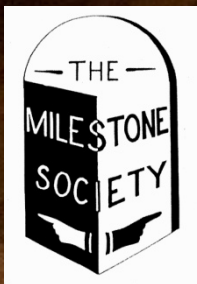


# The Milestone Society

Newsletter 46

Winter 2024



## MILESTONE SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2024

Sir Neil Cossons	Patron	
Robert Westlake	Chair	<a href="mailto:rww@milestonesociety.co.uk">rww@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Hilary Jones	Vice-Chair	<a href="mailto:webadmin@milestonesociety.co.uk">webadmin@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Alison Montgomery	Hon Secretary	<a href="mailto:honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk">honsec@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Julia Stanbridge	Hon Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@milestonesociety.co.uk">treasurer@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
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Paul Gibbons	Committee Member	
Mike Hallett	Committee Member	<a href="mailto:mwh@milestonesociety.co.uk">mwh@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Bruce Keith	Committee Member	<a href="mailto:bk@milestonesociety.co.uk">bk@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>

### Specific Roles and Responsibilities

Archives	Bruce Keith, David Viner
County Contacts	List available from Membership Sec.
Database Managers	Paul Barnett, Mike Hallett, Mike Rayner, Mr Red <a href="mailto:database@milestonesociety.co.uk">database@milestonesociety.co.uk</a> , Hilary Jones
Web Presence Co-ordination	Richard Raynsford
Editor – <i>Newsletter</i>	Derek Turner
Editor – <i>Milestones &amp; Waymarkers</i>	Carol Haines, Mike Hallett,
Editorial Panel (in addition to above)	Ian Thompson
Heritage & Conservation Agencies Liaison	Jeremy Milln
Highway Liaison Manager	Alan Reade
Milestone and road history heritage	Mervyn Benford, Carol & Alan Haines
Conservation, restoration & listing enquiries	Ian Thompson <a href="mailto:enquiries@milestonesociety.co.uk">enquiries@milestonesociety.co.uk</a>
Theft & Recovery Liaison	Robert Caldicott

### Cover Photo

Milestone Scarecrow *Photo: Jacqueline Crowther*

## **Milestone Scarecrow**

The front cover of this edition of *The Milestone Society Newsletter* shows a scarecrow made by Jacqueline Crowther. She has sent the following information on the display.

“I live on the Southwest coast of Scotland in a wee village called Port William. Every summer we have a 10-day long carnival with lots of different events and activities for our villagers and any visitors/tourists in the area at the time.

Last summer saw the introduction of a scarecrow competition. I am now well known locally as the “Port William milestone fairy”. I take care of and try to keep about 30 of them visible for all to enjoy.

It had been suggested by someone in the village I could dress up as a milestone for the carnival fancy dress parade however, I chose to enter a milestone scarecrow into the scarecrow competition.

The milestone scarecrow was made from a large cardboard box. My usual paints were used to paint it. Tights were used and stuffed to make the head and a wig attached. Old leggings were stuffed with used plastics to create the legs. The plastic used for these was taken to the plastic re-cycling bin after use. Some of my old wellie boots I wear when attending to local milestones were used. Very authentic as these were already covered in paint. The legends painted on it indicate distance to our village and a neighbouring popular town.

The scarecrows were all displayed in the village square outside the main carnival marquee. One is still standing!

It didn't win a prize unfortunately. The more traditional scarecrows won all the prizes. I think it was maybe just a little bit too alternative for the traditionalists in our village judging the competition. It did however turn a lot of heads, make people smile and tell me I was robbed! Numerous people approached me, they knew it was me and told me it should have won a prize! But I'm not bitter!

It was great fun.”

*Jacqueline Crowther*

## Editorial

Another year, another Milestone Society *Newsletter*! I am pleased to say that I have received numerous contributions and hope you enjoy reading about the continuing work of the individuals and groups who are helping to maintain and restore our rich highway heritage.

The 2023 AGM took place at Coleshill in October when there was a slight change to the Committee with Hilary Jones taking over as Vice Chairman and Bruce Keith remaining as a committee member with special responsibility for archives. The AGM agreed to a slight change in subscription rates from the 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, these are £15 single members, £20 joint members, £25 groups, £30



Photo: Rob Westlake

overseas members, and £7.50 junior members. The Society has moved its archives to a building at Alfreton thanks to the generosity of Paul Gibbons. This, however is a temporary measure to enable the material to be sorted before it is offered to a relevant library, museum or archive. The Society would like to thank David Viner for storing the archives at his home for a number of years and his work cataloguing the items. Most of the Society's policies have now been reviewed and can be read on our website. At the AGM, the final Terry Keegan Award was presented by Jan Scrine to Alan Reade, our chair of Trustees, for his service to the Society.



HI\_TYKL23

Photo: Ray Harwood

A feature I am thinking of including in the *Newsletter* is the subject of Nostalgia, I have a large collection of old postcards that show highway heritage and wondered if members would like to share their pictures with us. I have already received some pictures that fit the bill. The first shows Derek Walker on his BSA A7 beside a milestone on the A82 between Glencoe and the Bridge of Orchy in July 1953, I am pleased to say that the milestone is still in situ.



Posted on our local Facebook was a photograph of a traditional Somerset signpost being badly treated, as far as I know the fingerpost is still in situ. *Richard Raynsford*

## **Message from our Chairman**

We are considering holding hybrid Annual General Meetings in future after only a limited number of members were able to join us last October in Coleshill. As a registered charity our AGM's must be held in person but with live streaming of the meeting online, we can hopefully engage with many more members.

Can any of our members help us, or know of anyone that could help us, with the technicalities of live streaming the event?

The Society will use a meeting venue that has suitable Wi-fi facilities. If no volunteers are forthcoming, we may need to employ the services of a commercial company near the venue to provide this service for us.

Please contact our chairman, Rob. [rww@milestonesociety.co.uk](mailto:rww@milestonesociety.co.uk) if you can help.

## **The Milestone Society Award Scheme**

At our 2023 AGM Ian Thompson, our conservation advisor, introduced the new Milestone Society Award Scheme. Since 2012 an annual award in memory of our founder Terry Keegan has been awarded to a postgraduate student on the heritage conservation course at Birmingham City University. As this had been running for ten years it was proposed a new initiative should be launched with a much wider scope. Rather than one annual award there would no annual limit.

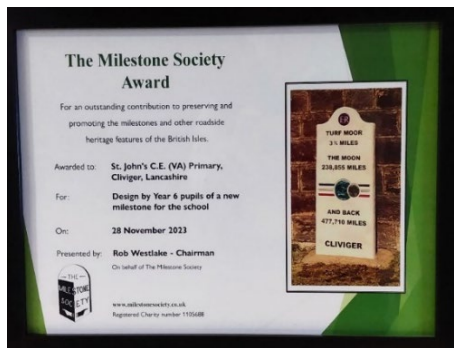
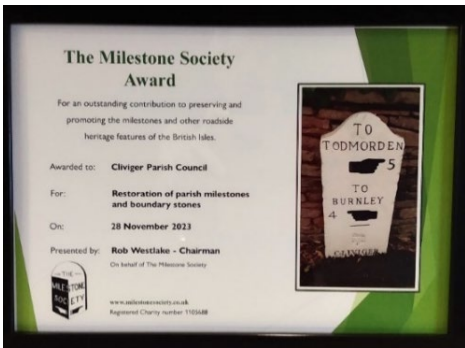
Ian, in conjunction with Derek Turner (Journal editor), recommended a certificate should be awarded to an individual or organisation that had completed a significant project to further the aims of the Society. Any member may propose a project for nomination, and these will be initially reviewed by an Awards Sub-group. Currently this comprises – Rob Westlake (Chair), Hilary Jones (Vice-chair), Bruce Keith (Trustee) and Ian Thompson. Recommended nominees will be put forward for approval by the committee.

The inaugural two awards were presented at the end of November 2023 to Cliviger Parish Council and St John's Primary School in Cliviger. Their projects were outlined in our Summer 2023 newsletter (Page 20) and a longer article will be appearing in the 2024 *Milestones & Waymarkers* journal. Coverage of the award appeared in the local press and has been picked up nationally by the Heritage Alliance. It's hoped positive publicity of future awards will increase public awareness of the good work of the Society. Please email Rob Westlake to submit a nomination.

*Hilary Jones*



Presentation of awards to Cliviger Parish Council and St John's Primary School, Cliviger November 2023 Photo: Rob. Westlake



### Facebook finds

The Milestone Society Facebook group continues to develop with an increase in membership of nearly 50% in 2023 and now stands at over 1,500 members. The information posted has been very helpful for updating and expanding our database records. For the milestone database we've had 18 new finds recorded and Paul Barnett has copied the details to the relevant County Contacts. We've also had multiple additions to the boundary stone, bridge marker and fingerpost databases.

A request for photos of toll houses, where we didn't already have one in our records, also produced a strong response with at least 20 images supplied.

Although most of the group are not subscribing members of the Society, they have been willing to engage in useful work supporting our aims. This has included reporting damaged milestones to the relevant authority, reporting milestones being advertised online for sale, logging images of listed milestones on the Historic England website and cutting back vegetation to make milestones visible.

It has been useful for recruitment with 9 new members mentioning it as how they found out about the Society.

*Hilary Jones*

Here are some items from 2023.



CU\_CMMP07 Cockermouth & Maryport Turnpike Trust (COCKERMOUTH / COURT-HOUSE / 7 MILES / MARYPORT / MARKET-PLACE / ¼ MILES



NB\_ALCO06 – Alston Turnpike Trust. ALLENDALE 6 / (Coalcleugh 2¼)



Damage to YN\_MAP101a posted on Facebook April, 2023, reported to North Yorkshire Council who repaired the damage in July 2023



## Wiltshire Milestone Society County Contact

I shall be retiring as county contact for Wiltshire in June and need to find a replacement. The County is fortunate in having retained a very large number of stones. We also have two complete surveys with photos completed by enthusiasts between 30 and 50 years ago. Through the efforts of one of these enthusiasts many of our stones are listed. There are some major road projects underway and much housebuilding which will give opportunities for restoration. There are also opportunities for further research into the stones, who made them, the routes, and the traffic. A very rewarding county to work in. If interested, please contact me via the Editor.

*Doug Roseaman*

## Recovery of 18<sup>th</sup> century milestone

In April 2023 our Honorary Secretary received an email from a member of the public of an old milestone advertised for sale at £250 on Facebook Marketplace. Visible on the photo was YORK and TAD 5 which placed it originally in North Yorkshire.

I contacted the seller, who turned out to be a groundworks contractor based near Otley and arranged to view the milestone. He had recently acquired it from a farmer at Towton near Tadcaster. The farmer found the milestone in one of his fields at Barkston Ash when it was hit by his plough “over 30 years ago”.



Tadcaster milestone  
Facebook advert



Damaged Ferrybridge face

The text was **YORK 14/**  
**TAD 5** on one face and an  
(FE)R 7 on a damaged face.  
This would have been for  
Ferrybridge.

Research on the 1849 OS  
6-inch map showed it was  
originally situated on the  
east side of what is now  
the A162, originally the

Doncaster and Tadcaster Trust Turnpike, south of Barkston Ash at SE 48997 35535. The dimensions and shape of the milestone are consistent with the 18<sup>th</sup> century in situ Grade 2 listed milestone (YN\_DNTC18a) further south on the A162 at Betteras Hill <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1167565>.

The 1892 map shows it still in place but by 1908 it has disappeared from the map and a new milestone is shown south of the railway at the current location of the Grade 2 listed West Riding County Council milepost (YN\_DNTC22).

In discussion with Christine Minto, it was agreed that the best home for the milestone would be at a museum rather than at the roadside given it had been missing for over 100 years. She suggested The Ark, a listed building in Tadcaster, as a suitable home. Since 1992 it has been the offices of Tadcaster Town Council but



Extract from 1849 6-inch OS map

in the 1980's had been run as a local museum by the Civic Society. Displayed in the rear yard of the premises there are several old guidestones.



The Ark, Tadcaster Geograph Photo: J. Thomas

The Town Council were contacted and at their August meeting agreed to accept the milestone for safe keeping at The Ark. During this time, I'd been in touch with the vendor, and it was still for sale at the reduced price of £150. Once we had a home for the milestone, I made an offer to the vendor at the beginning of September of £75 which he

reluctantly accepted. The cheap price meant it had to be collected and delivered to The Ark so the 500kg weight capacity of my little van was tested!



Being lifted into yard



In place in The Ark

*Photos: Tadcaster Town Council*

It was delivered into temporary storage in Tadcaster (at a local brewery) on 25<sup>th</sup> September and then moved into the yard at The Ark on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. The cost for the installation work (£150) was shared 50/50 between the Town Council and The Milestone Society. The milestone ID is

**YN\_XTADI** (*lower case L*) as part of the collection of 11 other recorded out of place stones at The Ark or near Tadcaster.

Our discussions with the Town Council have resulted in contact with Tadcaster Historical Society who are going to work with us in 2024 to produce an information leaflet covering all the guidestones and milestones now on display at The Ark.

*Hilary Jones – North Yorkshire contact*

### **Northallerton area mileposts**

There has been good progress in 2023 with the painting of mileposts in the Northallerton area. On my way to paint a couple on the A167 at the end of August I spotted the one on the A684 at Ainderby Steeple (YN\_NALB03) had gone white! Subsequently discovered via the village Facebook group it was a local resident who lived opposite. She had never tackled one before but has done a good job. She was nervous about finishing off the curved black stripe and the rose on the top plate, so they remain for another day.



YN\_NALB03 Ainderby



August 2023



September 2023

Photos: Hilary Jones

I was only successful in painting one milepost myself (YN\_NABB07) as the other one at Sandhutton (YN\_NABB08) had just been enclosed within a Heras fence for the start of a housing development. Have been in touch with the developer and in Spring 2024 we will be meeting up to discuss painting and how the milepost will be included with the site landscaping.



Before A167 S. of  
Northallerton  
YN\_NABB07

A local history enthusiast in Northallerton got in touch to offer to paint a couple on the A167 north of the town. We agreed the best one to tackle first would be YN\_NADL01 as it's in a very safe location with easy parking. After giving him advice on paint to use etc. he completed it in October 2023.



After

Photos: Hilary Jones



To be continued - YN\_NABB08  
A167 Sandhutton  
Photo: Hilary Jones



Before - A167 Northallerton  
YN\_NADL01  
Photo: Hilary Jones



After - YN\_NADL01  
Photo: Colin Narramore

Hilary Jones – North Yorkshire contact

## Cornwall (Ian Thompson)

### Burras Bridge Milestone knocked over (again)

Mike Hallett spotted a Listed Building Consent application concerning a Cornish milestone in Burras in July 2023. The bridge at Burras is at the bottom of a hill on a bend on B3297 between Helston and Redruth.

The bridge is Grade II listed, as is the adjacent milestone. Both were 'damaged by a vehicle impact'. The milestone and the end stone on the bridge needed setting upright and the bridge handrail needed replacement.

Fortunately, neither the milestone nor the bridge end stone was cemented into place. They were simply set firmly in the soil. The vehicle impact knocked them flat but did not damage the granite stones. There were no details of the damage inflicted on the vehicle.



Burras Bridge and milestone on B3297  
Photo: Ian Thompson

## A Sponsored Fingerpost

The Roseland peninsula in mid-Cornwall has a high survival rate of Cornish-made cast iron fingerposts. The area is also fortunate to have a full survey of its fingerposts completed in 1964 and now deposited in Kresen Kernow, the Cornish record office. Local historian and fingerpost enthusiast Nev Meek wanted to use the survey to produce replicas to replace some of the missing fingerposts.



King Harry Ferry *Photo: Marilyn Thompson*

Several missing fingerposts had arms pointing to 'KING HARRY'. This is the King Harry Ferry which crosses the River Fal to link the Roseland peninsula to Truro. The King Harry Ferry still operates, and Nev wanted to approach the ferry company for sponsorship for a fingerpost pointing to KING HARRY. With drawings and dimensions from the 1964 survey, he would approach the foundry at Wadebridge for a price.

## Moving a St Agnes Milestone

Archaeologists are not experts on all the artefacts they must deal with. A senior archaeologist with the Cornwall Archaeological Unit was called in to record and advise work on a milestone near St Agnes (CW\_TOAG08a at SW7199 4975). The road was being widened and the milestone needed to be moved back. The milestone was carefully excavated with photographs and notes being made during the process.

The archaeologist believed the milestone to be a listed triangular stone with two attached plates. One plate she thought was plastic and one was aluminium. Initially she thought the milestone was on a separate rectangular base, but excavation revealed that the base was part of the milestone. The milestone had a benchmark, and she was concerned about the accuracy of this, since the milestone seemed to have sunk below the road surface.

Her careful fieldwork recording needed to be backed up by a little research. Milestone Society records can be accessed from our website or directly from the Geograph website browser. The Milestone Society records showed that this milestone was not listed. This was because it had lost its original plates. However, the current plates were copies made by a local charity and were cast iron replicas, like the originals, not plastic or aluminium. The milestone is one of a small group set up by The St Agnes Highway Board in about 1890, when this road and several others were to be made Main Roads

with maintenance funding from the new Cornwall County Council (*Royal Cornwall Gazette* 6 November 1890). A precise description of the milestone was given in 1890 by County Surveyor James Hickes – ‘Mileposts to be set up – granite with diagonal faces and cast-iron tablets on a square base’ (Redruth Vestry Book, Kresen Kernow P197/8/1).

The milestone had not sunk, but the road surface had risen through successive layers of tarmac being added, and the bank had fallen, partly burying the milestone. The junction between dressed and undressed stone was clear on the milestone, once it had been removed from the ground, so it was clear to what depth it should be set in its modified location. The Milestone Society’s advice was that setting the milestone to the correct depth for stability was more important than maintaining the exact accuracy of the benchmark’s height above sea level.

Collaboration between the Milestone Society and Cornwall’s Historic Environment Record team in the past meant that a detailed record of the milestone and its history were available on the HER. A link to the HER was given on the entry on the Geograph website.

### Cumbria (Terry Moore)

CU\_PRCL 04 at BOGGLE HALL, on the A6 near PLUMPTON previously reported in newsletter No.45 was successfully restored and returned. This was joint funded by HESKET Parish Council and the Milestone Society.



SW7199 4975 New plates made in 2011 by St Agnes Improvement Committee. Photo: Ian Thompson



CU\_PRCL04 Boggle Hall, PLUMPTON Photos: Terry Moore

CU\_CLBR 04 at WARWICK ON EDEN was restored for the Wetheral Parish who also funded the restoration of 3 Cumberland fingerposts at CUMWHINTON, LOW STRUMBLE and COTEHILL.



CU\_CLBR04 Warwick on Eden Restored July 2023



COTEHILL fingerpost Completed Aug. 2023  
Photos: Terry Moore



CU\_CLCN12 being removed  
Photo: Terry Moore

Progress on restoring the listed milestone CU\_CLCN 12 at GOWANHOLES WOOD, east of BRAMPTON following a collision in 2021 is ongoing. It has now been removed by the Highways authority and is being restored at the author's home. It will be relocated 30 metres east to a safer location.

## Devon (Tim Jenkinson)

### Chudleigh Exeter Road Milestone Returns

An early 19<sup>th</sup> Century milestone depicting 9 Miles to Exeter has been rediscovered at the roadside some 20 years since its disappearance in late 2004. Reported at the time as having been stolen the granite marker from the 1820s is set at about three quarters of a mile outside of the town of Chudleigh in Exeter Road (old A38) at SX 8751 8030. It was found under a hedge by Max Piper during a routine visit to the area in July 2023.



Chudleigh milestone  
2004

At the time of its disappearance there was considerable publicity regarding its removal with several reports in the local press under headings such as 'Old Milestone Goes Missing', 'Thieves Go That Extra Milestone' and 'Milestone Puzzle'. A careful search of the area by Chudleigh Police and the Milestone Society with door-to-door enquiries unfortunately led to no information. Tim Jenkinson was quoted as saying: *'I fear that the stone has been stolen just as other granite artefacts seem to have*



Chudleigh milestone  
2023 Photos:  
Tim Jenkinson

*been targeted in Devon by unscrupulous dealers or people wishing to enhance the appearance of their garden in line with recent makeover shows on television'.*

Max's discovery is as puzzling as it is exciting. The stone has since been reassessed and its current grid reference was noted as being marginally different to that of the original survey implying a possible repositioning. Has someone returned the stone in recent times once all the publicity over its disappearance had died down? Whatever the reasons it is now back in place and that alone is a cause for celebration, but the encroaching hedge will need monitoring.

### **Penn Inn Boundary Stone Newton Abbot**

A parish boundary stone that had lain prone in the grass for almost three years 50 metres or so the northwest of the Penn Inn Roundabout at SX 8704 7069 in Newton Abbot was put back upright by the Town Council in July 2023 thanks to the efforts of



Penn Inn boundary stone  
Aug. 2020

local resident Val Harrison. The stone marks the boundary between Combeinteignhead and Wolborough but is inscribed with slightly different versions of those place names. It is a remarkable but quite vulnerable artefact stood as it is between two main roads. Perseverance is the name of the game here along with sufficient local interest to get something done.



Penn Inn boundary stone  
July 2023  
Photos: Tim Jenkinson

### Union Bridge Newton Abbot

Staying in Newton Abbot a new boundary marker has been affixed to the Grade II listed Union Bridge. It is a small slate plaque inscribed 2023/NA/NB/ Borough/Boundary/ for Abbot and Bushel and is on the upstream parapet of the bridge that was built in 1822 over the river Lemon at a site that is now completely overshadowed by a huge Asda Superstore nearby. The plaque commemorates the point of union between the two townships although the latter name of Bushel is no longer used. The bridge was listed in 1949 and is a remarkable survivor surrounded as it is by redevelopments.



Newton Abbot Union Br. 2023



Bovey Tracey milestone  
Photo: Tim Jenkinson

The Newton Bushel Turnpike Trust was founded in 1826 and managed in total 26 miles and 7 poles of road in the county most

notably the present day A382 to Moretonhampstead and onward to Whiddon Down. This notoriously narrow road with blind bends and hills retains several milestones as far as Moreton but beyond this point none were placed. A good example showing distances in miles, furlongs and poles stands outside the cricket ground in Bovey Tracey at SX 8139 7758.



ASDA and Union Br.  
Photos: Tim Jenkinson

### Tavistock Barley Market Street Milestone

This grand old milestone in the centre of Tavistock in Barley Market Street at its junction with old Exeter Road (SX 4817 7456) in West Devon has been recently cleaned and tidied up by persons unknown to reveal its inscription more clearly. It is inscribed FROM/LONDON/215 MILES/OKEHAMPTON 15/CALLINGTON 9/TRURO 50/ and will need ongoing attention to ensure its visibility at the site.



Tavistock Barley Market St. October 2023  
Photo: Tim Jenkinson

## Pool Mill Cross Guide Stone East Dartmoor

Max Piper reports that a Grade II Listed granite guidepost at Pool Mill Cross near Tottiford Reservoir on the eastern edge of Dartmoor National Park at SX 8072 8205 has been rescued in part from the encroachment of a tall hedge of holly. Paul Buck and I visited this marker in May 2022 and found it to be buried in the overgrown



Pool Mill Cross May 2022

hedge and not visible to the naked eye. Bovey Tracey Town Council was contacted regarding the stone to see if anything could be done. It was hoped that its Listed status from 1986 (UID 084454) might encourage some action.

The Council then attempted to contact the unknown landowner by placing signs in the vicinity explaining what they intended to do. After several reminders throughout the latter part of 2022 and the whole of 2023 and with no response from the landowner it was feared that the stone would be forever lost to the hedge. However, some work at the site has been undertaken at the beginning of 2024 to make it more visible. The post is one of a series of



Pool Mill Cross Jan. 2024

*Photo: Max Piper*

twenty such stones in the Parishes of Ilsington, Hennock and Bovey Tracey and shows directions on three faces to Hennock, Moreton and Lustleigh. More information on this unique cluster of stones can be found in *Milestones & Waymarkers* Volume Eight 2015 p10-11.

This demonstrates once again the importance of persevering with officials at a Council level.

**Essex** (Jimmy Waters)

## Latest on the milestones of the Epping & Ongar Highway Trust 1769-1870

Back in 2018 London 18 (EX\_WHHW18) was blown over into a ditch during a severe storm, as there wasn't much of it in the ground – see below.

I had approached our county highways to have it reinstated but they didn't show much interest. The parish council were keen to get it back in position as were the District Conservation Officers but that's as far as it got.

John V Nicholls our County Rep paid me a visit a few months before he died and I promised him somehow, I'd get the stone back where it belonged.



Photo: Jimmy Waters

Years went by and still no commitment from any authority I approached. The stone was becoming buried under litter and rubbish from this very busy stretch of road, and I was becoming buried under piles of unhelpful bureaucracy. After London 13 (EX\_WHHW13) was knocked over and then suffered an attempted theft from its location, I become very concerned about this stone.

I discovered the existence of the Essex Heritage Crime Unit and contacted my local community police to see if they could help gee-up relevant people to secure this heritage asset before it ended up as a garden ornament somewhere. If you are familiar with the song; 'The Gasman Cometh' this is what happened:



Photo: Jimmy Waters

My original police contact emailed two officers from the Heritage Crime Unit to see if they could help. They then contacted the County Historic Environment Manager who in turn pointed to the District Conservation Officer who suggested contacting myself, as I have extensive knowledge of the milestones in the area! I thanked my initial police contact for his efforts and then tried a plea to the county Cabinet Member for Highways – who just said he'd pass it on.

Imagine my surprise when yesterday my wife said she thought she'd seen the stone upright again!

## Norfolk (Carol Haines)

**Museum milestone.** Besides being the Milestone Society's membership secretary, Ken Hawkins and his wife Catherine are trustees of the Dereham Heritage Trust. There has been a milestone (NO\_NSM16A; Norwich 16/Swaffham 12) on display in Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum for some years but no information about it is given at present, and they asked the Norfolk rep to write an explanation for it. The stone, which comes from the parish of Scarning just west of Dereham, was reputedly found in a hedge, was then used as a garden ornament, and was eventually given to the museum in 1986.



NO\_NSM16A

*Photo: Ken Hawkins*

The road from Norwich to Swaffham via Dereham became a turnpike in 1770 and the minutes show that milestones were made for the road in 1782. These were replaced by a cast iron set in 1822, and the present surviving stones with metal shields date from 1868. It has been suggested that the museum stone could even pre-date the turnpike as the inscription is fairly crude, and it is known that a subscription was raised for a set of milestones between Norwich and Dereham in 1755. The reason for the square depression in the top is unknown. Redundant milestones were often re-used. Could this have supported a wooden post? There is an eye-witness account of the Norwich 16 milestone of the 1868 series (NO\_NSM16; Dereham 1/Swaffham 11) being buried in 1940. It must have been dug up again, possibly when the original turnpike road was by-passed by a new section of the A47, and it is now within a lay-by in Scarning.



NO\_NF02

*Photo: Carol Haines*

**Good news!** In summer 2022 the cast iron milepost beside the A1067 in Hellesdon (NO\_NF02; Norwich 2/Fakenham 22) was taken up during extensive road alterations for a huge new housing estate. The developers, Persimmon, were asked if they would be able to renovate the post while it was out of the ground but replied that they were “unable to allocate resource to restoring the milestone”. The clerk to Hellesdon Parish Council was far more helpful and arranged for the restoration by NCC. The milepost was put back in November 2023, and is now in a safer and more visible position.

**Damage.** In June a Norfolk highways engineer contacted Ian Thompson for advice on a milestone on the A149 at Repps with Bastwick which had been dislodged following a road traffic accident. He had not dealt with milestones before and was given some good advice by Ian, and further information by the county rep. It is not thought the stone was damaged and just needed setting upright again (NO\_GYNW10: Gt Yarmouth 10/North Walsham 13).



NO\_GYNW10

Photo: Carol Haines

Much more serious damage was done, almost certainly during verge mowing, to a stone on the B1108 west of Barford (NO\_NW08: Norwich 8/Watton 13).



NO\_NW08

Photo: Carol Haines

Over 20 years ago this milestone had been hit and broken and was then lost. In 2010 Nigel Ford located where it had become buried and dug it out. The stone had been broken off at ground level and there was some damage to the top. The main upper part of the stone was resin bonded into a concrete base and joined with two stainless steel rods. The milestone was replaced beside the Watton road in August 2012. In July 2023 the stone was hit and broken again at ground level, the metal rods left sticking up. The County Council, Parish Council and District Councillor were informed but the response has been minimal. It is hoped to take the stone to a neighbouring farm for safe keeping until repair details can be worked out.



NO\_NW08 Base Photo: Carol Haines



NO\_NW08 flat Photo: Carol Haines

**Boundary marker.** The boundary marker near All Saints church, Waterden now has a Milestone Society ID: NO\_SCREA01em (TF 8847 3578) and an up-to-date photo on

Geograph. The legend on the stone is a bit difficult to make out, but at the top it reads BOUNDARY. The left-hand side is GLEBE. An old photo in a church leaflet of a similar stone suggests that the right-hand side should read LL. The stone marked the boundary of the glebe land owned by the clergy and land owned by the Earls of Leicester at Holkham Hall (LL may stand for Lord Leicester). The church is tiny and hidden away down a track. The village it served disappeared several centuries ago. There is no electricity, and the occasional services are conducted by candlelight. It is now in the parish of South Creake, but on land owned by the Holkham estate.



NO\_SCREA01

*Photo: Carol Haines*

**HODS.** The theme for Heritage Open Days 2024 will be “Routes, Networks, Connections”. This could be an opportunity to publicise the Milestone Society, perhaps through the subject of turnpike roads.

My travels around Norfolk these days are not so widespread, but I note all the milestones passed and their condition and make a note on a database of when last seen. Some stones are obviously being taken care of, cleared of vegetation, and cleaned and painted, and we are very grateful for this attention. If anyone is travelling in the county and passes a milestone, I would be pleased to get confirmation that it is still in situ ([ch\\_miles@yahoo.com](mailto:ch_miles@yahoo.com)).

### **Somerset** (Janet Dowding)

As a result of an entry on Facebook sent to me by Hilary Jones, details of a restoration / reinstatement of a Somerset milestone have emerged.

The stone is the one in Church Street, Martock (see “before”), an old carved 18c milestone, standing against a wall on the pavement near the Parish Church. According to an old O.S. map, it said “To Wells XX / To Somerton VII” but this had become rather eroded.

Apparently according to Somerset H.E.R., the milestone was temporarily removed following a vehicle collision and was reinstated on 31.10.17. Due to the fragile nature of the stone and loss of material from the base the milestone was not fully reset onto its base but moved by c.160mm. to rest against the base of the wall and secured at the top with iron brackets contributed by a local blacksmith.

As you can see from the “after” photo, the stone has been painted with letters and numerals but the “S” in Wells has been left off for some reason (there was an “S” carved originally.)



Milestone before restoration

This begs the question – should old historic carved milestones be painted with letters and numerals in this fashion? Were they painted with them in the first place? Personally, I do not think they should be but should be left as they were, with just the original carving, even if somewhat eroded. It is not known who the restorers were or if they consulted anyone (e.g. the Conservation Officer in Somerset C.C.). Other people may think it is



Milestone after restoration  
*Photo: Janet Dowding*

O.K. to paint old carved stones even if they did not have painted on letters and numerals in the first place. But I think painting this one has taken away some of its old historic appearance and value, particularly as the “S” has not been painted on, making it look rather odd.

### Surrey (Janet Dowding)

Here are a few notes about some projects going on in Surrey at present. Way back in September 2023, the Milestone Society was contacted by a lady called Tracy Brown living in Spelthorne Borough who is anxious to get an old fingerpost at Ashford Common renovated. I contacted Ian Thompson about restoration matters and he gave her information on who to contact in her area, how to go about the restoration etc. I found a photo of a prototype fingerpost of the kind she is interested in in Surrey Heath Museum which I sent her.



*Photo: Janet Dowding*

There are other fingerposts which should have arms like this in her area, all of which she would like to get restored e.g. at Dockett Eddy Lane / Chertsey Road junction in Shepperton. From here the correspondence between her, Ian and I came to mention milestones in her area. She would have liked to have had them recarved, but she was advised that, while repainting them is OK, recarving is not done. She would like to get repainted several milestones including the one at Staines Reservoir, just past Ashford Hospital. While I knew about this milestone, it had not been put on the database because I had no details or photos of it. It is now on the

database. Tracy is a very enthusiastic person who has sent me a long list of all the artefacts in her area that she would like to have renovated including, gates, old posts, stench popes, war memorials etc. So she has a tough job ahead of her, including wanting to get some milestones listed (which Ian can advise on when she produces her application).

While corresponding with Tracy, I happened to mention to her the Esher milestone still lying in a field in Hampshire. She immediately contacted Elmbridge Museum and suggested that they get in touch with me about it, which they did. I promptly sent copies of all the previous letters, reports, and photos on the subject to the contact at the museum, right from the time Mervyn Benford started off the process of effort to get the stone back from Hampshire, all Colin Woodward's letters to various people on behalf of the Surrey Group etc. I also sent all the photos, details etc which Colin, David (my husband) and myself collected on our joint visit to the site in 2016 when we met the owner / tenant of the field in which the stone still lies. So now the whole process to get it back for Surrey is resting with Elmbridge Museum. Whether they will have any more luck in retrieving it remains to be seen.

The large project – the M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange improvement scheme – which involves the removal and eventual reinstatement of two or even three milestones in the area is still ongoing and will take a long time to get to completion. In the meantime, National Highways keep me posted as to developments.

### **Worcester and Herefordshire** (Jan Scrine)

After continuing dialogue with the Parish Council, the mileplate (WO\_WOFK05) badly painted green as described in our "The Road Through Crowle" article in *Milestones & Waymarkers* has been completely refurbished by the Parish lengthsman and looks splendid.



Crowle 05 Green

We've also had success in getting a milestone accepted by the Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings. They already boast a tollhouse from Little Malvern which was badly damaged by arson but is now fully



Crowle 05 repainted  
Photos: Jan Scrine

restored, but they had no milestones. We were contacted two years ago by local resident Anne Humphries who was concerned about the fate of a sad milestone in School Lane, Alvechurch at the site of the former Alvechurch Historical Society Museum now demolished and a building site. Anne had the mileplate in her possession. Member Mike "Roadside Relics" identified its original location as just north of Alvechurch town centre on Birmingham Road, the B4120. Avoncroft has now accepted it and we've donated from Worcester Group funds towards its restoration, so watch this space!



Crowle 05 Green

Another mileplate with a long story of anguish is at the Hundred House, on the route of the eponymous turnpike. The name comes from being the collection place for tithes from the Doddingtree Hundred. This was one of the many plates produced under the auspices of Terry Keegan nearly twenty years ago; he provided them to the various Parish Councils for a contribution of £50. I know, I was treasurer and had to deal with reconciling and banking the cheques received! The plate at the Hundred House was removed in 2020 when the old Coaching Inn site was converted to extensive residential accommodation and the developers kept assuring us and the Parish Clerk that the plate was safely in store. Eventually there



Crowle 05 repainted  
Photos: Anne Humphries

was sufficient local pressure to raise the issue again; the Parish Clerk contacted the developers' Legal Department, and it was confirmed that they had lost it. The developers then offered to pay for a replacement, and this is now in hand; the pattern has been delivered by Ian Thompson to the Irons Bros. foundry in Cornwall, for eventual re-installation on site.



cc-by-sa/2.0 - The Hundred House Hotel... by Alan Murray-Rust - geograph.org.uk/p/5105119

Hundred House *Photo: Alan Murray Rust on Geograph*

We have had several enquiries in Herefordshire, ably fielded by Jeremy Milln, including from National Highways requesting a stonemason contact to repair a milestone damaged by vehicle impact on the A49 near Hereford and other unhappy examples of neglect. Jeremy is actively encouraging the County HER officer to update their database.

Our specialist spotter Mike “Roadside Relics” has been out and about around the Three Counties (Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and Gloucestershire) energetically updating our records, a valuable resource when dealing with highways authorities. He does a great job hunting for new and existing stones and other markers, cutting the foliage, and digging them out to keep them visible.

**Yorkshire** (Christine Minto)

### **The North Riding of Yorkshire**

Four days based in Helmsley and a car meant that son and I could check out many of the milestones and mileposts north and west of there that were last visited several years ago. Many were hidden in long grass or overgrown hedges. Some we knew should be there were not found, or we did not search diligently enough but new



YN\_SCP112Bt  
Photo: Christine Minto

photographs were taken of nearly 70. One that created the most excitement was a Pickering UDC milepost cast by Mattison's of Bedale. In 2011 Dave Williams and Jeremy Howat found it on the less than 2-mile long B1145 south of the A170 Scarborough to Pickering Road near Allerston. It received a

make-over and the hedge and ground around it cleared. We drove slowly along but could not see it. Parked up, walked back and there it was completely hidden in the hedge. Phil went to the car for secateurs, and I broke off a few twigs. Then he walked back to me followed by the hedge cutter! Did the driver know the milepost was there? He said he did but we made sure he did not damage it anymore. Could not have timed it better.



YN\_SCP112B Photo: Dave Williams



YN\_PIWY19a  
Photo: Hilary Jones

### Pickering to Whitby

A milepost we had no record of on this route was spotted on Geograph. Hilary went to investigate and found it almost hidden in vegetation. Shears always handy in the car, it was quickly cleared to reveal one of the more elaborate Mattisons of Bedale castings for the North Riding Urban and Rural District Councils. Seven of these mileposts remain on the 21



YN\_PIWY05  
Photo: Christine Minto

miles between Pickering and Whitby. However, five stones from the Whitby to Middleton (Pickering) turnpike, 1764-1851, have been recorded with three of them behind the newer mileposts.

### Wakefield to Weeland

The Wakefield to Weeland turnpike was first enacted in 1758. But Weeland was at the River Aire so presumably a ferry. Only two milestones can now be found with Wakefield 12 in Knottingley just an eroded, plateless lump of stone. Wakefield 15 near Beal was restored by the local youth club 20 years ago but disappears under ivy. Dave Williams has recently cleared much of it and repainted the plate.



YN\_WKWL15 Photo: Christine Minto



YN\_WYRD03  
Photo: Christine Minto

### Whitby to Redcar

On Geograph it was suggested that the Whitby 3½ milepost on the A174 north of Sandsend was lost. A Facebook post in August 2023 noticed by Hilary showed it in place but without its top section. Phil and I saw it in October high on the banking above the road. The damage can only have been done by a hedge trimmer or a vandal. Further north as the road passes Staithes a previously topless post has had a new top added.



YN\_WYRD10  
Photo: Christine Minto



YN\_NZ9208  
Photo: Christine Minto

### North Riding CC fingerposts

During our stay in Helmsley as well as milestones we photographed about 30 North Riding CC fingerposts. Many Mike Rayner would know about but, hopefully, a few new finds. Most have a plain post but a few have a more elaborate one. Looking at the maker's name on these posts showed that they were cast at three foundries and had subtle differences. The one with the ball finial near



YN\_NZ7718  
Photo: Christine Minto

the school on Hawsker Lane leading to Whitby Abbey was cast by Mattison's of Bedale. The broken finger end would have been like those on the Dalehouse post. Mattison's was in business from 1851 – 1937 and they made anything that could be cast in iron from mill machinery to oven doors.

At the crossroads in Great Broughton on the B1257, there are road numbers on the square-ended fingers and there is a NRYCC ring finial. The foundry name on that post



YN\_5406

Photo: Christine Minto



YN\_78612

Photo: Christine Minto



YN\_SE7473

Photo: Christine Minto



is NICHOLS PUMP Co. / NORTHALLERTON. There are similar posts at Hovingham and Sandsend where the post is used to support the village name.

The third maker is found on the post in Amotherby on the B1257 from Malton. Although it has road numbers, square-ended fingers and a NRYCC ring finial the foundry name on that post is GROVE WORKS, BARNARD CASTLE. The 'm' is for Maker!

YN\_SE7473m

Photo: Christine Minto

## South Yorkshire

I occasionally pass one of the West Riding milestones west of Barnsley and although it needed a make-over I was reluctant to tackle it because of all the lettering. But a Ward Councillor contacted the Conservation Officer and to cut a long story short, Phil and I 'volunteered' to tackle it. When the 615 stones were set up in 1893/94 the Contract said they were to be painted blue, but I had not found any evidence of this on the posts I had done. Many layers of white paint were removed and there was much of the original blue. There was interest from passers-by during the four visits it took to complete the job but, hopefully, the dogs will not take a fancy to it again. And Baraugh is now spelt Barugh, pronounced Bark!



YS\_BNHU01



YS\_BNHU01blue



YS\_BNHU91f

*Photos: Christine Minto*

### A South Yorkshire fingerpost

Mike Rayner informed me that a fingerpost local to me had been moved. Checking, it had, by a couple of metres. Unfortunately, the post itself had been replaced. The original one cast by Currie, Dewhirst and King was the only post I had recorded by that foundry. Also new fingers had been cast so only the top halo finial is authentic.

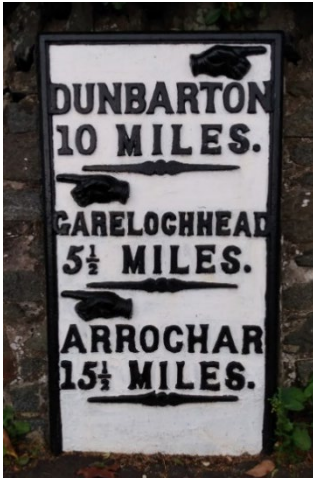


YS\_SE5408 *Photo: Christine Minto*

### Scotland (Christine Minto)

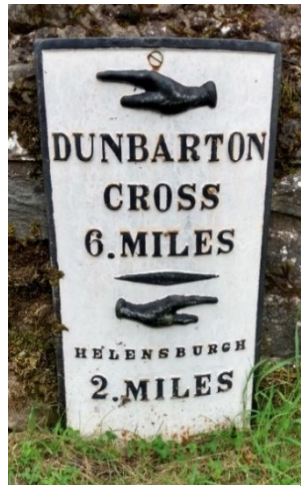
#### Argyll & Bute

A few days cycling around Dumbarton and Dunoon for Hilary Jones resulted in many newer photographs of the posts and stones in those areas. This well-kept plate, founder unknown, is by the A814 in Rhu and this one, a little different, in Colgrain, also A814.



AB\_DMAL10  
Photo: Hilary Jones

She also found a tollhouse on a piece of the old A814 at Craigendoran. Hilary went southwards from Dunoon to Toward and on the road that peters out on Loch Striven. Most of the 'Dunoon' plates are still in situ but there are also two stones which must be from an earlier time like this one in the wall of the Knockdown estate.



AB\_DMHL06  
Photo: Hilary Jones



DB.CRAIGEN Photo: Hilary Jones



AB\_DNT010s  
Photo: Hilary Jones

Peter MacBride has been busy again this summer with the 7, 9, 10 and 11 mile 'Dunoon' mileposts on the B8000 between Tighnabruaich and Otter Ferry having a makeover. They usually need some of the built-up, overgrown verge digging out before tackling the painting. The latest one to be tackled was the 9-mile post, once leaning, now upright and weeds kept at bay by gravel. Just 4, 6 and 8 to be tackled next year.



AB\_TGOF09  
Photo: Peter McBride

Earlier this year Kirsty Crew spotted a newly painted milestone on the A85 Oban to Dalmally road. One Frank and I missed when we cycled along there in 2005! It is just southeast of Bridge of Awe. Only 11 stones are recorded for this 26-mile route including three on the B8077, the old route via Stronmilchan. But it is a busy road now and some could have been lost.

Crossing the Kilbrannan Sound from Lochranza on Arran to Claonaig, a minor road north-eastwards leads through Skipness to the former Skipness pier. There are/were metal posts along this route with mileages for Tarbert and Campbeltown. Tarbert 10 was there in 2019, with 11 smashed since 2012 and now 12 which I did not spot near Skipness have been found. Two more are marked on the remaining single-track road towards Culindrach Farm.



AB\_TBCT12s

Photo: Christine Thompson



BD\_EDMF13

Photo: John Riddell

### Borders

In NL 45, P32, was the recumbent red sandstone milestone BD\_EDMF13 on the A701. John Riddell organized two strong friends and between them they uplifted it. The sides, top and back have horizontal broaching. John also took a photo of the 14 milestone at the entrance to the modern house at Whim Farm. And he



BD\_EDMF13b

Photo: John Riddell

wonders if anyone has seen an OS benchmark like this. It is 18 miles from Edinburgh stone which is in private grounds at Halmyre Mains, the original route now by-passed.



BD\_EDMF14 Photo: John Riddell



BD\_EDMF18bm Photo: John Riddell



BD\_NT5634 Photo: Bill Jamieson

An unrecorded fingerpost near Melrose was seen on Geograph. One pleasant day Bill Jamieson got on his bike to investigate. There it was at the junction of the B6361 Annay Road into Melrose, with Dean Road.

In June Derek Robeson spotted a stone between Kelso and Morebattle, this one lay on the ground. He set it upright and the old/wrong spelling of Morebattle is on the left face. This is one of two now found on the 7½ mile route.



BD\_KSMB04v



BD\_KSMB04  
Photos: Derek Robeson



DG\_NLBH01cm  
Photo: Christine Minto

### Dumfries and Galloway

Our new member in New Luce, Karl Logan, has been busy searching out and repainting the milestones on the three roads radiating from New Luce, all 18 of them. See NL45 P32. His biggest challenge was the stone a mile north of New Luce on the Barrhill road. In April, we found it leaning badly in the ditch. Karl organized the local farmer and together they set it firmly higher up out of the water and then he repainted it. He has also cleared vegetation from around the other milestones north of New Luce including New Luce 5 which we missed. Jacqueline Crowther has also been busy. As well as painting one of the 30 milestones with a P on that she had missed - for a bit of fun. Ian Thompson has given her advice about repairing a recently broken stone. Also, although



DG\_NLBH01kl  
Photo: Karl Logan



DG\_NLBH05  
Photo: Karl Logan



DG\_WGWH00  
Photo: Jacqueline Crowther

the local Highways have ignored her requests for help with restoration efforts, the local community shop has awarded her money to buy a strimmer, more paint, and new brushes.

### Highland

In the southwest part of the Highland region, which was Argyllshire, there are metal posts made by Smith Patterson of Blaydon like those on Mull although undated. One route between Drimnin and Dorlin is just a 7-mile-long track. But all the mileposts are still in situ. Why would they have been erected in this remote area? There were ferries/ports at each end when access by sea was the norm. Very few roads would



have been tarmacked in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, especially in remote areas. What is interesting is the use of = for 0.

HI\_DRD000  
*Photo: Christine Minto*

## Midlothian

Ian Thompson sent this information about the old bike by the milestone in the last NL.

“I photographed this wonderful painting in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery during my holiday in Scotland last July. The painting is called 'Repairing the Bicycle' by John Quinton Pringle, dated 1889. The bicycle in the painting is almost identical to those in your photograph. Note the cap worn by the cycle repairer.” Another search and dig about by John revealed the top of the 11 miles from Edinburgh stone on the A701 with this photo showing the benchmark and pin in the top.



ML\_EDPB11 *Photo: John Riddell*



ML\_EDGB10 *Photo: Ian Thompson*

## **Perth & Kinross**

Former member, John Sherriff, who works for Historic Environment Scotland Canmore, has been searching around Perth. He found one stone on the A93 in the middle of the city, three on the A85 towards Crieff with another on a side road out of Crieff. All his pictures can be seen on Canmore, but I have not received copies yet.

From Blair Castle north of Pitlochry there are some milestones on three routes. North up Glen Tilt towards the River Dee, the track up to Bruar Lodge and a 7-mile circular trail around the estate. So, if anyone goes walking or cycling up there, please keep a good look out for lumps of stone and report them to me. My bike has been both ways through Glen Tilt but long before I was looking out for milestones.

## **Update on Boulter mounting blocks**

Readers keen to find the next 'milestone' moment for the Edmund Boulter mounting blocks on the Great North Road will be delighted to see evidence of the clearance work and the newly installed interpretation board at Gonerby Hill in Grantham. Ian Thompson's helpful research and advice on these mounting blocks has been invaluable to Ruth Crook and her team at Grantham Civic Trust and the Milestone Society continues to lend support to the Civic Trust in securing Listing for this piece of roadside heritage.

*Bruce Keith*

## **Arabian Milestones in Britain**

The Milestone Society is a meeting place for all those interested in milestones and waymarkers of the British Isles. For some this is one of their many hobbies, while for others it is their great passion. In 2021 it was fascinating to hear from someone from overseas who had a passion for milestones in their own country. It was exciting to learn that he had found milestones where none were known to exist and that these milestones could be older than the milestones of the Roman Empire.

Doctor Abdullah Alkadi had spent many years exploring the deserts of Saudi Arabia. By studying ancient texts and by fieldwork on the ground, he had retraced the route taken by the prophet Muhammad on his journey from Makkah to Madinah in 622AD. During his fieldwork, he had come across isolated monolithic stones which marked out a different route between Makkah and Madinah. Study of the stones suggested that they were much older than the first journey of the prophet Muhammad. They had been deliberately set up by someone in the distant past. They were spaced at a

remarkably consistent distance apart. This distance was very close to an English statute mile.

After a series of intense annual field trips, Dr Alkadi found fifty-six surviving monolithic milestones on an ancient route of two hundred and sixty miles between Makkah and Madinah.

In 2021 he published a beautifully illustrated and well written book of his work, *Milestones of Arabia*, which was reviewed in volume fourteen of our journal, *Milestones & Waymarkers*.



Milestone 28 on the ancient route from Makkah to Madinah Photo: Abdullah Alkadi

Abdullah kept in touch with the Milestone Society. When he was planning a visit to Britain in the early summer of 2023, one of his aides contacted the Society to try to set up a meeting to discuss preserving and protecting milestones. Dr Alkadi was to give a lecture called ‘In the Footsteps of the Prophet’ at the Bradford Literature Festival and then spend a week in Glasgow in early July. His aide was arranging a meeting with the First Minister and with members of the Scottish Parliament.

It was not until his next visit to Britain in late August 2023 that the Milestone Society caught up with Abdullah, when he was staying in central London. Through contacts made when helping with listing Home Counties’ milestones, our Society was able to arrange a meeting between Dr Alkadi and the Head of International Strategy and the Head of Listing at the Historic England International Affairs headquarters in Cannon Bridge House on the bank of the Thames.

On the morning of the meeting, Ian and Marilyn Thompson of the Milestone Society had a working breakfast with Dr Alkadi and with Professor Tim Insoll from the University of Exeter. Tim is an archaeologist specialising in field work in Islamic countries. We learned that he had spent two weeks in the desert in March 2023 with Abdullah, visiting all 55 milestones and completing 15 test excavations to check how they were erected and to assess associated archaeological sites. Abdullah was working to have all the milestones he had found and the route which they marked made a World Heritage Site. We agreed this was an excellent idea and hoped that the big guns at Historic England would be able to help.

Our team of four met at Cannon Bridge House after lunch, to put Abdullah's case before the senior staff of Historic England. Our timing was most fortunate. Alexandra Warr, Head of International Strategy, was due to attend a conference in Saudi Arabia in a few weeks where World Heritage Sites would be a main issue on the agenda. Abdullah was able to brief her on his project in the desert and he knew the key people in Saudi Arabia who were organising the conference.



Working Breakfast at the Langham, Portland Place – Ian Thompson, Dr Abdullah Alkadi, Professor Tim Insoll, Marilyn Thompson *Photo: Ian Thompson*

Ian and Marilyn returned to Cornwall and more mundane milestone matters but hoped to hear more about the results of Professor Insoll's excavations and of the bid for World Heritage status for the milestones in the desert.

*Ian Thompson*

### **Wessex Archaeology restore a Wiltshire Milestone**

Our road network is constantly changing as our towns expand and traffic increases. A Grade II listed milestone must be conserved if it falls within the bounds of a road improvement. An excellent example of the conservation of a Grade II listed milestone is given by the work of Wessex Archaeology.

Few milestones can have required quite so much work and achieved quite such a good result, which is why this is a good example of conservation to study.



The excavated Milestone (19 June 2019)  
*Photo: Wessex Archaeology*

- The milestone had to be moved, which required listed building consent.
- The milestone had been badly repaired in the past, requiring painstaking work to remove an inappropriate concrete collar.

## Other News

- The milestone was fractured in two and required drilling and rejoining.
- A further fracture occurred during conservation.

A new roundabout was to be installed on A360 Devizes Road three miles north-west of Salisbury. The road was to be realigned to facilitate the construction of a new roundabout serving an adjacent mixed-use development. Consideration of the location of the Grade II Listed Building no.1284376 (a stone milestone with a cast iron plate inscribed SALISBURY / 3 / DEVIZES / 20) at the planning stage allowed it to be moved a minimal distance and to retain its historical significance.

Listed building consent was granted by Wiltshire Council for the relocation of the milestone approximately 6.7 m to the north-east of its historic position. The realignment of the road meant that the least disruption to the milestone's location was to move it from the south-west side of the old road to the north-east side of the new road. Since the milestone was designed with just one distance plate, crossing the road would still allow the milestone to be read correctly. (A triangular milestone with two plates would have required more thought.)

The milestone was lifted from the site in a carefully planned operation in June 2019. It was stored safely, and conservation work began in July 2019. The milestone was carefully cleaned with water. Traces of old paint were found on the stonework. Loose, flaking paint was removed, but sound paint was left untouched. The milestone had a concrete collar at ground level which had to be removed very carefully by hand to avoid damaging the stone. It was found that the collar hid an old fracture in the milestone. The approved procedure was followed to



Removal of the concrete collar using a cold chisel (12 July 2019)

*Photo: Wessex Archaeology*



Resin bond repair to join the Milestone back together (14 October 2019)

*Photo: Wessex Archaeology*



An additional break in the Milestone (28 June 2022) *Photo: Wessex Archaeology*



drill the two halves of the milestone to take stainless steel studs and to join them with resin adhesive. The cast iron plate was cleaned and repainted following guidance from the Milestone Society. Unfortunately, a residual crack resulted in a second fracture of the milestone, just below the metal plate. This, too, was drilled, dowelled and resin bonded together. In October 2023, the milestone was carefully set in its new location beside the new road alignment.

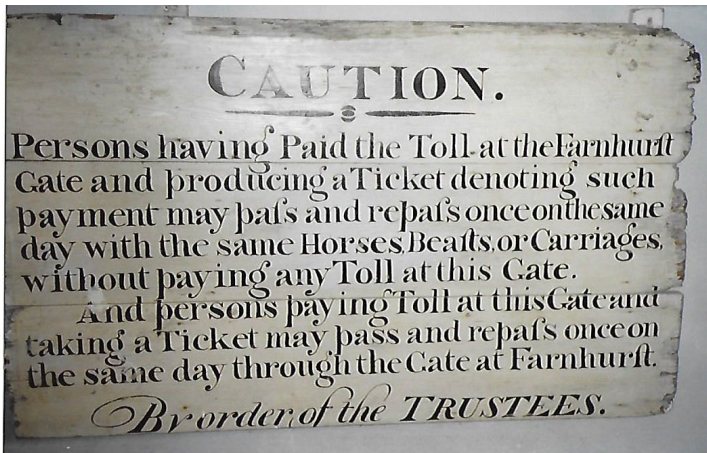
*Ian Thompson*

Levering the milestone into its new position on A360 (20 October 2023)

*Photo: Wessex Archaeology*

### **A turnpike board and a lost Sussex toll house**

When going through the collection of photos rescued from the last Bristol meeting in three large green boxes, I came across 4 or 5 concerning turnpikes, none however having any indication of their location on the back. I sent them by e mail to Mr. Red for help on locating them which he was able to do. One was of interest in that it referred to a "Farnhurst Gate". I could not find this place in an atlas, but he suggested that it could be "Fernhurst" and suggested contacting the Fernhurst Society. I promptly did this with a copy of the photo (see image) and a member called Robin Ellks of their Active Team contacted me back.



Farnhurst Toll Board *Photo: Janet Dowding*

Farnhurst was indeed Fernhurst, and the board was of great interest to them in that the Farnhurst Gate referred to be the one at Kingsley Green (then known as Kingsley Marsh or King's Marsh), which was sited a mile north of Fernhurst village. The Chichester and Farnhurst Trust was established under an Act of Parliament of 1749 which turnpiked the route, from the London to Portsmouth Road at Hindhead Heath (the Devil's Punch Bowl) to Chichester via Haslemere, Farnhurst and Midhurst (the current A286). The Kingsley Marsh Turnpike was the first gate on the route; the second was at Easebourne village (just north of Midhurst).

I quote from Robin: Following the making of a new road from Haslemere town directly north through Grayswood and Brook to meet the Portsmouth Road at Milford, the Trust sought to be relieved of its duty to maintain the 2-mile route from Hindhead Heath to Carpenter's Heath (one mile north of the Farnhurst Gate), which was authorised under an Act of 1780. The same Act also gave powers for a southern extension from Chichester to Dell Quay, enabling better transport of sea cargoes to Chichester. Henceforth the Trust was known as the Farnhurs, Midhurst, Chichester, and Dell Quay Turnpike Trust, which was dissolved on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1867. The Toll Keeper's Cottage at Kingsley Marsh was sadly demolished and removed around 1900/01, to remove the "pinch-point" on the highway. No photo or postcard of it has ever been found. A cottage named the "Toll House" which was built in 1720, survives alongside the A286, on the west side of the road, at the location of the former Tollgate, but the Toll Keeper's cottage was directly opposite on the east side.

Robin also sent me a copy of a letter dated 1966 from a former Fernhurst resident referring to a "conditions of toll payments" board, apparently discovered by a builder at a cottage in Midhurst which speaks of "Farnhurst Gate". The letter says "it sets out conditions of toll payments from Midhurst? (sic) to Farnhurst and return. I imagine it relates to the toll gate at Easebourne Crossroads or possibly Henley Hill though that was only a bar or pike". This board could possibly be one and the same as in my photo.

I related all this to Mr. Red who sent me a copy of a very old map which showed the site of Farnhurst village and the toll gate north of it – "Farnyslane Turnpike". Robin then confirmed that this was the old name for the Kingsley Marsh gate because it was Farnhurst Lane which went through the turnpike itself. Robin also sent me a copy of an old coach route titled "Journey from Chichester to Haslemere through Midhurst" with the details "Cross to river Rother, and over North Heath. Furley Hill, Farnhurst, King's Marsh T.G., Farnhurst Lane". Also at my request, details of the following census entries and other dates for Farnhurst Gate:

## *Other News*

1851 James Heath (73) Turnpike keeper

Jane Heath (25) Daughter Dressmaker 1861

William Earwicker (41) Former Toll Keeper

Lydia Earwicker (63) Mother Toll Collector

1867 Turnpike ceased – Gatehouse purchased by Herbert George Yatman

1871 William Earwicker (51) Labourer

Lydia Earwicker (73) Mother No occupation.

1881 William Earwicker (61) Post Messenger

1891 William Earwicker (71) Rural Postman

1901 No return – unoccupied or demolished.

In an article written by Robin at a previous date it states:

“When the powers of the now Trustees of the Farnhurst, Midhurst, Chichester and Dell Quay Turnpike Trust expired on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1867, they were not renewed. In a conveyance dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 1867, the above Trustees conveyed the Kingsley Marsh “Toll House” and premises to Herbert George Yarman (owner of the expanded Fernden (or Varndell) Hill Estate for the sum of £30, described as “All that cottage or tenement situate lying or being in Farnhurst in the County of Sussex and now and for many years used as a Turnpike Gate House under the Trusts before mentioned together with outbuildings garden hereditaments lands and appurtenances belonging and appertaining.

The Turnpike Gate House appears on the 25” O.S. sheet published in 1897 and on a conveyance of the currently named “Tolle House” (then Wood’s Cottage) dated 1901 but has disappeared by the publication of the succeeding 1912 O.S. sheet. The site of the Gate House is included on the 1904 Fernden Estate Sale map, as part of the estate, but no building is shown. It is not identified on the 1901 census and is therefore assumed to be unoccupied or demolished by that time”.

The photo I sent to the Fernhurst Society of the board has therefore proved to be a valuable addition to their archive. Unfortunately, no location is known for this board (in a museum somewhere?) so if anyone recognises the board, please let me know its location so that I can pass it onto Robin Ellks of the Fernhurst Active team.

*Janet Dowding*

## Inn signs of interest

From all the photos that have come into my possession over the years from past members of the Milestone Society, I have several of inn signs that illustrate the work of the Society.

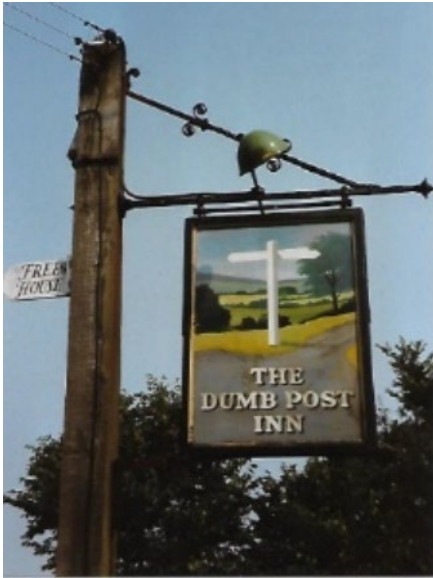
I have one of the inn called "The Fingerpost", showing on one arm, details of B4145 Rushall / Walsall, so obviously in the West Midlands. Another is of the inn called "The Milepost" somewhere in Harrogate apparently but with no nice painted sign of a milepost, just the words. A more interesting sign is the one of the inn called "The Newtown", showing a fingerpost with four arms saying "Worcester, Leominster, Gloucester, Hereford". This is apparently at



the crossroads of A 4103 and A 4107. We have one in Somerset showing a walker and his dog resting beside a milestone with Somerton 2 Langport 2 on it. This is at Pitney.



More interesting again is the sign of the "White Post" at Chilcompton (my local when I lived in Midsomer Norton). The painted sign shows a Roman soldier standing next to a white post with on it the words "The White Post (arrow pointing to) Ilchester and (arrow pointing to) Aquae Sulis". But what is intriguing is why, if the post was meant to be a modern one, has it got one modern name "Ilchester" and one Roman name "Aquae Sulis". If it was meant to depict an old stone, it should have two Roman names on it i.e. "Aquae Sulis" and "Lindinnis". Perhaps the sign painter didn't himself know the Roman name of Ilchester or perhaps he thought that people going past the inn would recognize "Aquae Sulis" as Bath but would



The jolliest sign of all is of the inn called “Turnpike”, showing an overflowing, bustling coach of men who have just arrived at the turnpike gate which the toll collector has just opened.

No doubt there are many more inn signs around the U.K. which are of passing interest to members. (All photos taken by unknown past members of the Society).

*Janet Dowding (Somerset Rep.)*

not have a clue as to where “Lindinnis was! So, he comprised with the obvious names people would recognize – one modern, one old.

The most intriguing inn sign of all is the one of the inns called “The Dumb Post Inn”. This shows a picture of a white fingerpost with absolutely no direction names on it at all. Exact location unknown but on the back of the photo is written “at road junction to Studley (1m).



## **Northern Spring Meeting, Saturday 27 April 2024**

Join us on the edge of the scenic Yorkshire Dales for the opportunity to catch up with other members and learn a little along the way. An interesting day of talks, discussions, and hands on activities.

### **Programme**

#### **AM**

- **David Garside** - Waymarkers along the Pennine Way in North Yorkshire
- TBA
- Members Q&A – an open forum to raise items with committee members and discuss your project plans.

#### **PM**

- **Terry Moore** – Signpost restoration in Cumberland. *A discussion and practical session on techniques for restoring signposts and milestones. The opportunity to try out your painting skills on some cast iron plates!*

For anyone who would prefer a walk in the afternoon there will be a self-guided leaflet available highlighting the variety of local waymarkers in Gargrave as visited last year.

Our venue is: **The Annex, Gargrave Village Hall, 20 West Street, Gargrave, BD23 3PT.**

Gargrave has rail services from West Yorkshire and Cumbria ([NorthernRailway.co.uk](http://NorthernRailway.co.uk)) and the village also has an hourly bus service from

Skipton and Lancaster ([Dalesbus.org](http://Dalesbus.org)). By road the village hall is located just off the A65. There is a free parking at the village hall (30 spaces) and in an adjacent public car park.

Doors open 9:30am with tea/coffee/ biscuits provided; the meeting starts at 10.00am and we aim to finish for 3.30pm. We'll have use of the kitchen and seating at the village hall if you want to bring a packed lunch. There's also a couple of cafes, a pub, and a Co-op store in Gargrave.

The room has a seating capacity for 40 people so if you're planning to attend, please contact **Hilary Jones** at [webadmin@milestonesociety.co.uk](mailto:webadmin@milestonesociety.co.uk) **by the end of March 2024** so we've got an idea of numbers.

## DEADLINE FOR SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Contributions for inclusions in the Summer *Newsletter* should reach the editor Richard Raynsford by 30 June 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](mailto:newsletter@milestonesociety.co.uk) or call Richard Raynsford on 01749 890418 for further information and address details.

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Printed by A & G Printing Co Ltd.







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