

**1. Branch Striking Competition See Below  
Warmley February 10th starts 14.00**

Farcited Ringing 1st Thursday  
**February 1st**  
Bitton 14.30 - 16.00  
**Branch Ringing February**  
February 10th  
**Branch Striking Competition**  
**Warmley 14.00 Start**  
February 24th  
Branch Practice  
Frenchay 14.30 - 16.30



Chipping Sodbury Ringing  
3rd Friday 19.30 - 21.00

**Branch Striking Competition**  
**Saturday February 10th at Warmley**  
**starts at 14.00 early start.**  
**Tea Coffee Biscuits available.**  
**To enter your tower or a team please**  
**contact**  
**Cary Crisp 01454 773902 or**  
**Chris Greef 01454 774479**  
**email [cgreef@btinternet.com](mailto:cgreef@btinternet.com)**  
**Come as a team, join a team, come**  
**and form a team.**

**Ringling for almost 70 Years**

Don Haskins has been a ringer for nearly 70 years and has rung at St Mary the Virgin, Almondsbury since 1963. He became Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper in 1964 and, with one break, retained these posts until early 2006, when he finally managed to persuade others that they should take up the burden of running the band and maintaining the bells, the clock, the floodlights etc. Don's contribution to ringing in the area has already been marked by his election as an Honorary Life Member of the Gloucester and Bristol, but the ringers and congregation of Almondsbury wanted to record their thanks for all his work.

To provide a lasting acknowledgement of his contribution the ringers prepared a record of Don's service to be hung in the tower. This consists of centrally (and most importantly) a photo of Don, flanked by a record of his ringing career and a vote of thanks from the ringers. This last item was composed by one of our senior ringers, Derek Rosser, who is a relative novice, only having been ringing for 52 years. These were all unveiled during a special evening service at Almondsbury on November the 5<sup>th</sup>. Before the service there was open ringing, attended by current and past Almondsbury ringers and other friends of Don and after the service there was tea and lots of cakes, provided by the



congregation. Philip Rowe, the Vicar, spoke about Don's faithful and reliable service to the church, often unseen by the congregation and also mentioned his ability to inspire loyalty in the successful band of ringers that he had built. The ringers were also pleased to acknowledge the kind donation of a new set of muffles that Don and his wife Joan have recently made in memory of their daughter Sally who died earlier in 2006.

Although Don missed several months of ringing in 2006 due to ill health we are very pleased that he is back ringing again and we look forward to having the pleasure of his company for many years to come.

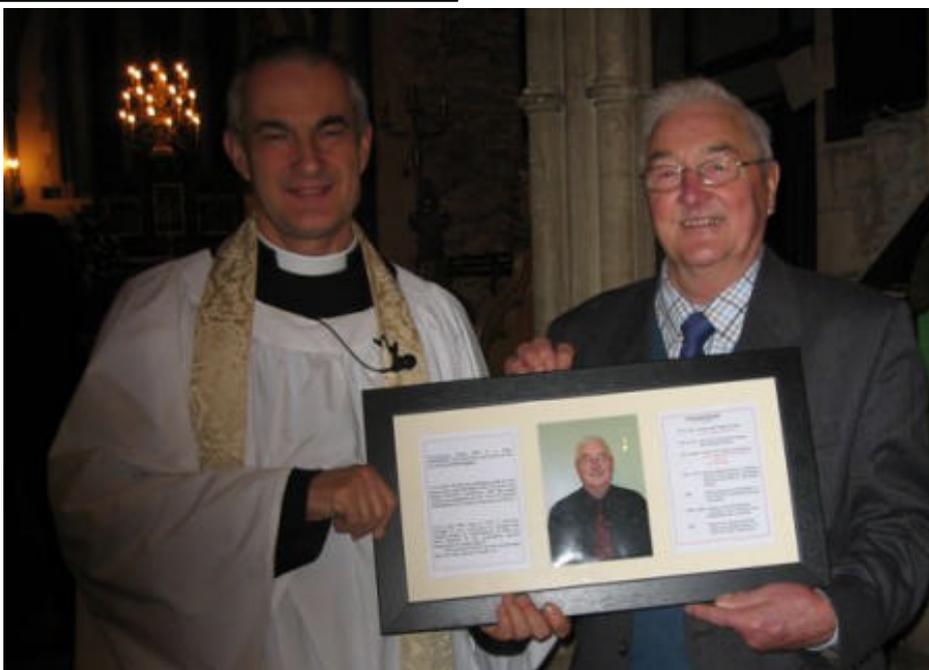
Report from Clare Jefferis  
Almondsbury

**Farcited Christmas Outing 2007**  
**to the Wells Area**



We left Coalpit Heath in a severe rainstorm with our usual driver and forty Farcited members, a number of other ringers were joining us by car. Our first problem was the traffic jam where the M4 and M5 came together. So off we went down the M5 towards the Severn bridges, with the coach travellers saying where are we going this year however we turned onto the M49 and on to Gordano services to pick up some more ringers. After this it was down the M5 to the Bridgwater junction and on to Shapwick.

**See over**



### Farcited Christmas Outing cont:

We were slightly late arriving at Shapwick but all was well as some of the car drivers had already arrived.

The ringing commenced and continued throughout the hour we were scheduled at Shapwick, but also the local ringers had layed on coffee/Tea and biscuits which were very welcome on this wet and cold December morning (the sun was shining by now)

This very poor picture I took was on the church notice board outside the church. We then moved on to Walton St Mary (it was raining again) We all had a ring in a quite cramped ringing chamber and moved on to The Swan Hotel at Wells for our Christmas lunch. In the foreground



are Ruth and Eddy Welch the Farcited organisers of the outing. We had a splendid lunch, well cooked and speedily presented, we talked and we ate and we had a few beers and a couple of bottles of wine everything seemed to be fine with the world that is until we had to leave when the heavens opened. A number of ringers and Farcited friends stayed in Wells whilst most people went off to ring at Wookey. The coach collected the



shoppers at the bus station, and we started the long journey home. Due to the M5 being blocked it took us

about two and a half hours to get back to Gordano services and then back to Coalpit Heath but once again Alan our driver was well up to the situation. Thank you Eddy and Ruth for another excellent Farcited Christmas Outing the thirteenth year this has all happened. **Well Done**

### Training Day Quarters

Steve Coleman the G & B Ringing Master says that during the morning session of the training day all the students rang so well that they attempted two quarters during the afternoon session, below are the results.

Saturday 14 October at Wickwar:

1260 Stedman Doubles

1. Steve Coleman (C)
2. Frances Mulvey
3. Fran Webster
4. John Sharp
5. Roger Kerlake
6. Mike Mulvey

First Stedman 3,4

First Inside 3

1260 Stedman Doubles

1. Jill Usher
2. Sue Coleman
3. Les Usher
4. Steve Coleman (C)
5. Rachel Coates
6. John Sharp

First Stedman 1,3

Jill, Les, Fran and John Sharp of Tetbury were the students and the others were the helpers. All the students rang so incredibly well in the morning that they were more than ready for a quarter peal in the afternoon. They all rang extremely well in their quarters with scarcely more than a hint of a hesitation throughout. What's more they all rang perfect singles, each of them being multiply affected with all the other bells.

*Steve Coleman G & B Ringing Master*

### Striking in the Right Place

It all started when the church treasurer me if I could let the steeplejack's in to the tower to check the lightening conductor.

Not wishing to look unknowledgeable I resolved to research lightening conductors - asking fellow bell advisor's and searching the internet.

Two useful documents were located

- Lighting Protection for Churches' by the Ecclesiastical Insurance

- Earthing and Lightening protection Consultants Handbook by Furse.

Both are free, and I sat back and smugly awaited the postman!

Unfortunately the promise of ultimate lightening conductor proved an unfortunate talisman and two days later lightening did strike - not at Frampton Church; but on the Crisp Mansion!

Next time your PCC organises this sort of survey you might want to get copies of these - there is relevant too bells as the recommendations include connecting metal bell frames to the lightening conductor if the masonry is less than about 450 mm thick

*Gary Crisp G & B Bell Advisor*

### Branch West Training Day Stedman Triples 13 January

There was a good turnout for the first Branch training day of 2007: just over two dozen people in total. Stedman Triples had been requested to try to reach the point where individual eight bell towers had enough ringers at least to manage a plain course. There were plenty there who weren't from eight bell towers, of course, for whom it was an opportunity to ring what is a very tuneful and popular method. We started at Almondsbury with a short theory session and then split into two groups, with half of the party travelling to Olveston. The Olveston group was designated 'advanced', that is, for those who were confident in plain courses and really wanted to practice Bobs and Singles or perhaps calling a touch. Steve Coleman, who led this group, reported that he had had an easy time, with everybody ringing touches. I stayed at Almondsbury and even here most had the opportunity to ring a touch of the method if they felt confident enough. The day went well and evidence of progress was revealed at Chipping Sodbury the following Friday, when we rang several touches of Stedman Triples (along with other methods of course).

We are planning three more training days across the Branch again this year. Let your local ringing representative or a member of the Committee know what you would like to have the opportunity to practise and we will try to organise it: anything from the basics upwards.

Thank you to all Branch members, students and helpers alike, who made the day well worthwhile.

*Chris Greef*