

The Leaden Boot Event

Villagers in Alstonefield were faced with the need to raise £10,000 after lead was stolen from their church roof last year. Many fund-raising events were suggested, one of which was a 'Leaden Boot' walk. Over 230 people took part in the inaugural event at the end of May, 54 of whom were runners. Villagers organised and ran the event and local vicar Anne Ballard conducted a special service, attended by around 50 entrants, for a 'blessing of the feet'. With the £10,000 target already met, the £2,145 raised is being split evenly between the church and village hall to support ongoing work. A date has already been set for next year's event – 27th May.

Photographs by Ruth Downing, www.ruralpictures.co.uk



The 180 walkers set off in the morning rain



The 54 runners make a spirited start



Sean Monks from Manchester, Jamie Cheng from Luton and Ella Spencer from London were using the event as a warm up for their charity climb of Kilimanjaro later this year



The organising committee led by Noel Peat. L to r (back) Noel Peat, Liz Bownes, Paul Binfield, Ian Longdon, Brian Ross, Frank Lipp; (front) Ella Hawker, Carrie Ross, Cathy Reavy



Raynet Voluntary Emergency Communications provided support for the event. L to r: John Palmer, Derrick Harrison, Ernie Reynolds and Allan Doe



Vicar Anne Ballard led the 'Blessing of the Feet' Service at 8.30am



Walkers gather outside the village hall