



Chairman's Report

Our main public event for 2015 at Australia House on Wednesday 18 November *A Journey Towards Reconciliation* turned out to be an interesting and important evening.

Our speaker, John Bond OAM illustrated his involvement in Australia's National Sorry Day campaign with film footage of PM Kevin Rudd's whole-hearted apology for wrongs in the past towards Australia's first inhabitants. The faces of Mr Rudd's listeners, some of them in tears, was an image more powerful than any words. Along with John Bond's stirring talk, we continued our support as an organisation for the indigenous students at Oxford, Cambridge and other UK universities by inviting two of them to speak.

As luck would have it, a touring group of potential scholars under the Aurora programme was able to send a number of their members to our occasion. Kristopher Wilson and Aurora Gilroy spoke briefly of their backgrounds and of their experiences of studying here. Aurora's mother is an OAA member in Australia and she expressed her particular appreciation at being invited. What she and particularly Kris said was in some respects confronting – unavoidably so.

Yet after the event, Kristopher wrote to say how moved they had all been to be invited to Australia House. They had appreciated the chance to talk afterwards one to one, and would love to be able to do it again.

Penelope Thwaites AM
Chairman, OAA UK/Europe

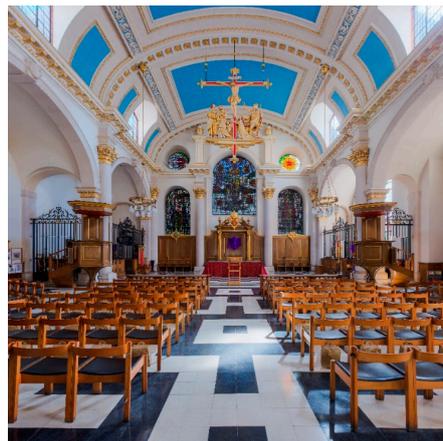


ST MARY-LE-BOW

The Committee and I will look forward very much to seeing as many OAA members and friends as possible on Wednesday, 8 June at 5.30pm. Please let me or our Secretary know if you plan to attend as we would like to meet you. This is a chance for us to make the most of a generously offered occasion with a special connection to our Association.

We are delighted to be joined for this event by the Deputy High Commissioner for Australia, Mr Andrew Todd.

With all very best wishes,
Penelope Thwaites AM



UK/EUROPE OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Peter Benson OAM,
David Milligan OAM,
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STUART DEVLIN AO CMG AND ST MARY-LE-BOW



St Mary-le-Bow is a most attractive Christopher Wren church and boasts a special OAA banner and associated plaque. The OAA service will be a choral evensong conducted by the Revd George Bush, Rector of St Mary's, and featuring the excellent Lloyds Choir. It will include an Australian anthem and the special OAA prayer. This is a wonderful opportunity for OAA members and friends to visit a special part of London (home of the Bow Bells) and enjoy the service, as well as some superb architecture and beautiful music. Entry is free.

The design of the banner in St Mary's is by the distinguished gold and silversmith (and OAA UK member) Stuart Devlin AO CMG. I am delighted that his wife, Carole has been able to send us something of the background of Stuart's remarkable work, included below.

Stuart Devlin designed the Order of Australia but it was the Decimal Coinage that was to change his life.

In 1974, Stuart Devlin was commissioned to design Australia's new honours system and its regalia, the Order of Australia, which was established on 14th February, 1975. He wanted the medals and ribbons to represent the unique quality of Australia. He chose a single golden wattle blossom as the basis for his designs. Devlin has since designed many of the medals and ribbons for Australia's Military Honours system.

It was in 1963 that Stuart Devlin first came to public recognition, when his designs won the competition for his country's new decimal coinage. The coins were released on 14th February, 1966. 2016 is the 50th Anniversary of their release and it is a tribute to him that his designs still remain in circulation and have become admired throughout the world.

With his prize money, whilst overseeing the die making of the coins at The Royal Mint in 1964, he bought a small house and workshop in London's Clerkenwell.

It was from there that he went on to become one of the great post war gold and silversmiths with seven workshops in the Clerkenwell area and a team of 60 highly skilled craftsmen at the height of his career. His commissions include those for the Royal

Household, cathedrals, churches, sport, universities, corporations and governments as well as numerous private commissions.

He has been awarded a CMG and AO for his services to design and craftsmanship.

In 1982 he received a Royal Warrant of Appointment as Goldsmith and Jeweller to the Queen and became Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths (1996-97), the first creative goldsmith since its Royal Charter in 1327.

He has received numerous other awards throughout his career including Australian of the Year in the U.K. from The Australia Day Foundation in 2011.

(In 1992 due to the ravages of inflation the 1 and 2 cent coins were removed from circulation).



Australia House, The Strand, London, UK,