

## NOTES FROM THORNHAM

### ... AND THEN THERE WERE THREE: THE LETTERBOXES OF THE THORNHAMS



Our letterboxes have been sitting quietly doing their job, hardly changed since Victorian times. The quotations here are from Kelly's directory, 1888 and 1912. Because two of 'our' boxes are near parish boundaries they are listed under other villages.

☛ *Thornham Magna: Post Office - Miss Emily Steede, receiver. Letters arrive from Eye at 7.30am and 2.30pm; dispatched at 6.30pm; on sundays at 10.30am. Postal orders are issued here, but not paid. The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Eye. ☛*



☛ *Yaxley: Letter Box (Bull inn), cleared at 6.50pm week days, 10.15am sundays. ☛*

☛ *Stoke Ash: Letters received through Eye arrive at 7am & 6.45pm. Wall Letter Box, White Horse inn, cleared at 3.5 & 6.55pm; sunday, 6.35am. ☛*



The box near the Walks seems to have been a late arrival, perhaps built between the Wars to serve the Estate Office and the Red House.

In Victorian times, the box at the White Horse was a brick structure on the corner of the building, similar to today's Walks box. It first moved to the other side of the Thornham road, later, when the A140 was improved, the box moved to the layby just a few metres north. It has not been replaced since its demolition in an accident on 29th August 2015.

Surprisingly, Sunday collections and deliveries were normal up to the First World War, although individual postmasters were able to opt out. The GPO with a mission to give the best possible service, was in constant conflict with Sabbatarians who believed it wrong that people should have to work on Sundays. Eventually, Sunday service was withdrawn because of shortage of labour during the First War.



### FEBRUARY EVENT

Friday 19th: 7.30pm, Village Hall film, *45 Years*, booking essential, £5 from Priscilla 01379 672903