

Caversham Library

The outside has not changed in 100 years!!

*It is one of the most popular librarys in
Reading*

*They have books in English, Spanish and lots
of other languages.*



This is it now (2011)

A History of Caversham Library

By Isabel

Caversham Library was built on the site of a school playground in 1907. The school was called Caversham Academy. It was on the site where Waitrose is now. To get to the playground you had to go through an underground passage.



The money for the library was given by a man called Andrew Carnegie. At the time he was said to be the richest man in the world. He was a very kind man and gave most of his money to have schools and libraries built. But a local man gave the land for the library to be built on.

Caversham became part of Reading on the 9th November 1911. In 1907 Caversham was part of Oxfordshire. Another library in Reading was also built by Andrew Carnegie. This is Battle Library on the Oxford Road. It was because they were in different Counties that both Libraries were allowed to be built.

The inside of the library looks different to now. There were lots of little rooms, and one was a reading room.

When the library opened no children were allowed in.



The library has a very distinctive clock tower.



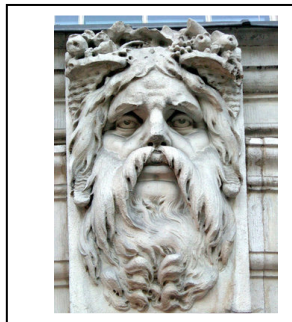
Some people think that the statue holding up the clock is Old Father Time. Others say it is Old Father Thames. Old Father Time is normally shown with a scythe whereas this picture of Old Father Thames at St John's Lock, Lechlade shows a figure with a spade.



Looking closely at the Caversham Library sculpture – is it a scythe or a spade?



Perhaps this face on the corner moulding was Old Father Thames? – compare this with another picture of Old Father Thames - the beard is long enough.



Whatever you think – it's a great Caversham mystery...