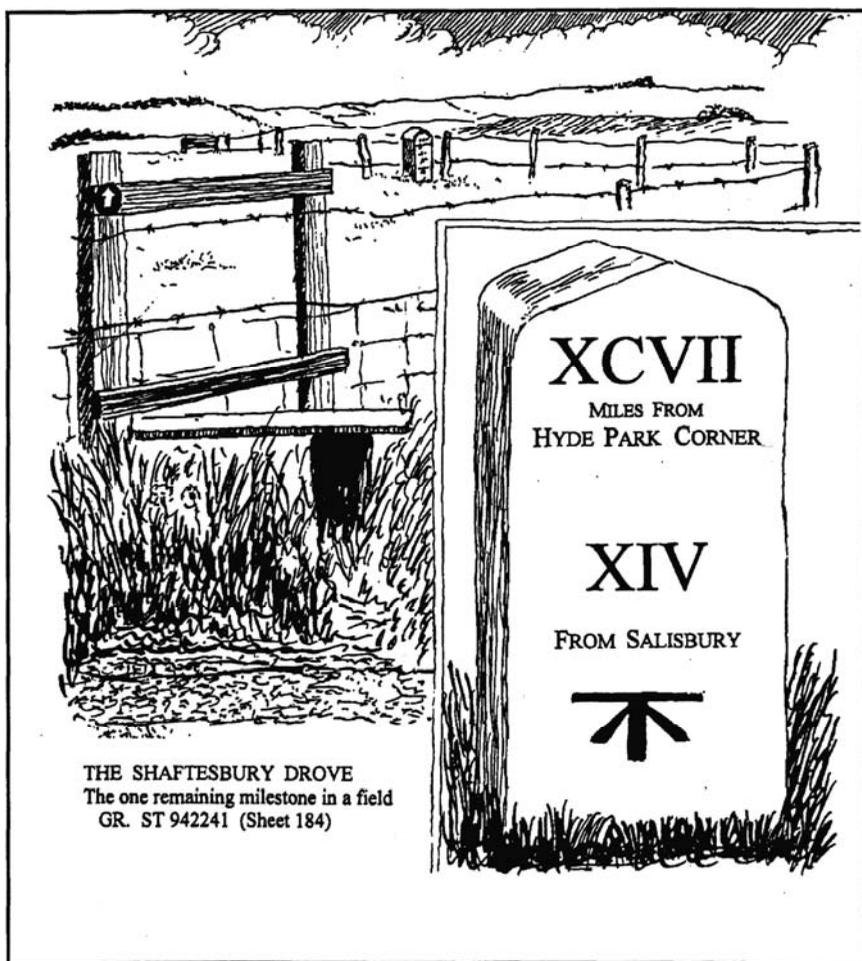




THE MILESTONE SOCIETY

Newsletter 2

January 2002



The Cover Picture - Lionel Joseph of Dorking Surrey, who provided this pen and ink drawing, writes: 'Situated on the Shaftesbury Drove Road, formerly the main highway between Salisbury and Shaftesbury in John Ogilby's *Britannia* (1675), the first road atlas of England and Wales, this stone stands some 20 - 30 yards from the present trackway and is therefore easily missed by passers by. It was featured in a local TV programme on Roman roads, where it was portrayed as hidden in long grass. In reality it stands some 3ft. 6ins. high in well grazed pasture, but even so it is far from being conspicuous. The stone is Portland Stone, probably from the Tisbury or Chilmark quarries, a few miles distant, on the Portland stone beds, an inlier with totally different scenery from the surrounding chalk of Salisbury Plain and the source of stone for Salisbury Cathedral.'

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MILESTONE SOCIETY

Aim:

- To identify, record, research, conserve and interpret for public benefit the milestones and other waymarkers of the British Isles.

Objectives:

- To publicise and promote public awareness of milestones and other waymarkers and the need for identification, recording, research and conservation, for the general benefit and education of the community at large
- To enhance public awareness and enjoyment of milestones and other waymarkers and to inform and inspire the community at large of their distinctive contribution to both the local scene and to the historic landscape in general
- To represent the historical significance and national importance of milestones and waymarkers in appropriate forums and through relevant national organisations
- To organise and co-ordinate relevant practical projects at both national and regional/local levels, thereby enhancing public access
- To protect, preserve and restore milestones and other waymarkers through the planning process, representing their significance to appropriate authorities locally and nationally
- To manage the Society's affairs in ways which maintain effective administration and appropriate activity, including the establishment of regional groupings through which to delegate and devolve the Society's business.

Note: The Milestone Society accepts no responsibility for accidents or claims arising from any activity associated with the aims and objectives of the Society.

EDITORS' COMMENTS - This, the second of our newsletters will be circulated to approximately 300 members, reflecting both a pleasing, rapid growth in our Society and a wide and general interest in milestones and related waymarkers. The Society has held its first Autumn meeting in October 2001, a full report of which is given for the benefit of those members who could not attend. There has been careful thought given to the requirements for recording data on milestones, with the ultimate criterion being that our records must be compatible with data required for a national record in the long term. To this end, Alan Rosevear (who has joined the committee of the Society to advise on matters of information technology) has designed a Record Sheet, based on the initial version circulated at the previous meeting, which members actively involved in recording milestones can use during their roadside investigations. The design of this sheet will allow the facile transfer of the data into electronic form as a spreadsheet (on a county basis) and these spreadsheets can then be collated into a national database in the long term. Ideally, it is hoped that county coordinators will collect the Record Sheets of the active members in their county and, if they have computing interests and skills and, of course, access to a suitable computer, that they will enter the collected data in a standard, blank spreadsheet provided by the Society. However, the Record Sheet (a blank copy of which is included with this Newsletter along with an explanatory sheet for its use) together with a corresponding photograph, will remain the single most important source of our data.

As Editors, we are fortunate to have received some contributions from the membership for inclusion in the Newsletter. This edition's cover has a fine picture drawn by Lionel Joseph and an interesting article is included on the AA plate milemarkers by Christine Minto. Other contributions are observations, comments, smaller pictures, etc., and it is our intention to try and use as many of these as possible within the constraints of overall length of the Newsletter; some we may have to reserve for later use. However, we will always be pleased to receive items for inclusion.

The need for preservation of our important heritage of roadside milemarkers becomes increasingly apparent as reports of disappearing, injured and demolished examples come to light from observations already made by our membership. Clearly, the Society has an important job to do and a good start has been made!

AUTUMN MEETING (Dewsbury Town Hall, Sunday 7 October 2001).

An attendance of approximately 60 people at the first Autumn meeting of the society was most encouraging and our thanks go to Jan Scrine for organising this most impressive venue, the room being one of the large function rooms within the building. Tables were once again provided for members' exhibits and the meeting commenced with an excellent talk by Geoff Boswell on Causeways, Guideposts and Crosses in the Pennines. The lecturer was an expert on the subject having published books on local walks which incorporated the topics of his talk and the presentation, which included many slides, was first-class. His interest on causeways ('causeys') was aroused when he bought a farm in the area and inspected the deeds to his property. The 18th century owner of the farm was Jack Shackleton, who drank

away the profits at the Deerplay Inn 7 miles away. Mr Boswell spent 15 years working out Jack Shackleton's route to the inn over the 'causeys', which he used to travel the considerable distance across the difficult country. Stones to pave the causeways were transported by sled. Pedestrian causeways were 2 ft wide, those for packhorses 3 ft. Some were marked with crosses; sometimes a cross was carved on a stone and a Latin inscription added because it was thought if it was supposed to have a religious significance there was less chance of the stone getting pinched. Typical monetary accounts showing the costs of a Surveyor for preparing and repairing causeways, and travelling costs for inspecting them were shown; help from local residents was a requirement and those failing to do so were fined, thus leading to the introduction of 'rates' as we know them today! The apparently shorter distances in miles shown on the guideposts between named centres compared to the known correct distance as measured from today's maps are explained by the fact that the old 'customary miles' used then were longer (1.33 times) than the statute mile of 1760 yards, as used today. Today some causeways have become tarmacked roads, others are overgrown with grass, but Mr Boswell has been trying to uncover as many as he can. A useful sheet containing historical notes on his subject was provided for the audience.

The rest of the morning session was devoted to Conservation, Restoration and Celebration, topics covered with three speakers. Stan Driver of the Conservation Department of the Kirklees MB Council pointed out there were 64 listed milestones and around 30 listed boundary stones in his area alone but that there was no money specifically set aside for their upkeep and repair. However, they have helped with restoration when they can. Conservation Officers are usually overworked, but will give advice when possible and have information on the correct materials to use. Advice should be sought before any repairs are carried out in case consent is needed. Milestones beside roads belong to the local Highway Authority. They often have maps of lamp posts, but not of milestones, and it might therefore be useful to give them a map. He pointed out that with listed structures, great care is required to distinguish between repair when like replaced with like and 'repair' which introduces an alteration and which could be classed as an offence. Thus, simply applying paint could possibly come into the latter category and it is important to use the correct materials! Advice from Conservation Officers should be sought before repairs are made since legal sanctions are available with respect to listed structures. Photographs clearly form an important record with regard to conservation and restoration at a later date.

Jan Scrine, now the Yorkshire coordinator, focussed on Yorkshire milestones, having developed her interest after moving to the county. Jan brought along half of an iron milestone (from Flockton) recently severely damaged by a vehicle, clearly in need of care and restoration, and illustrating the need of our Society if our milestone heritage is not to gradually disappear. Slides of examples of a temporarily repaired milestone (taped together!), a badly restored milestone (red painted letters) and a superbly restored milestone (recast in iron to the original shape after taking a mould but at a cost of £600) were shown and an amusing account given of how the 'Hull 7 miles' marker had travelled to Cambridge and

London before being replaced in its original position. Jan's other efforts at conservation led to a photo shot of her, published in the *Yorkshire Post*, in the snow on New Year's eve with the Kirkheaton milestone of 1738! Jan had useful observations on other attempted restorations, some of questionable success (e.g. marble plate for metal) and gave an interesting example of a restoration by casting a replica in stone chip and resin - but at a cost of £400! One village has commissioned a new milestone for the millennium using an old piece of stone from a demolished bridge. She advised that for restoration cast iron posts should be stripped with chemical cleaner, not shot-blasted. For repainting, Hammerite, Smoothrite or Dulux tractor enamel could be used. Finally she made a good point on leaving well alone with a local stone example, completely unrestorable, but sitting quite happily in a wall where it is safe from further danger.

Liz Hayes, formerly a photographic officer with the Kirklees Council, became interested in the fate of milestones when she was given a copy of the book by W. B. Crump entitled *Huddersfield Highways Down the Ages* and was asked to make photographic records of those items represented by hand drawings in the book. This involved travel over a fair part of Yorkshire and in her talk she was able to give us a flavour of many examples, some in walls, one in the Tolson Museum in Huddersfield, the 1738 stone at Farnley Tyas giving distances in customary miles, and some stones with an alternative use as mounting blocks. She tracked down many stones with the help of local historians and other contacts.

After the lunch break, Alan Rosevear, who has taken on the onerous task of designing the electronic format in which the data to be collected on milestones should be recorded and stored, took us stepwise through the arguments for the system he has devised, after consultation with the national authorities with whom we need to interact in the long term as regards data exchange. Thus, our data needs to be collected in a consistent format with sufficient fields to define, simply, the location, shape, size, material, appearance, etc., and resulting from such considerations he presented a single, double sided 'Record Sheet' for comment. This sheet is based initially on the existing record sheet which some members took away from the last meeting, but should provide further information needed to make a fuller record for a national database. The intention was that any necessary amendments arising from members' comments would be incorporated in a final version and copies would then be circulated with the next Newsletter. It was envisaged ideally that willing County Coordinators with computing facilities could be provided with the blank Excel spreadsheet devised by Alan, containing the fields corresponding to those in the 'Record Sheet', and thereby transfer the data from the written records into electronic form. Amalgamation of the Excel spreadsheets could then be undertaken by the Society to produce the national record.

The last contribution came from Terry Keegan who reported on his experience in setting up his County Group for Worcestershire. He pointed out that it was important to inform the County Highway Authority of the existence of the Milestone Society, and that he found the personal contact very useful. He had divided the county into distinct areas, each Group member being assigned an area. He suggested that there was a priority to record stones before Spring 2002, and as

regards any required conservation, suggested that Parishes and District Councils might be worth approaching for finance since they were more closely involved at the local level. Terry made an interesting point about numbering the records and thought that gaps should be left when it was clear from maps that there were missing milestones that might turn up in the future. Finally, he thought that his group should eventually aim at a publication, covering 'Milestones in Worcestershire', in a format to be agreed to produce conformity with others that might arise from other County Groups. Terry then gave a brief account of the late Ken Diamond and his collection of well over a thousand photographs of milestones, part of which he had brought for display at the meeting (see the separate article for more details).

David Webb took a combined photo of the five speakers with the Chairman for the Society records. David Viner drew the meeting to a close at around 4 pm, with special thanks to Jan Scrine for her organisation, and pointed out the number of members was very healthy at over 250, which included over 30 family members. There was a last chance to view the selection from the Ken Diamond collection before the delegates made their way home through some foul weather, which could not detract from the success of the day!

The Editors

COMMITTEE MEETING (Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester, 17 November 2001). - The committee meeting, held from 11.00 to 16.00, was attended by David Viner (Chairman), Brian Barrow, Michael Buxton, Laurence Dopson, Alan Haines, Carol Haines, Terry Keegan, Jan Scrine, and Alan Rosevear. The Chairman had proposed previously that Michael Buxton and Alan Rosevear should join the committee in order to add to it their specialist skills, and they were formally proposed and seconded as committee members at the start of the meeting.

There was a wide-ranging agenda and progress was reviewed of the meetings at Dudley (19/5/01), Dewsbury (7/10/01), committee structure, membership, finance, future meetings, and the Newsletter and a possible journal. Possible venues for the May AGM and the Autumn meeting were considered. The membership was very healthy (over 290 counting family members), as was the finance situation considering we were a newly formed Society. The proposed contents of the next Newsletter were discussed as were the implications of producing a Society Journal (e.g. appointing an Editor, the commitment required of an editor, the depth of treatment required, and even the necessity of such an 'in depth' publication). It was felt that it was too early to take a positive decision on such a journal. However, a possible way forward is to use an 'occasional publication' to deal with a more extensive article than is appropriate for the Newsletter; members' views would be welcome, as would an offer to edit a journal or an occasional publication!

Other items considered were insurance, thefts, conservation and restoration, official stationery, charitable status, and archiving the Ken Diamond collection for which a volunteer is urgently required (see separate article on the collection). It was felt that some form of insurance was necessary for the Society in view of the potentially hazardous nature of field work and this was to be explored; the

committee felt it necessary to include a statement in the Newsletter (see Aims & Objectives) on this matter. The next meeting was set for 2 February 2002.

LOCAL GROUPS AND COORDINATORS

Bedfordshire. **Michael Knight**

Berkshire. **Alan Rosevear**

Buckinghamshire. **John Wellsman**

Cambridgeshire. **Grainne Farrington**

Cheshire. **Gillian Oakes**

County Durham

Cornwall **Ian Thompson**

Cumberland. see Westmorland

Derbyshire.

Devon. **Chris Woodard**

Dorset. **John Tybjerg**

Essex. **Susan Adams**

Gloucestershire

Hampshire

Herefordshire. see Worcestershire

Hertfordshire

Huntingdonshire. see Bedfordshire

Kent. **Jenny Coutts**

Lancashire. **John B. Priestley**

Leicestershire. **Joyce Lee**

Lincolnshire. **Joyce Stevenson**

Middlesex

Norfolk. **Carol Haines**

Northamptonshire. see Bedfordshire

Northumberland. **Iain Davison**

Nottinghamshire, see Staffordshire
Oxfordshire. **Ted Flaxman**

Rutland, see Leicestershire
Shropshire
Somerset. **Mrs. Janet Dowding**

Staffordshire. **John Higgins**

Suffolk, see Norfolk
Surrey
Sussex. **John Griffin**

Warwickshire
Westmorland. **Ken Broadhurst**

Wiltshire. Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Society

Worcestershire. **Terry Keegan**

Yorkshire. **Jan Scrine**

Scotland
Wales. **Anthony Rhys-Davies**
Channel Islands

(Volunteers are needed for areas without coordinators. Terry Keegan is prepared to help anyone thinking of setting up groups for Herefordshire and Shropshire).

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY GROUPS

Berkshire Group - Alan Rosevear reports: Four of the ten people living in the old county of Berkshire who had shown an interest in milestones were able to attend the first meeting, which was held in Reading, and their interests were found to be complementary. One had a deep interest in old maps, some 18th century examples of which were brought along to illustrate old routes, and another enjoyed walking as a way of discovering old monuments and, importantly, was a local journalist who will be on the lookout for suitable material for articles. One person was particularly keen on a good set of stones close to her home and I am personally very much involved with research into turnpike roads of the area. I produced sketch maps and search lists of milestones based on records held by local authorities and local museums and have recently drawn the attention of the Oxford Environmental Services to a series of stones (some listed) that had been seriously damaged during grass cutting. It was agreed that surveying the stones should be the principal short-term aim and each of the four of us took a group of the stones and

resolved to seek and survey these over the autumn. Records of key features will be made on the new Milestone Society Record Sheet which I have developed during surveys of stones in the old North Berkshire area and copies from the other surveyors will be sent to me as County Record Holder. Information will be circulated to the team and other potential members who were not able to attend. *(Alan Rosevear has had considerable personal experience in recording milestone data and was asked by the Milestone Society committee, of which he is a member, to develop a suitable means of recording data from milestone surveys "which is ultimately compatible with an electronic national database. As a result, he has developed the Milestone Society Record Sheet, a copy of which is included with this Newsletter; he explained the logic of the development of the sheet and database at the Dewsbury meeting. - Editors).*

Cornwall - Ian Thompson met with a small, keen group in October and learned of an existing photographic record of the county's many milestones. Links have been established with a very positive County Council - a good start has been made!

Devon Group - Chris Woodward reports: Devon has more roads than any other county in Britain but less than 12% of these were turnpiked. A survey of the county milestones was started in May concentrating initially on turnpikes north of the old A38 (Plymouth-Exeter) and the old A30 (Exeter-Chard). By the end of September 2001, 210 milestones had been located. To the south, and including the old A38, there are another 230 milestones. Overall, Devon seems to have in the region of 480 stones, but it is not clear how many might be missing. A group meeting will be set up once the basic survey is completed and arrangements made for the group members to complete the survey within their local area.

Dorset Group - John Tybjerg writes that a small meeting was held at his house and some people not present were either able to work in their local area or keep in positive contact. A map has been produced by the group with about 250 potential milestone sites based on a 1980 Dorset County Council report and an extensive later update by Susan and Colin Dean which found 200 sites. The latter is to be used as a master document and investigation is now to start on the remaining 50 sites. They have photographs of most of the known milestones and it is intended to put these into a computerised version of the Milestone Survey form as well as building up a complete hard copy of Survey forms and photographs. John will be offering an article to local newspapers in the county to stimulate interest.

Essex Group - The early September meeting was followed by another in November to attract more people. Seven members came, including the Essex Historic Buildings Records Officer, who outlined his hopes for an exhaustive survey of the county's milestones. The Essex group may thus contribute material simultaneously to The Milestone Society's archive and to the Essex Heritage Conservation Record, via the coordinator who has been working on updating the latter. The county was loosely divided up into areas of responsibility. The coordinator reported that an illustrated article on milestones had been accepted by *Essex Life & Countryside* for publication in the spring. The next meeting, date to be arranged, would be held in late April/May.

Part of a metal plate on a milestone at Margaretting which one member discovered to be missing has been traced to a public-spirited engineering firm nearby. The piece of the plate was rescued after being broken in an attempted theft and the firm's director has offered to have the plate repaired. This milestone is one of the comparatively few without Listed Building status in Essex. Kent Group - Jenny Coutts reports that thirty invitations produced nine interested people at their meeting on 30 September, when tea and cakes were provided. All were agreed that the first priority was to photograph and write up details of every surviving stone known to them and, with the help of a copy of the relevant section of the large-scale 1876 OS map, over the winter period to systematically look for stones that might still be *in situ* but submerged, or moved out of the way of the many road-widening works. Two members of the Marden Society (local history) brought their excellently-produced leaflet with map and coloured photographs of the five surviving milestones in their parish and two from Great Chart (local history society) had already done some conservation locally. Jenny gave out photocopies of the 'Out and About' section from the July Newsletter. Since the meeting, the editor of the Kent Archaeological Review on his own initiative, put a feature in the winter issue advertising the society, illustrated with a section of the society leaflet and asking anyone interested to get in touch with Jenny. This has produced several enquiries and some correspondence.

Jenny read out an impression of the Society's Autumn Meeting to the quarterly meeting of the Kent History Federation at Maidstone on 7 December, putting out the Society leaflet, membership application forms and a flyer for 'Marking the Miles'. One person appears to have a collection of old maps. Locally, the most immediate project, with the help of a sympathetic agricultural engineer, is to raise up and subsequently restore, an almost-totally-submerged milestone, one of the series of the Kippings Cross and Willesley Green Trust of 1765. Lincolnshire Group - Joyce Stevenson arranged a meeting on 20 October at which it was decided to form a Lincolnshire Milestone Group. The size of the county dictated that efforts should be concentrated, initially with focus on North and South Kesteven, but local survey areas will include the Boston/Skegness area and part of West Lindsey north of Lincoln. Two other group members will cover the old Turnpike roads through Bourne and Market Deeping (but not including the A15); old OS rVmile maps will be useful since most milestones are indicated before road realignments, by-passes, etc. Joyce has a personal interest in the Roman milestones dating from the time of Emperor Hadrian; any member with relevant information on these please let her know! The data base of SKDC provided a useful list of milestones and an earlier survey of Lincolnshire milestones will also provide valuable information. The local community archaeologist and the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire have promised their fullest support to the Group's efforts. The Group felt that conservation, refurbishment and reinstatement of milestones should remain the responsibility of the County Highways Authorities, in view of the skills, time and resources required and that their own task was to highlight sites where work was needed.

A topic raised, of relevance to the whole Society, is the value of 'Publicity'; does this attract the attention of potential vandals and thieves or does a lack of publicity indicate that the site is not valued? Views can differ; the Lincoln Heritage Trust Director advised Joyce that he disagreed with non-promotion merely to avoid vandalism. The Group decided to aim for a 'middle of the road' policy; publicity is needed but exact locations of potential targets should not be published in the press. Norfolk/Suffolk Group - Carol Haines reports: Because of the large area covered it was deemed impractical to call a meeting. All those in the two counties who had expressed an interest in milestones were written to, and offers of help with recording are being received. As both Norfolk and Suffolk milestones have already been surveyed, some of the spade work has been done. However, many of the records are now 15 or more years old and badly need updating, more information for a national database needs collecting, and the photographic record brought up to date. Sadly, some milestones have disappeared or been badly damaged since the earlier surveys, and a few were missed or have been disinterred.

At present all available information for Norfolk is being entered onto a database, including all milestone sites located on old maps, a total of well over 500. Useful information has been received from the County Councils, including a list of 247 milestones known to Norfolk Highways Dept. As 350 milestones were found in my survey of the county, they wish to know where the missing hundred are! An enquiry from a parish council has been passed to the coordinator by Norfolk County Council concerning a milestone badly damaged during verge mowing. Suggestions have been passed on about repair or replication. North Lancashire/South Cumbria Group - Ken Broadhurst, the Acting Chairman, reports: Seven people were present at the 10 September meeting. He told of his study of Toll roads and two people from the Holme & District Local History Group showed their archive maps and photographs; one had been involved in arranging replacement of the local 'Dalton' milestone in July. Merestones formed the subject of another presentation, as were photographs of stones in the Arnside Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many of the latter stones had been personally repainted (with permission!) by the photographer. Two attendees had details on the Kendal to Keighley Toll Road and another spoke of his slide collection covering the Preston-Garstang-Burton Toll road. A resin facsimile by a local artist of the stone at Levens dated 1757 was shown at the meeting and thought to be well done. In discussion it was decided to divide the area into two, North Lanes/South Cumbria and (to be arranged) North Cumbria. A fund raising coffee morning was arranged for 27 October.

Somerset Group - Janet Dowding arranged an initial start-up meeting for Somerset at her home on Saturday 1 December 2001. Letters to 24 possible interested people and organizations led to 6 people attending; disappointingly the person responsible for milestones on Somerset County Council was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. However, this was a successful initial meeting, discussing our varied experiences in locating and photographing milestones in Somerset, particularly those in rather dangerous locations. Janet gave out recording forms for members to photocopy, and it was agreed to do those milestones in the particular areas of those

attending, the completed forms to be sent to Janet eventually to collate and pass on to HQ. Ways of publicising the Society were discussed e.g. in other local societies' publications, etc. It was realised a relentless approach to Somerset C.C. and its Highways Dept. would be necessary to obtain advice on how to preserve the Somerset milestones - cleaning, painting etc. - and get their written permission to do so. While it was stated by a member that Dorset looks after its milestones very well, Somerset does not look after its own at all!

A metal plate type milestone which Janet and her husband had recently rescued from a local antiques trading post was shown to the members. It is from Devon and Janet hopes to approach Devon C.C. after Christmas to get it restored to its original position. Another meeting in about six months' time was arranged, possibly in another member's home in a different area of Somerset.

Staffordshire Group - John Higgins reports that the Staffordshire Group has agreed to hold regular meetings at pubs around the county after their first get together at the Yew Tree, Caldon at which topics discussed were righting leaning mileposts, and milestones at risk (one at Lichfield is near construction work for a new road). John is in the process of apportioning Milestone Society numbers to Staffordshire milestones (410 in all) using the system ST/ABB07 (county/parish, milestone number) and is keen to learn from other coordinators if this is a preferred method of numbering. A report in the *Burton Mail* (2/11/01) notes that the Football Association has applied for permission to move a 19th century milestone (Grade II listed) during improvements at an accident blackspot in Needwood, associated with building a new national football centre at Rangemore.

Sussex Group - John Griffin (the newly elected Chairman) reports: Our first meeting was held at Wadhurst on 7 September 2001; 4 members attended and 3 apologies were received. Barbara Watkins was elected as Secretary and she has been engaged on restoring two Bow Bells stones (35 and 37) which are of oak with cast iron plates. The oak was donated by the Conservators of Ashdown Forest who allowed her to use their workshops for painting the plates. They provided manpower for removing and replacing the stones. David King, a Forest Ranger, provided the muscle and woodworking skills and he attended our meeting. To prevent possible theft, one has been fitted with a long iron rod to make it difficult to remove - other suggestions for making posts secure would be welcome! It is hoped to try and trace missing stones in some series. Posters will be placed, especially in West Sussex, in the library in East Grinstead and elsewhere, inviting interested persons, and historical and other similar societies will be informed of the existence of the group. Possibly, there should be two branches in Sussex, one for East and the other for West Sussex, since the county is 90 miles from East to West.

Wiltshire Group - A letter from Doug Roseman states that the Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Society has taken over from Hugh Burn as county representatives for Wiltshire although the latter is still very much involved. A meeting on milestones was attended by the creditable number of 18 people from all over the county and a show of slides of milestones and ancient roads from the collection of the late R. Haynes was given. On display at the meeting were the Ordnance Survey maps of R. Haynes on which were marked the locations of

milestones in the county, together with copies of his records which show the exact locations of each milestone, its inscription, a sketch, and in many cases a photograph. Mr Olding, who also attended the meeting, has made a similar study and said that he had located 383 stones around the county. Representatives from the local conservation groups in Devises and Purton were also present and the Purton Local History group reported that they had been looking after their stones for some 20 years and that they had recently been repainted for the third time. A milestone from Bromham which had been 'injured' in several serious accidents and was currently under care was brought to the meeting and the locations of some 'retired' stones were noted. The Chairman (Doug Roseman) noted that useful contact had been made with the County Council Highways Department and a discussion concluded that the best way of preserving stones in the County was for local conservation groups to be made aware of those in their areas. The hazards with regard to safety of working on the verges of roads was emphasised to attendees. The meeting ended with a show of slides of street furniture in Devises. Worcestershire Group - Terry Keegan met with 6 members of the Society as well as a Parish Councillor from the neighbouring Shropshire parish of Kinlet, who briefed the group on the work that this parish had done to renovate eight milestones within their boundary. The county was divided into four areas, NE, NW, SE and SW. As many stones were already recorded by the members, material already gathered was to be collated on a member's computer. Future work will involve revisiting and recording all known stones on the Society's new official record sheets and then to consider conservation work on them, after consideration of the practice used with officially 'listed' objects. Milestone preservation has low priority with the County Highway Authority (who nevertheless must give approval for any plans) and other support (e.g. from Parishes) will be sought. It was agreed that a record should be published of the survey with a history of Worcestershire milestones, but that if other county groups should consider publishing their own studies, then a common format might be agreed through the Milestone Society. Terry has initiated an occasional Newsletter for the Worcestershire group.

Yorkshire Group - Jan Scrine writes: Our Group was proud to host the first Autumn Meeting of the Society. We have a number of active 'spotters' and keen photographers already, but we were also unexpected beneficiaries of the terrible Foot and Mouth outbreak: West Yorkshire's walking groups took to the highways instead and recorded many waymarkers in detail, which will form the basis of our County Archive. Frank and Christine Minto have volunteered to enter the data into Alan Rosevear's format. We have opened dialogues with several local authorities about possible restoration work and hope to widen this in the coming months.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Digging up the past. Regarding Terry Keegan's request for information on the removal of milestones at the beginning of the 2nd World War (Newsletter 1, July 2000), I have a personal recollection of one in particular. As a boy, I lived at Blindley Heath on the A22 London to Eastbourne road. Near the village there was a



John Payne's stone -11 August 2001

milestone with the inscription '25 MILES FROM CORNHILL. It was about 12 ins square and stood about 3 ft above the grass verge about 6 ft from the kerb line. One day I was cycling home from school and I saw that two men were digging a trench behind the stone. They then pushed the stone over and covered it with about 12 ins of earth leaving it looking rather like an old grave. I presume the men would have been either Surrey County Council or Godstone Rural District Council (now Tandridge D.C.) workers. During the 1950s and 60s most of the other stones along the A22 were re-instated, but not No. 25. I wrote to the County Council, District Council, and Parish Council and to the local papers, to no avail. Then in 1990, I noticed that some men and a JCB were re-kerbing the road. They were from a small contractor working for the Surrey County Council. I just could not face contacting the latter again, so I would

try and do a deal with the contractor. I telephoned the head of the firm and told him my story. He generously offered to re-instate the stone free of charge and told me to show the ganger what I wanted. Before seeing him, I thought that I ought to locate the stone, so I went to the site that evening after the men had left. The mound had long since vanished but I knew roughly where it was and soon found it by prodding with a steel rod. I dug away the earth and there was the inscription that I had last seen 50 years earlier! A few days later the stone was standing in its old position, but now with a cubic yard of concrete around its base. I distributed fivers all round, so we were all very happy.

John Payne

(Terry Keegan has since photographed this milestone on 11 August 2001 and from the photo has made the drawing reproduced here - Editors.)

Changing milestones. Roy Hilditch [from Lincolnshire] writes of changing faces of milestones! In his journeys around the Macclesfield area he had noticed in earlier days that the milestone at Rainow on the B5470 had 'Macclesfield 3M' carved with the old fashioned 'long S' but that in February 1994 repainting of the inscription had led to replacement of the 'long S' with a 'modern s'. However, on checking only a few months later things were returned to how they originally were, and presumably as initially sculpted, with the old style 'S' reinstated! In a further curious occurrence, a newly painted but clearly old milestone on the B5470 at Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire, bore the unexpected inscriptions 'To Marble Arch 179 Miles' and 'To Wigan Pier 46 Miles' but some time later the stone was found to be blank! On passing the spot on a later occasion, the inscriptions were restored to a more realistic 'Chesterfield 23' and 'Macclesfield 11', presumably reflecting the original lettering on the stone!

Developing an interest. Hazel Perham from Cornwall writes that on her walks she often stops to study the milestones she passes and that the one close to her house has been listed. Although particularly interested in photographing the local granite stiles, milestones are often included. A nice small sketch in her letter illustrates a stone on the B3291 at Trevera.



I-Spy. Neville Billington from Bromsgrove sent a copy of part of *I-Spy on the Road* (published, presumably pre-1971, by the *News Chronicle* at a price of 6d) in which points were scored for spotting various types of milestones and details thereon, for example Roman figures, dates, arrows, hands, etc. A top score of 20 points was awarded for spotting stones with dates or eighths of a mile! Perhaps the Society should encourage a re-issue of the book with a view to increasing the younger membership!

Northumberland mileposts. A member from Northumberland points out that although mileposts with a metal shield design are rare in other parts of the UK, it is not an uncommon design in their county. Excellent restorations can be seen along the A696 between Ponteland and Belsay. Iain Davison, the Northumberland coordinator, has been responsible for the restoration of a milepost at Blagdon Hall near Morpeth. He discovered the post, which was marked on the OS map on the old Great North Road, badly in need of repair. With permission from Northumberland County Council he removed it and gave it some much needed attention. It has now been replaced in its original location and resulted in an article in the *Morpeth Herald*. The milepost is one of several cast iron series in the area which use just the initial letters for the towns, in this case N for Newcastle and M for Morpeth. Although the distance to Newcastle is cast on to the main post, the Morpeth distance is on a separately attached plate. (Iain has now fixed the plate with security bolts so that it cannot easily be removed.) He asks if anyone can suggest a reason for not casting both mileages when making the original post. Strangely, those of the same design between Morpeth and Berwick have locations and distances cast integrally.

Zero milestones. George O'Leary has sent a letter to the Editors asking for help from members on furthering his particular interest in '0 Milestones'. Having seen and photographed the one that reads '0 miles to Fordingbridge' he asked Terry Keegan if he knew of any more and received a list as follows: Pately Bridge (near Harrogate), Uttoxeter (Staffs.), Wansford (near Peterborough), Winslow (near Buckingham), Alfreton (Derbyshire), Newport-on-Tay (Fife), Dereham (Norfolk), Hockliffe (near Leighton Buzzard), and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Machnant (on A4580 west of Oswestry). There appear to be three in doubt at Mattishall (Norfolk), Newport Pagnell (Bucks) and Bovey Tracey (Devon). Mr O'Leary asks if these still exist and if there are more to be found.

He also writes that if members find a zero milestone then he would be most grateful if two photos could be taken, one for the photographer and one to be sent to himself with the exact location and the Ordnance Survey grid reference if

possible, plus any other useful information that might be available. His address is:

(The milestone at Dereham now has the zero painted out but the milestone at Mattishall definitely exists! - Editors.)

Iron signposts. Michael Knight of Bedfordshire has a special interest in the iron signposts and has been examining some in Lincolnshire and found many in the south of the county with 'halo' finials; he has spotted examples marked 'Holland C.C.' and 'Kesteven C. C.', two of the three earlier divisions of the county, Boston being the other one. These administrative areas ceased to exist in 1974.

Other waymarkers. David Webb of Wiltshire has photographed three noteworthy examples of waymarkers. The first is a six-sided, 6 feet high milestone erected by the Abedare Local Board of Health in 1860, standing near the Library, with mileages to Cardiff (22), London (182), Merthyr (6½), Neath (19½) and Brecon (23), the last side being blank. The second is the Four Shire stone on the A44 from Moreton-in-Marsh towards Oxford (Grid ref. SP 231321), which lies four-square(!) on the meeting point of three counties (Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire) although Worcestershire (some miles distant) is also listed on the stone. *(Has Worcestershire moved? Eds. Also, see the query below from David Archer under 'Four Shire stone'.)* The third, presented by die Master Masons in 1967, is perhaps just within the definition of a waymark but is certainly to do with measurement; it is a stone on the A345 from Salisbury towards Amesbury (approx. Grid ref. SO 142329, near the 'Welcome' sign to Salisbury) which commemorates an important event in accurately mapping Great Britain with inscription 'In 1794 a line from this site to Beacon Hill was measured by Capt W Mudge of the Ordnance Survey as a base for the triangulation of Great Britain'.

Four Shire stone. Concerning this stone, *(see also the contribution 'Other waymarkers' above)*, David Archer of Montgomeryshire asks if anyone knows who owns it, who built it, and whether it is the same one or a replacement of the one noted by Ogilby? David comments that the stones around Aberystwyth are in lovely condition but that those in Montgomeryshire are neglected

THE KEN DIAMOND COLLECTION

Ken Diamond started photographing milestones back in the 1950s. By the time of his death at the age of 92, in November 2000, he had amassed a collection of over 2000 images of milestones, neatly gathered together in 11 albums. He also took hundreds of photographs of other roadside features - in particular, finger posts, unusual village and street names, AA village signs, bridges, County border signs and any other roadside feature which took his or his wife's eye whilst they travelled around the country from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Ken lived all his life in Lymington, on the south coast and covered that area very extensively. He also holidayed frequently in Devon and Cornwall and visited

friends in Norfolk on many occasions, so that there are numerous photographs from these areas. Apart from tours into other parts of England, Scotland and Wales, Ken often had to deliver corpses all over the country in his profession as an undertaker and even on these 'trips' he was never without his camera.

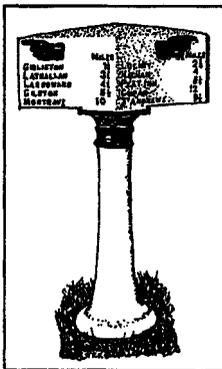
Ken followed closely the moves to form a milestone society. Illness prevented him from attending the initial conference in October 2000, but due to his generosity everyone attending that gathering was presented with a duplicated copy of the rare 1920s booklets 'Famous Milestones' and 'Passing the Milestones'. Weeks before he died he made contact with the nascent society to say that he had instructed his solicitors that all his milestone material should be given to the society for their use.

The collection includes not only the 11 albums of milestone photographs and other albums of photographs of roadside features but also numerous notebooks, scrapbooks of most of the articles on milestones ever written, a cast iron plate from a Somerset milestone (purchased at Beaulieu Auto Jumble) and a library of books which covered any aspect of roadside furniture. There is also a large number of OS maps, including over 80 of the first and second series of 1:25,000 maps which record the details represented on each milestone.

One of the first duties of the Society will be to make a detailed inventory of the collection and to decide how best to store the material to make it accessible to members. It would also be a fitting reminder of Ken's generosity if we were to arrange for the milestone plate from his collection to be re-united with its original stone. This will be organised through the Somerset group at some time in the future. In order to produce an inventory of this collection, the Society is looking for a person with the ability and capability with regard to computing facilities (ideally a PC running Microsoft Excel who will volunteer to take on this important task. Any person willing to produce this archive should contact the Secretary, Terry Keegan..

Terry Keegan

STOLEN



One of the most useful functions which members of the Milestone Society will be able to perform will be to report the disappearance of recorded milestones from their position on the roadside. Many milestones, and in particular the metal mileposts, have strayed into the 'antiques' market and a number have turned up as garden ornaments.

To the dismay of East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society the unique guidepost from the hamlet of Arncroach, shown here, has been stolen. Despite being shown on the police internet it has not been traced. The cast iron guidepost is approximately 3 ft high, 2 ft wide and angled back 1 ft in depth. Should any of our members discover its whereabouts, please ring the Milestone Society secretary on

and the information will be passed on to the appropriate quarter.

Terry Keegan

MR. HITLER WAS TO BLAME

'Another feature in the country scene that seems to have gone after the war was the regular appearance of the "Gentlemen of the Road" or "Milestone Inspectors". They regularly walked through our village..... you would get up to a dozen some days

I knew every milestone from Ellesmere to Whittington. Each one was in the hedge bank telling how far it was from town to town. In our particular length of main road there was a stone every mile; first from Ellesmere was at the Nursery, then one at the bottom of the Brow; one just below the church; one just past Kempsters' and another at Halston Gardens. They were pulled up in 1940 when an invasion was expected. Perhaps that is why the "Milestone Inspectors" disappeared! Like other old country things, they passed away never to return - all on account of Mr. Hitler!

'Following Me Dad'....Alf Strange Pp. 172-3

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

This year the country will be celebrating the Queen's golden jubilee. Most of our villages, parishes, boroughs, etc. will be looking for an opportunity to mark this rare event with a lasting memorial to the Royal event. What better way of doing this than by restoring some of the local milestones to their former glory. Now is the time to put forward your suggestions to the local Parish Council or celebration committee. By restoring the milestones a double aim could be achieved - celebrating Her Majesty's outstanding achievement and also helping to rescue a part of our national heritage.

There is a good candidate for restoration on this auspicious occasion on the A26 one mile north of the East Sussex town of Lewes. There cannot be many milestone enthusiasts who have not heard of and seen pictures of the 'Bow Bells' mileposts on the A22 East Grinstead to Eastbourne road. What is not so well known is the fact that there is also a series of these posts from the junction of the A22 and the A26 south of Uckfield with the recorded mileages of 44 to 50. Most of them are still in position, the cast iron plates being attached to wooden posts. However, the 50 mile plate was attached to a stone of the same shape and this has, sadly, been lost, though the stone has survived. What a wonderful opportunity to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee by the townsfolk of Lewes by having a replacement 50 miles to Bow Bells plate cast and fixed to the old stone.

Terry Keegan

PINPOINTING MILESTONES ON THE MAP

Milestone enthusiasts would be 'lost' without their copies of the Ordnance Survey maps to tell them where to find the milestones (M.S) or mileposts (M.P). The old 1" maps are possibly the best to work with over wider areas and they can often be

picked up for reasonable prices. Often they mark stones not shown on the later maps. For more detailed study the old 2½" maps are ideal as they give the details recorded on the stones. However these are more difficult to come by and an excellent substitute is the 1:25,000 series which replaced them.

David Archer, who attended the inaugural meeting of the Society, has probably the largest stock of old OS maps for sale hi Great Britain. His business is primarily a postal one and anyone wishing to build up a collection of maps should write to him at The Pentre, Kerry, Newtown, Montgomeryshire SY16 4PD. His telephone number is 01686 670382 and his Email: david@david-archer-maps.co.uk

Terry Keegan

MILEPOSTS FOR CYCLISTS

When I recently spotted a roadside sculpture in deepest Norfolk which looked like the tail flukes of a diving whale, I thought it needed further investigation. It was a brand new milepost placed on part of the National Cycle Network. The sustainable transport charity Sustrans is designing and building 10,000 miles of routes suitable for cyclists, walkers and wheelchair users. The National Lottery Fund provided £43.5m towards the project which it is hoped will be completed hi 2005.

One thousand mileposts, sponsored by The Royal Bank of Scotland, are being placed at strategic points along the routes. The 6 ft high posts are of four designs produced by artists from the four 'corners' of the UK: the Fossil Tree designed by English artist Jon Mills, the Cockerel by Scottish artist Iain McColl, a Welsh post reflecting the nautical and industrial heritage of Swansea by Andrew Rowe, and an Irish Milepost designed by David Dudgeon.

One has to look closely to find the mileages on the posts, and I am afraid what I thought was a whale was the Fossil Tree. One of the Cockerel posts stands at a major junction in central Norwich, but I took it to represent a four-pointed star with a hole in the middle. I obviously don't appreciate modern art!

Carol Haines

DEPICTION OF MILESTONES ON EARLY OS MAPS

Following a query from Colin Williams of Basingstoke to Mark Clayson (Senior Surveyor at the Ordnance Survey, Southampton) on the recording, in early OS maps, of lettering (information) on milestones, he was sent a copy of a circular from the OS office dated 31st May 1883 which stated that:

"When several names and distances appear on a Mile Stone, those which are most distant should not be chosen even if they are the most important places, but the distance to the nearest town on each side of the MS should be chosen.

A uniform rule should be adopted for writing Names and Distances to Milestones and Mileposts on roads, railways and canals:-(a) the names need not be arranged as written on the MS or MP

(b) the arrangement should show the direction of the places named. This can easily be done except in the case of a road running East and West in which case the towns to westward will be written first. For example:

Liverpool AA MS { Liverpool 10
Warrington 8 Warrington"

VILLAGE SIGNS

It really all started in 1978 on a visit to the Isle of Man. North of Douglas by a stone wall was a photogenic black and white painted milestone next to a red Victorian post box in the wall. This gave me the idea of photographing one of each style of box from each reign. Little did I know then that there are over 400 different types of post box!

I think I've always been reasonably observant, possibly due to those little I-Spy books, and certainly through the encouragement of my parents but stimulated by being a very active cyclist since the late 50s. So, once I started really looking at post boxes I noticed other interesting street and roadside furniture as I toured on my bike to many areas of the UK. There were different styles of milestone and fingerposts, county signs and boundary markers. And I also had a vague recollection of having seen some round yellow village signs as I travelled with my parents in the immediate post-war years. Then in 1982 I found one at Collington in Herefordshire although I didn't see another one for a number of years.



In the late 80s I discovered that a fellow cyclist was also interested in these signs and he had written to both the AA and the CTC requesting information and locations. He received an informative letter from the AA and with replies to his letter published in the CTC magazine he was able to compile a location list in 1987. So began the serious quest of checking them all out which is still ongoing. It is disappointing when no listed sign is found. Collington disappeared, reappeared and, I understand, has gone again. Unfortunately these seem to be among the

desirable items that unscrupulous collectors must have.

I have slides and photos of almost 70 plates *in situ* although doubtless some will now have been taken down and there are less than 20 still to check. I know of several in museums and private collections with the AA holding some in their Archives.

The greatest pleasure comes when a 'new' sign is spotted whilst cycling through a village. The latest was in February last year when the opportunity came for a ride in part of Lincolnshire too far away from home for a day's ride. Approaching the village of Alvingham near Louth there, across the fields, could be

seen the familiar yellow circle on a barn wall. It had 'turned up' since our last visit a few years ago.

Over 30,000 of these signs were produced and erected from 1907 to 1938/9 and then taken down in 1940. Many were thrown away or destroyed but some were stored or used for other purposes (such as covering holes in lofts!) and are now reappearing much to my delight I would like to see all the remaining plates that are in private hands and museums restored, returned and given pride of place in their home village. They are part of our history as are so many things from the past that add interest and delight to the countryside and towns and can still serve a useful purpose as well.

From my records there seem to be six main designs. The two earliest types were just yellow with black writing, the only difference being the style of the badge top centre. They seem to be made by the same maker and I must visit Langar in Notts again to check the name as it is not clear on my photo.

After the amalgamation of the Motor Union with the AA in 1910 plates were designed in the shape of the winged badge being yellow with a broad black border and AA & MU at the bottom- There were also round signs with Automobile Association and Motor Union at the top. These were made before 1923 when reference to the MU was finally dropped but they also have Safety First on them as do all the signs made after that date. These were made by a firm in north London beginning with Br. I shall have to check that detail on the one at Seaton in East Yorkshire.

The most commonly preserved signs are round with the name on a black stripe across the centre. The winged badge is at centre top with Automobile and Association at either side. A few signs have The Automobile Association at the top with the badge slightly below. These are all made by Franco Signs London W1. The two Scottish signs I've seen have the badges of the AA and the Royal Scottish Automobile Club near the top. The 10 or so signs in Wales are like the ones in England but Warren in Pembrokeshire has the unique distinction of having two signs on adjacent sides of a wall. I understand there were signs erected in Ireland and there are photographs in the Ken Diamond collection but I've only been to Ireland once and didn't see any.

One striking feature is how pedantic the designers were when it came to mileages. OK, so it is 2¼ miles to the next village but who measured the 244¼ miles to London!

Somerset with 8, Herefordshire 6, Cumbria and Yorkshire 5 each followed by Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire on 4 are the 'richest' counties to the best of my knowledge. I would love to hear of recent sightings to keep my records up to date. In particular, information on signs preserved indoors in their home village in pubs, village halls or local history museums would be most welcome. And, of course, I will be happy to give information and locations to anyone who is interested.

Christine Minto

Address for correspondence:

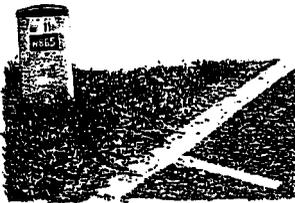
MARKING THE MILESTONES

By far the greatest danger faced by milestones today is not a result of neglect, is not indiscriminate theft nor even destruction from collision by traffic - it is the widespread damage by tractor-drawn flail cutters of verges and hedgerows. The operators of these machines - usually contractors to the Highway Authorities - would prefer to avoid such solid obstacles as milestones and metal mileposts because of the damage they can cause to their machines. The problem is that tractor drivers are not always aware of the exact location of the stones - particularly when they are hidden by fast growing summer vegetation. If each stone were marked by some form of indicator which the operators of the machines could easily see before the blades of their cutters reached them, they could then take avoiding action.

Though many of the stones stand up well from the surrounding vegetation and are clearly visible, many others become hidden very quickly when the growing conditions are most favourable. Any form of markers would, of necessity, have to be unobtrusive to the landscape and yet obvious to the operators of the machines.

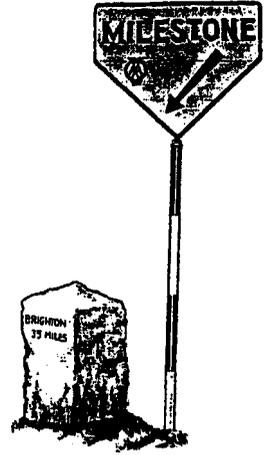
Signs, such as those once erected by the AA in the 1930s are a non-starter. A more subtle and cheaper option is required if it is to be accepted by all concerned.

In parts of Belgium the authorities have overcome this problem in two ways. Firstly, the top of their kilometre stones are painted bright red (not a recommended way for our Highways Authorities to follow) but more discretely, the edge of the



roadway is marked with a white stripe about two feet long - in line with the stone and visible to the driver of a verge cutting machine. If a similar method of marking the stones were to be adopted by our Highways Authorities much of the damage inflicted on our milestones, many of which have survived unscathed for over 200 years only to have large pieces knocked off them by modern methods of roadside maintenance, could be avoided.

If the Highways Authorities are too strapped for cash to carry out this cheap and simple solution, it should be possible to organise volunteer groups - such as the Milestone Society, local history groups, the Parishes etc., to carry out this work. There is a strong case for the conservation bodies to create a trial section of road lined with vulnerable milestones - particularly if they happen to be 'listed'. If the trial is successful, the idea could be applied over the whole country at a relatively low cost - saving not only the stones from further damage but also the expensive machinery at present used for keeping the roadside verges trimmed.



First milestone indicator signs 1935

PUBLICITY IN THE NATIONAL PRESS

An article in *The Times* (Saturday 8 December 2001, Country Life section) gives publicity to our newly formed Society. In an article dealing with Howard Smith's continuing mission to seek out ancient milestones and guide stoops in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, mention is made of the foundation of the Milestone Society, and committee member John Higgins explains 'our aim is to record the roadside heritage of Britain'. John's own achievements (measuring and photographing all 410 known stones in his own county of Staffordshire) is also noted. Howard Smith is particularly interested in the guide stoops (stoop is a Scandinavian word for stone), and has published two books on the subject, *The Guide Stoops of Derbyshire* and *The Guide Stoops of the Dark Peak*, each available from the author at £5 (plus 55p p&p); Tel: 0114 258 8054.

NEW RECORD SHEET FOR MILESTONES

Following lengthy consideration by the committee and a discussion at the Dewsbury meeting after a presentation by committee member Alan Rosevear, a new Record Sheet has been designed which will meet the long term requirements for the formation of a national electronic database. Considerable hard work has gone into this by Alan Rosevear, who has had personal experience in database design, especially with regard to his own extensive milestone records for Berkshire, and the Society is very grateful to him for his expert advice on this matter. The major driving forces in developing the new format are that (a) all relevant data that might be needed in future with regard to forming a searchable archive at national level should be collected in a single visit to a particular site; (b) uncertainty in how a particular feature should be recorded should be minimised by means of offering the recorder a series of possible choices, of which one is chosen; (c) the various types of information should be transferable in searchable codes easily from the completed Record Sheet onto a database (first at county level then combined to national level).

The Committee fully realise that many members have started their valuable work using an earlier record sheet entitled 'County Milestone Survey' which was handed out initially at the Dudley meeting in May 2001. Members who have already filled in data on this version need not re-survey such milestones already recorded or replace these records since the information they contain can be transferred to the new record sheet directly for forwarding to the County Coordinators in due course. However, from now on the new Record Sheet should be used for all recording of milestone data.

Included with this Newsletter is one copy of the new Record Sheet (double sided) together with an explanatory guide about its completion. Also included is a document giving advice on how field work should be tackled. Please note that surveying milestones is a potentially hazardous operation and the greatest care should be taken at all times. Please note the statement on page 2 of this Newsletter, that the Milestone Society accepts no responsibility for accidents or claims arising from any activity associated with the aims and objectives of the Society.

It is hoped that members will be able to make copies of the sheet provided to meet their needs. However, if this proves difficult, please contact your County Coordinator who will be sent multiple copies of the Record Sheet, or the Newsletter Editors if you have no coordinator designated at present.

PUBLICATIONS

Two forthcoming Shire publications for members to look out for are *Milestones* by Mervyn Benford (ISBN 0 7478 0526 1, price approximately £4.50) which should be available in March 2002, and *Road Signs* by Stuart Hands (ISBN 0 7478 0531 8, price £3.50) due in May 2002.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 2002

Contributions intended for inclusion in the July 2002 Newsletter should reach the Editors by 30 June 2002 at the following address:

A. & C. Haines

Submission of articles in electronic form (disc or e-mail attachment) using Microsoft Word is particularly convenient. However, if you have a recent PC with Microsoft Office XP or Word 97 please use the "SAVE AS" option (not "SAVE") and save files in Word 5.1 for Macintosh format. If this is not an option, save in RTF, Word 6.0/97, or Wordperfect 5.x for Windows format. We have difficulty with other formats.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are reminded that the subscriptions for 2002-2003 fall due on 1 June 2002 and renewals (£10 single or £12 for a couple at the same address) should be sent with a completed application form to:

Brian Barrow (Membership Secretary)

An application form for use with subscription renewals and which requires your signature is enclosed.

SPRING MEETING

The Spring meeting of the Society, which incorporates the AGM, will be held on Saturday 11 May 2002 in the Black Country Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 4SQ. (Tel: 0121 557 9643, Web page: <http://www.bclm.co.uk>). The meeting will be free of charge to members and the programme, which will commence at 11.00 (coffee available from 10.30), will comprise presentations and talks as well as the AGM.

The Museum is signposted from Junction 2 of the M5.