

Lookout Post – June 2011

Policing Matters

There are changes to the Thames Valley Police team in Caversham as well as a reduction to dedicated deployment in Caversham, due to the budget restrictions. We thank Inspector Penny McKenzie for her leadership of the Caversham team and wish her well as she takes up a new appointment. Inspector Graham Markham now leads the Caversham police team, in addition to continuing to lead the policing effort around the Oxford Rd. Also going to Oxford Rd, for at least six months will be Sergeant Rob Pitman. We acknowledge his long contribution to policing in Caversham. In this six month period Sergeant Zahid Aziz will take over the role in Caversham.

Regrettably, these changes occur in the wake of at least three burglaries in the central Caversham business area. Even more disappointing is that two of these were to charity shops. There have been criminal damage and out of hours intruders in Caversham Court. Fortunately the PCSOs are out and about. Recently, they have been focusing on dangerous parking near schools and parking on pavements. They have issued fixed penalty fines for a number of these instances. The police team have issued a reminder that the warmer weather often provides more opportunities for burglars. Do still be vigilant on home security, remembering that nimble thieves can use items like wheelie bins to gain access to first floor windows. The gardening season also means that thieves can have access to valuable equipment, either to sell on, or to use to force entry. The firm market for scrap metals has shown an increase in theft of these materials.

Caversham Business News

Local resident, Mr Neil Asbury has taken over the operation of Home Craft, the DIY shop on the corner of Prospect Street, across from Church House. Neil is committed to offering the same wide range of goods as his predecessor, Mr Ray Barrett. A visit to the shop demonstrates the wide inventory of not just DIY items, but also gardening, cleaning materials, and paint. Need a shoe horn with a 2 foot handle? Yes, Neil has it!

Fresh food at the Oracle

The Fresh Food Festival returns to The Oracle for its third successful year on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June 2011. A selection of day and evening activities will include interactive cooking demonstrations with celebrity chefs James Martin and Lesley Waters, as well as chefs from The Oracle Riverside restaurants. Visitors will also be able to take advantage of a traditional farmers' market set on The Riverside and enjoy evening entertainment.

Bus Services

As we get to grips with the new bus routes and bus stops through Reading, do not forget to ask for the special offers on bus tickets, particularly if you are affected by the removal of concessionary fares before 9.30am.

The £1 fare to and from the Town Centre is available until further notice on:

- Caversham Library and Central Reading on Premier Routes 22 and 24 (dark pink buses)
- Briant's Avenue (Star Inn) and Central Reading on Premier Route 23 (dark pink)
- The whole of routes 27 & 29 Lower Caversham Shuttles - Amersham Road and Central Reading (now permanent)

There is also a new special offer for all day travel between Caversham and the Royal Berkshire Hospital until further notice. A £3 all day ticket is available to buy from the driver on routes 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29 and Vitality 2 & 2a. Change buses in central Reading onto routes 9 (the red buses, which have a 10 minute frequency) and 19 (grey midi bus) where your ticket will be valid to take you to the hospital and to return to Caversham. This ticket is not available for use on the rest of the network. Sadly this is in place of a through service from Caversham to RBH.

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