



Friends Newsletter

First, apologies to everyone for the hiatus in our keeping in touch with the Friends. Hopefully, we will do better in the New Year.

Bridget

It is with much sadness that I have to tell you that Bridget, wife of the Warden died on Friday, 22nd July this year. She had been unwell for much of last year, but seemed to recover in the late Autumn. However, just before Christmas she became ill again and was finally taken into the Princess Royal Hospital on the 25th May. She was unable to return home.

Bridget never sought the limelight, but was very much part of the backbone of the College. She instituted the residents' Christmas Carol Services; re-established the Friends of Sackville College with the help of Stan and Edith Smith; arranged, with the help of The Revd Canon Clive Everett-Allen, for weddings to take place in the College Chapel; organised annually the Friends' Lunch (and did most of the cooking); worked quietly in the background on big event days. Bridget also thought of having, and popularised, the public Christmas Carol Evenings, with her decorations of greenery and coloured candle lights, followed by tea, coffee or cocoa to remedy the chill of the Chapel. Anything (within reason) to raise money for the College. Always cheerful, she will be sorely missed.

A sincere thankyou to all Friends and friends who attended Bridget's funeral service and to those who sent cards and letters. It was much appreciated.

Mary Jo Farrar

It was also with sadness that we sent our condolences to Douglas Farrar. His wife, Mary Jo, died at home on the 22nd July, after a long illness.

Mary Jo always seemed cheerful, kind and warm hearted, even during times that must have been difficult for her.

Douglas and Mary Jo have been loyal Friends of the College for many years, giving help in various ways.

Douglas served as a much valued Trustee of Sackville College for a long period, only retiring at the end of 2002 to spend more time with Mary Jo.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Douglas at this time.



South East in Bloom

Stephen Pearson, gardener and handyman at Sackville College has done it again! He has won a Special Award for the College gardens, which he received from the Town Mayor at a presentation at the Meridian Hall, East Court on Friday, 7th October.

The Judges were very impressed by the gardens; particularly the Quadrangle, the neatness of all the hedges and lawns and the plants to attract butterflies in a section of the vegetable garden.

Stephen won an award two years ago and two awards the year before that.

I'm sure that we will all want to congratulate Stephen for winning this year's Special Award.



Friends' Secretary

After six years in this position, Beth Chase Grey has found it necessary to retire. This voluntary post is not an easy one; particularly the collecting and keeping account of all the subscriptions and the list of Friends up to date. Beth carried out all the tasks superbly and we thank her so very much for all that she has done for the College over the years.

Fortunately, Beth is still continuing as a Sackville College Guide. Thankyou Beth, we need you and look forward to seeing you again soon.

It is not easy to find the right person to fill the above position. However, very fortunately Steve and Caroline Metcalfe have come forward and offered to fill the post. Thankyou, both of you; we are truly grateful.

Steve and Caroline have been associated with the College for many years. Caroline is a very knowledgeable Guide and Steve, a man of many talents, regularly helps the College in any way he can.

No doubt Friends will be hearing from Steve and Caroline soon.

Fire Safety

As some of you may know, the year before last the College had a visit from an officer of the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, who came to check the fire precautions and procedures required now by law. In many areas our procedures were satisfactory; regular Fire Drills, fire extinguishers etc. However, it was considered that the fire alarm system, although working, didn't meet the latest requirements. Also, we needed emergency lighting and a Fire Safety Risk Assessment. Fortunately, David Heasman, who has always been a loyal supporter of Sackville College and a director of Grinstead Safety Services Ltd, came to the rescue. David and his co-director, Angelo Errigo (an ex-fire brigade Chief Officer) produced an excellent Fire Risk Assessment for the College and helped us choose a company to fit the new alarm system that conformed with the law. Horror of Horrors, it cost the College approximately £20,000! A considerable blow to our funds. The emergency lighting is just about to be fitted at a further cost of around £6,000. We will then fully comply, until the next set of laws.

The Friends' Lunch

The above has been one of the main reasons why we haven't been able to have the Friends' Lunch. We were unable to use the West Room because it didn't comply. The Common Room is usually used as well. However, when the West Room does comply, we will only be able to have 40 people in the room at one time because the staircase down isn't considered wide enough for more people in an emergency. The Friends' Lunch problems will be on the agenda of the next Friends' meeting. We hope that Friends may be able to come up with some solutions. We haven't yet. Please see the back page for forthcoming events.

High Fashion at Sackville College

Fashion came to Sackville College when on Sunday, 4th September, a Fashion Show was staged here in aid of the College Charity. It was organised by the High Street business Wear It Again Sam, owned by Fiona Friend, and the models were recruited from around the town to show off the vintage clothes from the 1920s to the 1980s. The models practiced beforehand and on the day looked splendid in clothes that were obviously chosen to suit the individuals.

However, the star of the show was Mrs Alice Purdey, a 99 year old resident of the College. Fiona Friend said "I asked Mrs Purdey if she would be a model after seeing her around the town (she always looks so glamorous) and she said that she would do it". Mrs Purdey stole the show and the audience stood and applauded. The show was followed by a cream tea served on and in vintage plates, cups and saucers. A raffle was also held of donated prizes, including some of the clothes, whilst live music was

provided by The Corellis.

We are so grateful to Fiona and all her models, organisers and helpers. Also, our thanks to Bill Rolfe, Director of The Market Square, who gave a short talk on wines; and the many local businesses and individuals who contributed. The total raised for the College was £518.00.



SACKVILLE COLLEGE

PATRON	THE EARL DE LA WARR
TRUSTEES	GRAHAM GAISBURGH-WATKYN THE COUNTESS DE LA WARR THE REV CANON CLIVE EVERETT-ALLEN 01342 323307
WARDEN	GRAHAM GAISBURGH-WATKYN 01342 326561
CHAPLAIN	THE REV CANON CLIVE EVERETT-ALLEN
ALMONER	SANDRA O'DWYER (OFFICE) 01342 323414
HEAD GUIDES	ANN AND GRAHAM EDWARDS
FRIENDS SECRETARIES	STEVE & CAROLINE METCALFE
HON ORGANIST	DIANA HARRIS
GENERAL MIRACLE WORKER	STEPHEN PEARSON

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIENDS MEETING	TUES 22 ND NOVEMBER 7.30PM PLEASE COME WE WILL REVIVE YOU WITH COFFEE, ETC., DURING AND AFTERWARDS
FRIENDS' CAROL EVENING IN THE CHAPEL/PARTY	MON 5 TH DECEMBER 7.30PM
PUBLIC CAROL EVENING INCL. TEA/COFFEE/NIBBLES £4.00 CHILDREN £1.00 (RAY LARGE WILL BE SINGING)	MON 12 TH DECEMBER 7.30PM PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO BE SURE OF A SEAT
PUBLIC CAROL EVENING WITH CHOIR SINGING CHRISTMAS SONGS/CAROLS WITH AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION DURING CAROLS INCL. REFRESHMENTS £5.00 CHILDREN £1.00	WED 21 ST DECEMBER 7.30PM PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO BE SURE OF A SEAT

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY OUR COMING EVENTS AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

REGISTERED CHARITY 220488