

## NOTES FROM THORNHAM

Before WWII Hartismere RDC, which was responsible for the local water supply, had been sinking boreholes for communal hand pumps and to feed the water mains they were laying. Thornham was an exception, the Estate being held responsible in those days. The ambition was to replace unhealthy and unreliable supplies taken from wells, ponds and ditches with good water available



near to, but not inside, every home using the new hand pumps or mains standpipes.

After the War ambitions were raised to getting a water supply into every home and building sewers for the flush toilets which that made possible.

The water mains

programme was geared up, boreholes were improved and the three water towers were built in 1956 to store water and regulate the supply.

There was considerable disruption in the area in the 1950s and 1960s as trenches were dug by hand along the middle of roads, and pipes were laid.

The Thornhams received a four inch main, running along the Wickham Road, up The Street to the phone box, across the fields to the Red House post box, under the Park, passing east of the Hall to North Lodge and onwards to the Parva triangle. Here it meets a big eight inch main that runs from the Bull to Mellis.

The route is marked by eight or so yellow fire hydrant signs on concrete posts or telegraph poles, so familiar we don't notice them. The figures on the signs show the pipe size in millimetres and the distance in metres to the iron cover.

The result is that today we have a network where, depending on time of day and network conditions, our water (all of it from boreholes) may enter the system from Redgrave works, Bedingfield tower or Finningham tower. Finningham tower receives water from Mendlesham and Rickinghall. Bedingfield tower receives water from Bedingfield, Eye and Syleham.

We take notice only on the rare occasions when something goes wrong.

✱ All Notes from Thornham are now on [www.thornhams.org](http://www.thornhams.org)

**FEBRUARY IN THE THORNHAMS** ● Friday 21st: Parish Hall film, *Knives Out*, £5, please book, 07858 934440