

This year's Dinner will again be at Harris Manchester College, on Saturday 4th February at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. The principal guest will be Paul Carless, a former master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and the clerical guest the Revd Canon Dr. Jane Shaw, Dean of Divinity at New College. Clive Holloway will be the OS guest.

The menu will be: Rustic Minestrone Soup with Parmesan Cheese, Roast Sirloin with Red Wine and Thyme Gravy (Vegetarian option: Wild Mushroom Pithivier), and Sticky Toffee Pudding. Wines to be decided in the light of what the college has available.

Tickets are £47.00. Please send an SAE and a cheque payable to 'OUSCR Dinner Committee' to James Marchbank, Lincoln College, Oxford OX1 3DR, and state any seating plan preferences and dietary requirements.

Drinking the night before and Sunday coffee have yet to be arranged.

Newsletter Account

The cost of printing and posting this Newsletter will be about £140. The Newsletter account will stand at about £430 after this letter has been sent. The number of letters sent out has dropped in recent years from 320 to 190, because of email, but even so the funds will sustain only another four or five years of the paper version. If you wish to contribute to its survival, please make your cheque payable to `Mr P Giles`.

Meeting Dates in 2006

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. Jan 16th, April 24th and Oct 9th.

AGM date - Monday, Nov 27th.

Society Ties

We still have six left, at the absurdly low price of £3.00 each, available from the General Secretary.

The Society's History

Last year, sales had reached 243. Sales have now reached - 243. Since Dermot Roaf has retired, the Oxford stocks have been moved from his rooms in Exeter to the ringing room at Mary Mag's. We thank Dermot for his perseverance for so long, and still need to sell about 30 more to break even. Please send your cheque for £30.00 per copy (incl. postage and package), made out to 'OUSCR History', to the general secretary. It's worth remembering that in real terms they are getting cheaper and cheaper, but that's not an encouragement to wait any longer...

The Annual Tour

The 2006 tour will take place from Sunday 2nd to Thursday 6th April. The tour will be based in Altrincham, Cheshire and is being organised by Claire Thomson and Mark Bell.

The Oasis Hotel, Barrington Road and Devonshire Road Evangelical church hall have already been booked. A number of rooms at the hotel have been reserved for the duration of the tour. A few rooms have also been reserved for the Saturday night (1st April), and for the Thursday night (6th April) should people wish to arrive early or stay on later.

Please advise them of the rooms you would like booking by **SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2006**.

Room prices:

<i>Day</i>	Singles	Doubles	Twins
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Saturday and Sunday	£30	£42	£42
Monday to Thursday	£38	£49.50	£49.50

The ringing will hopefully include visits to Manchester (possibly on the Metrolink tram), Chester and rural Cheshire.

For any further information and booking, please contact Claire and Mark at:
Flat 3, 6 Winchester Road, Oxford, OX2 6NA, 01865 558801 or by email: [claire.thomson – at - eci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:claire.thomson@ox.ac.uk) or [mark.bell – at - jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mark.bell@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

Updated details of towers etc will be posted to <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~ouscr/tour/>

Address List

The General Secretary maintains the Society's address list, of nearly 330 members.

If you would like a copy of the list, either electronically or on paper, please 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 bulletin board.

29 members are currently lost. The January 2005 newsletter failed to reach Judith Harvey, Simon Plackett and James Townsend. The others have been missing for rather longer. If you can help us trace any of them, we would be grateful:

Catherine Bannister, Sarah Bates, Mike Capocci, Simon Chadwick, Rosemary Clark, Frances E Collins, Paul Crane, Robert Galloway, Andre Gren, David Hamblin, Jason Hargreaves, Judith Harvey, Sally Hawksworth, Luke Heaton, Lance Hewson, Anne Lambert, John S Leonard, Andrew J Loveland, Jeremy McCabe, Melanie Milan, JD Mozley, David Newman, Colin Parker, Simon Plackett, Nigel Sheppard, Richard Tapper, James Townsend, C Turnbull, and AJ Vincent.

OUS Peals

Ten peals have been rung this year: 2 of Grandsire Caters, Cambridge SM and Yorkshire SM and one each of London (3) SR, Cambridge SR, 8-spliced SM and Lincolnshire SM. Peter Giles has become the Society's leading tower-bell peal ringer, with 133.

The OUS Online

The OUS now has not only a website <http://www.users.ox.ac.uk/~ouscr> but an online peals database <http://www.ouscr.org.uk/peals/>, a badgers' area <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/ousgensec/> and a bulletin board. Please join this by contacting ouscr-admin@bellringers.net. and help the Society by cutting down the number of paper newsletters.

Roger Burbery

Roger died On August 17th 2005 in a hospice in Cambridge. He told us on the tour this year that he had been diagnosed with cancer of the prostate, which was rapidly spreading to other parts. He was admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital in May, and then to the hospice about a month ago. He had a stroke a few days earlier, and it seems that he did not recover consciousness.

Roger was at Hertford from 1965-68, and was Master of the OUS in 1967.

Derek Jewell

Derek died on January 8th 2005. *Lester Yeo writes (RW 01-08-2005):*

Derek Jewell started ringing at Combe Martin with Les Walters in 1949; the captain at the time was Harry Hayward, a good method ringer, and Derek was soon ringing methods. With Beatrice Boyle he went on to ringing quarter peals and peals all over Devon, and the country at large. One highlight was the double peal of Bob Major at Buckland in the Moor in 1965, the longest length rung by the Devon Guild. Another was a peal of Superlative at Withycombe Raleigh, the first College Youths peal by a Devon resident band. He circled Combe Martin to peals, and even called a peal of Bob Major there, with much help from the rest of the band. Jim Phillips remembers ringing Stedman Cinques with Derek at High Wycombe. It was a College Youths peal conducted by David Hilling and Derek rang faultlessly throughout the peal, another fine indication of his ability on the end of a rope.

Derek did his National Service in the RAF at Yatesbury, in Wiltshire, where he was in the dental section. There were enough ringers on the base to have a regular Wednesday afternoon practice night on the five bells at All Saints; in return, the airmen joined the local practices and service ringing as often as they could. In 1956 Derek had declined the invitation to 'ring in' the new year. When it seemed that there were going to be insufficient ringers, Dave Darby went round to his billet to try to get him to change his mind. Derek had already retired to his bunk, some somehow he was persuaded to get up, only to find eight ringers already at the tower. Derek's language was picturesque, and was aimed very much in Darby's direction!

Derek was encouraged to come to his first Appleton dinner in 1965 and invited to ring the third in the March 4th peal. On the night before in The Plough, Derek made the mistake of trying to match Bill Hibbert's consumption of gin. The next morning he arrived at the tower looking much the worse for wear. During the peal he turned all colours of the rainbow and at one point Hibbert turned to him and said, "Feeling BAD, boy?" Derek was already truly part of the Appleton Society.

In 1967 Derek joined the ringers at Swimbridge, who were a crack Devon Association team at that time and took over the second bell for competition ringing. Following a competition at Newton St Cyres, he was formally initiated in the team by the Captain pouring beer into Derek's trousers! In 1973 Swimbridge won the Devon final at Plymtree with Derek ringing the second. Derek took over ringing the treble and led the Swimbridge band for twenty years during which they took home many a trophy. Gerald Stevens wrote, "In my opinion he is one of the best — if not the best — treble man to be had, especially in the rise and lower, speed and timing."

In 1971, Derek offered to organise the OUSCR tour. Headquarters were The Globe at Lynton. One evening, the landlord mentioned that it was a shame there was no ringers at Lynton, as the bells would not be rung for his sister's wedding that autumn. Enough volunteers offered to come down to North Devon, and so began a tradition of regular visits by OUS ringers, with Derek organising towers for peal attempts and general ringing. He suggested entering a team in the competition at Molland, which culminated in the visitors (with Derek on treble) one year winning the trophy, probably the only time a team from outside the county has won a Devon call-change competition. In 1976, he got South Molton for a peal attempt, and rang the tenor to Holt's Original; however the locals were unhappy with the state of the rope after the peal (it was obvious Derek had tied a knot in it) and the bells were unavailable for some time afterwards!

Derek was proud of his membership of the College Youths and celebrated 50 years' membership last year. At his funeral, the Vicar of Combe Martin told how he would proudly show his tie to his local ringers and say, with a great chuckle, "You'll never have one of them" He regularly attended the CY dinner, and would stay with the Darbys in Harpenden. Chris used to keep a record of the menus when they had guests; with Derek it wasn't really necessary because he could remember if they'd ever given him a particular dish before, and, if so, which year!

Thank you, dear boy, from all of us who knew and loved you, born and bred in dear old Devon. There were as many people outside Barnstaple Crematorium for your funeral as there were crammed inside, to share in Sylvia's grief. Derek, may you rest in peace.

Andrew Stubbs writes (RW 8-4-2005)

One of Derek's most loved outings each year for over 25 years was his annual canal boat trip with some of his OUS friends (for a pictorial reminder, see RW 1999 p 1032). Not only was he great company on the boat, but he had somehow got himself the job of breakfast chef for the last 20 or more of these trips. Not his usual field, as, when at home, it was Sylvia who attended to all his dietary needs, but for this one week every year it was Derek who came to the fore and demonstrated his culinary skills.

They may be those who say it should not have to take two hours to cook breakfast for six, and those who, when faced with the washing up, claimed that there was more fat on the floor, the ceiling and other unlikely places than ever found its way into the frying pan! But every egg was cooked to perfection, and to the particular satisfaction of each crew member the fried bread was just the right consistency. Derek's only failure was in not persuading his fellow crew members to join him in eating laver bread (otherwise known as seaweed). A Devon speciality, apparently, perhaps it does not travel well.

We all miss you Derek, in so many ways.

Ken ML Frazer

As reported, died in June 2004. We now have more details:

He was up at Hertford with Peter Border, but only took up ringing in his sixties. He joined the OUS when John Spice made contact while preparing the History in 1995 or 96. In spring of 2003 he and his wife Jane spent a few days back in Oxford to vote for the new Chancellor, and stayed in his old bank, now the Old Bank Hotel.

Ken Frazer was born in 1930 and entered Hertford in 1949 having been awarded a State Scholarship in Classics. He was also awarded a Michael Montague Hall Scholarship open to those intent on a career in the Armed Forces.

He played a very active part in College life (Rugby, Rowing, Cross-Country, Dramatic and Debating Societies) and in his last year was Secretary of the J.C.R. He was also a member of the O.U.T.C. throughout his three years.

Going down with a Second in Jurisprudence he enlisted in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, but after training at Eaton Hall he was commissioned into the York and Lancaster Regiment and was soon out with the First Battalion in Khartoum and then the Canal Zone.

Returning to England he studied Hungarian at London University and then transferred to the Intelligence Corps. After serving in B.A.O.R. he was posted to Cyprus where his prescient assessments of the imminence of Intercommunal strife were critical to Staff Planning. After further service in London he resigned his commission in 1969 and joined the BBC in the personnel department, where he remained until his second retirement in 1987.

Ken then took up a post as Organiser for the West Essex and East Herts branch of Relate and combined this with being an adviser in the Bishops Stortford C.A.B.

Among many interests Ken was an enthusiastic bell-ringer and above all a keen student of the life and works of Rudyard Kipling. He was a member of the Kipling Society, for some years on the Council of the Society, and contributed some learned articles to the Society's Journals.

He is survived by his wife Jane, son Andrew and younger brother Simon (Hertford 1957 – 1960).

Arnold Taylor

We now learn that Arnold Taylor (St John's 1930-34) died in 2002. No details of his ringing or outside activities are known.

Jim Pailing

Former Master Jim Pailing died on June 30th 2005. He was born in 1938, elder son of Minnie and Harold Pailing of Daybrook, Nottingham. As both parents were ringers it was quite natural that he should take up ringing. He was taught by his father at Daybrook, and he was already making good progress as a ringer when the million-to-one accident occurred that resulted in Harold's death in 1951 in the bellchamber at Daybrook.

Despite the tragedy, Minnie and Jim continued to ring, and three years later younger brother Neville started. By the time he was sixteen, Jim had rung peals with the legendary Clement Glenn and had conducted a peal of Double Norwich. Going up to Oxford in 1957, he encountered among others Stephen Ivin, David Darby, Andrew Stubbs and John Pusey, and rang approximately 120 peals in three years, including many of spliced surprise major. He became Master of the OUS.

During his time at Oxford he met Jean Addicott, a fellow member of the OUS, and they became engaged in 1961 while Jim was completing his PGCE year at Nottingham University, where he was instrumental in getting All Saints' bells ringing again after a silence of 40 years. They married in December 1961, by which time both of them were teaching in the Bedford area. Two years later they moved to Preston, Lancashire, where Jim rang peals with Cyril Crossthwaite and where the first of their three children was born. Jim left teaching in 1967 to take up an education management post with Derbyshire CC, and they moved to Matlock. Jim rang at Darley Dale with J Frank Smallwood and the Revd St John Smith for a while, and joined the peal band of Gordon Halls and Denis Carlisle, before deciding that work and family commitments would not allow him to continue ringing with such intensity. They soon moved to Orpington in Kent, with Jim working first for Bromley as a Senior Education Officer and then for the London Borough of Newham where he became Director of Education. As an all-or-nothing character, he more or less gave up ringing for the next 25 years, only ringing occasionally, usually when visiting Neville in the Beverley area. On one such occasion, ten years into his self-imposed exile from ringing, he accompanied Neville to a district practice at Holy Trinity, Hull. Asked if he would up the band for a touch of 4-spliced surprise royal, he asked to be reminded of the line for Rutland, and then proceeded to put other people right.

He returned to ringing in about 1990, ringing at Chislehurst and Bexley as well as occasionally in Oxford, where he was working for the Oxford Examinations Board. He was one of the guinea-pigs in the Central Council video on bell-handling made in 1997. By this time it was apparent to family and friends that something was amiss. He had developed Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, or PSP, and within months of the release of the video, he had to give up ringing for good. In 2001 he became wheelchair-bound, and had difficulty communicating, although in August he managed to ring plain hunt on six 'in hand' while staying in Derbyshire for a mid-week break, and plain bob minor in hand with Jean and Neville in the December. The next three and a half years saw a gradual decline in his health, but thanks to the constant devotion of Jean and the loving support of their children he was able to remain at home until his death on June 30th 2005.

He leaves his wife Jean, and their three children Caroline Marcus and Crispin, and two grandchildren Reuben and Ambrose. With a lifetime of memories of happier times.

Ted Martin

Ted Martin died on Sunday October 30th 2005 after three years of cancer.

Stephen Whittleton recalls: When I arrived at St. John's in 1974 my older colleagues told me there was a chemist studying for his D.Phil who was both a ringer and a bridge player. I never met Ted while I was at Oxford although I used to see his name in Bridge Magazine from time to time. When I became a better bridge player myself I played against him in various competitions when he was playing for Derbyshire or for Derbyshire teams. He was always great fun to play against. I never persuaded him to come on a Tour despite promising him a good game of bridge.

Residents' Review

Nick Balderson, the immediate past Master, writes:

2005 has been a constructive year for the OUS. We have had consistently good attendance all year, even through Trinity term; regularly more than 15 people turn up to Tuesday night practices and we almost always have more than 10 at Mary Mag on Sunday mornings. As usual, a quarter is attempted before each Tuesday night Mary Mag practice and every other week another quarter precedes at practice at St Thos. Sunday morning ringing consists of a quarter at St Thos, followed by ringing at Mary Mag; St. Ebbe's in the morning has been alternating each week with SMV and New College in the evening. We also ring at St Cross on the first Sunday of the month.

We have scored 44 quarter peals in total, this year, with one first quarter peal, two firsts as conductor and one first in hand. There have been a whole host of firsts in method, a number of 10 bell quarters, and of particular note are a quarter of Lincolnshire Royal and a quarter of 10 spliced. Many thanks must go to the members of the OS who have helped out with the trickier quarter peals.

We have kept up the regular peal attempts at St Thos, and occasionally at Mary Mag, and 11 peals have been scored this year (including 2 STS peals) with two first peals and one first as conductor. Many residents have benefited from these and, as ever, we are indebted to the badgers who make them possible.

The termly 12 bell practices have been shared between Amersham and Reading and with a little help from the OS we have been able to ring either Yorkshire or Cambridge Maximus at each of these.

Handbell ringing has not been particularly popular with the residents recently, but towards the end of Michaelmas term, interest increased and one handbell quarter was scored. I expect we will see more of these next year.

The calendar has been filled with its usual complement of events, in particular the Annual Dinner in February, the joint outing with the CUG, this year to Kettering, The Annual Tour, to Colchester, May Morning at SMV, the Summer Outing, to Kidlington and Bicester, the Freshers' Outing, which took us to Witney and back, and the SUA Striking Competition, held in London.

Relationships with other universities remain good, with a number OUS residents present at the SUA striking competition in London and the dinners in London and Cambridge. The social side of the OUS has not diminished, with the now customary cheese and wine parties rounding off each term, in addition to the traditional regular visits to the pub.

I would like to thank the residents and, in particular, the committee for all their hard work. I wish James and his committee all the best for the coming year and hope that the OUS continues its endeavour for improvement

Revd George Frederick Coleridge, M.A.

This article, provided by Richard Bowden, appeared first in the 1st May 1907 edition of 'The Bellringer'.

The Rev George Frederick Coleridge, M.A. was born at Cadbury Vicarage, Devon, on November 10th 1857. He was educated at the Ayshford Grammar School, Uffculme, the preparatory school of a large number of scions of Devonian Families, at Chardstock, Dorset, and S. Edmund's College, Salisbury, proceeding in due course to Keble College, Oxford.

His first real interest in bells and Towers was aroused when robbing Jackdaws nests, for the toothsome delicacy found therein; later he came under the tuition of Mr. R. Brimblecombe a 'judge' much sought after in Devon Prize Ringings. This worthy taught him the necessity for most accurate striking in rounds and from time to time journeyed with him to various Prize Ringing Meetings, where raising and falling in peal took precedence of all else in the county. Little was done in the way of ringing either at Chardstock or Salisbury, but at the former School certain kindred spirits would surreptitiously lock themselves in the Towers of the Parish Church and practise with lashed clappers: - at Salisbury the budding youth was at all times welcomed in the towers of S. Thomas, S. Edmund and S. Martin, on rare state occasions when the Bells were rung.

On matriculating at Oxford, he at once joined the University Society, and found himself in the company of several who have made their mark in the Ringing world, notably the Revs. H.A. Cockey, W.S., Willitt, J.F. Hastings, J.C.D.P. Davies; to the latter he is indebted for almost all his early instruction in Change Ringing, the exhortation and example of his old mentor Mr. Brimblecombe as to accuracy of striking above all else being never forgotten. With the consent of the authorities Seage's Dumb practice apparatus was installed in the Tower of New College, and Minor Methods were quickly mastered; various Towers in the neighbourhood of Oxford were visited in turn by six members of the O.U.S.C.R. and numerous 720's were rung. Soon the embryo band of enthusiasts had attained such proficiency that it was felt that a peal of Triples was within reach, and, with the aid of Mr. W.J. Smith of the City Society at the Tenor, this was successfully rung on June 9th, 1879. Stedman Triples quickly followed, undergraduate Ringers being kindly welcomed to membership in the City Society' four peals were rung during the next six months by mixed bands of the two Societies, Stedman Caters being scored at Appleton. Having succeeded his friend Mr. Davies as master of the University Society, Mr Coleridge had the pleasure of ringing in the first peal of Stedman Triples by the Society unaided.

Taking Holy Orders in 1884 and licensed to the curacy of Caversham, Oxon, the Ringers naturally became his special care—rapid progress in Minor was made and in a comparatively short time, Mr. Coleridge took part in upwards of 250 Minor peals in some 14 different methods with the local band. Such progress won a long promised gift of a treble and the then Chairman of the Great Western Railway, giving a 2nd bell, the two were dedicated on Easter Eve, 1891, and on Easter Monday the first peal of Bob Major was rung by the local band, followed six weeks later by a peal of 5040 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, being Mr. Coleridge's 100th Peal, and the only one he has ever conducted. Stedman and Superlative followed, and doubtless Cambridge, London and Bristol Surprise, which the ringers quickly tackled, would have been added to the list, had not the call come, after 10 years of happy work to take up new duties as Vicar of Crowthorne, Berks. Here he has been for the last 13 years content to pull his simple little 'ting-tang' for the Daily Services, and to accept such invitations for a Peal as strenuous single-handed work in a large parish permits.

His total of peals, from Minor to Maximus, up to date is 216; among the more notable ones he reckons:-

5040 Stedman Triples at Drayton. 1st in the method by O.U.S.C.R
5040 Stedman Triples at Drayton. 1st Clerical peal.
5040 Stedman Triples at Selby Abbey. 1st peal by Central Council
5040 Stedman Triples at Drayton. Unconducted.
5040 Stedman Triples at Drayton. Rev. F.E. Robinson's, 100th Peal. (1000th? Ed)
5040 Stedman Triples, Lundy island. First and only peal on the Bells
5021 Grandsire Caters at Exeter Cathedral. 1st on the Bells.
5006 Stedman caters at Plymouth. 1st on the Bells.
8800 Superlative Surprise at Loughborough.
6720 Double Norwich at Caversham.
7392 Double Norwich at Chiddingfold.

12,096 Double Norwich at Boyne Hill
13,054 Stedman caters at Cheltenham.
15,041 Stedman caters at Appleton. (Record).

Mr Coleridge has been a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths since 1879 and may generally be seen at the Annual Dinner. He is also a member of numerous County and Diocesan Associations and Guilds; has been on the Committee of the Oxford Guild for 23 years, and has been an elected member of the central Council from its foundation, representing the same Guild.

Standing 6ft. 4¾ in. in his stockings, and weighing upwards of 17½ stone, he is able to manage most Tenors with ease, and when any hard job is on hand may generally be found at the heavy end, yet much prefers to sneak round to the Treble or second when vacant.

He has taken part in many ringing 'week's notable 'down West' but has never rung more than 9 peals in any 6 consecutive days. He would far sooner ring a Plain Course struck with unerring accuracy than a 5000 in which the striking was even momentarily indifferent; his sense of time, and compass is acute, but at the same time he is so unmusical that a ring of bells in or out of tune is all the same to him. He holds strongly to the opinion that nine-tenths of the peals rung should never be recorded owing to inaccuracy of striking, and that hundreds if not thousands of men who ring peal have never yet learnt to ring rounds properly, or even handle a rope.