

Oxford University Society of Change Ringers

Annual Newsletter - January 2016

New Officers

The following Society officers were elected at the AGM held on Monday 30th November in Exeter College:

President	Liz Barnes
Senior Member	Stephen Cameron
General Secretary	Simon Bond
Senior Treasurer	Marika Haseldine

Master	Wilfred Lewis, Lady Margaret Hall
Treasurer	Connie Tongue, Corpus Christi
Secretary	Harriet Armitage, Wadham
Librarian	Isobel Patterson, Christ Church
Steeplekeepers	Hannah Guggiari, Merton and Joseph Hoyle, Jesus
Webmaster	Matthew Torr, Brasenose
CC rep.	Mark Bell

Vice Presidents: Quentin Armitage, Doug Beaumont, David Brown, John Camp, Ian W Davies, Peter Giles, Nigel Herriott, Paul Mounsey, Donald Niblett, Dermot Roaf, Andrew Stubbs, and Lester Yeo were re-elected.

Bell Restoration Fund

BRF Trustees: Senior Member and Senior Treasurer *ex officio*, Andrew Stubbs and Doug Beaumont

Independent Examiners: Nigel Orchard and Robert Wallis

Life Members

The following have become life members since the last newsletter:

Nicholas J Hartley (St Cross, 2012-15)
Courtney J Spoerer (St Catherine's, 2012-15)
Eleanor J Linford (Kellogg, 2014-15)
J James G Morgan (St Catherines, 2002-06)

Residents' Review

Isobel Fray, immediate past Master, writes:

Resident numbers have remained good over the last year, with the departure of four regulars offset by the arrival of seven ready-made ringers of varying levels of experience. All four of our learners recruited in Michaelmas 2014 completed their studies at Oxford at the end of the academic year, but seven new learners have been attending practices this term and are progressing well.

It has been a pleasure to see all the resident ringers improve throughout the year. A range of methods has been rung at Tuesday practices, but in particular our competency at ringing Stedman Triples has noticeably improved. For the last two terms we have tended to focus on 8-bell ringing, to serve the interests both of those ringing surprise major methods and of freshers who have arrived predominantly with experience of ringing on six. The repertoire at Monday practices at St Thos has varied across the year, focussing on rounds and call changes in Hilary and Trinity for our newer learners and in Michaelmas on plain hunt, Plain Bob Doubles, and Grandsire Doubles for our less experienced freshers. Post-practice trips to the pub have become nomadic on both Mondays and Tuesdays following the much-lamented closure of Far From the Madding Crowd in January and a new inclination towards the Kite. 12-bell practices were held at Christ Church in Hilary and Trinity and in Reading in Michaelmas and have provided an opportunity for several residents to gain some or more experience of ringing on twelve. My thanks to all the non-residents and members of the Oxford Society who have supported these practices. Enthusiasm for ringing handbells remains strong and regular practices and quarter attempts have continued this year.

Saturday quarter peals at St Thos have continued, as have Tuesday quarters and Sunday service ringing at Mary Mag. The disruption to Sunday ringing at SMV experienced last Michaelmas has not continued, and this year we have been ringing fortnightly there and at St Ebbe's and New College. We have started to ring quarter peals in our slot at New and this has been a successful move, both ensuring that we have a band and making the experience more worthwhile for those who come.

The annual dinner was again held at Harris Manchester College, and a very good time was had by all. I would like to thank everyone who played a part in organising the dinner weekend. Many thanks also to Luke Camden, who organised an excellent tour based in High Wycombe. The tour was well attended and the high number of 8-bell towers encouraged some of us to become much more confident at ringing Stedman Triples and surprise major methods. The OUS once again outnumbered the CUG on Hilary's joint outing to the Stevenage area, organised by Wilfred Lewis. Freddie Manners organised the summer outing in the area between Chipping Norton and Banbury, and Matthew Torr organised the freshers' outing along the 280 bus route to Aylesbury, which was attended by five freshers. Thank you to all the organisers and drivers.

SUA this year was held in London. The OUS placed second in the 8-bell and second and sixth in the 6-bell, with the UL coming first in both competitions. Congratulations to everyone who rang, especially to those who were ringing at SUA for the first time.

Since the last AGM the Society has scored 4 peals, including one of 41 spliced surprise minor, one first peal, one first on tower bells, one first in hand, and one first as conductor. 62 quarter peals were scored, including 21 in hand. These included many firsts, including one first in hand and two firsts as conductor.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has organised and participated in events this year and contributed to the continuing success of the society.

President's Notes

Liz Barnes writes:

As indicated in last year's Newsletter, Jeremy Pratt stood down as President at the AGM after completing 6 years in office. He has been a conscientious and active President with the added challenge of having to lead us through the changes imposed by the new constitution. He has earned the sincere thanks of the Society for all of his hard work on our behalf. I am very honoured to have been elected to succeed him. The OUS has a unique character and our challenge is to retain this while at the same time keeping it fresh and inclusive.

The past year has run very smoothly with an excellent Dinner at Harris Manchester College, well attended Annual Tour ably organised by Luke Camden in Buckinghamshire, and plenty of activity by the Residents including First Peals for Emma Stanford and the Master, Isobel Fray. The Society is in good health and we can look forward to a good year ahead.

2016 Annual Dinner

The 2016 OUSCR Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday 6th of February, at 7.00 for 7.30pm. It will once again take place at Harris Manchester College.

The guest speaker will be Robin Hall, President of the Oxford Society and past-Master of the CUG. Claire Bell will propose the toast to the guests, and the Master will reply to Robin's toast to the Society.

Tickets are now on sale for £58 to include a sparkling wine reception, wine and port.

Menu

Roast Butternut and Asparagus Risotto with Parmesan Wafers

*Supreme of Guinea Fowl with Wild Mushroom and Tarragon Sauce and Spaghetti Vegetables
Celeriac, Chestnut and Oxford Blue Gratin (V)*

Raspberry Macaroon and Marsala Trifle

Cheeseboard with Port

Coffee and Chocolates

Pre-dinner drinking on Friday evening will take place in the St Aldates Tavern Blue Room (upstairs) from 7pm. General ringing and peal attempts will take place during the day on Saturday and coffee, included in the ticket price, will be available at the Royal Blenheim on Sunday morning.

To book tickets please send a cheque payable to 'OUSCR Dinner Committee' to: Wilfred Lewis, 376 (Block K) Castle Mill, off Roger Dudman Way, Oxford, OX1 1GJ enclosing a SAE, details of any dietary requirements, and seating preferences. Payment can also be made by bank transfer. Please contact wilfred.lewis@lmh.ox.ac.uk for details. The closing date for tickets is Saturday 16th January.

2016 Tour - Sunday 27th - Thursday 31st March 2016

The 2016 Tour will be based in Norwich and is being organised by Rachel Prior and Peter Jasper.

The ringing schedule is well on its way to completion, with days organised to the west, east and south of Norwich, as well as a day on foot around Norwich city centre itself. Notable towers include the twelves at St Peter Mancroft Norwich, and the Minster at Great Yarmouth, as well as the ten at Wymondham Abbey. There are wide selection of good real ale pubs, and a number of Indian restaurants in Norwich, so the OUS should be suitably fed and watered for the duration of the tour.

A good rate has been secured at the Central Hotel, near to the station (<http://cityandcentral.co.uk>). These rooms can be booked at preferential rates (details below) by telephone directly with the hotel until 21st February 2016.

Room type	Cost per room	Notes
Basic single	£40	Shared bathroom
Ensuite single	£45	
Basic twin	£60	Shared bathroom
Ensuite twin	£65	
Ensuite double	£65	
Ensuite triple	£85	Very steep stairs leading to attic room.

This price includes a cooked breakfast, and wifi. There are also 6 parking permits available at no cost to members of our group, which you may request on a first come, first served basis at the time of booking. Otherwise, parking is available in public pay-and-display car parks, but rail transport is recommended.

This rate is available when you use the (self-explanatory) booking code "RachPrior0316". Rooms may be available after the 21st February at a higher price, so members of the society wishing to stay in the hotel should book **directly** sooner rather than later.

A church hall is also being arranged. Any members wishing to make a tour booking, or for more information, should contact rachel.e.prior@gmail.com.

Society Funding

At the AGM, the matter of Society funding was discussed. Under the new constitutions, funding for the activities of the Student Section and the Society at large are now separate. The senior general account was deemed to be the right source for make payments towards Central Council fees, Ringing World notices and insurance of Society property. In total, an annual spend of around £100 is expected.

The general fund currently has no regular income. The meeting decided that occasional contributions should be sought from the membership as funds were required. In the first instance, a contribution of £10 per member is welcomed, which it is hope will put the Society on a reasonably financial footing for a few years at least. Any member wishing to contribute should contact the Senior Treasurer (marika@haseldine.co.uk) for details.

Ringing the Standard 41

by Rozzy Roberts

During my first summer in Oxford, I started attending St Aldate's practices and began learning Surprise Minor methods beyond Cambridge. It wasn't until Hannah Guggiari finished her Mastership that I really thought seriously (or... thought at all!) about attempting to learn all 41 of the standard Surprise Minor methods. Hannah had decided she needed a 'ringing project' in the free time she now had after her busy year as Master and that I should do it with her!

We always had the aim of ringing a peal of all 41, but it wasn't until I realised my time in Oxford was running out that we made a concerted effort to make it happen. Having (very easily) convinced Simon Bond to call the peal, and with Michael O'Hagan as a willing band member, we began a training program that consisted of ringing quarters of subsets of the 41. Our final recruits for the OUS band were Richard Pearce and Michael Williams.

The practices were going swimmingly and ahead of schedule and we wondered what could possibly go wrong. With less than a month to go, the inevitable happened: Simon became one-handed. Sadly this time we couldn't blame his bendy shoulder, but we at least have the scapegoat of the pedestrian who walked in front of his bike without looking. With his wrist in plaster, it looked as if we had lost our conductor. Luckily, Simon is not one to let only having one working hand/arm/shoulder get in the way of him ringing. Our final practices consisted of Simon calling from the treble and Michael Williams doing a whole lot of re-learning so he could ring inside.

The day of the peal arrived and we were all mentally prepared for this to be a successful attempt... apart from one band member, who in my memory has never even been late, forgot to turn up! We were starting to think perhaps this was not meant to be, but still arranged a second attempt a few weeks later, the week of my viva and two weeks before I was leaving Oxford.

This time we headed to Mary Mag but fate was still in our way as someone was asleep in the church and refused to leave. Luckily, the aforementioned no-show redeemed themselves by gently persuading him to have a nap somewhere outside the church. Finally, at 7:30 pm we got on with our first attempt having decided it was now or never and surely no-one would be listening or mind if we rang a bit later than 9pm.

Despite the immense pressure and need for speed, everyone performed remarkably well. I am pleased to say that very few mistakes were made and we rang a lovely peal. Or at least for us it was, but not so for the angry American awaiting us at the bottom of the tower when we finished at 10pm. All of the strange mishaps along the way to scoring this peal made it all the sweeter when it came round and we made it to the Blenheim for a celebratory pint.

Thanks to all of the band, all of those who rang in practice quarter peals with us and the St Aldate's band for letting us practice with them.

Oxford University Society

Oxford, Oxfordshire

St Mary Magdalen

Monday, 13 April 2015 in 2h27 (7-1-12)

5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41 Methods)

(1-3) Alnwick, Canterbury, Carlisle, Chester, Coldstream, Cunecastre, Kelso, Lincoln, London, Morpeth, Munden, Newcastle, Northumberland, Sandiacre, Whitley, Wells; (4-7) Allendale, Annable's London, Bamborough, Bacup, Berwick, Beverley, Bourne, Cambridge, Durham, Hexham, Ipswich, Hull, Lightfoot, Netherseale, Norfolk, Norwich, Primrose, Rossendale, Stamford, Surfleet, Wooler, York, Warkworth, Wearmouth, Westminster

Composed by J S Warboys (SU0309 & SU0403)

1 Simon A Bond (C)

2 Michael A Williams

3 Hannah Guggiari

4 Rosalind F Roberts

5 Michael O'Hagan

6 Richard A Pearce

Most methods: 3, 4 and as conductor.

First on six: 3.

First of 41 Surprise Minor by the Society.

Fewest hands to a peal: 1.

A New Sett of Badgers

by Lucy Bricheno

Congratulations must go to Stephen Dann on the completion of his DPhil at the department of physics this summer. While a momentous event in itself, this achievement was also an excellent excuse for some past OUSCR members to get together. For, you see, Stephen had been acting as something of a bottle-neck for OUS maturations.

In OUS speak, a badger is defined as a venerable and more elderly member of the OUS - One who is given respect when spoken to face-to-face, but is derided and ignored at other times. One officially becomes a badger when there is no current resident who was up at the same time as you, although some people become badgers before this because of blatant badger-like behaviour. So it was to be that Stephen and 11 of his newly created badgers met to mark the occasion.

On Hallowe'en night following the freshers' tour the new badgers met-up with residents for beer and curry in the Standard (standard). A select few even bunked-up in the local YHA to make it feel more like an OUS tour!

The next morning, following service ringing at Christ Church, flogging of Grandsire caters at Mary Mag, and breakfast in the Blenheim, we finally got to the point: A quarter peal of Grandsire Cinques called by Simon Bond. This was a first on twelve for two of the band, and a top effort by all - Well done! I look forward to plenty more badgering with you all in the future.

Oxford University Society

Oxford, Oxfordshire

Cathedral Church of Christ

Sunday, 1 November 2015 in 52 mins (31-0-23)

1276 Grandsire Cinques

Composed by S A Bond

- 1 Michael O'Hagan
- 2 Jennifer C E Lane
- 3 Simon A Bond (C)
- 4 Lucy M Bricheno
- 5 D Robert C Sworder
- 6 David E Giles
- 7 Stephen J D Dann
- 8 Alexander J Dicks
- 9 Robert S Wallis
- 10 Simon D Roberts
- 11 James C Marchbank
- 12 Luke O Camden

First on twelve: 6 & 8.

A compliment to Stephen Dann, following his recent DPhil viva, from eleven newly-created badgers. Claire Bell, Chris Backhouse, Sian Moorhouse, Hugh Wilkinson and Caroline Lomax, also newly-badgered, would probably like to be associated with this performance.

Also rung with best wishes and congratulations to Kirsty and Bob Wallis on the birth of Chloe Felicity Wallis on Friday.



Dougal Lichtman



The band in order, clockwise from front right

Obituaries

Robert Winstanley, St Edmund Hall 1956, died 11th January

Peter Mackie, Hertford 1966, died 3rd September

John Pelham, New College 1957, died 5th November

Meeting Dates for 2016

The Society's business meetings are held on Mondays, and customarily take place in Exeter College. Please confirm the venue in advance.

TGM dates - the first Monday in term: 18th January, 25th April, 10th October

AGM date - the last Monday in Michaelmas term: 28th November

The Society's History

We still have a few copies of the OUS History available to purchase. These are available for a £5 or larger donation to the Bell Restoration Fund. Contact the General Secretary to snap up your copy.

Address List and Websites

The General Secretary maintains the Society's address list, of over 500 members. The vast majority are now on e-mail. Please do keep the General Secretary informed of any changes to email or postal address and, if you wish to get in touch with a member, just ask.

Email addresses are held on the website and by the secretary, but the master list is maintained by John Camp for use on the mailing list. This is used for important announcements and the dissemination of this Newsletter, and all members are strongly encouraged to join it. You can do so either by e-mailing ouscr-admin@bellringers.net or by visiting http://www.bellringers.net/mailman/listinfo/ouscr_bellringers.net.

Contact Details

You can contact the General Secretary by post at:

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