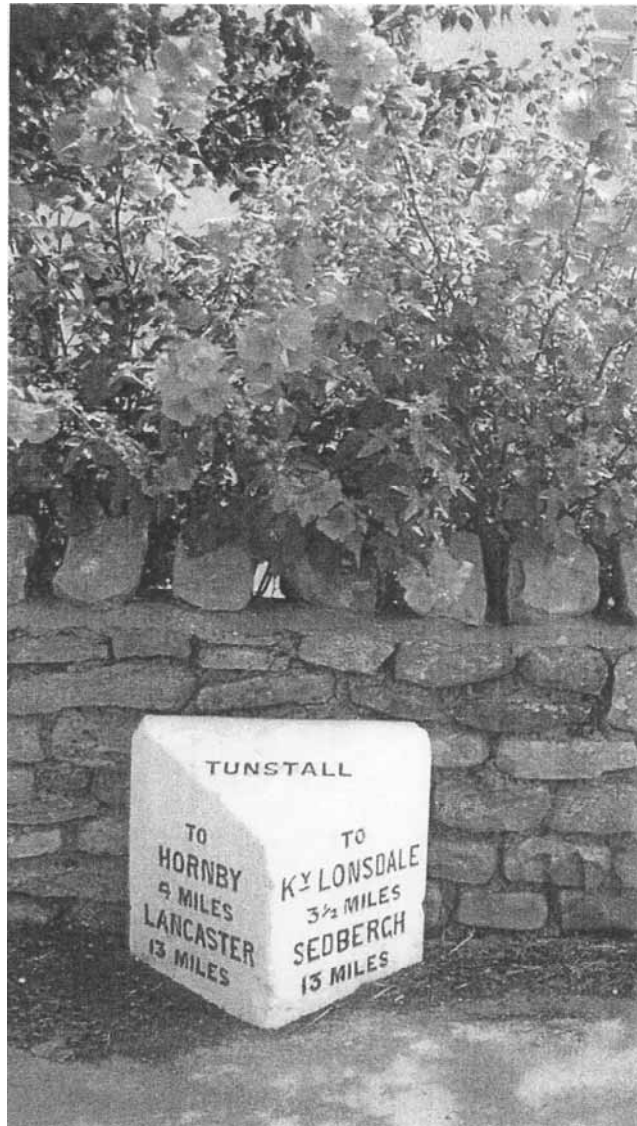


*The Milestone Society*

# *On the Ground*



*No. 1 September 2004*

*Single Edition Editor: Mervyn Benford*

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## New Newsletter Launched

Committee seeks increased contact with members

From "The Road Goes On" (C.W.Scott-Giles 1946)

Foreign Views of English Roads

*"The English mile-stones give me much pleasure; they certainly are a great convenience to travellers. They have often seemed to ease me of half the distance of a journey merely by telling how far I had already gone; and by assuring me that I was on the right road. For, besides the distance from London, every milestone informs you that to the next place is so many miles; and where there cross-roads there are direction posts, so that it is hardly possible to lose oneself in walking"*

Charles P. Moritz, of Berlin "Travels, chiefly on foot, through several parts of England" (1782)

### Background:

The unplanned and unfortunate delays in issuing the Society's first Journal brought discussion at the spring Committee meeting of the expectation among members of a society like ours that they would be kept as fully informed as possible of our work. The Journal was planned as an occasional publication and seen as a further benefit of membership.

*On the Ground* is an additional newsletter planned for the autumn of each year as a clear benefit of subscription and an incentive to members to continue to believe in and support our work. It is additional to and will complement the two existing excellent newsletters produced by Carol and Alan Haines and will be edited by volunteer individuals in rotation. Existing newsletters necessarily treat branch news more cursorily as they also report society activities, meetings, policies as well as short, informative articles contributed by individual readers.

It will focus mainly on news from branches in terms of what they have actually found, namely hard information about roads and milestones augmented by news from individual members, and not forgetting the occasional snippet telling of other interesting roadside antiquities!

We wish to ensure that you, our members, see just how much we collectively do achieve despite being entirely volunteers. We realise that not every member can come to our national meetings, though the 80 or so who do always tell us they have enjoyed the programme and the experience. We know that many members may not be so active any more and less able to indulge in searches and verge clearance and conservation work. Yet we know they believe in what we do and we want them to see that we put their subscriptions to good use, to fulfil as best we can our stated aims and objectives.

We shall try to produce a Journal more often, possibly every two years, and articles are currently sought for No. 2. *Please submit them to Terry Keegan.* We believe you will enjoy the range and quality of the writing in the first edition and the aim is there to pursue such systematic in-depth study, building a strong tradition of scholarship. We hope thereby to ensure that you, our loyal members, will continue to support the good cause we represent. **Your subscription and belief in our work is essential to our well-being.**

\*\*\*\*\* **Restoration: Save the Flockton One** (and its 119 friends). Meeting at Red House Museum, Gomersal, West Yorks. (gardens recently on TV. 10.30 - 3.30. tea/coffee provided, bring own lunch. Admission £1 members, £2 Others; No wheelchair access. Contact Jan, Farwood Lodge, Bradford Road, Huddersfield HD2 2QZ email: [jan@minervapartnership.co.uk](mailto:jan@minervapartnership.co.uk)

### Warwickshire sets the Pace

Under Mike Buxton's careful stewardship the eight members forming the branch are making good progress towards finding and identifying surviving milestones. An initial belief that but a handful remained has changed as the total is now approaching 40. Two members from the Birmingham Metropolitan area undertook to survey the north of the county while the south was divided between the three or four others. Three members of the branch are also members of neighbouring Oxfordshire, where a similar spirit exists.

Two metal markers on the road from Southam to Kineton, a truly cross-country route that crosses the M40 at Gaydon's junction 12, were painted anew a few years ago presumably by County staff but had this year shown serious signs of rusting and general shabbiness. They are particularly interesting in showing distance to a railway station, Harbury, now long gone! The Gaydon marker shows three miles to the station. The other at Deppers Bridge is just half a mile away.

A branch member approached a major local company who agreed to fund the restoration of the example near the motorway. They set the contract for removal, sand-blasting, priming and re-painting and the total cost for such professional restoration was £529. Naturally the county highways department were kept informed. The other example at Deppers Bridge seems likely to attract the support and attention of people in Harbury itself. The Gaydon post was also set back a yard from its original position as heavy traffic now obtains.

A slight quality assurance problem has arisen in that within a few weeks the paint has begun to rust again and enquiries are in hand to set that little matter right. Nevertheless a picture was taken before the onset of this fresh contamination and at a time when the new cow parsley lent soft and colourful dressing.

Discovery and identification do not always address the issue of origins. Details may be entered in the database but we need also to investigate the original source of the stones or cast iron markers, contract details maybe, how many there were and how much they cost.

One Warwickshire member this year gave a talk to Kenilworth Rotary Club who may as a result take adoptive responsibility for the marker surviving in their High Street which, unusually, has the information incised into the metal plate, while the plate appears to be stopping the stone itself from collapsing!

In 2003 an unusual metal marker lining the pavement in Halford on the line of the Fosse Way (A429) was hit by a passing vehicle and the broken pieces almost lost. Because of the good relations between local people interested in history and conservation and branch members it has been restored and also replaced a little back from its original placement. It represents one of very few examples of markers surviving on the Fosse. In terms of Warwickshire this is remarkable since not far from Halford the original Roman line continues as a minor road, long, straight sections, making a beeline for Leicester but with no evidence of milestones.

Another road, like the Fosse, aiming for Leicester but from the Coventry direction, crosses Watling Street, the other major Roman road, with a well-hidden shabby metal marker hidden deep in the verge by the crossing itself. One must concentrate on the traffic but our member was lucky just to catch a hint of it, enough to find somewhere to park and investigate. There are not many markers left indicating Coventry.

The last newsletter mentioned a marker just north of Warwick indicating distance to Birmingham. This has not been seen by all branch members so a couple of members went to check it out in terms of database detail. It transpired to be a fine example of metal plate on wood, and in good condition, just outside the church at, Rowington on the B4439 from Hatton. Two markers in Brailes are also metal plates on wood so the branch has three rather rare examples of types using timber.



London features regularly on many UK milestones but Birmingham far less. Oxfordshire and Warwickshire have several mentioning our second city along the old A41 out of Banbury. Two surviving metal posts on the old A45 into and through Meriden also include distance to Birmingham (Page 6 Shire book,) as does a surviving metal example on the former A34 between Alderminster and Stratford

A branch member Robert Caldicott, keen on research, has produced the following list of turnpikes, helpful in tracing the story of the ensuing milestones and showing how the research aspect of the society's goals is as important as the more active work.

Branch co-ordinator Mike Buxton himself managed to find a milestone near Pillerton Priors on the A422 Banbury-Stratford road and freed it from its vegetable debris to enable visibility. Surprisingly it has a surrounding border of grey bricks. Is this earlier conservation interest?



### ***Warwickshire and Oxfordshire Turnpikes***

There were 34 Warwickshire Turnpike Trusts, managing a total of 468 miles, and 21 in Oxfordshire with 326 miles. Oxfordshire examples in this list in most cases involve Warwickshire sections.

There were of course other Turnpike Trusts in Oxfordshire not listed here and reference to Alan Rosevear's surveys of Trusts and milestones in The Thames Valley will complements Robert's work.

### ***London - Warwick - Birmingham***

Tyburn - Uxbridge	15 miles	1715
Uxbridge - Wendover the Wendover - Buckingham Trust	20 miles added to	1751
Wendover - Buckingham	20 miles	1721
Buckingham - Warmington	22 miles	1744
Warmington - Warwick - Birmingham	33 miles	1726

### ***London - Birmingham - Shrewsbury***

Holborn - Highgate	4 miles	1717
Highgate - Barnet	6 miles	1711
Barnet - South Mimms	3 Miles	
South Mimms - St. Albans	6 miles	1715
St. Albans -Dunstable	13 miles	1723
Dunstable - Hockliffe	4 miles	1710
Hockliffe - Stony Stratford	15 miles	1706
Old Stratford/Stony Stratford - Dunchurch	30 miles	1707
Dunchurch - Meriden	17 miles	1724
Meriden - Stonebridge	4 miles	
Stonebridge - Birmingham	6 miles	1745
Birmingham - Wednesbury	10 miles	1725
Wednesbury - Shifnal	18 miles	1748
Shifnal - Shrewsbury	17 miles	1726

### ***London - Chester***

Holborn - Highgate	4 miles	1717
Highgate - Barnet	6 miles	1711
Barnet - South Mimms	3 Miles	
South Mimms - St. Albans	6 miles	1715
St. Albans - Dunstable	13 miles	1723
Dunstable - Hockliffe	4 miles	1710
Hockliffe - Stony Stratford	15 miles	1706
Old Stratford/Stony Stratford - Dunchurch	30 miles	1707
Dunchurch - Meriden	17 miles	1724
Meriden - Coleshill	6 miles	

Coleshill - Lichfield	14 miles	1744
Lichfield - Stone - Woore	36 miles	1729
Woore - Nantwich - Chester	29 miles	1744

### ***London - Oxford - Birmingham/Worcester***

Tyburn - Uxbridge	15 miles	1715
Uxbridge - Beaconsfield	8 miles added to the	1751
Wendover - Buckingham Trust		
Beaconsfield - Stokenchurch	12 miles	1719
Stokenchurch - Woodstock	28 miles	1719
Woodstock - Rollright	12 miles	1730
Rollright - Long Compton	2 miles	
Long Compton - Stratford	15 miles	1730
Stratford - Birmingham	21 miles	1726
Chipping Norton - Bourton on the Hill	15 miles	1731
Bourton on the Hill - Broadway Hill	4 miles	
Broadway Hill - Stonebow Bridge	20 miles	1728
Stonebow Bridge - Worcester	3 miles	1726

### ***London - Oxford - Gloucester - Hereford***

Tyburn - Uxbridge	15 miles	1715
Uxbridge - Beaconsfield	8 miles added to the	1751
Wendover - Buckingham Trust		
Beaconsfield - Stokenchurch	12 miles	1719
Stokenchurch - Oxford	18 miles	1719
Oxford - Crickley Hill	41 miles	1751
Crickley Hill - Gloucester	4 miles	1723
Gloucester - Hereford	29 miles	1726

## **Devon (and Theft!)**

We start the story from Devon with the tale of the disappearing Babbacombe mile plate. It is fixed to the original stone marker serving as the gatepost to a hotel currently being demolished. The plate disappeared. Action by the Society and Devon co-ordinator Tim Jenkinson saw Torbay Constabulary engaged and their prompt sympathetic action brought the post to light, allegedly taken by the site owner for safe keeping. It should be restored in due course. The Council Planners had placed a protection order on it anyway but the builder allowed removal by the owner.

A Gloucestershire plate recently turned up on e-Bay for public auction and the Society was again fortunate to engage local police help, in that case the police tracking down the seller and finding not only the known stolen plate but several others in his shed! Two Cheshire plates that had appeared on an earlier e-Bay

auction sadly were sold before we could take the relevant action. The police appreciate good evidence backing a theft allegation before they feel able to pursue a case.

The society is fortunate to have engaged the volunteer services of Sergeant Bill Cunliffe of Lancashire Constabulary, shortly due to retire, and himself responsible for managing the search for a marvellous metal milepost stolen one night from Charnock Richard on the A49. They found JCB tracks in the verge. The post has not yet been recovered however.

Bill has agreed to advise the Committee and/or branch co-coordinators in the event of any future instance of theft becoming known and is willing to use his expertise to help such recovery actions run smoothly. If you need such help please refer to the Secretary, Terry Keegan.

Theft remains a concern of the society and the Committee's deliberations and new policy will be relayed in due course via the normal newsletter. However we are anxious at this earliest possible stage to seek member help. Particularly we would welcome all members also keen on eBay to watch the motoring, antiques and related pages for any future evidence of selling. Please alert Terry or Mervyn at once with details, as well as your branch secretary if you are a member of a branch.

If you see any such items for sale locally in antique shops or centres please also alert us. In effect we need to have within the organisation a milestone watch facility based on members supporting the endeavour." Even if you cannot be terribly active physically you may well be able to help us through your PC and basic sympathy for the cause.

Please also spread the word to as many people you know in the trade or in local heritage associations, as well as local government, that milestones largely remain public property and should not be traded. Any so offered are very likely to be stolen and dealers should ask for very clear evidence by way of provenance showing how a would-be seller obtained the item by failure in former decades of local authorities and contractors to take better care of mile markers.

## OXFORDSHIRE

The major recent activity in Oxfordshire has been the restoration of the original plate to a milestone in Weston-on-the-Green, the original A43 following the Weston-on-the-Green to Towcester turnpike. This is one of those not listed above and was researched by Ted Flaxman with his findings later published by him. Ted discovered the fascinating reference to Milestone XVIII in Flora Thompson's "Lark Rise to Candleford". In the text she writes of one Sunday afternoon going for a walk to look at this milestone.

The later, plated version, like all the others except the Weston one, has lost its plate but the fact of plating, with Arabic numerals and distances to both ends, argues that the Thompson one was an earlier series. Charles Hughes of the Oxfordshire branch was instrumental in locating the Weston plate from the adjacent landowner who had taken it into safe keeping many years earlier and saw the chance to restore it.

With other society Committee members and local branch members the plate was duly returned to the stone and everyone was very happy. Within three months it was hit by a speeding Porsche, which mounted the grass verge and sent it flying. Fortunately it did not break and remains flat on its back with branch and parish council hoping the insurance company will pay the further restoration costs.

The branch has from the outset engaged the interest of some of the District Council heritage officers. Whilst currently this is still at the level of liaison and sharing information it bodes well for future activities where the support of local authorities would prove helpful.

Branch member Alan Rosevear has personally won the support of his district council in terms of the restoration of several milestones in and around Wantage. Alan is also Berkshire co-ordinator, as well as manager of the Society's database and one of our regular publicists. He has produced an interesting 4-page leaflet showing the before and after images of these restored stones as well as all the known types of milestone or marker in Oxfordshire but he is the first to acknowledge that many of these started out as Berkshire items until county reorganisation in 1973 handed them to their neighbours. The road to Reading from Wantage has surviving stones and demonstrates how different types have been used along the road.

An Oxfordshire member has also studied the A422 Banbury-Stratford road and noted seven surviving markers, of which two are metal (different designs) and five stones (three designs.) Three hitherto unrecorded plated stones have been found on the A361 Banbury-Chipping Norton road.

### A Snippet from Roger Worsley in Wales

Note: date is 1846. Manuscript at foot and is barely legible in the original notice. There is emphasis in the case of each road on doing the job well, be it repairing or painting.

## NOTICE.

**Necessary Repairs of the ~~Toll-Houses~~  
and Gates, on the Milford Turnpike Road,  
known by the names of Milford, Johnston,  
and Dredgman Hill, namely:—**

**MILFORD.**—One New Gate and one New Post, both of the best  
Mansel Deal, painted with two coats of paint, and put up com-  
plete.

**JOHNSTON.**—The Gates well repaired and two coats of paint  
**DREDGMAN HILL.**—The Gates well repaired.

**Tenders for the above Work to be deli-  
vered, sealed, to Mr. Richard Wilcox,  
Surveyor, on or before the 22nd day of  
August instant.**

**The work to be completed within one  
month from the time of Contract, or other  
Workmen to be employed.**

Aug 30th 1846

J. Potter, Printer, Haverfordwest.

## EAST ANGLIAN FIND

Michael Knight is our Bedfordshire co-ordinator and has an excellent working relationship with Grainne Farrington who looks after next-door Cambridgeshire, which includes the older local authority of Huntingdonshire. Bedfordshire is one of the nation's black holes in terms of markers but thanks to Michael's work up to 20 have now been found, but including original Beds, ones later "reorganised" to Hunts. This lifts them away from bottom-of-the-league Northamptonshire where but a handful are known.

Michael had raised the question in a letter to the society of just how many markers might refer to Birmingham so the Warwickshire report will help. He also told us that during last year he and Grainne researched six milestones they had found in two Works depots in Huntingdon. All six have been tracked back to their original locations, match gaps in the county's record and increase the total of known survivors. Michael reports positive help and attitudes from District Council staff.

Michael is one of our members scouring the nation and reports a Roman stone exhumed in June 2002 in West Yorkshire. In Bedfordshire he reports an AA yellow circular plate( type with MU) in a pub wall in Harrold and a Millennium milestone set up in Pertenhall village on the B660.

Michael could not attend the Tile Hill AGM with its focus on maps else he would have been brought his 1765 Bedfordshire map with roads and milestones marked, he emphasises by numbers rather than the stones drawn on other such end of the 18<sup>th</sup>. century county maps. The map, by Thomas Jefferys includes illustrative scenes with one depicting a milestone reading "49 MILES FROM LONDON."

A Bedfordshire member, E.J.Lund, has informed us of two former A1 stones still standing in Biggleswade, interestingly with different references to places on each, other than London, though only a mile apart.

### WILTSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

A Wiltshire member has sent us the following information from a Local Government journal in January 2004. Wootton Bassett Town Council has restored six 19<sup>th</sup>. century milestones from around the town as a contribution to conservation of its heritage. The work was carried out by Young Johnsons Memorial Masons at a cost of £1400, helped by a 50% grant from North Wiltshire District Council. Richard and Judy Gosnell, who helped locate the six restored stones, are still searching for a seventh, believed to be in the road from WB to

Binkworth. Through branch co-ordinator in Wiltshire, Doug Roseaman good relations are being established with relevant council staff and this example of local initiative shows that positive, constructive responses are possible. Wiltshire has many surviving stones and mileposts, many needing TLC.



## BUCKS, and BERKS

A milestone in Haddenham has been smashed into pieces in a traffic accident and only some of the pieces have been rescued. A large cast-iron marker on the A41 at Kingswood has disappeared along with an old County Boundary marker in Thame.

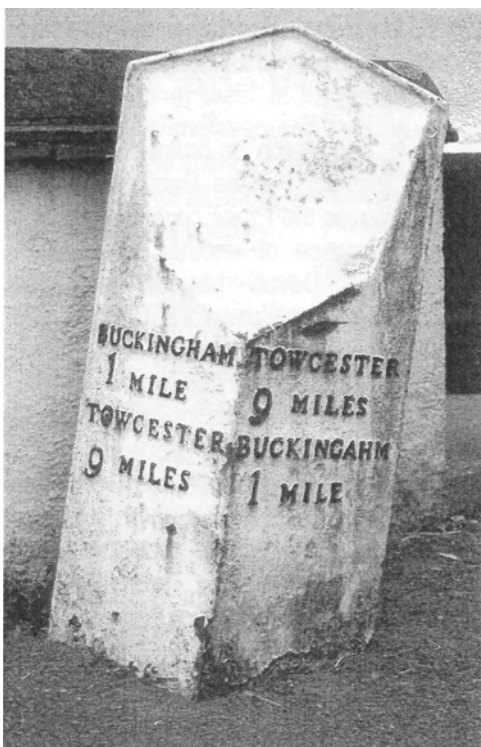
In Berkshire the old A34 route from Gore Hill to Donnington, south of Ilsley, had a set of very impressive gabled milestones dated 1776. Although several had been over-painted, the original engraved inscriptions with distances to Newbury, Oxford & Abingdon could be discerned. However, several have been lost as the A34 was progressively improved. The process was reversed a year or so ago. Contractors working on the Newbury by-pass re-instated a previously missing stone by the Fox & Hounds, beside the Golf Course.

There may be another stone leaning against a barn wall on private land at Boxford Mill. Recent correspondence with a man in Beedon who wants the two listed stones in that parish to be renovated indicates this may be the stone lost from Horse Moor when the A34 Chieveley junction was built. This item shows the valuable detective work involved in identifying survivors and always needed.

The road from Buckingham to Banbury is one recorded by Ogilby as a branch from the main London road. Buckingham now has a by-pass but the old road from the town still has its first milestone correctly inscribed with the distance from Banbury as 16 miles but the next, back on the main A421 also shows 16 to Banbury. Close examination reveals the original '5' had been eroded sufficiently to mislead the painter who simply blacked in

existing information and failed to cross-check with the previous stone. Not far off in Finmere a surviving stone clearly faces the old road leading out of the village, ignoring the brash new by-pass.

North from Buckingham towards Silverstone is the famous metal marker with the mis-cast spelling of **BUCKINGHAM**. The owner of the pub in front of which it stands claims the credit for having saved it from a close encounter with a truck a few years back which almost hit it.



### **WORCESTER RE-PLATES A443**

The Worcester branch is our second largest group, Yorkshire being the biggest. It is a very active group, meeting regularly and devoting much of its time to practical tasks like the almost completed re-plateing of stones along the A443 Worcester to Great Witley road. No doubt Terry Keegan's explicit enthusiasm helps in the task of persuading local parishes like Great Witley and Hilhampton to carry out the work in their own areas. As those involved in all the restorations discovered, one of the principal problems was extraction of old bolts still in the original stones. Drill and blow lamp and lots of patience seem to have worked. The eleven miles to Worcester plate has been fixed to the wall of the Hundred House just opposite where the stone originally stood.

This was the subject of Alan Rosevear's recent paper to the Committee following an enquiry from Conwy Council in Wales about just such a dilemma when the original position of a marker would today

seem just not appropriate. The Society has created in effect a hierarchy of circumstances starting with the ideal of the precise original spot and progressing further and further away from that, including placement on a nearby building, with deposition and display in a museum the last. The society sees no place for allowing a stone with no apparent lodging place to end up in someone's house or garden, even with a promise of access. It would rather have it in a museum.

The branch holds regular coffee mornings in members' houses and it is at such meetings that work is discussed and further projects planned. The branch has good links with local council officers, not just highways and Heritage staff but also planning staff. Just such good relationships resulted in the listed stone at Welland having its former coat of crude thick paint replaced by smooth white Hammerite and with the indented lettering picked out in black. It now positively glows. Droitwich Town Council has superbly exposed the Bradley stone on the old A378 north of the town, clearing not only the overgrowth but also digging away the banking to show the full height of the once half-buried stone.

While visiting the small engineering works of J Lane at Stanford Bridge to discuss how they had originally fixed the mile plates to the Great Witley road stones a mention was made of the loss of milestones on the B4203 from Great Witley to the Herefordshire border at Upper Sapey. A smile or two later in Mr. Lane's garden adjoining the works was revealed a magnificent two-sided milestone recording on one side TO LONDON 125 MILES TO WORCESTER 13 TO TENBURY 9, with a second generation of information in the form of a plate affixed to the other side giving BROMYARD 8 1/2 MILES and WORCESTER 13, the directions indicated by pointing hands.

He had rescued the stone from a ditch some years earlier and taken it to his garden for safety. He had also been told a recently-deceased local dealer in anything not firmly fixed to the ground had bought the next stone in the series "from the Council". The stone was not found in the ensuing sale of goods. Mr. Lane knew of one other stone still on this road but plate removal had damaged the visible face. Set against a stone wall the branch wonders if the hidden face is carved as Mr. Lane's example.

Alan Scaplehorn's research found that these stones were set up by the Hundred House Trust, whose first division controlled the roads from that house to Arley Kings via Dunley; to Newnham Bridge via Erdiston and the Herefordshire border via Stanford Bridge. The Trust's second division ran from Hundred House to Knightsford Bridge via Martley.

Neville Billington wrote a most informative piece in the branch newsletter about a Worcestershire Photographic Survey at Trinity Street Library housing thousands of photographs among which he has found at least one milestone.

## NORFOLK NEWS

Norfolk, home to Carol and Alan Haines who produce our excellent newsletters continue their in-depth survey of the county. There are now 240 Norfolk markers recorded in our national database thanks to Mike Hallett, a Herts. Member who recently toured south and west Norfolk. Carol herself continues to survey the Norwich to North Walsham Turnpike, created in 1797, some of whose stones have evidence of Roman numbering on the back corresponding to the distance to Norwich. It implies they have been turned at some time and recut. (*Wouldn't it be exciting to get documentary evidence of such local activity? -Ed.*) Only four stones survive though two were known before disappearing. The new Coltishall air base cut off the old road. At Scottow, where the present B1150 rejoins the old road, even the lady in the layby snack bar seems not to have noticed that the 10-mile stone has disappeared. Photos affirm it had been there.

Early OS maps show five milestones from the Norwich to North Walsham Turnpike north of Scottow to-Honing Hall. They were buried in 1940 but a few years ago the two in Honing were dug up and re-erected. The stone by the church is noted on old maps as Norwich 14. Norwich 13 was seen to have been pulverised during road works several years ago but Norwich 12 is believed still buried, under tarmac, near Worstead village hall. The Highways Dept. agree to dig it up if given absolute proof it is there. This means a radar scan but little scope exists for that or the funding to achieve it so metal rods will be tried. Carol then heard of Norwich 11 existing and has since confirmed this. Like Norwich 14 no inscription survives.

The other Honing stone has traces of Roman numerals and this suggests an 18<sup>th</sup>. Century dating for the series.

Local authority interest again is pleasing in the case of Brancaster Parish Council looking to preserve anything of historical interest in the parish. The A149 has four stones, one only recently discovered through a WI Milestone project.

In Buxton Road, Spixworth is a brand new milestone, replacement (using photographs) for one that was badly damaged a few years ago, fell into a ditch and became subsequently buried under a cycle path.

## And back to DEVON

We mentioned Devon news in the context of the missing Babbacombe mile plate and our efforts with police and local council to recover it. Curiously the local museum had seemed remarkably uninterested in the matter when we sought their help. It was as if they were not aware of milestones and certainly not to the extent of worrying if anything amiss happened to them. It's a bit like Banbury Museum refusing to stock the SHIRE Milestones book despite selling other SHIRE titles and being rather disinterested in focusing on milestones in the Banbury area for a future themed display.

Tim Jenkinson, our Devon co-ordinator, reports to his members the story of the Babbacombe plate and how he believes the Press coverage led to the sudden re-appearance of another mile plate in Happaway Road. Devon has several plated examples usually showing several places and likely, as in the Babbacombe case, to represent an upgrading of information required by growing levels of travel. The significance of the Babbacombe example was that the original stone was never removed and remained adjacent to it, something we know of very rarely, another example occurring in Cheshire. This second plate was recovered sadly broken and irreparable but the enthusiastic local historians have had a replica made and plan shortly to fix it back in the original spot.

Tim has a strong personal interest in guide stones. The country lanes of east Dartmoor retain a number of guide stones erected c 1820 showing distances to nearby towns and villages. The stones are mostly found in the Parishes of Ilington, Bovey Tracey and Hennock, with a few others scattered across the north and west moor. Once again an approach to a Parish Council, Ilington, drew an encouraging interest in care and maintenance.

Cussings is a celebrated local guide book to Dartmoor and though there are just a few references to milestones or guidestones the original, now very expensive volumes, do exist in a later, cheaper, compendium form and usefully describe moorland paths, tracks and other routes.

At its recent Committee meeting the Society argued that despite aims being limited to mile markers as such the society's publications could occasionally be laced with news of other roadside features. Tim's stones involve distances, unlike some of the Derbyshire stoops recently featured in a BBC "Countryfile" programme. The producers still resist a Milestone programme despite regular lobbying!

## DORSET

John Tybjerg, like Alan Rosevear, is another of our valuable publicists and he looks after the Dorset branch. He has considerable personal knowledge and was instrumental in persuading BBC TV's "Look South" programme to include milestones as candidates for restoration in their contribution to the BBC's own major national conservation/restoration project last year. Directly from that came the invitation to Alan to gain valuable publicity with a milestone feature from the area in its own right.

The BBC seems to be running another such series now and maybe at least at the level of regional" programmes our members across the UK could keep plugging the merits of milestone restoration. Conservation is not all about old mansions, cinemas and non-conformist chapels!

A Dorset meeting was held on 14<sup>th</sup>. March and new member, David Fox, from Broadmayne has offered to refurbish the 3 foot tall milestone on the A352 ("2 DORCHESTER WAREHAM 16 on a metal plate,) once the Council have stood it upright (DORCHESTER 4 WAREHAM 13 stands in Broadmayne itself, looking almost new! The total distance of 17 would seem to conflict with the eighteen of the stone David will refurbish....Ed)

Another member, Colin Payne, was earlier active on the Dorchester-Sherborn route, ably assisted by his two grandsons!

Dorset made contact with local Councils a priority and, approaching a wider range as a result found a wider range of response from plain disinterest to real enthusiasm. Dorchester was rated the worst claiming that two were on private property and two the responsibility of the County Highways Dept. (true at least for ownership!) Nevertheless the overall result seems likely to be eleven or twelve re-painted while one has already been re-sited and consideration being given to possibly replacing the broken remains of another. The milepost outside Shaftesbury at Longcross reading SHERBORN 15 SHASTON 1 and with MOTCOMB on the front vertical face has been moved\*\* for its future safety 30 metres away and 3 metres back as a result of negotiation between Shaftesbury Town and Dorset County Councils and will now be re-painted by the Town Council along with a similar one in Salisbury Street. 9 (\*\*/ have a photo of it in its original spot. ..Ed.)

Encouraging negotiations between local Councils is a very promising way forward for the Society and its branches. The county has a Customer Lighting and Road Enquiry Centre (CLARENCE) for comments from the public about safety and lighting issues. Nevertheless, though nothing to do with historical

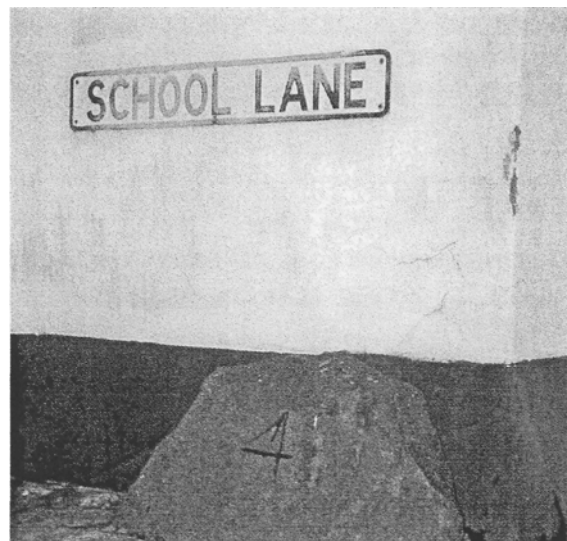
issues, John has successfully established contact on milestone issues and found willing ears and eyes through which other channels may open. The County Council's Historic Environment Manager has assured the branch they care and milestones are cited in the new Heritage Strategy

Since the Society began 225 markers have been recorded for Dorset in the national database, of which 45 have been surveyed, GPS measurement of 71, scenic pictures of 65. Seven examples were re-painted in 2002, ten were re-set, painted or given new plates, twelve to fifteen could be re-set and re-painted in 2004 while 11 are either in good condition or totally eroded blank stones. The branch thinks of itself in terms of how many "good" stones it has.

At the meeting members saw a book on Dorset Turnpike roads prompting a deeper study that revealed several turnpike roads not yet checked for milestones. Two were searched for possibilities (Chard-Beaminster and Crewkerne-Beaminster) but without success and eleven more remain involving the routes from Sherborne to Sturminster Newton and Wareham to Weymouth.

*(Ed...examples noted on the A352 itself last Christmas Eve include Wareham 6 Dorchester 11¼; Wareham 9 Dorchester 8, the distance rounded down in effect and both simple stones with rounded tops, plus a stone with a large '8' but that has also had a Broadmayne style plate at some time but now missing, opposite the Red Lion near Winfrith Newburgh.*

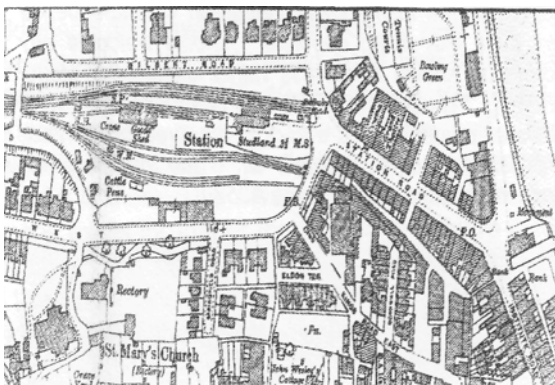
*In Winfrith Newburgh is a stone with a large incised '4' reported to me in my Daily Telegraph correspondence days by a lady living opposite. I should welcome any information known about this rather old-looking stone. Following 'School Lane' leads to a point where the road continues ahead only as a track in the direction of Wool, or possibly Coombe Keynes while the modern road bends left and turns back to the A352.)*



The branch sadly heard of a milestone near Wareham knocked down to ground level by a local tractor. Earlier newsletters from the start of 2003 report the growing strength of Dorset branch activities which our present columns, taken from the May 2004 newsletter, reflect.

John gave a talk last October to Bradpole's Housewives United. Over half the respondents to the original Telegraph articles featuring your Editor's interest in milestones were from women. Branches may well wish to encourage talks and we have volunteer speakers. Three recent talks to Rotary branches and the resulting donations to Society funds have been useful and welcome. Rotary celebrates its centenary next year and why not some commemorative milestones replacing significant "lost" examples?

A railway enthusiast society member reports from the book "Branch Line to Swanage" several maps showing milestones including the 4m from Wareham stone seen last Christmas by your editor outside Corfe Castle. One showed a stone outside the entrance to Swanage station with inscription Studland 3 1/2 and then just a few pages later came a photograph in which the stone can also be seen. From Corfe the B3351 heads off from the main A351 towards Studland and in Studland is a similar stone reading SWANAGE 3. A minor road leads directly to Swanage from this point and one stone survives reading to Studland given as a mile distant.



## SOCIETY POSTCARDS

The Society has published two postcards in its occasional series, planned both to publicise milestones and perhaps satisfy collecting interests as well. The first features examples used as the layout for the cover of the SHIRE milestones book. The second shows five examples from across the UK taken from the black and white photographs in the Ken Diamond collection.

20 of each issue went free to each branch to use in situations where raising awareness would be useful and with the encouragement to order more at a little above cost price which they could then sell on at a profit if they wished for branch funds.

5 of each with five notelets also using the SHIRE cover pictures were made into packs sold at national society meetings

A small residual stock is left for sale to individual members not least those outside branch activities, **priced at 5 for £1**. Cheques payable to The Milestone Society. Orders should be sent to **The Milestone Society c.o. Cloudhill, Shutford, Banbury OX15 6PQ.**

The Society planned the first from its Publicity budget as we wish to see these cards used in many correspondence situations by our members and branches. Thus far the sales of the packs have covered the costs of both productions and so we still have our planned publicity expenditure intact. **YOU** can make it even more of an investment by buying what is left and if you share the collecting instinct these first two could become very scarce. We only printed 1000 and feel confident enough to double that for future editions. It all depends on the level of **your** interest and your willingness to use them **FOR** the benefit of the cause!

## **CEREDIGION**

Chris Woodard, former Devon Co-ordinator, now looks after this county helped by the local Museum Curator. The county had just one Turnpike Trust, a northern half run by Aberystwyth, and the southern by Cardigan, the border at Aberaeron. Markers date from 1870 and each half has different styles. Three specially distinctive stones come on each of three exit routes at a mile from the centre of Aberystwyth. One features on one of the cards Chris publishes based on his own pen and wash drawings of famous milestones. Enquiries: **01239 851053**

## **PEMBROKESHIRE PUZZLE**

David Lyle, an assiduous surveyor of mile markers from Wiltsire enjoys long cycling expeditions on which finding and recording markers is clearly a major part of the fun. He has just completed a thorough survey of much of Wales and sent in his results. However, he queries the picture on Page 28 of the SHIRE book showing a plated stone of distinctive Pembrokeshire type (at SN 0403) whose right plate reads 3 miles 512 yards to Pembroke. The author also has a photo of a similar marker not far away still on the A477 at SN 0804 showing right plate reading Smiles 85 yards to Hobbs Point/6 miles 520 yards to Pembroke (i.e. two destinations.)

David reports that these two markers appear to have had their right hand plates exchanged with each other and he has recorded them as they are including photographs.

He describes clear signs of some recent maintenance efforts and it may be that both were removed for such attention but put back wrongly. Checking the map still seems to argue that the original photographs fit the distances involved. Maybe Chris Woodard could raise the matter for us with PCC who take milestones seriously enough to provide us with a copy of their own recorded list.

John's fine, comprehensive records follow supply to the society of its lists by CADW ( Welsh Heritage) We now have well-documented coverage of Wales which seems to have had a better survival rate.

## **STAFFORDSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE**

April 2004 saw two unfortunate events in Uttoxeter. A metal milepost a mile south of the town was hit by a car and shattered, and some of the pieces lost. The Charles Lathe post at Rocester seemed threatened by workmen toiling perilously close. County co-ordinator John Higgins kept an eye on it and even photographed it but even so one day it had disappeared, no information, probably stolen. The county may commission a replica.

Staffordshire was our first theft situation. The society bought an attractive old plate from a Cirencester dealer, using the potential reference to County and police as an incentive to sell it below his buying price, and within that principle that without provenance it is probably stolen and we should try to deter possession by the general public. The society weighs the pros and cons and a policy paper is in hand. Staffordshire members have tried to find the host stone but failed and instead it will be mounted on the wall of a nearby house that itself has connections with staging history.

The decision is catered for in the Society's new hierarchy of restoration options, but documents have not yet been signed ensuring that ownership of the item remains with the Society. As with the Tysoe milepost in Warwickshire restored last year by local initiative the interesting question remains of future responsibility for items back in original Highways Department function (and custody?)

John also looks after Derbyshire and reports an article about local milestones to be published in a future issue of The Peak District Magazine. Branches have good opportunities to encourage articles and other media coverage. John has virtually completed the Derbyshire listing in the same thorough manner of his earlier Staffordshire work. Paul Gibbons is anxious the group does not fold once John leaves and has suggested applying for a local heritage grant for painting and restoring markers. The County stipulates red primer, undercoat, two white top coats and black lettering. Joy Stapleton has found three unlisted county boundary stones. David Blackburn added the milestone on the Chesterfield Canal to John's list. The branch has an interest in these other items not strictly marking the distances along roads.

## **YORKSHIRE**

Yorkshire is well-served with branch activity, including meetings, surveys and newsletters. The spring newsletter reported a member's long-distant experience cycling in Shropshire and passing a milepost that read "5 FUR 132 YARDS FROM THE WYNSTAY ARMS" He has recently re-discovered this, having noted its apparent disappearance, stood against the wall of the market hall, upside down, and damaged, but with its inscription still visible. An angled post the other side read "STRETTON 12 TO THE MARKET" This item reminds us of the less usual places indicated as the destinations for roads.

As a direct result of Society Treasurer, Jan Scrine's recent attempts to generate local and national publicity, including an interview on 'Woman's Hour,'

a long-lost Keighley milepost, believed victim to demolition of a wall, is safe and is to be re-erected.

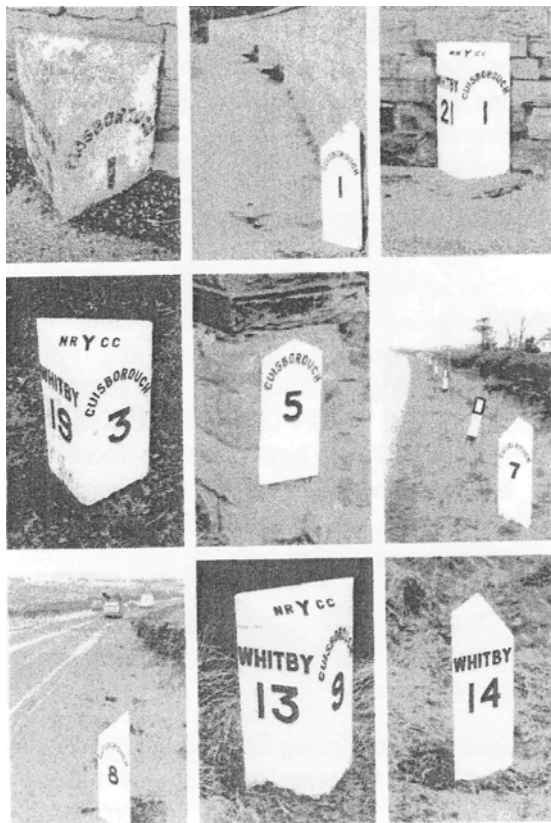
Three Addingham members are re-painting their stones and work is proposed in neighbouring Silsden. Harrogate Highways have given Brian Bradley-Smith paint and safety equipment to refurbish local stones he has long felt sorry for.

A stone dated 1738 on an old hollow way in Cudworth near Barnsley was in the line of proposed new by-pass but has been rescued as a result of intervention by local historian Richard Watson. It is to be renovated and replaced as close to its original site as possible.

**UNSOLICITED OFFICIAL ENTHUSIASM  
News from the North York Moors**

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council has restored seven cast-iron markers on the Whitby-Guisborough A171 road, inspired by SHIRE's book!

The seven markers were blasted, repainted and re-set by Cleveland Corrosion Control. The 'Guisborough 1 MILE' post was half-buried under decades of tarmac but is now back to its original height. A single face of the 'Guisborough 5' marker survived confrontation with a lorry and is now set onto a very adjacent bridge. The project was funded by the Guisborough Market Town Initiative, and supported as a Pilot project for the Countryside Agency's Market Town development schemes.



The stones below represent Yorkshire mysteries we are sure Yorkshire branch members can explain.

The first is about 3 miles south of Huddersfield on the A616 What does R or probably B mean? Answers on a postcard, please...No prizes though!



**CAT and MYSTERY**

Also from Yorkshire a member recently looking for some of the many fascinating stones in the Adel area of Leeds, mostly off the A660, came across this example, reading to ECCUP 1 MILE, and three to Adel but then spelled ADDLE plus cuffed hand, but was intrigued by the partner stone to its left. A similar one had been passed half a mile earlier descending Eccup Lane. Any information welcome!



## CUMBRIAN SURPRISES

Your Editor, returning from a weekend break in Cumbria and surveying the A683 from Kirby Stephen to Lancaster, came across a smallish, flat, mud-brown stone leaning against the wall of Four Lane Ends Farm at the junction of the A683 with the B 6256 which leads back to the A684 Sedbergh-Kendal road. This stone was between the second and third of the almost complete series of old stones between Sedbergh and Kirby Lonsdale giving just the letters S and KL and the numerals.

It had a large carved, though worn, cuffed hand at the top taking 5 inches depth and much of the 16 inch width, bigger than any such I have yet seen, below which came the simple all large capitals text **TO BORROW BRIDGE S15 MILES**. What could the S mean? On the back of the stone a second inscription beneath a row of eight snails and a similar cuffed hand, though more worn, read **TO COVUAN BRIDGE SEVEN MILES**. The use of text for the distance rather than digits explained the S15 on the other side as SIX, a word, with the '5' in fact a reversed 'C' overlapping a correct 'C' to make 'X'

Distances written as words are not common in the record, although Alan Rosevear, our database manager, notes that Jack Ward reported from Sedburgh a flat stone slab with arch top with text;

**KIRKBY / STEPHEN / NINE / MILES** on one side and on the reverse **GARSDALE / FOUR / MILES**

where today's distances are some 50% greater. These were probably "Customary Miles". The new stone probably comes from the same era, maybe pre-turnpike at a time when four roads met at that farm and before the present well-preserved series of S and KL stones were provided.

COVUAN (COWAN today) BRIDGE is about ten and a half miles away (seven customary) on the Skipton road (now A65) out of Kirkby Lonsdale. John Tybjerg reports a BURROW BRIDGE on an 1847 OS map where the Lancaster route from Kirkby Lonsdale crosses Leek Beck about nine miles away (six customary) near villages with BURROW in their name. He suggests the stone is where it belongs, maybe knocked down, then found and locally re-instated, showing, unusually, two forward directions to major centres, Skipton and Lancaster.

This stone was out of the ground, just stood against the farm wall. The owner of the farm, a blacksmith, said the stone had been there the eight years he had lived there and he remembered it from before that. He was shoeing two superb Shire horses at the time, a rare sight in itself.

Both distances were more worn than the rest of each text. Was this stone standing at a time of wartime defacement activity? The cuffed hand style is reminiscent of stones found occasionally in the Keighley, Halifax, Huddersfield area, even the Eccup one shown above, with very good examples being at Long Preston, on the A65, near Hellifield and Settle, and Outlane on the A640 south of Huddersfield. We report later a stray on the Lancs. Yorks. Border on a high moorland minor road.

Having explained his background your editor was invited to take it away but preferred to hide it a few metres away behind some low ash branches before informing the South Lakes District Conservation officer. He was very interested, promising to act fast in view of vulnerability to theft. He has reported the location, though Cumbria, just lies in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, who thus have the jurisdiction. The Society has informed the relevant Park officer. We will work with him to ensure proper re-instatement of this rare echo of early UK travel.

The S-KL stones own their own mystery. One was recorded in 1996 showing the fractional distance to KL as 1/2 but by 2000 it was 3/4 and still is. A similar shaped stone north of Sedbergh on the road to Kirby Stephen suggests a native Cumbrian design maybe of turnpike era. Only two could be found between KS and S. This stretch of the A683 still has its pre-1973 Yorkshire mileposts, marooned in post-1973 Cumbria, until the former boundary is reached when the apparent Cumbrian design takes over again. Did this standard type replace previous ones of stone, maybe like this newly-found example or the Long Preston types?

## CUMBRIA/DURHAM

This weekend brought opportunities to explore the Brough/Bowes/Barnard Castle area and another big surprise was to find the five stones on the pre-1973 Cumbrian side of the Brough to Middleton-in-Teesdale road had had earlier inscriptions giving just the distance digit to Brough. The first four of these had been turned, with distances and both locations carved into the stone. On the original faces showing just numbers, '1' and '3' were very legible but '2' and '4' were almost gone.

One of our members had reported these Cumbrian stones but not the earlier inscriptions on the back. The fifth stone was not turned and recut. Instead it was painted white at some time and the words BROUGH indicated in black. Thus the plain '5' is visible to the road but is easily ignored, not looking like the others as the black and white painted details have almost disappeared, for want of TLC or even interest from Durham.



Border changes have affected this road, the original Yorkshire part going to Durham. The surviving markers are angled metal plates, free-standing and with no road name in the top semi-circular section, Instead NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE is there. Or was! Transfer resulted in some official but rather vandalistic attempts to disown the Yorkshire origins.

One has the right portion of this information crudely struck off. Another has the whole similarly removed and the letters DCC painted on in black on the sloping section that now forms the top of what remains. A third is intact but has had the original information painted over in white and a similar DCC added on the lower sloping portion.



Only one survives as it originally was and very close to the present border but was this new border the original border between Cumbria and the North Riding? Or was there a minor adjustment that could also account for that first milestone in Cumbria, the No. 5 stone, not to have been turned and re-cut?

The Bowes to Barnard Castle stones reported by local Councillor Rosie Bettison in Bowes, and who secured some conservation treatment a few years ago for all Bowes area stones, are still there plus one outside the Bowes parish and nearer Barnard Castle, while a few still survive on the busy A66, even the dualled sections. The society has need of local support in Durham.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

There are a few metal markers surviving on the B577 from Lutterworth to Hinckley via a junction with the A5 just through the Claybrookes. One is in Claybrooke Parva, at a bend where the coach road went straight ahead and beyond the present dead end to join Watling Street. An earlier stone marker is in the garden of the large house at the junction of these two village roads. The owner has discovered from postal records considerable detail about the post runs through the village between L and H, contractors for each stage, (a horse change every six miles,) numbers of passengers on particular journeys, places where breaks were allowed, (between five and fifteen minutes with twenty-five for lunch,) and details of the exchange of time-pieces to confirm accurate timetable running.

Thus the eleven miles from L to H in 1836 were allowed just 66 minutes on the 22 hour London to Liverpool run via Chester, including stops. In the 1790s London to Holyhead took 44 hours, but taking a different direction out of Lutterworth.

Slate, a material mainly found on Welsh milestones, was quarried at Swithland in Leicestershire, and a fine example of a slate stone exists at the eastern end of the former A42 through Ashby de la Zouch. It gives distances to London and Leicester and the 'ones' involved curve gracefully like 'j's

## MAP REPRODUCTION

John Tybjerg reports that to reproduce any OS maps less than 50 years old requires a Copyright Licence from them. He suggests as an answer a Business Licence via the OS website, costing £47.50 a year plus VAT, registered at one business address which can be used by all employees to produce unlimited copies for internal use. This would be adaptable, he understands, for the Society and its branches.

## A VOICE FROM KENT

We have no branch in Kent but a handful of very keen members such as Jenny Coutts and Avice Harmsworth. Jenny has done a lot of individual restoration of stones in her area and reported on the very old stone at Brenchley (Kippings Cross and Willesley Green Trust 1765) built into the flower shop wall. She is worried by the thought it had previously been painted using ordinary exterior paint, including the Roman numerals (XXX VIII) Kent CC told her they had no resources for such work but did not discourage her own efforts. Taking professional advice she used white hydrated lime wash on two stones but wonders how to remove old paint like that used on the Brenchley stone.

Brenchley is on a road to Goudhurst now not even a B road, and yet at least three other stones remain in the six miles to its junction with the A262 including a fine example at 44 miles from London with Roman **XXXX IIII** in two rows, maybe the most Roman digits yet recorded from a single stone. At some time this was an important route between London and presumably Ashford. •

Jenny heard last year from a Kent enthusiast of six stones as follows in the Sittingbourne area:

1. A stone in the middle of Rolvenden village, with a plate and holes on the reverse (? an earlier plate);
2. A plateless stone where the A26 meets a local road called Chalk Avenue two miles north of Tenterden;
3. Gillingham, 30 yards north of Will Adams Memorial 32 miles to London and 8 miles to Sittingbourne;
4. Just inside Rainham, just west of junction of A20 with South Bush Lane, oblong plate with 5 miles to Sittingbourne and hole and three cut-off bolts suggesting another plate once existed;
5. East end of Newington, two plates recessed into garden wall of No. 89, - 3 miles to Sittingbourne and 37 miles to London;
6. Old A249 between M2 Jnc. 5 and Key St. roundabout where the A249 crosses the A2 just east of Sittingbourne, west side of road in the middle of the hamlet of Chestnut Street, outside "Fox Cottage," no plates, just painted text reading 2 miles to Sittingbourne and 9 miles to Maidstone;
7. A228 one mile south of West Mailing 300 yards north of the rb jnc. with A228 an angled stone giving Mereworth 2 and West Mailing 1;
8. Similar a mile on, Mereworth zero, West Mailing 2.

From "**Recollections of a Rambler**" G.S.Simcox 1874  
The era evoking them is not clear but he recalled "a turnpike mad in Hampshire, where sheep might graze with great comfort for a furlong within half a mile of the turnpike. It is true the old woman who keeps the turnpike is allowed out-door relief, and that it is considered an economy to give it her, as she pays two or three pounds more for her turnpike than she makes by it;"

## ESSEX

John Nicholls reports in a recent newsletter visiting the Upminster Tithe Barn Agricultural and Folk Museum seeing there a rather worn milestone, still with Roman numerals V one side and X the other which could in fact once have been IV and IX and MIKLES. The caption indicates it came from outside the "Bell Inn", demolished in 1950. Chapman and Andre's map of 1777 shows stones on the Upminster Bridge-Grays road but the inn lies midway between two such. Gary's "Fifteen Miles Around London" map of 1786 also shows this. Another location seems likely.

The Thurrock Museum also has a milestone, the 23 from LONDON that formerly stood at Stifford, a mile north of Grays. It has probably been at the museum thirty years.

Essex benefits not only from John's diligence and energy but also from members such as Brian Barrow, Society membership officer, Geoff Perrior, who sent us recordings and photographs of dozens of markers from all over the country, David Mansell, Jim Young, to name but a few and their interests extend to cast-iron guideposts, of which 110 have been identified in Essex. John is currently researching the records of Maldon Ironworks and this reminds us of the opportunity to track other firms who made mileposts to see if original records exist of orders, pricing and production. The County also sent us its own list of recorded markers.

## MAGNA CARTA TERRITORY

The Society was informed last year of the positive action of Runnymede Council on learning that a milestone recording 18 Miles from Hyde Park Corner with benchmark and set into a wall of a cottage at 109 High Street, due to be demolished, not only saved the stone but had it incorporated in the new garden wall at exactly the same spot. This news was originally published in "A Guide to the Industrial History of Runnymede" by John Mills ISBN 0950969745 published 1991.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

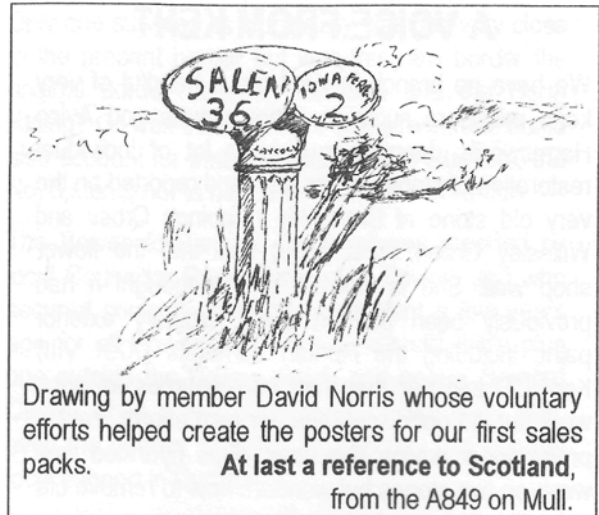
A mystery stone has been reported in Saul, just over the canal from Frampton where the road forks right into Saul and straight on to Arlingham and the Severn. Records suggest an old Roman route from the river to the Gloucester road and marker stones in the 18<sup>th</sup>. century. The stone object is, allowing for sinking underground over the centuries, Roman scale in proportion and appearance but seemingly unincised. Rev. Peter Minall inspected it and planned further investigations. We await any news.

## LANCASHIRE

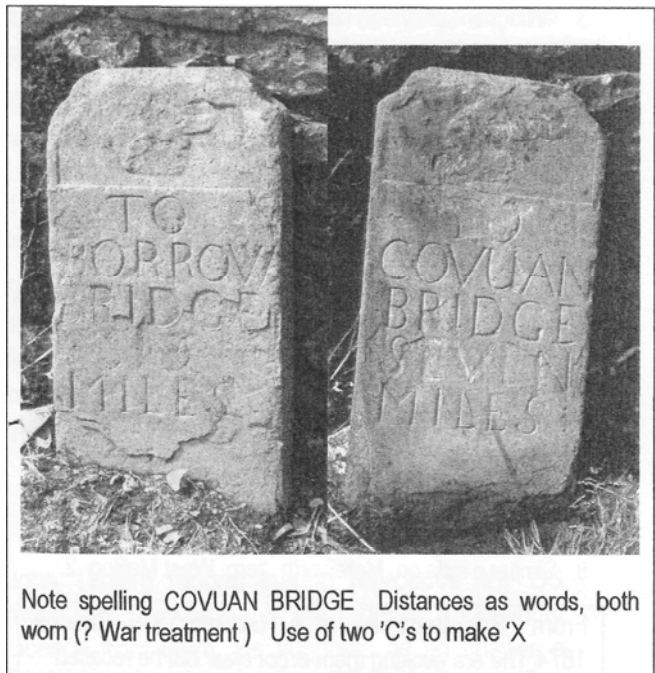
### Memorial boundary marker-cum-milestone

The minor road from Lancaster over the moors to Abbeystead, Dunsop Bridge and Clitheroe has some milestones. Near Abbeystead a worn lump of stone in a well-shaded verge on a narrow bend has an incised 8 in it. At the border between Lancashire and Yorkshire, is a stone, with plaque, raised by Southport Cycling Club in memory of Bill Bradley, 1933-1997, an international cyclist who won the Tour of Britain in 1959 and 1960 and liked to ride in this area. It is an angled stone with top sloping face incised BOUNDARY OF with YORKSHIRE and LANCASHIRE (curved and underscored) respectively at the top of the angled faces and distances to WHITEWELL 3¼ CLITHEROE 12 ½ (left) and LANCASTER 12 and BAY HORSE 10 (was that a pub?) on the right.

There is evidence of earlier carving including cuffed hands that suggests an original stone, worn by time or wartime defacement has been re-used. Deciphering the older text would help reveal if the stone always stood here. Boundary stones with distances are relatively scarce



.....and finally,  
**the Sedbergh Stone for you to marvel at.**  
 There it stood leaning against the farm wall, where apparently it had been for at least eight years!



Editor: Some pictures may need magnifying! Comments welcome! First time combining text and pictures!