



Village life news



The residents and choir join to bring a little Christmas cheer

On an evening, not so much 'deep and crisp and even', but rather more 'wet and damp and dismal' the somewhat un-rehearsed Alkborough-cum-Walcot Wandering Carollers ventured into the night with an array of torches, camping lamps and various other glowing LED attire. Postie Helen wore the hat she had worn when she delivered my first letter to me on moving to Alkborough just two years earlier, looking like a cross between Santa's Little Helper and Heidi.

Our little choir of heraldic angels made its way around the dark streets where shineth the everlasting light of our lanterns, our voices a little tenuously shy at first, but gaining volume and (dare I say) confidence with each rendition of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas', punctuating our move onto the next house showing a promising glow from behind the curtains.

Between us, the careful listener may well have heard a few 'regional variations' of our much loved carols, along with the seasonal coughs and wheezes. They may well also have noted the much-practised choir singers present, offering rhythm and pitch to those of us who normally resign our vocals to the airwaves of Radio 2 in the mornings on the way to work.

Nevertheless, at one point, cattle really were heard 'lowing' along with our dulcet tones of 'Away in a Manger' (again)! There were no stars in any bright sky as we gave full throttle, all self consciousness gone, to our grand finale of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' at the Paddocks where Veryan provided not sticky pudding, but hot drinks and some very decadent mince pies, (thank you Veryan).

The 'All ye Faithful' had come; and joyously and triumphantly raised £170. So many thanks to all of you who came and gave your voices to the joyful throng, as well as those of you who generously imparted donations. So next year, why not come and join us? We'll be singing all of your old favourites, as well as 'Away in a Manger' (again)!



Written by Jayne Brierley. Photo by Mark McCorquodale

Disappointing result for Parish Council Play Area survey

The Parish Council would like to thank the 25 people who completed and returned their surveys. However, as a proportion of the 190 surveys delivered throughout the parish, this was a disappointing return. In addition, no-one attended the public meeting to discuss the results and the way forward, apart from parish councillors and Alan Mawer, representing the Residents Association.

Four of the respondents had never visited the Play Area, but there was a fairly even split between those who visited quite regularly and those who visited infrequently, perhaps with visitors. The majority were happy with the range of equipment, and there was an even split between those who thought maintenance of grounds and equipment was good and those who thought it poor. In fact, opinion was split on most issues, apart from the safety of location.

Location - There were many complaints about the location: it is not overlooked and is therefore less safe; it is too far from where children live. The location was chosen because it was the only one available within the budget – other plots were only available if purchased at building rates. An alternative site was offered, but there were so many restrictions, it was not considered viable. The situation has not changed, and the Parish Council does not consider it worthwhile to look for an alternative site.

Improvements - Most respondents would like to see more money spent on the play area. At present, the Parish Council pays for insurance and for the waste bins to be emptied. Volunteers carry out a visual inspection and the Parish Council pays for an annual professional inspection. Maintenance of equipment has so far been undertaken by members of the Parish Council. Last year a volunteer cleaned the moss from the safety surface and the Parish Council paid for some of the costs entailed. The Parish Clerk is currently compiling an estimate for re-painting some of the equipment and replacing the swing seats. In addition, someone will need to be engaged to treat the weeds and the re-growth of moss. The Parish Council has permission to cut back overhanging branches.

Play Area Committee - Two people volunteered to serve on a committee, but unless more people come forward, no committee will be established.

If you wish to make any further comments about the Play Area, please write to Mrs Helen Hindess, Clerk to the Parish Council, Hunters Moon, Whitton Road, Alkborough, or e-mail alkboroughpc@btinternet.com before the next Parish Council meeting, which is on 3 March.

The Parish Council has need of a projector screen and would be interested to hear from anyone who would like to donate or sell one that is in good condition. Please send details to Mrs Helen Hindess, Clerk to the Parish Council, Hunters Moon, Whitton Road, Alkborough.

Forthcoming events

Keep yourself busy and have fun in Alkborough & Walcot

Thursday 28th January

Alkborough Book Club. At the Paddocks Tea Room 7pm til 8pm. All welcome. Books supplied by North Lincolnshire Library Services.

Thursday 28th January

Alkborough & Walcot Local History Group meets at 7pm in the chapel. This month there will be a talk on the RAF. Admission £1 to include refreshments.

Tuesday 2nd February

Alkborough & Walcot Residents' Association meeting. Starts at 7.30pm in The Paddocks Tea Room. All welcome.

Saturday 6th February

Chinese New Year Disco at Alkborough Cricket Club. Doors open at 7.30pm. Chinese Buffet included in the ticket price. Fancy Dress is optional. Tickets are just £10 and are limited to just 48 so get them before they're sold out. For more information see Chris Stannard, Helen Drury or Anne Skinner.

Tuesday 16th February

Alkborough & Walcot Quiz Night. Starts at 8pm in Coronation Club, Alkborough. Get your teams of up to 6 people ready and brush up on your general knowledge. £1 entry per person. Don't forget the bonus rollover question at the end, at present the fund stands at £38.

Whist Evening

Every Monday evening at 8pm at Coronation Club, Alkborough. Come and join the fun, all welcome.

Walking Group

Every Tuesday at 10am, meet outside the chapel and enjoy a mornings stroll with us. All welcome.

Please be reminded that Avis Ablott keeps a village events diary at her home on front street. If you have any events you would like listing please see Avis or contact her on 720101

We are thinking of organising a coffee morning in aid of the Haiti Appeal to take place sometime in February. If you are interested in helping out then contact Joan Stocks on 01724 721374

Alkborough Local History Group meeting saw the joining of minds to create the "Heritage Trail"

On 26th Nov 2009 the local history group met for the last time in 2009. This meeting was a sharing of information exercise. Emma Wilmot from South Humber Bank Wildlife and people project and Sarah Pimm from Alkborough Flats Project came to the meeting to discuss the proposed Heritage trail.

They explained the route of the trail and the proposal to place information boards along the route. The contents of the boards to be done with the cooperation of local groups and other interested parties along the way.

Emma and Sarah were keen to share the information they have gathered so far and asked for any other historical information that the group could give.

The rest of the evening was spent recalling the history of some of the properties in the village and of highlighting some areas of the village that were unknown to them.

Written by Sharon Mawer

Wasps versus bees

One terrorises and destroys the other

Last year we were the proud recipients of a nucleus of honey bees, which were eagerly installed into a hive at the bottom our garden. Having been interested in starting a apiary, we were keen to try to help bees in their current, well documented, plight!

ALAS! our small and vulnerable colony were inundated by wasps and unfortunately, were devastated and completely wiped out by the troublesome pests. Three wasp nests were discovered in our vicinity, which we promptly destroyed. We intend to try again next spring, and are keen to give our bees the best chance possible, so we are offering a service, to destroy any wasps nest that are found in the Alkborough and Walcot area (depending on where they are located!) This service will be carried out for a small £5 donation to the Alkborough & Walcot Residents' Association. So PLEASE, if you find a wasp nest, call me, to take advantage of this mutual opportunity!

Carl Scrivener, Highfield, College Close. Telephone 721177



Written by Carl Scrivener. Photo from internet

North Lincolnshire Library and Information Services has a new resource for researching Alkborough and Walcot history

North Lincolnshire Library and Information Services has a new resource for researching Alkborough and Walcot history.

The Central Library now has copies of the 1910 Land Valuation Survey maps and field books for Alkborough and Walcot.

The survey was carried out by the Valuation Office under the Finance Act (1909 – 1910) and was the largest valuation of England and Wales since the original Domesday of 1086. Each property and piece of land was given a unique number and the boundaries marked on a map then each is described in a "field book".

Field books contain the address, the owner's and the occupier's names, the size of the property, owner's interest (freehold, copyhold or leasehold), the rent and who was responsible for rates, repairs and insurance so they are a valuable source of information about our Edwardian ancestors.

From the field books you can see who lived in which house and what that house was like, what facilities existed locally and even recreate properties and streets that have since been demolished, it is an ideal tool for both the family historian and the student of social history.

Previously you would have had to visit the National Archives to view the maps and the field books but now they are on your doorstep.

For more information please contact Mrs C. A. Longbone at North Lincolnshire Central Library. Telephone number 01724 860161, e-mail ref.libray@northlincs.gov.uk

Written by Carol Longbone

Alkborough Flats news & events

It's the beginning of another busy year at Alkborough Flats with an events programme packed full of new and exciting activities. The first two events are on the 5th and 6th of February. Join Graham Catley on the 5th for an evening walk out to the Trent foreshore to witness the magical sights and sounds of the winter wildfowl coming in to feed and roost. An experience not to be missed! Alternatively, come along on the 6th to the first of a series of photography courses where we will be looking at composition, subject and light amongst many other things. Led by a local photographer with many years of experience this will be a great chance to improve your skills in time for entering Alkborough & Walcot Residents Association's annual photograph competition.

If you're not into photography or have eaten too much this Christmas (haven't we all!) why not join us on one of our more energetic events? On the 6th March we will be getting out into the Alkborough countryside and doing some practical conservation work. It's a great chance to work off some of those easily gained pounds and make a difference to your local wildlife and community at the same time. Alternatively, join the site staff on the 30th of March for a spring wildlife walk along the escarpment to Coleby and West Halton for a cosy pub meal at the Butchers Arms and then a more gentle walk back to Alkborough.

Looking for activities to keep the children entertained during the Easter holidays? Come on the 8th April for a tour of two of the local livestock farms to see the newly born lambs and calves and learn what farm life is all about.

The last event of the spring returns due to its ever increasing popularity: the minibus tours. This year we will be running minibus tours in April and November. The tours in April are on Saturday 17th at 10.30am and 2 pm.

If you would like to join in any of the events at Alkborough Flats this spring call the site staff on 721269 and book a place. (Booking is essential for all the events). To see the full 2010 events programme see the Alkborough & Walcot website or keep an eye out for our events leaflet which will be available shortly.

Written by Sarah Pimm

Saddle club gets all festive Christmas fair was a success in the village

The Saddle Club has now got off to a fine old trot with its first fancy dress Horse and Pony Parade. This was held on Sunday 6th December. The horses and walkers were escorted into the village by our local police to ensure the safety of both horses and motorists. The ponies looked fabulous in their Christmas attire and the children and parents would have happily graced any Christmas pantomime.


The judging was carried out by Miss Fiona Dunning, daughter of local horsey celebrity Brian Dunning. Prizes for all the entrants were generously donated by D and M Mason Saddlery of Scunthorpe. Despite earlier heavy rain and sleet, the sun shone for the event, attracting a good turn out of folk from the local area. There was a wide selection of craft stalls offering the discerning shopper some unique hand-made gifts for all the family. The raffle was a huge success with generous donations of two fabulous meals for two at local pubs/restaurants and a wide range of treats for all, including the horses. I did hear that the winner of the car valet (donated by MSM Motors of Winterton) was won by the owner of a scooter!! A young lady relative was delighted to take up the offer on the winners behalf (well wouldn't you?)

The Club will meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the Ferryboat pub in Burton upon Stather. All are welcome to join regardless of owning a horse/pony or not. Membership forms and subscription information can be found on the Alkborough and Walcot Residents Association website along with a copy of The Saddle Club constitution. Contact Wendy or a member of the committee for more information.

We are planning some short courses on all aspects of horse management run by Tina Walker, the first to be held in early spring. In addition, P J Hootton who was a paramedic at Pony Club Events and is now an Emergency Care Practitioner would be happy to give a brief insight into First Aid for riders.



Written by Wendy Cooper. Photo by Wendy Cooper



The Puddocks Tea Room
Proudly presents
ALKBOROUGH BOOK CLUB
Thursday 28th January 2010 7pm - 8pm
The books will be supplied by
North Lincolnshire Library Service
Coffee, tea and cakes can be purchased on the evening



Alkborough & Walcot Residents Association

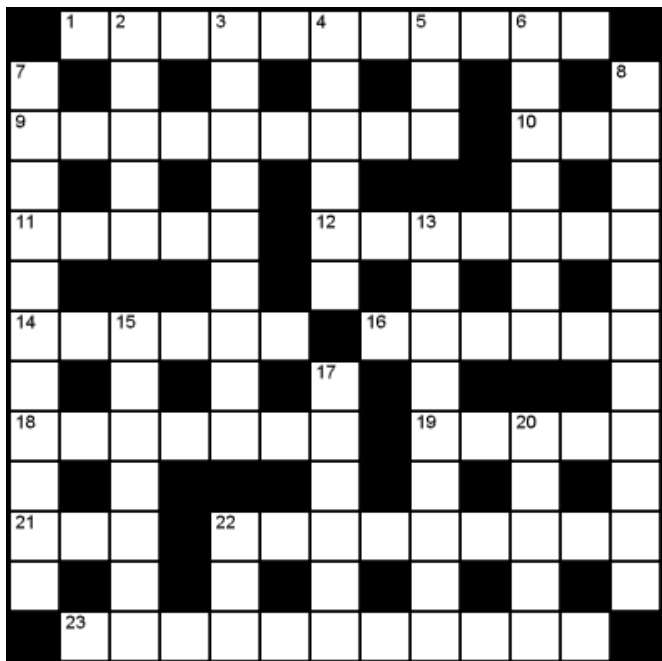
First Aid Course Interest Form

Alkborough & Walcot Residents' Association are proposing a First Aid course for residents. If you are interested in getting involved or would like to get more information then complete your details below and return this slip to: *AWRA, 2 Manor Farm Cottages, Whitton Road, Alkborough or hand it to our post lady, Helen.*

Alternatively, just drop an email to: enquiries@alkboroughandwalcot.co.uk

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Contact Number	

Puzzle Number 10 (Answers in next newsletter)



Across

- 1 "Black gold" not far from you (5,3,3)
- 9 Outer skin layer (9)
- 10 Pod individual (3)
- 11 Constricted (5)
- 12 Obdurate (7)
- 14 Consecutively (2,1,3)
- 16 Bowdler, for example (6)
- 18 pdq (7)
- 19 Completely confused (5)
- 21 Geological time period (3)
- 22 Disease (9)
- 23 Largest city in Hampshire (11)

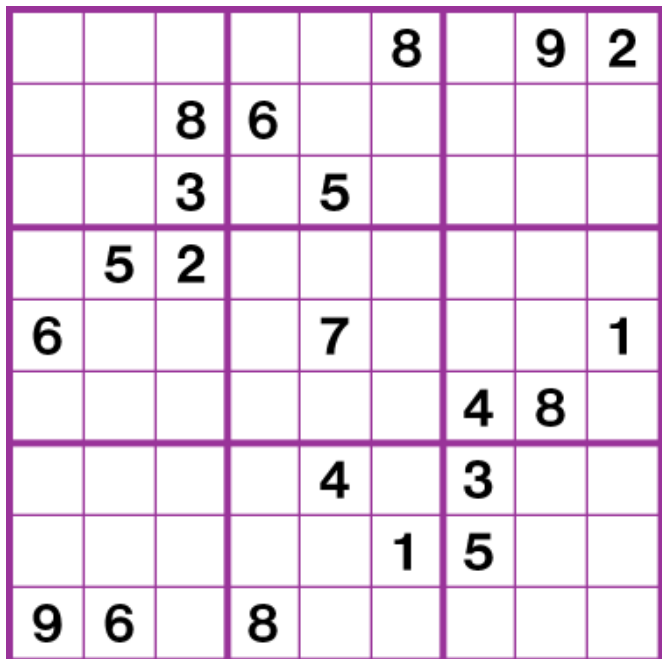
Down

- 2 Undischarged (5)
- 3 Blackjack (6-3)
- 4 Oriental skiff (6)
- 5 Horse relative (3)
- 6 Embedded prosthesis (7)
- 7 Wins term set (anag.) (11)
- 8 sat beery nun (anag.) (6,5)
- 13 Morse code transmitter (5,4)
- 15 Alligator pear (7)
- 17 Poetry unit (6)
- 20 Spanish friend (5)
- 22 Midlands waterway (3)

Solution to Puzzle No 9, November Issue.

Across: 1; Side by side 7; Linda 8; Dukakis 10; Wrestler 12; Ooze 13; Yankee 15; Cobweb 17; Lure 18; Ardennes 21; Waikiki 22; Aisle 23; Four by four **Down:** 1; San Bernardino 2; Draftee 3; Budge 4; Sikh 5; Duke Of Windsor 6; Blow by blow 9; Step by step 11; Roc 14; Eta 16; Oregano 19; Rainy 20; Bier

Sudoku No 4



Is there something puzzling you?

I asked at the Residents Association meeting in February if anyone has a preference to what puzzle is put on the back page of our village newsletter. I didn't realise how popular the crossword had become but people asked for a Sudoku too. If there is a particular puzzle you would prefer then let us know.

Fascinating fact...

14

Metres an hour

A group of moles is called a 'labour'. Measuring just 14 centimetres in length, these furry little mammals can dig their way through an incredible 14 metres of soil per hour.



What's On

Your quick guide to what's on in Alkborough & Walcot.

- Women's Institute meets on the second Wednesday in every month at 7.15pm at Alkborough Primary School.
- Residents Association meets on the first Tuesday in every month at 7.30pm at The Paddocks Tea Room, Alkborough.
- Sunday Service at Alkborough Methodist Chapel, Front Street at 6pm every Sunday.
- A prayer group meets at the Chapel each week at 8.30am every Friday.
- Whist evening every Monday evening at 8pm in Alkborough Club
- The walking group meets every Tuesday at 10am outside the chapel

If you have any articles or news stories that you would like to see featured in *YOUR*

newsletter. Please post them to:
Mark McCorquodale, 2 Manor farm Cottages, Whitton Road, Alkborough



Alkborough and Walcot operate a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Should you notice anything strange or if you have any concerns; let your local co-ordinator know as soon as possible. Remember, by working together we can help keep our community safe.

For non emergencies call **0845 60 60 222**

In an emergency dial **999**

Ward Councillors for Burton and Winterton

Linda Cawsey	Tel: 734870
Bernard Regan	Tel: 720821
Alan Smith	Tel: 733364

Alternatively, you may contact councillors at the Labour Office, Pittwood House, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, Tel: 01724 296348