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1. Annual return forms available at <http://www.bristolrural.co.uk/page10a.htm>
2. Quiz, Cheese and Wine at Syston Village Hall 13th of February
3. The annual Branch Striking competition will be at Wickwar on the 20th of March in the afternoon.

Published on the 4th
Saturday each month



Information for the next news letter the
Tuesday prior to the 4th Saturday

Farcited Ringing 1st Thursday

11.00 - 12.00 Filton 6 bells 6cwt
Map reference 603792

Car parking in the public car
park behind the shops.

Coffee in the Church

12.00 - 2.00 The Victoria Inn,
Chock Lane Westbury on Trym

14.00 - 15.00. Holy Trinity Hor-
field 5 bells, 6.3.14

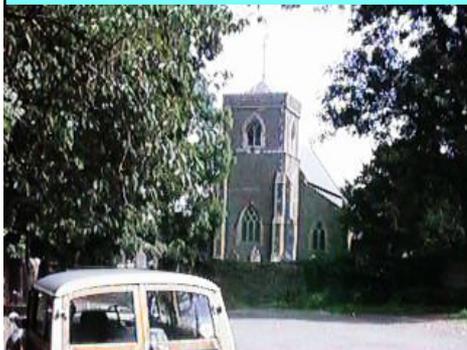
The Victoria Inn would like
some indication of numbers,
though pre-ordering is not re-
quired.

Branch Ringing February

13th February Quiz Cheese and
Wine Syston Church Hall.

27th Branch Practice

14.30 - 16.30 Coalpit Heath



Chipping Sodbury Ringing

3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

Quiz Cheese and Wine Syston Village Hall Saturday February 13th

Can I bring to your attention the Quiz
night arranged for the 13th of February
in Syston Village Hall doors open
19.00 quiz starts 19.30.

The quiz is under the guidance of our
Quizmaster's Tim and Clare Jefferis
By the time you see this news letter I
hope all the towers will have a poster
advertising the Quiz night in the tower.
As ever it would be useful to have
some idea of the numbers so please
ring or email Mary or myself if you
intend coming to make the catering a
lot easier. Due to licensing laws we
cannot sell alcohol so please bring
your own, a glass of wine is in the ticket
price.

Branch Carol Service

This year the branch carol service
was held at Winterbourne. It was a
really lovely service enhanced by the
Winterbourne hand bell ringers who
played a selection of secular and
non-secular tunes. About 40 peo-
ple came and we were served with
mulled wine, mince pies, etc after the
service. If you didn't come you
missed something special. Our
thanks go to everyone involved in
making this an enjoyable occasion.

Rosemary Morgan



Martin Clacker Vicar of Winterbourne
and Chris Greef our branch chairman .
It was thought by our assistant ring-
ing master this might make quite a
good competition for the best caption
for the picture. We might even rise to
a small prize.

Christmas Branch Practice

On Tuesday the 29th of December
as we advertised a branch practice
was held at Frampton for those who
thought they had eaten too much
turkey and chocolate for a while.

I walked to the church on a very cold
and wet afternoon to find that it had
attracted a lot of interest with about
twenty people there. They rang
rounds and call changes to Cam-
bridge so I wide range of skills was
present. I left early but did notice that
there were lots of boxes of mince
pies to go with the after practice cups
of tea and coffee.

Branch Striking Competition

March 20th Wickwar 14.00 - 16.30

Once again this year following a tradition
of three years the branch strik-
ing competition will be out of
branch at Wick-
war. As have the
last three years it
was to be in the
morning.

At the AGM it
was proposed it
should be in the
afternoon to al-
low juniors who
have morning
activities to
come along, the
meeting agreed
to this change.

So do start thinking about entering a
team from your tower, do remember it is
a lighthearted competition, refreshments
will be provided. whilst you are waiting.

Invalid report

May I thank all those people who sent
cards and emails, those who phoned
and those who called at the house to
wish me a speedy recovery.

Many thanks to you all.

The Editor

January was a bad month for ringing cancellations.

First the Farcited day out on the 7th of
January was postponed and then the
Branch training morning at Almonds-
bury, due to the snow and ice.

Lets hope we can make up for it later in
the year. The Farcited program for the
7th of January has been moved en-
block to the 4th of February.

A further reminder do not for- get your tower annual return

An Eventful Day Out

Thursday, 3rd December saw the Far-Cited Ringers on their way to Alton for their annual Christmas outing. A prompt departure from Coalpit Heath meant we arrived on time at our first tower, Kingsclere, where some ringers and non-ringers deserted ringing for the local café, where, I am told, excellent coffee was to be found. The eight at Kingsclere are due to be re-hung in the New Year, so they were a little more difficult to handle than expected. We were, however, given a warm and friendly reception, which was to be found at all towers, and so a good start to the day.

Dropping our non-ringers for some retail therapy at Alton, the rest of us moved on to Selbourne, where the ground floor ring was appreciated by many. Unfortunately, the long draught and very stiff ropes challenged us, but we were then ready for lunch at the nearby Queens Inn

. This was a great success and voted the best Christmas lunch bar none, so, refreshed we returned to ring the light six at All Saints, Alton before returning home. The light six went well and the ringing was enjoyed by all.

We then set off for home, the driver following her sat nav through the lanes of Hampshire before rejoining the motorway at Newbury. A stop was scheduled for Leigh Delamere and we were within a few miles of the services when our driver began to feel ill. She then blacked out, losing control of the coach. We hit the central barrier,

which was one of the wire ones designed to catch the underneath of a vehicle. This it duly did, and it guided us down its length for more than 200 metres until we came to a gentle stop. Our driver was still unconscious, but was conscious when the emergency services arrived. Fortunately, Linda Gittings was on board and knew how to cope with the driver as she came to and kept her calm. Phone calls to the coach company provided replacement vehicles, but not until we had spent almost two hours stranded in the middle of the M4. We were, therefore, pleased to arrive safely at Leigh Delamere for hot drinks and a comfort



stop. It is amazing to realise no one was hurt, and that everyone kept calm. The police and highway maintenance people kept us company and we learnt a lot about their work. An ambulance took the coach driver to Frenchay hospital, where she was kept in overnight and subjected to many tests. For those who ask after her welfare, the last I heard, she was going to her G.P. for the results of the hospital tests, and her employers had transferred her to office duties.

We missed many friends from previous years on this trip, but, no doubt, they are pleased to have missed out on such an exciting visit.

*Ruth Welch
Pictures
Adrian
Gittings*

**Annual
Return
2010**
The first two to arrive this year were Syston and Frenchay Well done

