

Oxford University Society of Change Ringers

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1996

A Happy New Year to all of you. This year I have revised the Address List and transferred it to more modern software: this has given me the opportunity to include e/mail addresses and fax numbers, so if you want to have yours added, let me know. I have also catalogued all the correspondence and articles in the General Secretary's possession, so it should now be easier to get information from me.

This year John Spice reports on his progress with the Society's History, and - for the last time! - appeals for more information from those who have not yet written to him. Please help with this project as it reaches its final stages. We hope to publish in time for the 1997 dinner, which coincides with our 125th anniversary.

Disappointingly, last year's reprint from *Scorpion* did not lead to any new revelations about the Society's activities in the late sixties: the article was alas just a spoof. It has however re-established our link with Richard Wilson, who has given John Spice a contact with a possible printer for the History. The article on Educatin' Idub has been reprinted in the Ringing World by an unknown benefactor to the Exercise.

We send our especial congratulations to Colin Wyld for composing the first true peal of Stedman Triples with common bobs only. Since the composition is abstruse - and most of us find any composition of Stedman abstruse - I refer enthusiasts to the Ringing World of Feb 24th 1995 for Colin's technical article on this genuinely historic achievement.

The editor apologises to Mr Derek Jewell for any suggestion that he was lucky in meeting Mr David Darby at RAF Yatesbury in the 1950s. He also apologises to Mr David Darby for any suggestion that the good fortune was in the other direction.

Peter Giles
751690

6 Pittsfield, Cricklade, Wilts SN6 6AN tel 01793-

New Officers

At the AGM held on Monday, November 27th 1995 in Exeter College, the following Officers were elected:

President	Andrew Stubbs
Senior Member	Dermot Roaf
General Secretary	Peter Giles
Master	Mark Ainsworth (Queens)
Resident Secretary	Dorothy Barton (St Hugh's)
Librarian	Mark Shepherd (Merton)
Treasurer	Chris Rusby (Lincoln)
Steeplekeepers	Fiona Anderson (Pembroke) Kirsty Pearce (LMH)

The Vice Presidents are unchanged from last year, but new Central Council rules have reduced the Society's entitlement to one representative, who is Peter Niblett. Our thanks to Quentin Armitage, who has stepped down, for his years on the Council.

Life Members

John Spice's researches for the History, especially his appeal in *Oxford Today*, have elicited thirty four potential new life members, of whom ten have decided to join:

Dr Arnold J Taylor	St John's 1930-34
GW Cherry	Keble 1936-40
Rev. George Paton	Wadham 1941-50
Stella Strawbridge (nee Hassid)	St Hughs 1942-46
John Macmillan	New College 1948-50
Kenneth Frazer	Hertford 1949-52
Anthony A Hughes	New College 1960-64
David J Ambler	New College 1973-76
Jeremy McCabe	Exeter 1978-81
JNV Woods	Dept of Education 1979-80

We welcome them, and thank them for their membership fees, which have gone to the relief of the resident Treasurer.

Meeting Dates in 1996

Please remember that all the Society's business meetings are now held on Mondays, and take place in the Quarrell Room in Exeter.

TGM dates - the first Monday in term. Jan 15th, April 22nd, Oct 7th.
AGM date - Monday, Nov 25th. (t.b.c)

Non-residents` outing

No outing has been organised for 1996.

1996 Annual Tour - Southport and Lancashire

The annual tour will this year be based in Southport and organised by Stephen Whittleton. 'Twistlethwaite' was one of three chemists at St. John's from 1974-78 and has recently come back into serious ringing. He organised the tour at Norwich in 1980.

The tour will start on Easter Saturday, April 6th, and finish on the Thursday. The itinerary is already complete, with many attractive rings, including Liverpool Cathedral on Sunday morning, Pier Head, Liverpool on the Monday, Blackburn Cathedral, Wigan and Clitheroe.

We will be staying at the Metropole Hotel, Southport: rooms are £20.00 per night, mostly singles with TV and en suite bathrooms. Residents may stay in Emmanuel Church parish hall one mile from the centre of Southport for a small fee.

Please confirm your accomodation with Whittleton by the Dinner weekend if possible. His address is 25 Redhills Drive, Kew, Southport PR8 6XS (tel 01704-546527).

Society Ties

An ideal alternative to those cards beginning 'You didn't really think I'd forgotten you at Christmas...!'

The General Secretary still has forty-five ties sitting in a box under the desk. If you wish to smarten yourself up, you may do so for just three pounds.

Address List

The Address List has now been re-established in Amipro. If anyone wants a copy, please let me know. I am happy to supply it on disk, but unfortunately my employer's choice of Lotus as preferred supplier of PC software is not to most people's taste.

The telephone numbers are becoming unreliable ever more rapidly through the use of more six-digit local codes. Please let me know if yours has changed in the last few years.

Last year I posted 327 newsletters, and put a 'please return to..' address on the envelopes. Thirty came back. These are the people we have lost:

Anthony Townsend, Jenni Dodds, David James, Melanie Milan, Andre Gren, Lance Hewson, Tony Foster, Mrs EJ Dunn, James Townsend, James Mumford, Amanda Lees, Rosemary Clark, Simon Plackett, Ted Martin, John Preston, Bev Ouzman, John and Joanna Horrocks, Paul Mills, Martin Petchey, Mike Richardson, Luke Heaton, Robert Galloway, Julie Sheard, Margaret Salih, Richard Clements and C Turnbull.

The letter to the Rev SWE Jones was returned with the information that he has died. David James is particularly unlucky, as my predecessor picked up the wrong David James from the Ringing World change-of-address notices. Please advise me if you have correct addresses for any of these. I shall be repeating the 'return to...' technique this year.

Annual Dinner, 1996

This year's Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at New College at 7.30 for 8.00 (please note the later time). Tickets will be £28.50, or £24.00 without wine. The menu has yet to be decided, but it is known that a suitable room within New College will be available for drinks after dinner.

Please order your tickets from:

Dorothy Barton, St. Hugh's College, Oxford OX2 6LE
by January 18th, making cheques payable to 'OUSCR Dinner Committee', and stating your seating preferences and any special dietary requirements.

Newsletter Account

The cost of printing and posting this Newsletter will be about £160, the same as last year. This has only been possible since there are fewer articles to publish, and the size is reduced from sixteen to twelve pages. The steep rises in the costs of paper this year have compensated for any savings on size.

The Newsletter account will stand at about £710 after this letter has been sent. That this is only a little lower than last year is mainly due to the donations from those new members introduced by John Spice. I thank Julian Morgan, AG Hall, Richard Casserley, JJP Ellams, Bill Leese, Elizabeth Hoffman, Laura Watson, JR Cawood, Wilfred Moreton, David Bromwich, Bill Gibbons, John Lonsbrough, Peter Niblett, GW Cherry, Ken Frazer, JNV Woods, Jeremy McCabe, AA Hughes, John Macmillan, David Ambler and Stella Strawbridge for their contributions, which totalled £234.00. If you wish to contribute, please make your cheque payable to `Mr P Giles` or `Post Office Counters`.

Members` News

John Cawood writes that he has not been ringing for about four years, but hopes to get back. **Nigel Smith** now has a daughter, Madeleine Claire, born on New Year's Day, and is ringing regularly again at Guildford with their new advanced maximus band. **Bill Gibbons** sends his regards to us all, especially Bill Leese and John Spice. **Laura Watson** (nee Higginson) tells us that she left Oxford in 1988 for Almondsbury, and in 1991 moved to Suffolk, where she and her husband are both consultants at the local hospital. Work and family currently preclude much ringing. **Elizabeth Hofmann** enjoys staying in touch, although no longer ringing, and adds the haunting comment that 'when I was in Oxford, my ringing was definitely sub-IWD standard'. **James Milford** is now working at the Dept of Physics of the University of Zimbabwe in Harare. **Wilfred Moreton** says that he still rings handbells a little and spends a great deal of time with the Hereford Course. He tells me that **Gwyn Thomas** of Aberystwith and Tenby, who was up in the late 40s or early 50s, and attended the tour, has died. **JJP Ellams** keeps in touch only via the Central Council meetings, but says there are now a few OUS members in his area of Shropshire.

Peter Graham, although living in the States, found himself invited to ring when visiting Auckland in New Zealand recently, having not heard change ringing for twenty years. 'We declined on the grounds of likely damage due to lack of practice' **Eric Woods** has moved to Worcester, and while having a clear out has come across a group photograph of the Society from the late 40s which has been passed on to John Spice for the History.

John Lonsbrough is in reasonable health, although nowadays he finds the stairs difficult. A perceptive doctor has ordered liquid medicine, which he has managed to acquire from various Italian vineyards. He is ringing quarter peals on handbells, including Plan Bob Royal, and hopes to score some more to mark his fiftieth anniversaries with the ODG and the Oxford Society. Improvements to bus services enable him to travel from Milton Keynes to Oxford for Lincoln practices alternate weeks and ring surprise major. He also observes that the article on Educatin' Idub could with suitable changes have been written during his years up! **Nigel Maggs** send his best wishes to us all.

Of the new members unearthed by John Spice, **Ken Frazer** has bought a Society tie, an example to be recommended. **Stella Strawbridge**, nee Hassid, was taught to ring in 1942 by John Spice at New College, and now rings in west Dorset. **David Ambler** is tower captain at Hampton-on-Thames where three other members ring. **Anthony A Hughes** rings at Marston near Oxford. His father was a member of the OUS and he has passed on to us a splendid photograph of the Society in New College cloisters with Warden Spooner taken in 1923. **Arnold Taylor** matriculated in 1930, and according to the address list is the second oldest member after WGW Warren. **Revd. George Paton** is also a late arrival, matriculating in 1941 at Wadham and now living in Ringmer. **GW Cherry** came up in 1936 and was an active member with John Spice in his final year. **Eleanor Macnair** has not rung since her undergradutae days with handbells under John Spice, so has no great wish to join the Society. She welcomed the reminder of those days in John's article in Oxford Today.

The Society's History

John Spice writes:-

THE HISTORY

The History of the OUSCR is now nearing completion, and I hope that the book will go into production at the end of March 1996.

We are in touch with several publishing organisations, and it looks as though the price will be in the region of £15 - for a professionally produced hardback of between 350 and 400 pages, with a dozen or so photographs.

You will receive definite details during the first few months of 1996. Because it will be necessary for the Society to invest a certain amount in the book before any copies have been sold, we shall ask for advance subscriptions; those who help in this way will receive a significant discount.

I am most grateful to all those who have contributed their reminiscences, which will form a most important element of the History. For the most part I shall quote them verbatim, and attribute them to their authors. (But of course I shall omit any sections which might cause hurt or embarrassment to other members.) **IF ANY CONTRIBUTORS NOW HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THEIR RECOLLECTIONS APPEARING IN THIS WAY THEY SHOULD LET ME KNOW AT ONCE.**

There is still time for more members of the OUS to contribute. Perhaps because the passage of the years lends nostalgia, I have no shortage of material from those who were up before 1970. For the last twenty-five years it is a very different matter. It is still not too late, and I **IMPLORE** those who can help in this way - whether or not I have already been in touch with them - to let me have something by the end of January. Otherwise, the account of the last quarter-century of the Society will be seriously incomplete.

Also, I hope that members will send group photographs for the period since 1960, and any other photographs which might be worthy of inclusion in the History.

THE CONTRIBUTION TO RINGING OF MEMBERS OF THE O.U.S.

The chapter headings of the History are given below and, as you will see, the account of the post-war period is divided between a number of chapters which deal with general matters, and others which give accounts of successive periods. Chapter III.13 will deal with the subsequent ringing careers of OUS members. Besides a general account - based on replies to the questionnaire - the activities of certain named members will be detailed. Andrew Stubbs and Peter Giles agree with me that the following categories should be used in deciding whom to include:

1. Actual ringing exploits - more than 1000 peals, record lengths, heavy tenors etc.
2. The technical side - compositions which break new ground, work in method construction etc.
3. The general organisation of the Exercise - the holding of principal office (Chairman, President, Master) in national associations and for the College Youths and Cumberlands; membership of the St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey bands; other notable contributions to ringing.

I have been in touch with many of the people who qualify under the above headings, but I am sure that there are others about whom I do not know. **SO IF YOU COME INTO ANY OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES AND HAVE NOT HEARD FROM ME PLEASE LET ME KNOW AT ONCE.**

MARRIED COUPLES AND RINGING 'DYNASTIES'

The following lists will appear as an appendix to the History. If you (or anyone else of whom you know) ought to be included and is not, then **PLEASE SEND ME THE DETAILS AT ONCE.**

OUS MARRIED COUPLES

Stuart Bamforth (New College)	Ruth Merrell (LMH)
Phillip Barnes (New College)	Elizabeth Niblett (Somerville)
Paul Batho (Hertford)	Sarah Tennant-Flowers (Magdalen)
Paul Brand (Magdalen)	Vanessa Rodrigues (Somerville)
Mike Capocci (Hertford)	Deb Watson (Hertford)
Adam Carlill (Keble)	Gill Murrells (St Hugh's)
James Cook (Univ)	Betty Wilcox (St Anne's)
David Darby (New College)	Christine Macnair (LMH)
Andrew Deamer (SEH)	Gillian Page (Keble)
Ewart Edge (SEH)	Julia Preston (St Anne's)
Gareth Evans (Christ Church)	Pat Seymour (St Hilda's)
David Gallop (Magdalen)	Catherine Trist (St Anne's)
Nigel Gay (SEH)	Rebecca Crooks (Keble)
Peter Giles (New College)	Davina Salter (St Hilda's)
John Guy (Univ)	Susan Brown (Somerville)
Lawrence Haines (St. Cat's)	Sue Heyworth (unofficial)
John Horrocks (St. John's)	Joanna ??? (LMH)
John Littler (Balliol)	Jean Herbert (St. Hugh's)
Johnny Lonsbrough (Keble)	Elizabeth Nelson (Somerville)
Nigel Orchard (Brasenose)	Jenny Unsworth (St. Hilda's)
Mike Ovenden (Queen's)	Cathy Lee (St. Peter's)
Jim Pailing (Keble)	Jean Addicott (St. Hilda's)
Peter Robbins (Magdalen)	Betty Spice (Somerville)
John Scott (SEH)	Claire Isles (St. Hugh's)
Peter Tambling (St. Peter's)	Anna Sellors (LMH)
Peter Tribble (St. John's)	Melanie Trinder (St. Hilda's)
Peter Wright (Univ)	Kate Higgins (LMH)

OUS FATHERS. MOTHERS , SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Shirley Clayton (Somerville 1950-53)	Hilary Beck (Wadham 1976-79)
Bill Gibbons (Keble 1938-40)	John Gibbons (Keble 1965-68)
Peter Mackie (Hertford 1966-70)	??
Donald Niblett (Pembroke 1950-56)	Peter Niblett (Pembroke 1977-80)
	Elizabeth Barnes (Smrvl 1980-83)
Peter Robbins (Magdalen 1944-47)	Catherine Robbins (Somerville ?)
& Betty (Somerville 1943-47)	Margaret Salih (Smrvl 1977-80)

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High Emotions at Molland

Peter Giles writes:

The newsletter of 1991 contained an article about the efforts of some members of the Society over many years in a Devon call-change competition at Molland, culminating in a certificate for third place. This year we can report a truly colossal achievement - a band of foreigners have won a Devon trophy!

The ringing competition at Molland started in 1965, and for many years now it has been established as a senior Devon competition. The trophy, the London Inn Cup, was given by the village pub.

The competition is: up in peal Devon style (one, two three and all pitch in together); cartwheel sixty on thirds (Thirds being Queens. You must start 4-5, 2-3 and not 2-3 4-5. Derek Jewell says that once a top band got it the wrong way round and lost sixteen faults); call the treble up and down and walk 3-5-2-4 up a place at each extreme, giving 6 leads; and down in peal. At the bottom, as soon as the tenor is down, Derek calls 'Last one' and we just stop, with the front bells swinging madly and the sallies held in the air to lessen the chances of bells 'chittering', which is not uncommon when the clappers are evidently so well cared for.

Hitherto, there have been fifteen to eighteen teams in the competition. This year (1995) there was a blip and only eleven teams appeared, but they included last year's winners Burrington and one of the top two teams in modern competition ringing, West Down.

This year we had our usual weak start on the Friday night practice, but as the local said he could hear us getting better. Next day we decided our best bet was to let Toad get the tenor shifting as fast as he could and drag us up with him; this is in any case the proper way to ring up, but as outsiders we had always tended to rely too much on Derek setting the pace from the treble, which made us a little hesitant in the rise. At Molland, with its heavy lumpy six, this approach worked very well.

On arriving at twenty past three, we were alarmed to find things very quiet, and when we finished twenty minutes later, the pub was shut! We moved on to South Moulton to drink there, but fortunately three of us went back for the results. WE WON!!! This is probably the only time a band of outsiders have ever won a legendary Devon Call-Change Competition. The London Inn Cup is now touring the country, and will be on my dinner table as soon as I get my hands on it. I was privileged to go up and collect it at the presentation, and for the rest of the evening there were five grown men (no Derek, who was now

home again) sitting in the pub in Molland and then in Barnstaple blubbing 'Twenty-two years! Twenty-two b****y years! And its ours.. And it's going to have our name on it... For ever...'. (To be fair, Stubbs does not blubber).

For the record:

A SIX-BELL RINGING FESTIVAL

held at St. Mary's church, Molland on Saturday October 21st 1995

Treble	Derek Jewell
2nd	Andrew N Stubbs
3rd	Peter G Giles
4th	Jeremy R Pratt
5th	P Quentin Armitage
Tenor	Nigel RD Orchard

First Certificate and the London Inn Cup awarded to the Oxford Society.