



Friends' Newsletter



The Leopard has been brought down from the tower and is now resting in the Dining Hall.

News from the Warden

Having recently returned from Venice where the temperature rose to 42c, the near arctic conditions at Gatwick came as quite a shock.

However, in between the rainy days since, we have had some very pleasant sunny ones, bringing a number of visitors to the College. In fact, I believe that this year has brought a record number of visitors. We certainly have had more groups of people than in the last four to five years. With all the repairs to be carried out, this is very good news.

It was with much sadness that the College said goodbye to the Rev'd Canon Clive Everett-Allen at the July Chapel Service. As many of you will already know, Clive has now retired, after many years as the Vicar of St Swithuns, chaplain of Sackville College and a valued Trustee. He and his dear wife Cynthia (always known as Cyn!) have now moved to York. The College presented Canon Clive with a rather nice framed picture of the interior of the Chapel as a memento, and a card wishing them both many years of happiness in their new home.

Being one Trustee down, we were very lucky in persuading Mr Christopher Rolley to join the Board of Trustees. Until his recent retirement, Mr Rolley had been East Grinstead's Town Clerk for many years, and has wide experience in Committee and Trustee workings. Also, he has always been a firm supporter of the College, recognising its value within the ageing community in the town.

Chris was given his official welcome to the Board of Trustees at his first meeting in July, and I am sure that he will prove to be a great asset to Sackville College.

Earlier this year, Waitrose very kindly offered to send volunteers to the College for two or three days to do anything we didn't have the time or staff to do. We suggested the unenviable task of wire brushing all the quadrangle oak doors and treating them with boiled linseed oil. This they agreed to do. Firstly one young lady arrived, and later another.

They were kitted out with paper boiler suits, and given the necessary tools and oil. Within three days they had finished all the doors. Apart from preserving the wood, the doors look so much

better. They had been bleached by the sun for some years.

A very big thank you to the lady volunteers who were so nice and worked so cheerfully on this not very pleasant task. Also, of course, another big thank you to Waitrose for sparing them. Waitrose does try to help the community, as can be seen by the little green discs in the charity collection boxes for local organisations. Again, thank you Waitrose.

During the afternoon of Tuesday 21st July Mr George Allard, a resident of Sackville College, gave an amazing demonstration of flower arranging. It was an event open to the public and all the tickets were quickly sold. Mr Allard is well known for his expertise in producing the most beautiful arrangements, and also does flower arrangements for our Chapel services, and elsewhere.

Everyone had a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. At the end of it, the set arrangements he made were raffled. This event raised over £600, and our sincere thanks go to Mr Allard; in particular, at this time when the College needs so much money for repairs.

Earlier this year Graham and Ann Edwards told me that at the end of this year they would like to retire as joint Head Guides. They became Head Guides seven years ago, when Elke Wagstaff retired, and only as a temporary stopgap until someone else was found. Seven years is a very long stint in a temporary post, and I thank them so very much for all that they have done. Not only for organising the rotas and liaising with visiting groups, but also personally filling the gaps when no guides were available. Last year, I think they covered more than thirty days! So very kind and loyal to the College.

Thank you both again. I will add that they will be continuing to guide.

Until we find a replacement, the organising of guides/visitors etc, will be done in the College office.

I am pleased to be able to say that there has been

a move forward regarding the reinstatement of the Leopard and the repairs to the roof. It looks now as though the insurance company may be paying for the storm damage following the visit of an independent loss adjuster. So we hope that the repairs, and the reseating of the Leopard, may be done before winter sets in.

News

Friends' Lunch



A very enjoyable Lunch was held in the Dining room at the end of May and was attended by over 20 people. The support of the Friends is much

appreciated by the Warden and those at the College.

Concert



Again we were lucky to have "No Strings Attached" performing for us. It was a sell-out evening with the Common Room full to capacity. After the first set refreshments were served in the Dining Hall and there was an opportunity to look at the Leopard, who was brought down earlier in the year.



Forthcoming Events

Fundraising Dinner

Once again CJ's, in the High Street have kindly offered to host a Charity evening which will be on Monday 2nd November at 7pm, in aid of Sackville College. Tickets are £16 per head and available from the College Office on weekday mornings. We have chosen the theme of 'Dad's Army', but dressing up is optional! We will have a raffle. Donations of items suitable for raffle prizes would be most welcome and can be taken to the College Office.

Carols

The Carol Evening for Friends and Guides will be on Tuesday 15th December at 7:30pm

Public Carols will be on Monday 7th December at 7:30pm, Tickets £5

Public Carols with 'Cantu Amici' will be on Wednesday 9th December at 7:30pm, Tickets £7.50

Carol evenings will be followed by light Christmas refreshments

From the Archives

The departure of Clive, a much loved Chaplain and Trustee of Sackville College, has reminded us that relations between previous Wardens of Sackville College and Vicars of St Swithun's church were not always so harmonious!

Christopher Neville, Vicar from 1835-48, favoured High Church practices such as chanting during

services. Whilst Neville was Vicar, the family of John Mason Neale used to attend the parish church on Sundays in the morning and afternoon, walking across at the head of the Residents of Sackville College, for whom 4 pews were reserved. The grounds of the Vicarage used to be open to the Neale family. On Christmas Day, 1846, Neale had hoped to help Neville with services but because it was bitterly cold, he did not dare 'sit so long without a respirator'.

All this changed with the new Vicar in 1848. John Netherton Harward was evangelical, which may have suited the parish at the time. The Neale family ceased to attend St Swithun's church. Mrs Neale wrote to Harward, criticising the way he took services, claiming that he did not say the full words of administration at the Holy Communion, that he read prayers extremely slowly and preached very long sermons. Harward replied to Mrs Neale 'I pity your want of humility'.

Another flash point between the 2 men was the Crimean War of 1853-56. This war was fought against Russia, to protect Christians in the Holy Land. John Mason Neale believed that the British were fighting on the wrong side. He was very interested in Russia and its church. This war fuelled further ill feeling between Neale and Vicar Harward, one of whose sons, Lieutenant George Sisson Harward, fought with distinction in the Crimea at the Battle of Inkerman

Harward disliked the arrangements made by Neale for the funerals of Residents of Sackville College. The custom at St Swithun's was to have men carrying the coffin underneath a black pall that reached below their knees, described by Neale's son as 'staggering along in the dark, like a monstrous 12 legged centipede'. For Sackville College residents who died, Neale introduced a bier or trolley to bear the coffin and a purple pall embroidered with one or more crosses. The embroidery was stitched by Lady Amherst and Lady de La Warr, the 2 Lady co-patronesses of the College, sisters of the late 4th Duke of Dorset. Neale also introduced kennel shaped coffins, with crosses. Vicar Harward, wrote to the Bishop

saying that the novelty of these coffins attracted undue attention, that he thought such a 'blockhead' as Neale 'beneath his notice'. He referred to 'Mr Neale's fancy papistical mountebankism', and said that he would not 'allow my churchyard to be made the theatre for his Punch'. The Bishop's Chancellor replied that Harward could hardly refuse to bury a parishioner 'on account of the colour and fashion of the funeral pall', so Harward had to put up with Neale's ways.

John Mason Neale had a difficult time as Warden and from 1847 was inhibited by the Bishop of Chichester from celebrating Divine Worship and the exercise of clerical functions within the diocese, because the Bishop objected to Neale's 'spiritual haberdashery'. This was the sort of story that sold newspapers in the 1850s. The Brighton Gazette spent 10 years persecuting Neale. Vicar

Harward told this newspaper that at Sackville College 'Not a single room has been furnished...the money has all been laid out in gew-gaw Popish chapel ornaments and a fine belfry of bells, which annoy me from morning till night.' Neale's reaction was: 'These are libels; I pray God forgive the author as I do'.

The Bishop of Chichester finally lifted the inhibition on John Mason Neale in 1863. Harward's successor was the Reverend John Peat, Vicar 1863-71, who had much more in common with John Mason Neale. Neale wrote in 1864 'The new Vicar, Peat, and I get on very well.'

Neale's last three years were happier, with the Sisterhood growing, a foundation stone laid for the Convent, and a good relationship with the Vicar of St Swithun's.

Sackville College

Patron	The Earl De La Warr	
Trustees	Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn The Countess De La Warr Chris Rolley	
Sackville College Office	Open Weekday mornings	01342 323414
Almoner: Mrs Linda Bryant		admin@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Warden	Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn	01342 326561
Chaplain	St Swithun's team ministry	
Head Guides	Graham and Ann Edwards	01342 322994
Friends' Secretaries	Steve and Caroline Metcalfe	01342 312722 metcas2@gmail.com
Honorary Organist	Diana Harris	
General Miracle Worker	Stephen Pearson	

Important Dates for Your Diary 2015

Monday 2 nd November	Fundraising Dinner at CJ's £16 per head	Tickets from Office
Monday 7 th December 7:30pm	Public Carols in the Chapel £5 adult £1 Child	Tickets from Office
Wednesday 9 th December 7:30pm	Public Carols with 'Cantu Amici' in the Chapel £7.50	Tickets from Office
Tuesday 15 th December 7:30pm	Carols for Friends & Guides in the Chapel	

We hope you enjoy our coming events and look forward to seeing you

Notes

We have used email addresses where possible to save printing and postage costs. But if you would like a printed copy as well please collect one from the College office, weekday mornings only.