon and Thirsk areas. A mile from Pateley Bridge, this post was discovered in 2005 by Brian Bradley-Smith in a pile of grit salt. He re-set it by the wall and repainted it. Many years of winter weather have taken its toll of this 'listed' post.



YN_RPBD08

Photo: Hilary Jones

On the longest day of the year Hilary went to Grinton and spent many hours painting the last milepost on the B6270. These Mattison posts had the hands cast pointing the wrong way and she decided as with the 8 mile stone (NL42 P18) to paint then as cast. An attached 1 had been lost but easy to paint although a nearby pole made it too awkward to paint MILE.



YN_RPPB10. Photo: Hilary Jones



Before and after pics YN_RCRT10rust & YN_RCRT10. *Photos: Hilary Jones*

Seldom are 'new' old milestones found in Yorkshire but Hilary has found one on the old route out of Skipton towards Settle on White Hills Lane. This was the line of the Keighley, Skipton and Kirby in Kendal turnpike of 1753.



YN_SKSE01. *Photo: Hilary Jones*

West Yorkshire

In 2016 an 18/19C guidestone west of the A1 was knocked over probably by a large agricultural vehicle accessing the field. I reported the 'listed' stone to the Parish Council. In November 2019 it was still not upright but in April this year it had been righted. It may be on an old route from the Great North Road to Wakefield.



Before & after YW_XDAR19, YW_XDAR22. *Photos: Christine Minto*

All Yorkshire

Son and I have had several forays into all areas and have checked if milestones are still in situ and what their current condition is. Nothing missing except a WRCC milestone in Cowling near Keighley. But that was attacked by a young driver and is being restored. The next stone along the A6068 towards Colne is a WRCC one but it is on the verge between the county signs for Yorkshire and Lancashire. Who 'owns' the verge and the crutch?



YN_ADCO11. *Photo: Christine Minto*

Scotland

Aberdeenshire

North of Aberdeen on the route towards Huntly, there is the 12 mile stone near Chris Mc Brien's house. It has been badly sunken and leaning for many years. Now with son's help, a fork, pick-axe, spade and a lot of huffing and puffing it has been straightened and is looking smart with its new coat of paint.

John Riddell found a reference on the HES site to an unusual milestone included in the listing for a building in Stonehaven. The stone is set in a niche at the corner of 19

Bridgefield, a commercial premises that has been a joinery and rug workshop. It is on the south bank of the Carron Water, next to the bridge. The bridge was built in 1781 for Stonehaven New Town, was widened with iron beams in 1885 and rebuilt in 1973. Flood defence works are under construction creating a new riverbank flood wall. The sides of the milestone taper towards the front and the top is a shallow bevel. The very weathered sandstone had been rendered but most is now missing.



On the top the legend is BERVIE 10 with L14 (Laurencekirk) on the left hand side and A14 (Aberdeen) on the right. Below the milestone is a commemorative stone. It details the Barclay family history which was on the keystone of the 1781 bridge now concealed by the 1885 widening. Theobald /Barclay /1150 (first Barclays ancestor in Scotland) Mathers/1351 (Barclays acquired Mathers estate)/URIE/1647 (Barclays bought Urie estate)/worn away/1781.

AD_ADHN12. Photo: Chris McBrien

AD_SHLK00

Photo: John Riddell



AD_SHLK00v. Photo: John Riddell



AD_NO7569wbalhagarty
Photo: John Riddell

John also found a fingerpost with a KINCARDINE CC halo at West Balhagarty on the B9120 towards Laurencekirk. A sole reminder of this former county.

Bruce Keith was giving a talk in the far north east of Aberdeenshire and told of a milestone not far away on the Fraserburgh to Macduff and Banff road. There are 16 MSs marked on that road so more to be discovered.

Two adjacent stones have been found on a track south of the Macduff Distillery near Banff. The 1 mile stone may be an estate stone as lands to the east and west of the River Deveron belonged to the Duff estate. The 19 mile stone was probably on the B9031 near Silverhills many years ago.



AD_FBMD10. Photo: Bruce Keith



AD_estBF01FBBF19. Photo: Mel Towler

Argyll & Bute

At Tighnabruaich on the Cowal Peninsula Peter MacBride has dug out and repainted his third 'Dunoon plate'. Sunk to half its height it now stands proud and visible.



AB_TGOF01

Photo: Peter MacBride



CE_EDGW02

Photo: John Riddell

City of Edinburgh

As well as arranging for information plates to be set at the first two milestones out of Edinburgh on the Glasgow road, John Riddell has had a minor repair done to the 2 mile stone with the missing W of Glasgow expertly engraved.

New members Barry & Rachel Marshall have a milestone in their back garden which John Riddell has been to check out. Some years ago it would have stood by the roadside. The 5 mile stone on a cut-off piece of road in Hermiston, the very sunken 6 mile stone by Addison bridge and this one are all the same basic shape and like no others along this route, one of several between Edinburgh & Glasgow.



CE_EDWS07. Photo: Barry Marshall

Dumfries & Galloway

Jacqueline Crowther, our new member in Wigtownshire, has been clearing vegetation and soil from around several of her local milestones and repainting the inscriptions. She has also found a 'new' stone and worked on it.

Wigtownshire extended westwards from Newton Stewart to the coast with three peninsulas including the Mull of Galloway, the southernmost tip of Scotland. The Wigtown stones are narrow quadrants with a letter, arrow and number of two faces or occasionally on the bevel as well. Many are on narrow verges and leaning



DG_WGPW09

Photo: Jacqueline Crowther

considerably like this one at Bladnoch bridge and need professional help to be set upright.

In Wigtownshire now part of D & G is to be found a unique fingerpost. It is 4 miles north of Port William at the head of Loch Elrig and is the only known surviving fingerpost with a Scottish Automobile Club finial. Jacqueline has taken some photographs and John Riddell has researched its possible origins.



DG_WGWH01

Photo: Jacqueline Crowther

The SAC, founded in 1899, became the Royal SAC in 1931. Cast on the bottom edge of each finger is Scottish Tube Co. Set up in 1912 and taken over in 1931, John estimates the date of the fingerpost to be 1912-14.



DG_NX3249elrigv & DG_NX3249elrigf. Photos: Jacqueline Crowther

Alverie Weighill has 'found' two more tollhouses. Bectonhall is on the B6357 between Kirkpatrick Fleming and Canonbie and Priorhill on the B6357 from Canonbie to Newcastleton. Over 40 tollhouses have been recorded for D&G.



DG.BECTONHALL. Photo: Alverie Weighill



DG.PRIORHILL. Photo: Alverie Weighill

East Dunbarton

On a foray into East Dunbartonshire John Riddell took photos of two recently painted 'Glasgow Royal Exchange' plates. The view of the top shows the shape of these plates.



ED_GWAF05 ED_GWDRO5. Photos: John Riddell





EL_NT5981whitk
Photo: Christine Minto



EL_NT7672dunglass
Photo: Christine Minto



EL_NT4663humbiemains
Photo: John Riddell

Fife

Photographer Richard Barron sent a picture of one of the 1824 Newport/Pettycur plates that was recorded without a photo. He also sent two of the typical Fife capped milestones. One has its original cap; the other has one of the 2010 replacements made at the Boness foundry. These are recognizable by the use of plain capital letters.



1FF_NPCP14. Photo: Richard Barron



FF_SACE02. Photo: Richard Barron

Highland

Photographs of two stones on General Wades Military Road southeast from Inverness were sent by a local. This route peters out into a track about a mile from the B8082. One stone, upright, is used as a house name; the other is laid on the verge 40 metres away. The stones are the typical shape for this area but a mystery as to whether they are on their original route or brought from somewhere else.



HI_AIRD
Photo: Denis Ayers

Perth & Kinross

On High Street, Kinross, Paul Hornby spotted a Fife, Type F, milestone mostly hidden in a wall. On the original 34 mile route from Perth to North Ferry just 5 of these stones survive, only 2 with caps.



PK_PTKR17. Photo: Paul Hornby



STL_NN5620khouse
Photo: Christine Minto

Stirling

At Kings House which the A84 now by-passes is a unique fingerpost which once had three fingers and an added plate for A84. Occasionally painted, with the ball and bands in red, a temporary sign is condoned and the plate at ground level says it is Victorian.

Just south of Doune after crossing the River Teith there is an old tollhouse. When I first saw it in 2009 it was lived in and well looked after. In March this year John Riddell found it derelict.



ST.DOUNE09. Photo: Christine Minto



ST.DOUNE. *Photo: John Riddell*

West Lothian

With cooperation between John Riddell and West Lothian authorities some of the milestones around Livingston and Calder have been attended to. One which was in a garden centre, and knocked over, has been set up near its original site with an explanatory plaque. Bruce Keith knows the area well and now, with John, is pushing for more work on several stones without spending too much money. They do both speak with a Scottish accent!



WL_EDWS14. *Photo: John Riddell*

On the A899, West Main Street, in Broxburn John Riddell found a very new stone. It was set up in 2018 as part of the Broxburn & Uphall Heritage Trail. This area was famous for its huge oil shale industry. It may have been made from an old square gatepost. The legends on all four sides are in a modern font with fletched arrows pointing the way. The 15 miles to the Pentland Hills will be by a rather tortuous route.



WL_EDGWnew
Photo: John Riddell

Other News

At the entrance to Howden House in Livingston there is a large bullet shaped stone. It has the same dimensions as the four stones to be found in Edinburgh on the road to Queensferry. The late 18C 5 mile route of the Cramond Turnpike Trust was shortened to 4 miles when new bridges were built at Cramond in 1825 and Thomas Telford's Dean Bridge over the Water of Leith in 1832. In 1834 Howden House was bought by Henry Raeburn Junior (1784-1863), son of Sir Henry Raeburn, portrait painter and Stockbridge, Edinburgh property developer. Sir Henry is known to have had 'shrewd' property dealings with the Cramond District Trust. So, was this stone the one not needed when the route was shortened?



CE EDQFx. *Photo: John Riddell*

The 14 miles from Edinburgh stone in the Livingston area had been at a Garden Centre and knocked over. But it and the 13 mile stone on the Carnwath route have been reset with informative plaques nearby.

Other News

Mounting Blocks and Milestones

Mounting Blocks pre-date milestones

In *Milestones & Waymarkers Volume Thirteen 2021*, Ian Thompson pulled together the work of a whole team of researchers who sought to learn more about the mounting blocks set beside the Great North Road by London entrepreneur Edmund Boulter at the very start of the 18th century. Each mounting block was carved from a single block of high-quality stone and bore Mr Boulter's initials, EB and a date which varied between 1703 and 1708.



Edmund Boulter mounting block, Sibson Inn Hotel. E.B. 1703. *Photo: David Hinds*

The team found four surviving mounting blocks and written references to five others.

It was sometime later that Ian tracked down a key piece of documentary evidence in 'A Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain', written by Daniel Defoe and published in 1724. Defoe's book was enormous and most current editions are abridged, missing out any reference to Boulter. After searching fruitlessly through copies in Cornish libraries, Ian found a complete, searchable version on Google Books. In Volume 3 on page 28, Defoe wrote '*At every Mile from Grantham to Stangate are Stones set up by Mr Boulter, which he designed to have carry'd on to London, for the general Benefit.*' The two important points here are that Defoe states the mounting blocks were '**at every Mile**', just like milestones, and that Boulter had planned to have them run all the way 'to London'. Sadly, Boulter died in 1709, which is why his mounting block mile markers stopped at Stangate Hill (TL183796) just south of Sawtry.

Mounting Blocks which are not Milestones

Mounting blocks were an everyday feature of the pre-motoring age. One would expect that they would be erected where people needed to get on or off a horse. Mounting blocks are common at stately homes and at churches. Historic England lists one thousand and eighty-nine mounting blocks as Grade II historic buildings. A start was made to see if any of these were set beside roads at intervals of one mile, but no success has been achieved so far.



Oxfordshire mounting block not a mile marker
Photo: Derek Turner

Derek Turner noted some mounting blocks in Oxfordshire which were not near any buildings. It seemed that they might be set at the top or bottom of hills, where a rider would want to mount or dismount to ease the load on their horse.

Historic England usually gives a date for a listed building. Mounting blocks are rarely inscribed, so a date is usually an estimate or based on the date of an adjacent building. Thus, for the first forty mounting blocks on the List, almost all were described as 18th or 19th century. One was 'late 17th century', one was 1730, one was 'pre-1700' and one was 'possibly Medieval'.

Mounting blocks as Guide stones

In the last Newsletter (Number 42 January 2022) Ben Stables wrote a fascinating article about mounting blocks which were used as direction posts in Shelf on a non-turnpike road between Bradford and Halifax. The surviving mounting block had the remains of an inscription on the left face, while another mounting block, now lost but illustrated very clearly in the Bradford Weekly Telegraph of 1899, had an intact inscription on the right face. Both stones are marked on the 1908 Ordnance Survey 25" map, where the lost mounting block is marked 'G.S.' for Guide Stone and the surviving mounting block is marked 'G.P' for Guide Post. It seems likely that both mounting blocks were set up at the same time in the early 18th century, and Ben is hoping archive research could give him a precise date. No other mounting blocks used as direction posts in this way are known to the Milestone Society.



Mounting block with pointing hand and erased directions West Street Shelf
Photo: Ben Stables

Mounting Blocks as Milestones

There are many milestones in Yorkshire which look like mounting blocks.

North Yorkshire has over five hundred milestones on our database, of which eight are 'mounting blocks'.

Christine Minto writes on Geograph that the York to Oswaldkirk Bank turnpike in North Yorkshire originally marked each mile by a wooden pole. When these rotted away stepstones were erected at 3-mile intervals.'

West Yorkshire has almost four hundred milestones on our database of which six are 'Bradford Steps' and six are 'Otley Stepstones'.



North Yorkshire step-stone milestone
SE61338028 To Helmsley 2 Miles To
YORK 21 Miles
Photo: Christine Minto



West Yorkshire 'Otley Stepstone' at SE2479 4161

Photo: Christine Minto

East Yorkshire has just over one hundred milestones, but a remarkable fifty-one of these are mounting blocks.

South Yorkshire has a hundred and fifty milestones, none of which are mounting blocks.

Are there mounting block milestones in other counties?

Not Mounting Blocks but Traveller's Rests

Mike Bryan had been sketching around Warrington in the 1970s stones with steps which looked like long, low mounting blocks. Mike had found seven surviving stones. Typically, over five feet long and sixteen inches high with a step at each end, they were inscribed 'TRAVELLERS' REST' with the name of the local philanthropist who had paid for them. The Travellers' Rests appear to be a set of stones, all set up at about the same time on the outskirts of Warrington, for the benefit of poor pedestrians trudging between Liverpool and Manchester in search of work, erected by a philanthropic medical man, James Kendrick and his friends. An illustration taken from the Warrington newspaper of 1859 shows weary travellers making full use of a stone, with a report from Dr Kendrick. There was also a wonderful short video by DJ Johnny from a local radio station, which gave much useful information. Do have a look at it.



East Yorkshire plated mounting block milestone TA0878 4257

Photo: David Rogers

What shape should a milestone be?

One wonders why milestones are the shape they are. It seems reasonable that they should be tombstone shaped, if they were made by a mason who made tombstones, but there is a huge variety of shapes of milestone. We know that Telford designed his own milestones, but who designed the first milestone and what shape was it? Did the idea really come from the Romans? If so, why are the early milestones not monolithic cylinders like their Roman counterparts? Should they not be dedicated to the British Sovereign in the way Roman stones were always dedicated to an Emperor? Where did the idea of milestones set one statute mile apart actually come from?

Ian Thompson

Toll house books.

Further to David Viner's note about spare copies of the toll house books, I too have some spare copies if anyone is interested, as follows:

Toll houses of Cambridgeshire - 3 copies

Toll houses of Suffolk - 3 copies

Toll houses of Essex - 3 copies

Toll houses of Norfolk - 3 copies

and quite a few copies of Toll Houses of Somerset.

If anyone would like any of these, please e mail me:

janetdowding1942@btinternet.com.

Janet Dowding

AGM/Annual Conference

The AGM/Annual Conference will be held at Long Compton Village Hall, Warwickshire on the 1st October, 2022 (Full details will be sent later).

The Conference will include an update on the Four Shires stone project. This stone is located close to Long Compton and marks the junction of four counties. Details of the project can be found on fourshirestone.org.uk website.

Looking Ahead

Many thanks to everyone returning their renewal forms (or otherwise confirming or amending the contact information we hold) and for renewing their memberships with us. There remains a small number from whom we have yet to hear; if you are one of those, this will have been indicated by the note "Please renew now" on your address label. If you have that entry, please note that this will be the last mailing we will send to you unless we hear from you.

Ken Hawkins Membership Secretary

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Contributions for inclusions in the Summer *Newsletter* should reach the editor Richard Raynsford by 31 January 2023. 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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BACK PAGE: Traditional fingerpost, Pilton, Somerset (site of Glastonbury Festival)

Photo Richard Raynsford

CC
CS

NORTH WOOTTON $2\frac{1}{4}$
GLASTONBURY $6\frac{1}{4}$

WEST PENNARD $1\frac{3}{4}$
SHEPTON MALLET $3\frac{1}{4}$

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CS