

Ask Aspect

This is the column which responds to your comments, queries, memories and concerns about life in and around Market Bosworth as life begins [hopefully] to return closer to normality after a year of lockdowns or restrictions. We either attempt to track down answers for you or usually hope that other readers can provide us with solutions. Ask Aspect also provides space for pure nostalgia!

The Carlton Milepost

The Carlton Milepost and the Big Snow of 1990 have been recent topics in *Aspect*, but the two have a close and little-known connection. Chris Peat has sent me the following information which I think readers will find of interest.



The milepost originally stood on the eastern side of Barton Road at Carlton, 130 yards south of its present position. In the Big Snow of December 1990 the snow plough pushed the milepost into the ditch, knocked off the distance plate and snapped off the bottom right corner. The milepost lay in the ditch for some time, but the distance plate had been taken away, and was not recovered until 1993 when Chris found it being used as a door stop at a house in Nailstone. County Highways considered the damaged milepost to be dangerous, and refused to re-erect it. However, in 1994 the milepost was put back together and repaired by students at the Leicestershire Engineering Training Group through the good offices of the late John Clarke. They bolted a sheet of metal onto the back of the distance plate, and filled the missing corner of the face to match. It was not possible to re-create the original cast numbers, which is why the bottom two are flat and painted on.

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At that time gangs of thieves were stealing any metal they could get their hands on, from road and street signs to manhole and gully covers. After consultation with Market Bosworth Parish Council and County Highways it was agreed that the repaired milepost could be re-erected on the parish boundary, in a protected position between the street name plates, underneath the village nameplate and set in concrete to prevent it being stolen. (The village nameplate has since been moved further down the road to encourage drivers to slow down).

To everyone's surprise and gratification, the milepost was made a listed building in January 1997 (Schedule 5/10012). The downside of this is that Listed Building Consent will be required if we ever try to improve on the repairs.



Many thanks to Chris Peat for this information and the photographs.