

ADFAS Camden

Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Camden Inc

ABN: 41 917 925 347

Member of the Association of ADFAS (ArtsNational)



NEWSLETTER

August 2024

From the Chair

Welcome to our Spring edition of the newsletter. The Winter Solstice is behind us and the year is gathering pace, as always seems to be the way.

Since our last Newsletter we have had lectures on the Book of Kells of Ireland, Antoni Gaudi of Barcelona and the Guggenheim art galleries. There is more to come!

Our September lecture is a complete change of pace and is on 'Phrases and Sayings' and etymology. As the date clashes with the Carrington Fair, **the Cobbitty Church Hall** will be the venue for this lecture. We would greatly appreciate it if you could advise friends and family of this change so that we can cover all bases. Also, **bring warm clothing, just in case** – last time Colin managed to work out the air conditioning system and all was fine – but best to be prepared!

For October and November, we are back at Carrington. A reminder again that our lecture with Susannah Fullerton needed to be postponed and has been re-scheduled to 2 November.

And more information about our Farewell Function on 30 November at Belgenny will follow.

We look forward to seeing you at lectures,

Linda

The September lecture will be held in the Cobbitty Church Hall with remaining lectures to be held at Carrington Recreation Centre, Grasmere.

Annual membership \$145,

Visitors \$30 per lecture. Please book for visitors –

camden@adf.org.au or

Gaylene 0417 659 587 or Pamela 0412 311 194

Our Spring Lectures

14 September 2024

Cobbitty Church Hall

Phrases and Sayings: the Etymology of the City of London

Join us to learn more about the rich history of the English language from Art historian

Alan Read. Where did many of our idioms and phrases come from?



12 October 2024

The Art and Architecture of St Petersburg: 'A window onto the west'

Andrew Spira

2 November 2024

Literary England: Top Ten Places

Susannah Fullerton

30 November 2024

Farewell Function

Belgenny

(Details to follow)

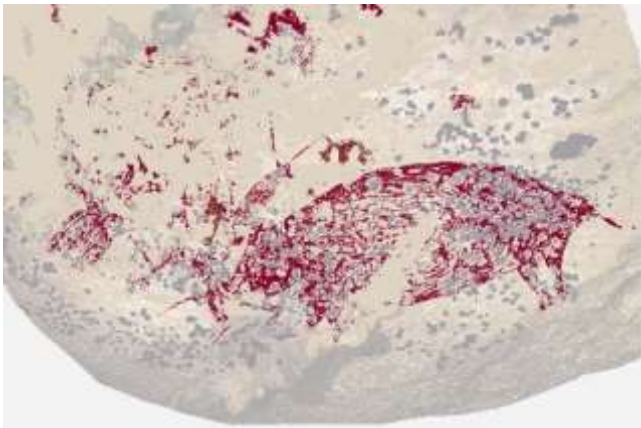
ART QUIZ by Cliff Reece

1. Which famous artist is thought to have claimed that "Art is never finished, only abandoned"?
2. Who was "the man who made Vermeers" – and why was he so called?



Vermeer's 'The Supper at Emmaus' – or is it?

3. This is the oldest known human-created narrative art. What is depicted and where is it located?



4. What is Antoni Gaudí famous for?
5. What rock icon was the founder of 'The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Long-haired Men'?
6. In George Orwell's anti-utopian satire 'Animal Farm' what is the name of the pig leader who was based on Soviet Union dictator Joseph Stalin?

7. Who painted 'The Red Vineyards near Arles' below in 1888 whilst living with Gauguin - and why is it so famous?



8. Jeff Widener is a photographer best known for his iconic photo of the 'Tank Man'. What is the background to this?
9. Who are the 4 men depicted in the statue below – and where is it located?



10. Cyclones can do terrible damage. Is that why the house below is upside down – or is there another reason?



ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 8



Save the Date!



ADFAS Camden Farewell Lunch

When: Saturday 30 November 2024

Where: Belgenny Farm,
100 Elizabeth Macarthur Avenue, Camden South

Cost: Special price of \$30 per person

(Costs are being subsidized as this is our farewell and celebration of 21 very successful years. Date for payment to be advised.)

Cost includes:

- Table service, two courses plus celebration cake
- Champagne, wine and juices



We hope you can join us! More details to follow.

And while you have your diary out you might like to pencil in the following event!

'JUST THE TWO OF US'



Fifty four years ago, Patricia Johnston and Nola Tegel first met as part of a local group that started their journey into the world of art under the guidance, mentoring and friendship of Alan Baker. JUST THE TWO OF US will be a celebration of that friendship and their lifelong love of art. On display will be a large number of works by these two very accomplished artists.



Where: Gallery 581 (The Tegel Gallery), 581 Cobbitty Road, Cobbitty

Gala Opening: 5.00 pm: Friday 18th October (all welcome)

Exhibition hours: 10.30 am to 4.00 pm: Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th
Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th, Friday 25th, Saturday 26th
10.30 am to 1.00 pm: Sunday 27th



The display will include recent works by both artists and a number of works from years past

All paintings will be available for purchase

ADFAS Camden, *A potted history* CHURCH RECORDING

The idea of Church Recording arose in the UK in 1971 when the Victoria and Albert Museum, aware of the vulnerability of the contents of many churches to damage and loss, sought the assistance of NADFAS (now The Arts Society) members to produce detailed inventories of that heritage before it was too late. By 2006, some 2300 Church Records had been presented to churches in the UK and copies deposited in national and local archives

Beginning in 2002, ADFAS Society members have now recorded over 50 churches across Australia, with those records lodged in the national and relevant state and local archives. With Camden being in the centre of the historic Macarthur area, ADFAS Camden was fortunate to obtain permission to record two still-functioning Anglican churches in the area, both with very significant connections to the early history of NSW/Australia.

1. Heber Chapel / St Paul's Anglican Church, Cobbitty

The Heber Chapel (1827) and St Paul's Church (1840) at Cobbitty are part of a group of four buildings, along with St Paul's Rectory (1868) and St Paul's Church Hall (1888) that is considered to be a unique early church group. The group is listed with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and as a heritage item in Camden Council's Local Environment Plan.

ADFAS Camden's Church Recording activities were initiated by our foundation Chair, Patricia Johnston who, after many rounds of discussion and negotiation, finally succeeded in obtaining approval from the Anglican Diocese, in May 2010, to proceed with a Church Recording project at Cobbitty.

As it turned out, it was indeed an exciting and sometimes laborious, but incredibly rewarding experience for those who took part over the next couple of years.

The project began in earnest with a training session for a group of very enthusiastic potential recorders conducted in **St Paul's Cobbitty** by Jenny McLennan, CR Group Leader of Bowral ADFAS and Sue & Dennis Air of Ku-Ring-Gai ADFAS on Tuesday 26th October, 2010. They led the group through the purposes of CR and discussed how to plan the project and describe the various items in detail, using a memorial, the font, the communion silver and the hymn board as examples. It was a fascinating and informative afternoon and left the volunteers keen to begin by tackling the tablet and plaque memorials at the first hands-on recording session in November.

The CR group met monthly (except for the cold winter months) for the next two years or more as they worked their way through every detail of first the Church and then the Chapel, recording every item of significance (and no doubt,



An early image of the Heber Chapel and St Paul's Church



Church Recording Group – St Paul's Cobbitty

Back row: Ray Herbert, Juliet Warrand, Pamela Hartley, Hugh Davies, Jill Lummis, Peter Claxton

Front Row: Nola Tegel, Patricia Johnston, Gay Wilson, Rodna Siebels

Insets: Jo Carr, Mavis Stewart, Virginia Hill

some of questionable significance), all in the format proposed by the Association. Both buildings proved to be historical treasure troves, and the monthly sessions led the recording group further and further into the rather fascinating early history of the area.

Of all the interesting features of the Church, perhaps the most striking was the wonderful array of outstanding stained glass windows. They appeared to be of such interest and potential importance that a meeting was arranged in the church for all of the recording group with stained glass expert Dr Beverley Sherry and Zofia Laba, an expert on Polish born artist John Radecki.

The central window in the chancel was identified as being by renowned UK artist and manufacturer William Warrington and it is apparently the only example of his work in Australia. A number of the other windows were found to be by John Radecki, of Polish birth and the first Australian trained stained glass artist, who was chief designer for Ashwin & Company. One of the group, Jill Lummis, was so fascinated by the windows that she took on the task of thoroughly researching them, including their histories, and preparing detailed descriptions to be included in the published Record.

The rather humble **Heber Chapel**, named after the Bishop of Calcutta in whose See Cobbitty was located at the time, has served many purposes since it was built in 1827 by Thomas Hassall, the 'Gallop- ing Parson'. Its current function was as a meeting place for various church groups and activities but it had also been set up as a museum housing many



The Heber Chapel today

items of historic interest, such as religious and secular books, many dating back to the early years when the Chapel was the first and for a time, only religious and educational centre south of Liverpool. It also contained a collection of paintings and photographs and other documents of historical interest, and rather surprisingly to many of the group, provided a number of instances of architectural influences from India.



The Warrington Window

The recording exercise for both Church and Chapel was completed in the latter half of 2013, with the final task being to edit all of the documents and compile the *Record of Church Furnishings* for final printing and binding in 2014. The 226 page full colour illustrated volume includes a brief history of the Cobbitty area, the Heber Chapel, St Paul's Church, the 'Gallop- ing Parson' Rev.Thomas Hassall and John Verge, the architect responsible for the Church. It also includes descriptions and floorplans of the Chapel and the Church and details of the memorials, metalwork, stonework, woodwork, textiles, paintings, library, windows and miscellaneous items (including the organ and other musical instruments, etc) identified in each building.

2. St James Anglican Church, Menangle

This second Church Recording project commenced in August 2015 and was completed in June 2017, with six of the original group of volunteers now joined by seven enthusiastic new members.

The village of Menangle was established in 1850, populated mainly by workers on the Macarthur's Camden Park Estate. In 1871, church services began in the small Menangle village schoolhouse, with Elizabeth Macarthur Onslow and her husband Captain Arthur Onslow, RN as church wardens. In response to a movement to build a new church, the Macarthur

family set aside some of their land on the crest of a hill overlooking the growing village for this purpose and also land for a right of way from Menangle Road.

The history of the Church is an interesting story in itself. It was built in two stages, the first stage being the simple rectangular nave, commenced in 1875 and completed in 1876. The nave has been attributed by some to architect John Horbury Hunt but no documentary evidence could be found to support that claim. Available documents show that the nave was, in fact, constructed by a local contractor, Thomas McBeath, using locally made bricks for the walls.

In 1896, Elizabeth Macarthur Onslow decided that extensions should be made to this small nave church as a memorial to her parents, family and her late husband Arthur Onslow, who had died in 1882. She engaged the prominent Sydney architect, John Sulman, to design a chancel, apse, bell tower, organ chamber and vestry to be added on to the northern end of the existing building. Her instruction was to design 'a very English church' and these extensions were completed in 1897 with the interior being completed in the following year.

These rather beautiful extensions exhibit a high level of design and workmanship. The square bell tower, which sits above the choir, is capped with a pyramid shaped roof, at the apex of which is a weather vane rather than a cross. The ringing chamber is reached by a 42-step narrow spiral stone staircase in a circular tower which has a steep conical roof. The belfry, which originally housed a single bell, now houses a peal of eight bells, and therein lies another story. The original bell has been retired and is now stored in the ringing chamber, along with its ringing mechanism. The roof of the semicircular apse is semi-conical and replacement of the roof tiles some years ago revealed the helical arrangement of the timberwork beneath.



The rather spectacular extensions to the north of the nave, completed in 1898



The nave church completed in 1876

The interior of the extensions is marked by fine workmanship, particularly the paneling and the parclose separating the vestry from the choir. Jim English, a local tradesman, and Francis Dickon, cabinetmaker, of 301 Kent St Sydney, have been credited with 'much of the beautiful woodwork in the chancel and apse'. The apse is also graced by a rather spectacular copper and brass sanctuary lamp and a series of small heraldic shields.



Copper & brass sanctuary lamp

Those ten heraldically decorated metal shields are evenly spaced around the top sections of the paneling in the apse and below each is an inscription in gold lettering providing details of the 'owner' of the shield. The five shields to the left of the apse represented Arthur Onslow and some of his antecedents. Those to the right represented Elizabeth Macarthur and some of her antecedents. The details in the

inscriptions enabled lineages or partial family trees going back four or five generations to be constructed for both Arthur Onslow and Elizabeth Macarthur (Onslow).

There were many other items of interest for the Recording group, including the Bryceson and Bryceson organ, one of only two in Australia known to be manufactured by that firm, the splendid woodwork and furnishings and the windows – although not as spectacular as those in St Paul’s Cobbitty, still with their own stories to tell.

The recording exercise along the same lines as for St Paul’s Cobbitty was completed as a printed and bound 167 page full colour illustrated volume in June 2017.



Church Recording Group, St James Menangle

Back row: Frank O’Brien, Paul Gregson, Peter Claxton. **Front row:** Juliet Warrand, Marion Marriott, Patricia Johnston, Gay Wilson, Annette Murchie, Sylvia Robinson.

Insets: Jo Carr, Ray Herbert, Veronie Martin, Lynda Moon

Patricia Johnston and her volunteer Church Recorders can be justly proud of their achievements preserved forever in the two Records they produced. Copies of both Records have been lodged in the National Archive Canberra, The Royal Historic Society, Sydney, The Sydney Anglican Diocesan Archive and the respective Church and Camden Historical Society. ADFAS Camden has also retained a copy of each volume in its archives.

Seen at Vivienne Lawes’ lecture on July 6
Gaudi – Master Builder of Barcelona



Margaret Bowring
Anna Hocking
Glenys McKenzie



Jo Wong
Carla Hill



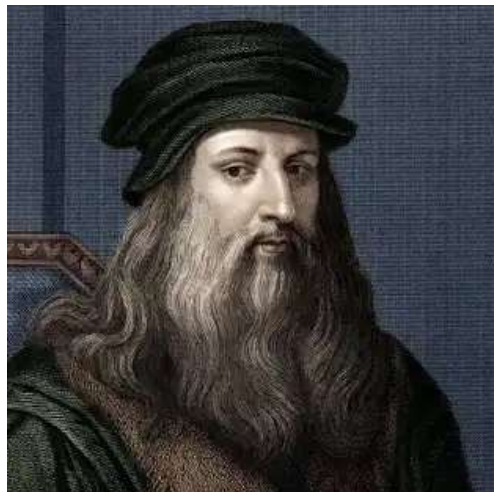
Julie Warrand, Nola Tegel



and at Andrew Hopkins’ lecture on August 3
The Guggenheims, NY, Venice, Bilbao

ANSWERS TO ART QUIZ

1. Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci ((1452-1519). He was an Italian polymath of the High Renaissance who was active as a painter, draughtsman, engineer, scientist, theorist, sculptor, and architect. He didn't go to school, wrote in reverse, dissected corpses, and had a likely IQ of 180+.



6. The pig leader was named Napoleon.



7. 'The Red Vineyards near Arles' is among Vincent van Gogh's most dramatically coloured Provençal landscapes, but it is also famed for being the only painting that the artist sold whilst still alive. It went for 400 francs (then \$30) at a Brussels exhibition in 1890, four months before his suicide.

8. Jeff Widener was a nominated finalist for the 1990 Pulitzer after taking the photograph below on 5 June 1989 when the 'Tank Man' bravely stood in front of Chinese tanks during what has become known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre when hundreds of peacefully protesting students were killed by their own military.



2. Han van Meegeren (1889–1947) was considered a mediocre Dutch painter. However, he made a fortune by replicating famous paintings by Vermeer and selling them as originals to the Nazis during WW2. Among the many he duped was Hermann Göring, Hitler's deputy!
3. A painting of a pig with human-like figures in an Indonesian cave is at least 50,000 years old, making it the earliest known example of narrative art in the world.
4. Much of Antoni Gaudí's career as an architect was occupied with the initial construction of the Sagrada Família (see below) together with Park Güell, Casa Milà, and Casa Batlló, all in Barcelona, Spain.



9. The 'Shrine of Democracy' is located at Mount Rushmore, USA, and features the faces of four American presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

10. This bizarre dwelling is called 'The Upside-Down House' and is located in Szymbark, Poland. Visitors can stand on the ceiling and the entrance is through one of the attic windows. It is meant to symbolize how Communism turned life upside down in Poland

5. David Bowie (1947-2016) is regarded as one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. Bowie was acclaimed by critics and musicians, particularly for his innovative work during the 1970s.

Oft' Retired Editor

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