

## NOTES FROM THORNHAM

### THE READING ROOM

This modest but interesting building stands in a garden just along The Street from the Horseshoes. Built in the mid-nineteenth century it is marked and named on the first OS map of 1885 (shown here) and also in 1905. In 1925 it



is no longer named, but for the first time the Village Hall is shown.

Little is known about the Reading Room other than that it was built by Lord Henniker for the use of estate workers as an alternative to the pub. Working and retired employees could use it to meet socially, read the papers and keep warm.

But Reading Rooms were male preserves. By the 1920s the mood had changed and in 1924 the Village Hall was built as a place which everyone could enjoy. The Reading Room was closed down but found new uses: first as a shop and then a garden shed.



### MAY EVENTS

**Friday 6th:** 7.30pm, Village get together, Village Hall, all residents of Magna and Parva come and meet your neighbours over a free drink and nibbles

**Sunday 8th:** 4pm, Thornham Parva church, music by Handel and Friends, played by Musica Donum Dei, tickets £15 from 01379 788130, organised by Music at Thornham

**Wednesday 18th:** Thornham Magna Village Meeting, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Clerk Tina Schwarz 01379 788207, please note revised date

**Friday 20th:** 7.30pm, Village Hall film, *Bridge of Spies*, booking essential, £5 from Priscilla 01379 672903