

**The Old Milestone at Eas'gate**  
**by John Kett**

Long, long ago they set me up  
To guide the trav'lers on their way  
Along this rud. T'was once a laane,  
A sea o'mud, though, arter rain;  
But lovely on a Summer's day  
Wi' hedges high, and scent o'May.

Now in them days they went a foot,  
Or maybe on a hoss they rood;  
They'd pass me on their various ways  
There warn't no hurry in them days.  
Wi' many a laugh an'many a lood  
They drawed along this rough ole rood.

I'a seen the happy children run  
Wi' flowers, in a chatterin' band;  
I'a seen young courtin' couples, tew,  
A-lookin' like they allus dew;  
An' sometimes they would stop an'  
stand  
Here right beside me, hand in hand.

I'a seen men go to t'work at dawn,  
An' hoom at night, year arter year,  
I'a watched 'em gittin' old. At last  
I'a seen 'em carried slowly past ...  
But generations new appear;  
There's allus children passin' here.

Then come the cars; a few at fust,  
Then more an' more, an' faster tew.  
O' course, the rood was then done up;  
They lavelled evra ridge an' grup  
An' then the trav'lers faster flew -  
Most on 'em in a rea' old stew!

An' one sad day that come t'me  
That I warn't really wanted here,  
Cars passed me by, fast as they could,

Till one day one came orf the rud  
An'smashed me - ah, he hit me square,  
I'm three parts gone, that don't seem  
fair,  
Jus' one last waad, that fare t'day  
Tha's hard t'show some folks the  
way...



The poem is taken from John Kett's book of poems in Norfolk dialect

*Tha'sa rum'un bor!* (Baron, 1973).

The author was a schoolteacher from Cawston. The milestone referred to still stands just south of the village.

It once showed 10 miles to Norwich but is now defaced, is very eroded and has at some time been broken (presumably the impact by the car referred to in the last verse) and then repaired.