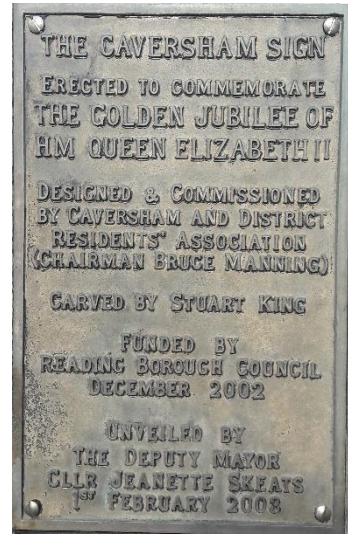


The Caversham Village Sign

As the Millennium approached, CADRA developed a plan for a carved village sign in Caversham, focusing on local history. An oak tree, which had been necessary to fell at Caversham Park, and was old enough to have been part of Capability Brown's eighteenth-century landscaping scheme was used to carve the sign.



The sign was designed and commissioned by CADRA, carved by Stuart King, a local craftsman, artist and wood turner and funded by Reading Borough Council. It was completed in time to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II and was unveiled in 2003.



As well as Caversham Bridge and swans on the River Thames, the design features:

A 'Reading Gypsy Wagon' made by the local firm, Duntons.



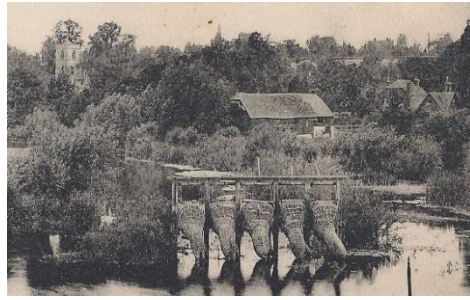
St Peters Church, Caversham



St Anne's Well, Caversham



The Eel bucks made with willow baskets from the local Osieri trade.



The infamous Amelia Dyer who killed the babies in her care.



The angel with one wing who is said to have brought to Caversham the spear head which pierced Jesus on the cross.

2019 Restoration of the Sign

Both the sign and the supporting post deteriorated over the years. The post developed a lean, the painted sign started to peel, and the colours faded significantly.

CADRA worked with the Caversham Traders Association, Hermes who own the precinct and Council staff. The post and sign were taken down, the sign was removed from the post and delivered to Stuart King at his workshop near Little Missenden.

<https://stuartking.co.uk/the-caversham-village-sign-carved-by-stuart-king/>

Stuart repaired and conserved the damaged timber and repainted it, ready to stand another 15 years on Church Street.





"I have been involved in traditional woodworking all my life and I like a challenge, and I like the idea of something that I have carved being seen by thousands of local shoppers and daily commuters each day.

The completed carved and painted oak sign was erected in 2003 but after 16 years of open-air exposure the English weather had taken its toll of the painted surface. I agreed to it have back in my workshop to conserve and repaint it, just one more time, in another 16 years I will be 92!

The sign is now revitalised and ready to re-join the bustling village community of a unique Thameside village."

Reinstallation of the Sign



On 13th December, Council staff replaced the post and reattached the sign.



Thank you to everyone for their help in achieving this.

Caversham and District Residents Association
www.cadra.org.uk

20/11/2019

