

Oxford University Society of Change Ringers

Annual Newsletter - January 2018

New Officers

The following Society officers were elected at the AGM held on Monday 27th November in Exeter College:

President	Liz Barnes
Senior Member	Stephen Cameron
General Secretary	Simon Bond
Senior Treasurer	Marika Haseldine
Master	Connie Tongue, Corpus Christi
Treasurer	Jonathan Wright, Corpus Christi
Secretary	William Sheffield, New College
Librarian	Martha Haslam, St Catherine's
Steeplekeepers	Craig Robertson, Keble and Tim Jenkins, Brasenose
Webmaster	James Scott-Brown, Linacre
CC rep.	Robert Hornby

Vice Presidents: Quentin Armitage, Doug Beaumont, David Brown, 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:

Stephen Turrell, St Catherine's, 2013-17

Harriet Armitage, Wadham, 2015-17

Residents' Review

Isobel Patterson, immediate past Master, writes:

I've been very pleased with the Society's progress this year. One of last year's learners attempted their first quarter peal and regularly comes to Tuesday night practices. This year's learners are progressing quickly and are already working on rounds. This impressive progress is no doubt due to the steady guidance of Hannah Guggiari, who has been running the Wednesday evening practices. We've also enjoyed an injection of fresh blood – we've gained five freshers who can already ring and it's been a delight to have them.

The quality of the Society's ringing has gone from strength to strength. Last year's memories of endless failed quarters in Michaelmas are but a distant memory. At practices, there have been plenty of opportunities to ring on 10 and we now have a strong enough band to support those of us learning major methods. St Thos practices remain less well-attended than Mary Mag but we usually have enough to ring on 8. The Society continues to ring at SMV and New College, though it can be difficult to persuade people to come out ringing on a Sunday night. This term we rang for the two University Sermon services at SMV on Sunday mornings and I don't think the non-existent congregation at Mary Mag missed us too much. We have not been ringing at St Ebbe's this year due to the work they've been doing to the church but the tower contact seems keen for us to resume ringing for Sunday services in January so we can all look forward to that. Our termly 12-bell practices have all been at Christ Church this year (because Christ Church is the best) and I like to think we didn't embarrass ourselves too much. Thank you to all the OS and friends who came to support us.

The Annual Dinner was held, as I'm sure you all know, at Harris Manchester this year. The hall was at maximum capacity and we had three superb speakers. Two peals and four quarters were attempted over the weekend with varying degrees of success. The Joint Outing was organised by the OUS this year. We met in London and had just enough ringers to ring at Cripplegate – much to everyone's delight. We reconvened with the CUG again for the Boat Race. Both quarter peals were successful and shortly after finishing, the OUS contingent dashed off to join the OUS Tour.

The OUS tour was in Durham this year, hosted by Catrin and James Morgan. They did a smashing job and everyone had a splendid time – highlights included the 12-bell mini-ring in Frosterley and the steel ring of 5 in Willington. In Trinity term, we went on an outing to Shrivensham, organised by Jonathan. This was the first trip for which Craig was our mini-bus driver and I'm sure at the time it would have surprised us all to learn that we willingly let him drive us again – multiple times. This term we enjoyed a trip to north Oxford for our Fresher's outing. We also had a very successful trip to Bristol for this year's SUA – we came first in the eight bell competition and third in the six bell.

As you might expect, the Society has enjoyed lots of pub visits, Cheese and Wine-ing (pun intended) and also punting, rounders, and BBQs.

And finally the crucial stats – the Society has rung 26 quarter peals and 1 peal.

Many thanks to all of you who have helped me out this year – your support has been most appreciated. Best of luck to my successor.

President's Notes

Liz Barnes writes:

The new arrangements for the Dinner in 2017 had a generally positive response and I am pleased to say that the College are happy for us to go ahead on the same basis this year with no increase in price. The new PA system worked well so all present were able to enjoy the excellent speeches from our three speakers. This year I am looking forward to welcoming the famous Julie McDonnell, renowned campaigner for Blood Cancer awareness (and graduate of the University) to our Dinner as guest speaker.

The Easter Tour in Durham was very well organised by James and Catrin Morgan. The college accommodation made some feel quite nostalgic for their undergraduate days. There was a lovely selection of bells, a great pub run by some local ringers and even very good weather. Thank you to all who came for making it such a pleasant, sociable event. This year Isobel Fray is arranging the Tour in Kent, based in Canterbury. I can assure you that some wonderful countryside, good pubs and interesting bells await us.

Many thanks to all those who have supported the Society throughout the year and my particular thanks to all of the Officers for their hard work on our behalf.

2018 Annual Dinner

The 2018 OUSCR Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday 3rd of February, at 7.15 for 7.30pm. We look forward to returning to Harris Manchester College.

The guest speaker will be Julie McDonnell. Alan (D) Pink will propose the toast to the guests, and the Master will reply to Julie's toast to the Society.

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

Menu

*Poached Salmon with Prawn and Dill Sauce and Cavolo Nero
Aubergine, Goats Cheese and Mint Crostini (V)*

*Supreme of Guinea Fowl Wrapped in Parma Ham with Madeira Gravy
Pastry Case of Chestnut and Wild Mushrooms (V)*

Lemon and Ginger Cheesecake

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.

To book tickets please send a cheque payable to 'OUSCR Dinner Committee' to: Connie Tongue, Corpus Christi College, Merton Street, Oxford, OX1 4JF enclosing a SAE, details of any dietary requirements, and seating preferences. Payment can also be made by bank transfer. Please contact connie.tongue@ccc.ox.ac.uk for details. The closing date for tickets is Monday 15th January.

2018 Tour - Sunday 1st - Thursday 5th March 2018

The 2018 Tour will be based in Canterbury and is being organised by Isobel Fray. She writes:

I'm planning excursions to several different areas of Kent, taking in the north east, the south coast, Maidstone, and the Downs. Towers will include the Barnes' mini-ring of 12 and they have kindly agreed to give us lunch when we visit.

Hotels of the right size, location and price bracket proved elusive, so I suggest that Canterbury's Premier Inn (CT1 1UP) serves as the badger hotel this year. It's a short walk from the city centre with a Wetherspoons and a Waitrose nearby for those who want a cheaper breakfast. There is also a Travelodge in the same area which is more expensive but has some (paid) parking. Church hall accommodation is also being arranged.

Canterbury is easy to get to by train – it takes 55 minutes to travel from St Pancras Intl to Canterbury West on the high speed line. Slower trains are also available from Victoria, Charing Cross and Waterloo. If you're coming by car, you can park relatively cheaply at one of the three park and ride sites for up to 48 hours; otherwise I suggest that you find some on-street parking at the edge of town and catch a bus into the centre. Or come by train.

If you'd like to come on tour please let me know, including which days you are coming for and whether you require church hall accommodation. My email address is isobel.fray@gmail.com.

Obituaries

Joan Gray (née Houldsworth) - St Hilda's 1941-44, died 31st December 2016

From the OUSCR history we learn that although her family had a ringing background (in Oswaldtwistle) she herself had had no thought of learning to ring when she went up in October 1941. However, on her first Sunday evening, she went to the University service at St Mary's where she heard handbells being rung in the gallery. A notice was given out inviting anyone interested in finding out more about ringing to coffee in the Old Library afterwards. She went along, was invited to practice night at New College - and was hooked.

She must have taken to it well as she rang her first peal, the trebles to Plain Bob Minor on 8th February 1942. She rang a total of 25 peals for the OUS of which 18 were on handbells and rang in many 'firsts' for the Society.

In 1949 she married Philip Gray, a founder member of the University of London Society, and after periods of ringing with the Kilburn band and also time in Australia, she and Philip settled in the West Country. Philip died shortly after Joan and their ashes are interred together at Backwell in Somerset.

Meeting Dates for 2018

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: 15th January, 23rd April, 8th October

Following changes to the student constitution imposed by the Proctor's Office, the student AGM will, in future, be held in Hilary Term. There will, therefore, not be a student AGM in 2018. The details of how this will work, and the relationship with the main Society AGM, are yet to be determined. For the time being, the following can be considered to be true:

AGM date - the last Monday in Michaelmas term: 26th November

Watch this space...

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.

The Society also has a 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 by visiting <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ouscr> or by contacting the General Secretary.

Contact Details

You can contact the General Secretary by post at:

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