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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



**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 Horfield 5 bells, 6.3.14**  
**The Victoria Inn would like some indication of numbers, though pre-ordering is not required.**  
**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 people 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 ringing 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 Cambridge 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 striking competition will be out of branch at Wickwar. 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 allow 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 Almondsbury, 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 forget your tower annual return**



## An Eventful Day Out

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



LOUNCH AT THE QUEENS  
SELBOURNE