


NOTES FROM THORNHAM

In 1851 this advertisement appeared in the *Ipswich Journal*. Since the 1830s steamships carrying passengers and goods had run from Norwich and Ipswich to London, via various Essex and Kent ports. After the opening of the railway to Norwich in 1849 these services continued for a while, proving particularly useful for reaching the intermediate ports.

Why passengers should wish to travel between Ipswich and London by water, as this advertisement suggests, when the railway covered the same

**NORWICH TO LONDON.**



**THE "ORWELL" STEAMER**  
 leaves the Company's Wharf, Ipswich, after the arrival of the 7 15 Up-train from Norwich, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, leaving Brunswick Pier, Blackwall, London, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at Half-past Nine, calling regularly at Harwich, Walton-on-the-Naze, and Gravesend.

Fore Cabin .....	3	0	Saloon .....	4	6
Children under ten ...	1	6	Children under ten ...	2	6

**GODWIN S. JOHNSON,**  
Clerk to the Company.

route is intriguing. *The Port of Ipswich*, a wonderfully informative book by Richard W. Smith and Jill Freestone comes to our rescue.

It tells us that the paddle steamer *Orwell* had been launched at Blackwall on the Thames in 1839 and, alternating with *Orion*, ran a daily Ipswich to London service, competing with stage and mail coaches before the railway was opened. Later we read with sympathy "some passengers appreciated the voyage of some seven hours to the long and sometimes fraught journey by train".

However there were too few passengers to support these boats for long and in 1853 the shipping company was liquidated and bought by Alfred Cobbold, a director of the railway company, and the boats had a new lease of life running very popular excursions.

- APRIL AND EARLY MAY EVENTS IN THORNHAM ● Friday 21st April: Village Hall film, A United Kingdom, £5, please book Priscilla 01379 672903 ● Monday 1st May: Thornham Estate Spring Party, 10.30-4 ● Sunday 7th May: Village Hall Fun Dog Show, 2pm