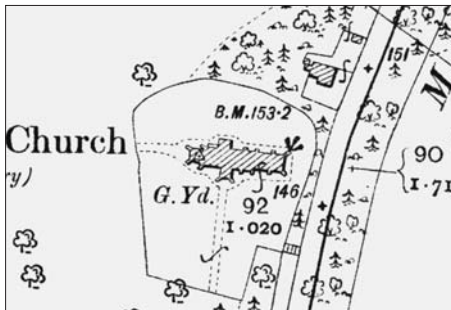


## NOTES FROM THORNHAM

“**B**enchmark” is now a familiar word, used in management speak when measuring achievements. The word originally described the carved broad arrow and horizontal line left by the Ordnance Survey when calculating



heights. From points where sea level was measured in London and Liverpool and finally in 1915 in Newlyn in Cornwall, the marks spread out as surveyors calculated the height from one to the next.

The “bench” is part of a measuring pole that fits into the horizontal mark so that the exact position of the pole can be repeated. About 500,000 marks were carefully maintained until GPS took over in the late 1970s. Nowadays the Survey has 250 surveyors equipped with laptops and GPS receivers.

The pictures show marks on Magna Church, the Red House and the Old School. The 25 inches to the mile map of 1903 clearly shows the Church mark on the diagonal north east buttress. Nearby, next to the initials BM, the height above sea level is shown in feet.

**MARCH EVENTS IN THE THORNHAMS** ● Saturday 10th: Parish Hall, Dice and Slice, games and coffee, 2.30-5 ● Friday 16th: Parish Hall film, 7.30, *Death of Stalin* ● Wednesday 21st: Parish Hall AGM, 7.30 ● Sunday 25th: Magna litter pick