



Mark Fairhurst, designer of the Bawdeswell village sign, seen with parish council chairman Mr. John Ames (right) and clerk Mr. Charles Sparkes.

Mark puts Chaucer in the picture

Chaucer may not be alive and well but his memory lives on at Bawdeswell.

The village's new sign, designed by schoolboy Mark Fairhurst, shows Chaucer's reeve, who came from the village, stopping at nearby Balder's Well.

Mark, 15, won £5 in the competition, organised by Mr. Trevor Steward, one of his teachers at Reepham High School, and also unveiled the sign at a ceremony attended by parish councillors, villagers, and the signmaker, Mr. Harry Carter.

Bawdeswell's sign marks the end of an era with Mr. Carter, who has made signs for villages all over Norfolk saying it is definitely his last.

Parish council chairman, Mr. John Ames, said that there were about half-a-dozen designs submitted. "Mark's was the best one which covered the historical background of Bawdeswell," he said.

On Sunday 22nd August at 3.0 p. m.. the unveiling of the village sign took place. The Chairman, Mr. John Ames, welcomed a gathering of around 50 people, then gave details concerning the occasion before introducing Mark Fairhurst, (the student of Reepham High School who designed the sign), to unveil the sign. Then at the Chairman's request the Clerk, Mr. Charles Sparkes, gave details concerning its design. i.e. the Reeves on horseback linked with Chaucer's Uncle who was the Reeve for the area, and Bolder's Well, which is apparently linked with the Anglo Saxon 'The Beautiful Well, or Water.

We are grateful to Harry Carter of Swaffham who undertook to make this sign and has stated it is definitely his last, and to Hendry & Sons, Foulsham for the base. For free voluntary help our thanks go to Alistair Milne of Swanton Morley for metal Channels, Mike Elsdon for Welding work, Ronald Mercer for fitting the main pillar into the socket, Trevor Steward for arranging the design competition at Reepham High School. All these tasks helped to make the Chairman's and Clerk's efforts much easier.

'Reeves Tale', Sept 1982.

Mark Fairhurst puts Chaucer in the picture

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Parish council chairman Mr. John Ames, said that about half-a-dozen designs were submitted. "Mark's was the best one which covered the historical background of Bawdeswell," he said.



□ Fifteen-year-old Mark Fairhurst, designer of Bawdeswell's new village sign, pictured at the sign with parish council chairman, Mr. John Ames (right) and Mr. Charles Sparkes, parish council clerk.



Mark Fairhurst, designer of the Bawdeswell village sign, seen with parish council chairman Mr. John Ames (right) and clerk Mr. Charles Sparkes.

Historical background for sign

On Sunday 22nd August of the village sign took place. Mr. John Ames, welcomed a gathering of villagers and parish councillors. Details concerning the occasion were given by Mark Fairhurst, (the student who designed the sign), to Mr. John Ames. Chairman's request the Clerk to give details concerning its design. The sign is linked with Chaucer's reeve, who came from the area, and Balder's Well, linked with the Anglo Saxon Water.

We are grateful to Harry Carter who undertook to make this sign. The sign is definitely his last, and to Mr. John Ames for the base. For free volunteeing to Alistair Milne of Swanton for welding work. Mike Elsdon for welding work fitting the main pillar in place. Mr. Trevor Steward for arranging the sign at Reepham High School. All these tasks were done by Chairman's and Clerk's efforts.

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'Reeves Tale', Sept 1992.