

# SACKVILLE COLLEGE



## Friends' Newsletter

Spring 2018

### News from the Warden

Dear Friends of Sackville College

I feel very privileged to be appointed the 32nd Warden of Sackville College and the first woman to hold the post. I studied Archaeology at the University of Kent and since 1999 I have been working as an Architectural Historian. I have a passion for old buildings and delving into their related histories. I have also been involved with children and adults with disabilities for over 30 years, promoting awareness, sitting on a wide range of committees and fund raising at a national level.

My husband, Brian, and I have a shared interest in historic buildings and museums; we visit places of interest whenever we can. Brian is a keen gardener and a dab hand at antique furniture restoration which I am sure will prove very useful. Our daughters and growing brood of grandchildren will be regular visitors when we move into The Lodging in a few months. We are presently trying (in vain sometimes!) to train our very excitable Jack Russell puppy, Daisy, to be less enthusiastic around people.

My father, Derek Chislett, was the Warden of Sackville College (1988-1996) and it is wonderful to follow in his footsteps.

I am looking forward to the conservation and preservation of this beautiful building for future generations to enjoy.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank The Friends of Sackville College for their support.

With kind regards to you all

Rosalind Crowther

### News

The passing of Warden Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn in November was very sad. We offer condolences to all his family. Graham came to Sackville College in 2003, with Bridget. Together they worked tirelessly to raise the profile of the College. Bridget began the Carol Evenings and having weddings in the Chapel. Bridget died in 2011, having 'devoted her last 8 years to Sackville College' as Graham recorded on her plaque in the Chapel. He carried on in her memory, helped greatly by their daughters Rachel and Alice. Latterly, their friends Steve and Bob have been a great help to Graham and to the College, too.

We welcome Mrs Crowther as the new Warden.

Thank you to Marcus Bryant, the new Maintenance Man, for all his energy, enthusiasm, interest in all to do with Sackville College, and for being so approachable.

Thank you to Linda Bryant, the Almoner, for keeping everything going at Sackville College during the illness of the Warden and after his death. Linda carries out the role so beautifully and in such a caring way.

We would like to thank Chris Rolley for all his hard work as Trustee, at this sad and difficult time during the Warden's illness and the interregnum.

Thank you to Mrs Tester for guarding the Common Room fire on the Carol evenings. Thank you to Mr Allard, Mrs Tester and Jane Hewitt for organising and arranging the flowers, greenery

and Christmas decorations in the Chapel and Common Room.



Three Carol evenings were held in the Chapel, with all seats sold. Thank you so much to Janet Gillbard for playing the organ for the Monday and Tuesday evenings, and to Andrew Clifford for playing the organ on the Friday at the Residents' service. Thank you to Andrew Clifford and to all the members of Cantu Amici for a delightful evening of Christmas music in December, and for the lovely Concert on January 24th, marking the actual 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday of John Mason Neale.

Thank you to Robin Whalley for his fascinating display of Neale and Sackville College pictures in the Common Room.

### ***CJ's Evening***

We had a marvellous evening at CJ's in November. The theme 'The Scarlet Pimpernel', was suggested by a Resident. The 3rd Duke of Dorset, who was Ambassador to France just before the French Revolution, may- or may not- have been the inspiration for Baroness Orczy's character. Thank you to Chris and Julie at CJ's for all their support, and to their Staff. Penny Fisher nobly undertook the Raffle, asking for items from the shops and organizing the Raffle on the night- thank you so much, Penny! Thank you to Friends and Guides who donated Raffle items and others

who brought their own friends along to the evening. Angela Cole, dressed in a shawl as Madame Defarge, with tricolour rosette and tricolour knitting, performed her limerick:

*In Paris a gallant Sackville called John  
Showed resourcefulness second to none  
He helped aristocrats escape, while citizens stood  
round agape*

*They hadn't a clue where they'd gone.*

The evening raised about £550 for Sackville



College. This was the fourth such evening. As Chris at CJ's pointed out, you have all helped raise over £2,000 for Sackville College. Thank you!

### **Article by Mr Leppard about Dr Henry Rogers in *The Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society***

It is interesting to read about Dr Rogers, the friend turned enemy of John Mason Neale. Mr Leppard scrutinised all the sources about Rogers available to him in Autumn 2017 and produced a comprehensive, thought-provoking and very fair account of the life and work of Dr Rogers. Since then, more information has come to light. We look forward to reading some more about Dr Rogers in the forthcoming *Bulletin*, number 121.

Copies of the Autumn 2017 *Bulletin* are available from Sackville College Office, price £1.

Mr Leppard has also written 'The Unregarded Sussex of JM Neale', published in *Sussex*

*Archaeological Collections* 155 (2017), 165-179. This should be available to read at the public Library. Mr Leppard presents and discusses what Neale 'saw, heard and appreciated in the county, in his writings'. Neale loved Sussex: he knew most counties of England, but, apart from the Lake District and Devonshire, could name none that were 'the equal of Sussex'. Neale's words conjured up 'old picturesque villages, cresting the steep brow of a hill, with quaintly wrought gables...grey walls with copings that could remember Bosworth or Flodden fields and were perhaps leant against by village politicians who were discussing the wonderful news from France ...venerable farms niched in on the southern side of some sunny hill...'. Mr Leppard's article includes extracts from Neale's novels and interesting illustrations, to show that Neale, who recorded much that was 'unregarded' about Sussex in his day, himself deserves lasting regard in this county.

## From the Archives:

In this anniversary year, 200 years since the birth of John Mason Neale, I include extracts from an unpublished letter of his, dated 1843, which came into my possession. Neale was by then married to Sarah, but they had no children, then. The couple spent 3 winters in Madeira, hoping to heal his weak chest. Here he began work on his *History of the Eastern Church* and continued with much other writing. On his last visit, he was given a puppy, Pombal, who became his constant companion. After Pombal's death he never owned another dog, and for 8 years he faithfully recorded the number of days since Pombal's death.

It was on a journey home from Madeira that the Neales stopped at Seville. He wrote in his Journal 'Up at 5 ½. 8 churches before breakfast.' This is a good example of his tremendous energy when well.

The letter is addressed to the Rev'd Thomas Grinfield (1788-1870).

Madeira St Lucia May 7 1843

My dear Mr Grinfield,

*I promised to send you an account of ourselves. I wish you could see us in our quarters, enjoying the addition, which we never before had, of a garden. You know Funchal, with the amphitheatre of mountains, from the pictures. Up the steep road which leads to the Mount church you would clatter along, between wide undressed walls of brown iron stone at the top of which run corridors of vines and roses, to the classical look out in the white gardens terraced up the mountains. I have seldom been more happy than on finding myself so well off, after our seven days voyage, of which we were most heartily sick. You cannot think how I pity your November fogs and the cold drizzly days and unending showers.*

*With my kind regards to Mrs Grinfield and yourself & all your family, I remain Ever yours truly, J. Neale.*

## Dates for your Diary

**Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2018, 3.30pm: Choral Evensong at St Swithun's Church**, followed by a procession to Neale's grave and a hymn in the Sackville College Chapel. Then in Sackville College tradition, there will be a tea party in the Common Room. May 27<sup>th</sup> is the date when Neale took up his appointment as Warden, in 1846, so this is a very appropriate date for this event.

## Guides

Sackville College needs more people to act as Guides for Visitors. If you know someone who would enjoy taking people round Sackville College, please ask them to contact the Almoner or the Warden.

## Accommodation Availability

There are flats available at the College. If you know of anyone who may be eligible, please contact the College Office for more details.

## News

Joyce Hart: Some Friends may remember Joyce Hart, who has died. She was a Sackville College Guide for about 20 years and a lovely lady. In her time, before Health and Safety rules became so stringent, Guides used to take visitors up into the Minstrels' Gallery, to look down on the Dining Hall. Joyce left this area to go to Scotland to be near one of her sons.

Sackville College is grateful for the obsolete and foreign currency donated by supporters of the College, church people and others, for sale in aid of College funds. Since May 2012, almost £250 has been raised. Some remains in hand and the appeal is still open. The College can also accept cigarette cards and tea cards, for sale for College funds.

---

## Sackville College

Patron	The Earl De La Warr	
Trustees	The Countess De La Warr Mr Christopher J Rolley	
Sackville College Office	Open Weekday mornings 9am-1pm	01342 323414
Almoner	Mrs Linda Bryant	admin@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Warden	Mrs Rosalind Crowther	Via Office 01342 323414 warden@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Chaplain	The Rev'd. Andrew Hawken	St Swithun's Church
Head Guides	Contact the Office- Mrs Linda Bryant	01342 323414
Friends' Secretaries & Newsletter Editors	Steve and Caroline Metcalfe	01342 312722 friends@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Maintenance	Marcus Bryant	

### Important Dates for Your Diary 2018 (Friends' Events)

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 7:30	AGM for Friends in the Common Room	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	East Grinstead Lions: May Fair. College Open 11:00 – 16:00 All help welcome!	Reduced Admission price
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 3.30pm	Choral Evensong at <b>St Swithun's, 3.30pm</b> , followed by procession to John Mason Neale's grave and tea at Sackville College.	Public event
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> June from 12.30pm	Friends' Lunch in the Dining Hall Bring and share format With music from Cantu Amici	Please let Steve or Caroline know if you wish to attend

We hope that you will 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 (open on weekday mornings, 9am- 1 pm).