

CARLTON'S GOLDEN JUBILEE POST:

The idea originated at the end of 2001 when a number of villagers decided that Carlton should have some form of decorative village sign. It was subsequently suggested by Pat Lockwood that this would be an excellent way to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee. If we could get the sign designed and manufactured in time: we could unveil it at the start of Carlton's Golden Jubilee celebrations on June 3rd 2002.

A project team was formed to make it happen in time, and everyone in the village was encouraged to come up with original design ideas. The project team, which consisted Nigel Axelrad, Angela Davies, Tom Alun-Jones, Carole Goold, Ted Goold, Murray Lockwood, Ken May, Kay Onesti and David Swallow, choose the splendid design submitted by Chris Peat.

A very substantial oak post was purchased and two local artists were commissioned to turn the sketches into stoneware plaques, which depict Carlton life both past and present. Ruth Schwiening and Judy Taylor did a wonderful job working against a very tight time scale to get the plaques finished in time.

The heavy oak post with its lead cap made by Paul Adams took four strong men to move. Ken May, Bill Mepham, Peter Whitworth, James Ward and Ted Goold erected it on 25th May. Mick Pointon provided the majority of the Carlton stone for the base, with some additional pieces provided by Chris Peat. Not only did Mick provide most of the stone, but with help and advice from many onlookers, he also made a fine job of setting the stone into the base. John Lowe finished off the pointing around the base. After which there was a heavy rainstorm, so it had to be re-pointed by John for a second time.

The plaques were completed just in time and fitted on the 2nd of June.

After the final coat of varnish had dried, the finished post was wrapped in the Union Flag ready to be unveiled for the Queen's Golden Jubilee the following day.

The money for the post was raised by a number of village social events at which many people worked hard, but special thanks must go to Tania Sharpe and Nigel and Janie Axelrad for their outstanding efforts. In addition to the money raised in the village we were also fortunate to be awarded a grant of £1000 from Leicestershire Coal Fields Rural Initiatives Fund.

As a finishing touch, Carlton Daffodils will be planted around the base next Autumn.

Ted Goold June 3rd 2002