



Friends Newsletter

Together with this newsletter please find enclosed a renewal notice or confirmation of membership details. It will help us to keep you up to date on College affairs if you could supply an email address.

EGM

We would like to invite you to a Extraordinary General meeting of the Friends to be held on Tuesday 1st May at 7:30pm in the College Common Room to help form a small committee to assist in the organization of College events and fund raising.

SPRING

What a blessing and a joy it has been to awake, the last ten days or so, and witness the amazing sun rises. The best being Monday morning, the 1st of April, when the huge orange globe rose up out of the ground mist of the Forest, changed colour, and gradually flooded the sky with brilliant white light. Spring had arrived; regardless of the fact that we are now threatened with snow!

Spring is bringing in many new things to look forward to at Sackville College. Firstly, having refurbished two flats, we will be joined by two new Residents. No doubt a Coffee Morning will be arranged to welcome them, and help to make them feel at home.

Also, at the end of April, a local young couple are to be married in our Chapel, and their reception will be held here in the Dining Hall. We wish them every happiness for their very special day, and in the future. We have another wedding booked for later in the year.

Then we will have May Day. As usual, we will be open from 10.00am until 5.00pm. A great opportunity to see the College again, and enjoy morning coffee or afternoon tea. We hope to have a Bric a Brac stall and a book stall again this year. So please come and see what treasures you can find.

BACK TO PRE CHRISTMAS.

Moving back to December, many of you will know that as usual, we had our two public Candlelight Carol Evenings in the Chapel. Both were enjoyed by all who attended, and were fully booked.

The second Carol Evening was a special treat for, not only did we have our own melodious voices, we also had those of the two excellent choirs who sang for us at intervals.

The evening was organised for us by Glynda Rendell, who brought along The Clockhouse Singers from Forest Row, and East Grinstead's Five in a Bar. It was a wonderful evening, and was followed by light refreshments, as usual, in the Common Room.

Glynda sings with both choirs, and also with the St Swithuns choir. Thankyou so much Glynda.

MRS ALICE PURDEY

One rather sad thing that occurred during early December was that Mrs Purdey, our 99 year old resident, decided to leave Sackville College to live nearer her son and daughter-in-law in Somerset.

Mrs Purdey had been at the College for approximately twenty-six years, and was well known around the town as a friendly person who dressed very stylishly. Many didn't realise her

age because of her sprightliness. Some of you may know that she took part as a model in last Autumn's fashion show at the College, staged by 'Wear It Again Sam'. She received a standing ovation, and really enjoyed herself.

We all miss Mrs Purdey. However, she hopes to be able to return for her 100th birthday party at Sackville College.

Emergency Lighting.

I am pleased to be able to say that, at long last, the new Emergency Lighting has been installed. The cost was approximately £6,000. (Another heavy blow to our finances). However, hopefully, we now fully comply with the regulations.

SACKVILLE COLLEGE CONCERT.

Friends will be pleased to learn that we are having another Autumn Concert this year.

Margaret Watson, the well-known harpist who recently appeared at Chequer Mead, has agreed to come and play at Sackville College. She is very kind to us, and we are very grateful.

Margaret plays many different types of music from Bach, ballads, pop and the London shows. She is a great entertainer, and wears the most gorgeous dresses which she often changes during the interval. There will probably be supporting performers as well.

The Concert will be at 7.30pm on Friday, 28th September. More details will be available nearer the time. Please look out for the posters around the Town and in the Library. Definitely not to be missed!

Web Presence

The College now has a new Website at <http://www.sackvillecollege.com/>

with pages for Friends and Events. We are also on 'twitter' so look out for our tweets and help us get more followers!

This Years' Events and Helping

We are starting this year with an Open Day on Spring Sunday followed by May Day. We may also open when the Olympic Torch passes the College in July. For all of these events we rely on Friends and Helpers to man the gate, souvenir stall and other stalls that we may run, or assisting the Guides with welcoming visitors. We are always pleased to have more people to help, so if you feel that you could spend an hour or so helping at such times then please let either the Head Guides or Secretaries know. Another way of contributing, for those who are keen bakers, is to provide cakes for the tea room that we have on open days and which is very popular with visitors.

WE NEED YOU!

As a Friend, you are clearly someone who is interested in Sackville College, so why not become a guide, learn more about the history

and then tell visitors about it.

Sackville College is open to the public from mid June to mid September, on Wednesday to Sunday afternoons 2 – 5pm, for guided tours. Guides volunteer to be on duty on afternoons which suit them. New guides are given comprehensive notes and accompany experienced guides.

Alternatively, you could become one of our band of helpers who provide refreshments when group tours take place and on Open Days.

Please contact us for more information; we would love to hear from you:

Graham and Ann Edwards

01342 322994

From the archives

The College has a long history of financial hardship In *The History, Antiquities and Topography of the County of Sussex* by Thomas Walker Horsfield, F.S.A., published by Sussex Press, Lewes in 1835 we find the following:-

From 1637 to about 1684 many suits at law were instituted between the purchasers of such estates, manors, &c. (which had been sold by the said Earl Richard) and the pensioners of the college; such purchasers contending that no understanding, covenant, or provision was given or made in their respective conveyances to render them liable to any proportionate part to be paid by them to the college, either under the will, decree, or otherwise; so that on the hearing of these cases they were decided against the claims of the college, and the sum of 113*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* thereby extinguished, leaving only 216*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* for its future support, namely, from the year 1684, or thereabouts, to the present time.

It was subsequently considered that so great a deficiency in the revenue, and dividing the sum of 216*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* among the original number of persons named in the founder's will was totally inadequate for their maintenance and support; consequently, under the sanction and direction of the former patrons and the present, the numbers have been gradually reduced to the present establishment from 1813, and their pay accordingly augmented with a view of increasing their individual comfort, and to keep them if possible from the assistance of parochial aid. The revenue or rent charge of 216*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* is the amount received for the support of the college for nearly 150 years, without any diminution, misapplication, or addition whatsoever, and from such persons who from time to time are possessed of the fee of such estates, manors, &c. as were apportioned, and remaining available under the decree.

However it should be noted that the college no longer has any land to generate income!!

SACKVILLE COLLEGE

PATRON

THE EARL DE LA WARR

TRUSTEES

GRAHAM GAISBURGH-WATKYN

THE COUNTESS DE LA WARR

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FRIENDS SECRETARIES	STEVE & CAROLINE METCALFE	01342 312722 metcas2@gmail.com
HON ORGANIST	DIANA HARRIS	
GENERAL MIRACLE WORKER	STEPHEN PEARSON	

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIENDS MEETING EGM	TUES 1st May 7.30PM PLEASE COME WE WILL REVIVE YOU WITH COFFEE,
MAY DAY	MONDAY 7 th May COLLEGE OPEN FROM 10AM TO 4PM

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

REGISTERED CHARITY 220488