

## "BOUNDARY STONE" Detectives needed!

The Birchington Heritage Trust is trying to locate as many of the old boundary stones in the village as possible. So far we have located two. They are usually on the edge or corner of a plot and frequently have a letter incised into at least one side. They used to stand about one foot above ground, with the same amount buried below and are often about 4-5 inches wide and deep. They marked the corners of plots belonging to land-owners from time immemorial. Many of them are still marked on present day maps, but the most useful place to check up on ours is on the 1840 Tithe Map.

The first of the two so far identified is in Ingle Close, with a clear letter "N" engraved on it. The land here belonged to **Edward Neame** (we still have Neame Road from this connection). The stone was discovered in the hedge and was almost buried in earth and leaves. The second one was found in the garden of a property on the corner of Lincoln and Rutland Gardens and contains an "F". The land belonged to **George Taddy Friend** in 1840. This stone was only discovered when the present owner was digging in his garden. It has since been moved and is now in a garden nearby.

So - "Boundary Stone Detectives", can you please have a poke around your borders and hedges, just in case we can locate another one (or two) of our old stones!