



The Word Detective

John Simpson

Luncheon Club Meeting 157

Tuesday, March 21st 2017

The *Oxford English Dictionary* is the leading and most trusted English dictionary. With some 650,000 words, phrases and meanings, it offers the most comprehensive coverage of English everywhere it is spoken. Most of us will have used it at some time to look up the meaning of a word, to check a spelling or a pronunciation, probably referring to the Shorter version on our bookshelves. But the world has moved on since we bought that copy. What has happened to the big *OED* in the last thirty or so years?

John Simpson was Chief Editor of the *OED* from 1993 until 2013. During this time there he devised and oversaw the revision and transformation of the dictionary into a resource fit for the 21st century by pioneering the use of digital technology in both its production and use. Now retired and living back in Cheltenham where he grew up, John lectures and broadcasts on the English language and the Dictionary and has written about words, language, and his life in lexicography in *The Word Detective*, which was published in 2016.

Venue: St. Matthew’s Church, Clarence Street, Cheltenham - opposite The Wilson.

Time: Buffet lunch from 12 noon. Speaker 1.15- 2.15 pm. Cost: £15; talk only £8.

There are two ways to book and pay – our preference is for payment via online banking.

1. Online: please send an email to Jan Turner at jwturner42@icloud.com with Luncheon Club 157 in the subject line, stating how many places you require, and transfer the correct amount to our bank account: sort code **30-91-87**, account no **00005816**, using **LC157 plus your surname** as a reference so that we can identify your payment.
2. By post: please send the slip below together with a cheque payable to Friends of The Wilson and a sae or clearly written email address to Jan Turner, Wold’s Edge, Station Road, Woodmancote, Cheltenham, GL52 9HN.

If you have any queries, please ring Jan on 01242 674140.

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I/We should like places for the talk and lunch and/or places for the talk only.

I enclose a cheque for £ payable to Friends of The Wilson.

Name.....Address.....

.....

Tel. Email.....

FOR USE BY THE ORGANISER

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Thank you for your application. I have been able/unable to allocate you ... places on the above and am therefore returning your payment.