

**This description of Surley Row is from 1988, written by CADRA for the Caversham Bridge magazine.**

This is one of the most attractive parts of Caversham, in that, although small, it contains a wealth of the timber framed listed and other interesting buildings, lining a narrow street with a backdrop of trees and red bricked walls.

The entrance from Peppard Road to Surley Row has a welcoming traditional look with its old type phone box, its wall mounted postbox and wide grass verge. **Hill House** the home of M.P. Tony Durant, can be glimpsed through the trees.

From the Rotherfield way entrance this section of Surley Row is approached by a steep hill, bordered by the high wall of **Springfield Saint Luke**, which conceals from view what lies beyond. **Saint Luke** itself is probably seen best from that part of Surley Row on the other side of Rotherfield way. It is an imposing house of the early 19th century occupied in turn by several well-known Caversham residents, one being **Admiral Coffin**, who endowed the **Westfield Road almshouses** once a home for elderly ladies. Similarly, on the opposite side of the road, only what is virtually the back of **No. 23 (Farmcote)** can be seen, although the curious will be interested to know that its promised attractions are amply fulfilled on the side concealed from the road. It is 18th century with early 19th century extensions.

After this, we have **No. 4, White Cottage**, 18th century with early 19th century additions, **No. 2 Fir Tree House**, again 18th-century but with alterations, and **No. 1**, attached to and formally part of **Hill House**, and notable for its large bell. There are several other homes which can only narrowly have missed listing.

Meanwhile, in the section of Surley Row beyond Rotherfield Way, there is the timber framed **Tudor cottage**, and mid-19th century **Tudor-Gothic Grove Cottage** on the west side, and on the east side **No. 46** in colour washed flint. Just beyond lies the popular though unlisted *Gardeners' Arms* [*now a close of modern homes*], here the conservation area stops, although further along Surley Row, there are other listed buildings.