

## Griggs' Mill

The windmill that became known as Griggs' Mill used to stand at the S. E. corner of Quex Park. It is the oldest of the three mills in the village, apart from the two medieval ones. We can only guess at its original build date, but it was working well before **1763**. It appears on two estate maps of 1774 and 1799 and had ceased trading by **1840**.

The Griggs family owned and ran it for several generations and in **1799** the widow of a William Griggs asked for any claimants on her late husband's estate to contact her. .

In **1806** an advert in the "Kentish Gazette" reads :-

"Wanted at Michaelmas next - a steady, single man to work in a windmill. Apply to John Griggs, Birchington Mill, Isle of Thanet."

## Griggs' Mill Story

The following story appeared in the "Ipswich Journal" of Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> **1786**:

"About two years since, died at Birchington, Mr William Griggs, many years master miller at that place. On his deathbed he informed his son, who is now master of the said mill, that he had buried a quantity of money in the mill cottage."

The story tells how, after his father's death, the son searched in vain for the gold. He then let the cottage, but when the tenant left in 1876, he went back and searched again. To his joy he discovered a bag containing 735 guineas - at least £38,000 in present day terms - hidden under the kitchen flag-stones. He generously gave half of this fortune to his sister's children, who had lost both their parents some years earlier.