



Friends' Newsletter



Three very successful Carol Concerts were held in the Chapel in December with Diana Harris playing the Organ for the Friends' Carols and the first public Carol Concert which was very well attended. Our grateful thanks go to Diana for her continued support to Sackville College and its music.

The third Concert was organised by Glynda Rendell & Jane Clifford, along with friends and three Clifford Gentlemen, who performed a variety of festive music in a packed Chapel.

Special thanks must go to the Warden's daughters for providing delicious refreshments at all 3 carol concerts.

Dates for 2013

AGM

The Annual General meeting of the Friends will be held on Friday 3rd May at 7:30pm in the College Common Room. We hope you will be able to attend

Friends' Lunch

We will hold a Lunch for Friends on June 8th at Midday. The format will be different this year and we would ask Friends to bring food and/or drink to share. The lunch will be followed by a short talk given by Caroline Metcalfe comparing Sackville College with a fifteenth-century company

almshouse in the City of London.

If the Weather is kind to us we will try and use the courtyard for the lunch, so please bring chairs to sit on if you can.

Please RSVP to the Warden by the end of May.

SACKVILLE COLLEGE CONCERT.

Friends will be pleased to learn that we are having another Autumn Concert on 27th September at 7:30pm. Marion Small will perform traditional English music with Bernard Gillbard reading Cornish verse. Tickets will be £10 (£9 for Friends) and will include light refreshments

News from the Warden

The Snow

I awakened this morning by the cawing of the crow family who live in a tree in the College grounds. I thought, "the cawing crow does to the snow complain", (my apologies to Thomas Gray and his Elergy). Yes, it was snowing yet again!

During the previous falls of snow Stephen, our miracle worker, was out in the freezing Quadrangle at about 7.30am each morning sweeping the paths and salting them. One day, he cleared them three times due to the blowing snow. A big "thankyou" to Stephen, much appreciated.

On the Saturday night, it snowed very heavily, and Sunday morning the drifts in the South East corner of the Quadrangle were about two feet deep. Stephen was out there again, and so this time he was joined by the G-W back-up team (Rachel, Alice and me). Alice said, not too convincingly as she pulled on her gloves, that it was like a Rupert adventure. The girls had been brainwashed by Rupert Bear books at a very early age.

Later, over a steaming mug of reviving tea, I reflected how beautiful the feathery frost patterns used to be on the window panes, before the advent of central heating: Something that John Mason Neale may have seen as he looked out towards a snow covered Ashdown Forest, and penned the words of Good King Wenceslas.

Thankyou

I wish to say a very special "thankyou" to Graham and Ann Edwards, our joint Head Guides, and Steve and Caroline Metcalfe, joint Friends' Secretaries.

Thankyou for all that you do throughout the year to ensure that the visitors' visits and the Friends' organisation run

smoothly. Also, the many other tasks carried out which are too numerous to name.

Your loyalty and devotion to Sackville College is very much appreciated; as is all the help given by the Guides, Helpers and Friends.

Members, Guides and Helpers

We are always in need of new Friends so please pass on details to those who might be interested in joining.

Graham and Ann Edwards, who run the Guides & Helpers team are always very pleased to welcome new people. If you think you can spare time during the College opening times to be a guide or helper, please contact them on 01342 322994

John Mason Neale on Railways

As we now have the Bluebell Railway at East Grinstead, it seems appropriate to include John Mason Neale's description of his first experience of a train ride.

(Taken from "Doing the Impossible – A Short Historical Sketch of St Margaret's Convent, East Grinstead 1855-1980")

In a letter to a friend, in 1855, in which Neale was commenting on the progress of the Sisterhood, he wrote:

"Here I was interrupted by a message that an engine was at the station and I might have a ride to Three Bridges if I liked. I went down, and we ran over in 12 minutes! Just fancy that! Riding on an engine is unspeakably delightful!"

Editorial: As the Three Bridges to East Grinstead Line was opened in 1855 it is quite possible that John Mason Neale was invited to ride on the footplate of an engine..

Extract from The Gentleman's Magazine Volume XXX Dec 1848

SACKVILLE COLLEGE, EAST GRINSTEAD.

This college was founded by Robert Sackville, second Earl of Dorset, by his will bearing date February 8th, 1609, and is one of the most liberal foundations which have their origin in the reformed Church of England. In 1631 it received a charter from King Charles I. with a corporate seal, and the statutes were confirmed and authorised by Act of Parliament. The establishment consists of a warden, two assistant wardens (who are householders resident in or near the town), six brethren, and six sisters. Besides these, six poor widows are accommodated with rooms, but derive no further advantage from the institution.

The college is most beautifully situated on gently rising ground to the east of the town. It commands an extensive view over the rich and varied country from Reigate to beyond Tunbridge Wells, and is a very picturesque building, grouping admirably with the surrounding objects, and more especially with the tower of the parish church, from every point of view. It is built of the grey sandstone of the country, in the form of a quadrangle, inclosing a spacious court carpeted with the softest turf, which is intersected by cross walks of brick. The southern half of the building contains the rooms appropriated to the brethren and sisters. The chapel, in the centre of the east side, divides them from the warden's lodgings, which occupy the north-east corner, and separated by the great hall from the Dorset lodgings in the north-west, so called from having been set apart for the reception and accommodation of the founder and his family. These apartments are divided from those of the collegians by the wood-house and a large room over it, corresponding to and opposite the chapel. In the north-west corner of the court stands the well, an ivy-covered edifice surmounted by a cross, and bearing on the north the inscription—

'Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again; but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst;' and on the south—"O ye wells, bless ye the Lord! praise Him and magnify Him for ever." This has been erected by the present warden in the place of an unsightly pump, from a design by Mr. Butterfield, under whose direction all the other improvements and restorations have been carried on. Mr. Neale was appointed warden in 1846, and during the two years he has resided in the college has done much, by his influence with the patrons, and by his personal exertions, to repair the injury that had been done to the edifice by more than a century of neglect. The principal of these restorations has been the rebuilding of the hall at the expense of the patrons, the Earls de la Warr and Amherst. It was previously in a dreadful state of repair. The roof was dangerous, the ceiling had been plastered and white-washed till none of the timbers were to be seen, the belfry was two feet out of the perpendicular, the fireplace was walled up, the doors were of the meanest painted deal,—in short the whole building was in the last stage of decay. The south wall has been entirely rebuilt; the roof is altogether new, though the exact model of the old one; the screen has been cleaned from its repeated coats of white paint; the walls are panelled with old oak; and the only materials employed in all the works have been stone and the best oak. The belfry, which serves likewise for the chapel, has also been rebuilt, and two new bells have been given by the warden, and the old one recast at his expense. On Sundays and the principal festivals the brethren and sisters dine in this hall, together with four or six poor persons from the town, with the warden and his family. For these dinners the college makes no provision; they are entirely supported by voluntary contributions.

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	01342 322994
Friends Secretaries	Steve and Caroline Metcalfe metcas2@gmail.com	01342 312722
Honorary Organist	Diana Harris	
General Miracle Worker	Stephen Pearson	

Important Dates For Your Diary

Spring Sunday and Vintage Bus day	Sunday 14 th April 11:15am – 3:30pm
Friends' AGM	Friday 3rd May 19:30
May Day	Monday 6 th May
College opens to Visitors	Wednesday 12 th June 2pm
Friends Lunch	Saturday 8th June 12:00, RSVP to Warden by end of May please
College closes to Visitors	Sunday 15 th September
Concert by Marion Small	Friday 28 th September 7:30

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

Notes

Books

We have a box in the Common Room for second hand books. This seems to be popular with visitors. We hope to run a bookstall on our open days. If you have any books in good condition that you would like to donate, please bring them to the College or contact Steve Metcalfe

Communication

If you have received a printed copy of this newsletter and you have email it would save the College printing and postage costs if you could receive Newsletters and other communications electronically.

If you are willing to do this please email me, metcas2@gmail.com

If you could put "Sackville College Communication" as the subject it will help me!

Sackville College is now on Twitter as @SackvilleColl and on

Facbook <http://www.facebook.com/SackvilleCollege>

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