

## NOTES FROM THORNHAM

### THORNHAM MAGNA WINDMILL, part one

With '1750' carved on a beam, but said to be much older, our mill stood in a small field above Mill House, between the Horseshoes and the White Horse. The Rose family of 'millers, wind and steam' ran the mill from 1883 until it finished work in 1942. In 1959 it was burnt down by boys from the Kerrison Approved School in Thorndon and the site was finally cleared in the 1980s.

These pictures show the slow decline of the mill and its steam engine from 1929 when it was said to be 'in good order' to just before the fire.



It was known as a 'post mill' because it revolved around a single vertical timber, the wooden supports for which were inside the brick roundhouse. Saxtead Green and Stanton mills remind us how our mill looked in its prime, although ours was unusual for having two sails of the normal 'patent' wooden shuttered type, and two 'common' sails covered with cloth. As the pictures show, it was 'headsick' – leaning forward because it was out of balance.

Up in the mill there were two pairs of French burr millstones driven by the sails, while a third pair in the base was powered by the steam engine.