

## TELEPHONES & TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

In **1925** there were **5 telephones** in Birchington.

They were:-

Birchington 2	The Vicar - Rev. H A Serres
Birchington 5	The Doctor
Birchington 4	Walker's Garage near the Station This also housed the Fire Engine
Birchington 3	The Headmaster of Grenham House School
Birchington 1	Major Percy Powell-Cotton at Quex Park

The earliest reference to a **Telephone Exchange** in Birchington is in **1920**. The first one was situated in **Ivy House**, on the Canterbury Road at its corner with Gas Row. At this date the stretch of Canterbury Road that stretched from the Square to Park Avenue was known as **Church Street**. The house was already running as a corner shop, selling groceries to local people living nearby.

The exchange was later moved to the **rear of the Post Office** on the corner of the Square and Albion Road and remained there until after the Second World War. In c. 1950 a **new Exchange** was built in Albion Road in the modern style, which still stands today. Now, however, it is a fully automated digital exchange. This change-over came into operation in the 1980s. Where there was once a constant to-ing and fro-ing of telephonists going through the doors at the beginning and end of shifts, now it rare to see any sign of human activity in the area now, apart for the occasional maintenance van standing on the forecourt.

