

BARHAM VILLAGE SIGN

The proposal that a village sign should be made and erected at some suitable spot in the parish of Barham was agreed by the Parish Council in 1985. Following this decision, a design was worked out by the late Keith Pilling, a well-known artist and member of the council at that time. Once the design was produced, offers of help to supply materials, welding and painting were made by local residents. The sign which we see today is therefore the work done by parishioners of Barham and is a fitting emblem for the village. It was finally completed in 1989 and the unveiling ceremony was performed by County Councillor Mr G H Caldwell-Smith on Saturday 7th October 1989.

The sign is aluminium with a steel surrounding frame and depicts various aspects of Barham.

- The tower of the church (being by far the oldest building in the parish).
- The cedar tree* under which the rector of Barham, William Kirby who died on 4/7/1850 aged 90, used to sit and study moths and butterflies. He produced a book on the subject entitled 'An Introduction to Entomology'.
- A butterfly is depicted at the top right of the sign.
- A horse and ploughman indicates the rural nature of the parish
- The blue and yellow lettering reflects the earlier dedication to St Mary of the Parish Church.

The design is meant to be easily maintained with a simple black paint, only the butterfly being in colour. The whole effect depends on viewing in silhouette against the sky.

Long may the sign stand as a clear marker of the village of Barham

*The magnificent Cedar Tree depicted in our Village Sign and seen in the picture, stood close to the footpath on the Old Norwich Road, opposite Kirby Rise for hundreds of years. In August 2002 it suffered damage from high winds but the Preservation Officer considered that with suitable pruning it would last for decades. However in November 2002 further damage occurred during severe storms and on inspection again, the Preservation Officer considered the tree to be in a sorry state and of little amenity value. He therefore advised its removal on safety grounds and indicated that a replacement tree of the same species should be planted.

The tree was finally removed and burned on site on 26/02/2003 – a sad end to part of the history of Barham. The replacement Cedar tree is now in place and may it grow to maturity for future generations to appreciate.

- iii) A butterfly is depicted at the top right of the sign.
- iv) A horse and ploughman indicates the rural nature of the parish.
- v) The blue and yellow lettering reflects the earlier dedication to St. Mary of the Parish Church.

The whole design is meant to be easily maintained with a simple black paint, only the butterfly being in colour. The whole effect depends on viewing in silhouette against the sky. The base of the post is protected by cement and cobbles.

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Photograph from the Unveiling Ceremony 7 October 1989

