



### **COFFEE MORNING**

Make a note in your diaries for our coffee morning at the Village Hall on **SATURDAY MARCH 25<sup>th</sup>** from 10a.m. to 12.30pm. There will be a chance to catch up with friends and enjoy the refreshments, some of which may have an Easter theme! It's an opportunity for the History Group to share once again their wonderful archive of village life photographs. All the photographs can, of course, be accessed on [www.ipplepenlocalhistory.org.uk](http://www.ipplepenlocalhistory.org.uk) but since there are over 7,000 of them all we can do is to select a few special ones from our different categories. One of the most recent additions to our archive is Fin Heath's collection of the many references to Ipplepen on local road signposts. It led me to think again about the location of Ipplepen surrounded by such a complex network of lanes.

### **CONFUSING SIGNS**

The lanes definitely pose a challenge to those not familiar with South Devon and although the signposts can sometimes serve to make navigation even more bewildering there is an underlying logic to the road layout.

It all starts to make more sense once you apply the golden rule – pretend that the A381 Newton Abbot – Totnes route does not exist. After all it was not there until the eighteenth century. Once you have done that you can see how you would exit Ipplepen and cross straight over into the Buttlands Industrial estate and then link up with Moor Road which starts life up on Dartmoor travelling south via Ashburton and heading toward Marldon and then Paignton. You might also go through Dainton before reaching Bickley Mill on the road to Abbotskerswell and Kingskerswell.

We now know for sure that the original Ipplepen settlement grew up on the straight lane (formerly an ancient track) between Dainton Cross and Wrigwell Cross. That ancient track is an extension of the Icknield Way which, after crossing the Teign by way of a ford at Hackney(Hacknield), heads on towards Totnes passing through Wolborough, Abbotskerswell, and Ipplepen..

There is another track passing through Marldon, Weekaborough, Combe Fishacre and then on to the centre of Ipplepen. To the west we have routes out to Broadhempston and Staverton or to Torbryan and then Denbury. And then we have the route crossing over Blackstone Road, Croft Road, Dornafield Road, and Stallage leading on to East Ogwell and then Newton Abbot (Bushel).

There are, of course, other routes out to Ambrook, Battleford and Littlehempston or up Townsend Hill to Denbury. Well now I have made all that crystal clear I fail to see how anyone might be confused by all this!

