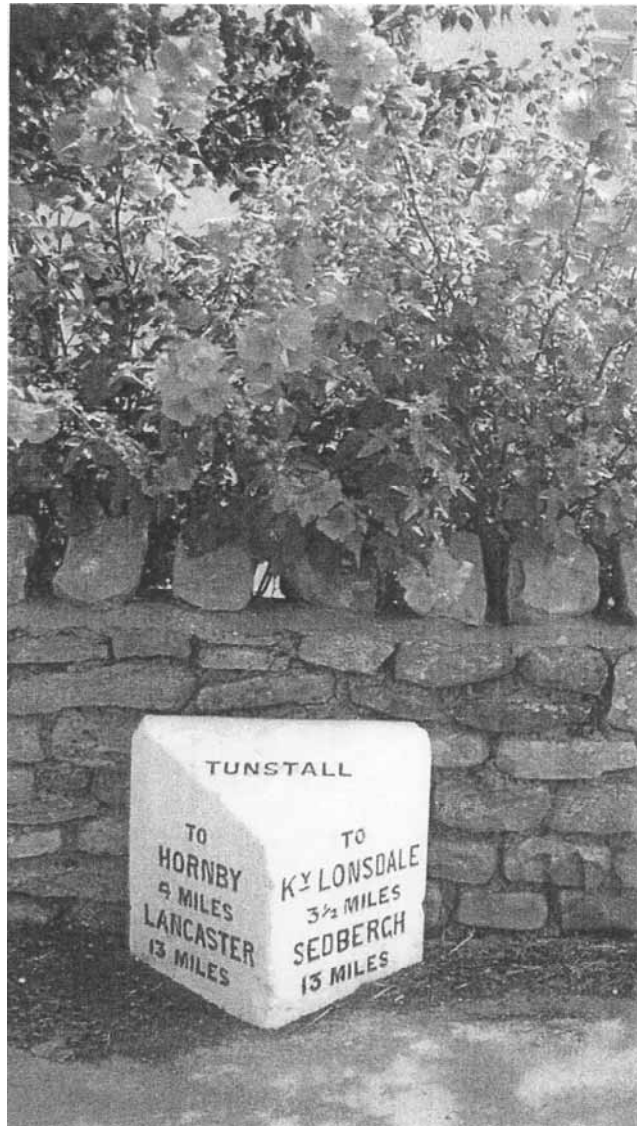


The Milestone Society

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

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.