

# SACKVILLE COLLEGE



Friends' Newsletter  
**Autumn 2024**



*Friends' BBQ 21st July 2024*

## News from the Warden

Dear Friends of Sackville College

The days are getting colder, the nights are drawing in but there is so much to look forward to with our Christmas programme of events. This includes our traditional Carol Concerts and an enchanting evening with Cantu Amici. We are looking forward to greeting our supporters old and new.

We bid a fond farewell and our grateful thanks to our retiring Trustee, Chris Rolley; after 9 years of valuable service to the College. His knowledge and expertise will be sadly missed. Please join me in welcoming our new Trustee, Frazer Visser, who is a familiar figure in East Grinstead.

I send you all warmth, joy and good cheer for the festive season.

With best wishes

Rosalind Crowther

## The Chaplain of Sackville College

The Warden and Trustees are delighted to welcome the Reverend Luke Whiteman, the newly appointed Vicar at St Swithun's, as the Chaplain of Sackville College.



*from St Swithun's website  
The Reverend Luke  
Whiteman*

## Events at Sackville College

### May Day

This year was literally a wash out and it seemed best to cancel the opening of Sackville College for safety reasons. Therefore we could not welcome any visitors. This is often the day when people say that they have lived in the town for years but not known what lies within the walls of Sackville College! It is usually a good day for raising funds, but of course, this could not happen.

### Lunch for the Friends of Sackville College

About 50 Friends came to the lunch, with some of their friends, too. We are so grateful to Dave and George for providing such lovely music. We are also very grateful to Marcus and his wife, Angela, for bringing along their own large barbecue and cooking for so many people. Thank you to everyone who brought delicious home-made puddings.

Marcus and his wife and daughter are leaving Sackville College and we would like to thank them for all their help and practical support for Friends events throughout the time that Marcus has been there. We wish them all the very best for the future.

### No Strings Attached – Saturday, 3 August 2024



This A Capella singing group made a very welcome return to Sackville College this summer and sang to a full house. Alex, Bonnie, David, John and Russ presented a lively evening of music with their customary passion, enthusiasm and originality. Beginning with the song 'Boardwalk', they took us on a journey through Lindisfarne's 'Meet Me On The Corner' to finish the first half with 'Sunny Afternoon'. We had been worried about rain falling upon the Interval Drinks in the Quadrangle, but all was well and the singers stood around the ancient well to sing the first song of the second half. 'Stand By Me', 'When I'm 64' and the song by the Monkees 'Day Dream

Believer' were some highlights. Thank you to No Strings Attached for coming to us for their eighth visit, and to all who attended.

### Forthcoming events

Christmas music see below

### Work parties

The monthly work parties continue and a loyal group of Friends come to Sackville College to help with outdoor tasks such as clearing leaves, weeding, putting preservative on outdoor furniture, and preparing plants and items for sale in the spring, whilst others sort out and classify documents, inside. This is also a social occasion, with a break for tea, coffee and cake in the common room.

Please contact [friends@sackvillecollege.org.uk](mailto:friends@sackvillecollege.org.uk) if you would like to join us.

## From the Archives A Doorway at the College



This pretty sketch of a doorway at Sackville College arrived in the Warden's post one day. The donor thinks that the artist was his own grandfather, Edward W. Waite, or his great grandfather, the Revd Edward Waite.



*The same Doorway Today*

**Edward Wilkins Waite, 1854-1924** was an English Landscape painter, who was born in Leatherhead and died at Fittleworth, Sussex. He was the son of The Rev'd Edward Waite and his wife Cleopha Julia, and one of 8 children.

His father is described as 'a dissenting minister' on the Royal Academy website and was an amateur artist.<sup>1</sup> The clergyman would have been a near contemporary of The Rev'd John Mason Neale (1818-66). I cannot, however, find any mention of Waite in the *Letters of John Mason Neale*.

The grandfather of Edward Wilkens Waite, William Watkin Waite, was a miniaturist. Three of Edward's brothers also became artists: Charles, Harold and Arthur. Edward married and had 3 children.

The painting is beautiful, whichever artist painted it.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.burlington.co.uk/cgi](http://www.burlington.co.uk/cgi)

## James Stark, Picture showing the old stables at Sackville College



1859). The view is from Church Lane. It is interesting to see how the stables used to look, before the Lodge was built in 1974.

The Warden found this picture for sale on a well-known auction site and it was very kindly purchased for Sackville College by Mike and Ann Humphries. The painting will be on display at the Friends' Christmas Carol Concert. It is simply called 'The College, East Grinstead' and dated July 1856.

The painting is by James Stark (1789-1862) of the Norwich School of Artists.

(The Auctioneers Christie's website gives his dates as 1794-



Picture from Church Lane today

## The School In Sackville College

*We are very grateful to Graham Edwards for his research into the School at Sackville College. Often visitors are puzzled by the name College and this explains things.*

Sackville College was built as an almshouse and has remained as one to this day. When it was founded in 1609, the meaning of 'College' was a community living or working together under a set of rules and so this definition applied to an almshouse. There was, however, once a school in a room in the College.

Robert Payne, who lived in Newick, died in 1708 and by his Will founded a school with an endowment of £41 a year from the annual rent of Serreys Farm in East Grinstead.<sup>2</sup> Payne's Free Grammar School was to be for boys only, who lived in the Parish of East Grinstead, aged from 6 to 11 until their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. A 'pious and learned' master was to be employed to teach in the school, which was accommodated, originally, in an annex

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<sup>2</sup> Also spelt as 'Serryes' - M. J. Leppard, *A History of East Grinstead* (Chichester, 2001), 52 and probably referring to the properties now called Great and Little Surries in Ashurstwood.

built on the south side of St Swithun's Church. However, in 1772, the school was closed as the Trustees were unable to find a suitable master. Three years later, Thomas Palmer was appointed and the school restarted with 11 free boys. It flourished until 1785 when the church tower fell down and the Church was destroyed. Thomas Palmer then held the school in his own house. In 1808, it was suggested that the vestry room of the rebuilt Church could be used, but the cost of converting it for use as a schoolroom was too high and so the school continued in Thomas Palmer's house.

In 1813, Thomas Palmer Junior was appointed Warden of Sackville College and he thought that a large empty room there could be used for the school. The Trustees of Payne's Endowment resolved that Charles Abbot, the Speaker of the House of Commons, who lived locally and was a Trustee, should write to the Duke of Dorset, Patron of the College, to request permission to use the room. The Duke of Dorset consented '...provided it (*the room*) can be made use of without disturbing the quiet and comfort of the persons inhabiting the same (*the College*).' Speaker Abbott and the Vicar, the Rev. Richard Taylor, inspected the room and decided that an additional door should be provided in the room underneath (now the Common Room), so that the pupils could enter from the garden, rather than through the front (south) door of the College, after which they would have had to cross the quadrangle.

The new school, which was an amalgamation of a National School and Payne's Free Grammar School, opened in 1816 with Thomas Palmer Junior as the master. Soon, there were 25 free boys and 40 paying scholars and an additional teacher was needed. Charles Duplex was appointed in 1822 but four years later he was transferred to the new National School at Withyham. On the retirement of Thomas Palmer as master, Mr Duplex was appointed, on the recommendation of Earl De La Warr, and he commenced in January 1832. However, the Trustees of the Payne Endowment, who included the Vicar, the Rev. Christopher Nevill, became concerned that the children of Dissenters (Nonconformists) were being allowed to attend the school. Mr Duplex was asked to resign, but he refused. Additionally, the residents of the College were complaining of being disturbed by the school children. This resulted in the Duke of Dorset withdrawing permission, in 1839, for the room to be used for the school, which became homeless. The Free Grammar School did not re-open until 1847, when Cromwell House in the High Street was rented, with Mr Duplex as the master. He eventually retired in 1884.

A National School was built (now the Chequer Mead Arts Centre) and opened on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1861, which accepted both boys and girls.

**Acknowledgements:** This article is based on information from *Educational and Social Conflict in East Grinstead in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries* by Deidre Florence Neville, published in 1978, with additional details from *The History of East Grinstead* by W. H. Hills, published in 1906.

*GFE 23 Sep 24*

We are very grateful to Graham Edwards for his research into the school at Sackville College. This important article will also appear in the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society*.

### **Dr Bishop - a friend of Dr J. Henry Rogers, Warden of Sackville College 1872-9**

Dr Rogers was at first a friend of John Mason Neale, Warden 1846-66, and Neale recommended him as one of the Assistant Wardens. After a trip to Portugal together, the two fell out. They were meant to write a Guide Book to Portugal jointly, but in the end only Neale wrote it. Rogers became a thorn in the flesh to Neale, constantly interfering in College matters and even trying to install his own choice of resident in an empty room during Neale's wardenship. The Neale family called Rogers 'The Bear'. Then, when Rogers became the Warden himself, six years after the death of Neale, Rogers set about collecting all the published

works of Neale, and preferably first editions. This was the foundation of the Neale Memorial Library which is in the Study to this day and is still an important collection for scholars.

An enquiry came to Sackville College from Rosemary Gosling, who is researching John Bishop, MD FRCP, for a short article. She had found out that Dr Bishop was the chief mourner at the funeral of Dr J. Henry Rogers and asked if Dr Bishop had bequeathed anything to Sackville College- which as far as we know, he did not. Dr Bishop lived in Paris and was a philanthropist and donor of both funds and art works. We have not been able to find much about Dr Bishop. The *Kent and Sussex Courier* refers to Dr Thomas Bishop, FRCP of Paris, and a Thomas Bishop (date of birth uncertain), qualified in 1842, after studying at the Middlesex Hospital, so this is probably the same man. He worked abroad, in Naples, where he amassed a collection of art. He was nearly shot in a disturbance and was saved only by an officer's intervention. He lived in Paris for twenty years and was a leading physician and a generous patron to British charities.<sup>3</sup>

I wonder how he came to be the chief mourner for Dr Rogers? They must have known each other through their medical training or practice. The funeral for Rogers followed soon after his death and Rogers was buried hastily at night, because he had died by his own hand. It would be interesting to know how Dr Bishop heard about the death and how was able to travel so speedily from Paris to attend the funeral. It is always interesting when a new link to Sackville College crops up.

## **1879 the death of Dr John Henry Rogers.**

**From the *Kent & Sussex Courier* dated 29 October 1879**

**Death of Dr Henry Rogers**—The Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead, Dr Henry Rogers, was found dead in his bed on Saturday last, the 18th inst., and inquiries have shown that he died by his own hand, a bottle which had contained prussic acid being found by his side, a sad ending to a somewhat singular life. Dr Rogers had travelled much and was man of acquirements, reading with ease in Latin, German, French, Spanish, and Italian. He founded a cottage hospital close to his then residence in the early days of that movement, and assisted Mr Charles Hill, F.S A., and some other gentlemen of the neighbourhood, in establishing the East Grinstead Dispensary. At Sackville College, where he effected many improvements, he had made an interesting collection of books, prints, and relics connected with its history. It is be hoped his successor may have taste and judgment to preserve the collection. What led to the fatal act on the part of Dr Rogers is not known to us. He had recently lost much of both eyesight and hearing, and was possessed by a melancholy idea that should die in poverty; the depression may have become too great to be borne. He was a lineal descendant, we may add, of Theodore, "the unfortunate King of Corsica." —*Builder*.

### **Funeral of Dr J. H. Rogers**

The funeral of this deceased gentleman took place on Saturday last, and, according to the instructions of the deceased, it was the simplest character. The mourners assembled in the quadrangle of the ancient College at two o'clock. The coffin had been placed in the little sanctuary of the Hospital, from which it was borne by bearers of the Ancient Order of Foresters (to which Order the deceased was Medical Officer). Leaving the College by the northern entrance, the procession, consisting of **Dr Thomas Bishop, F.R.C.P., of Paris**; Mr Nevill, deceased's executor; Mr A. Hastie, Mr A. H. Hastie, Mr K. R. Murchison, Assistant Warden of Sackville College; Mr H. R. Freshfield, the Rev. E. Polehampton, Hartfield; Mr W. O. Smith, Hammerwood; Major Margery, Chartham; Mr C. H. Gatty, Felbridge Park; Mr C. Blount, C.B. Imberhorne; the two faithful domestics of the deceased, John Betchley and Caroline Boorer. These were followed by the aged inmates of the College, members of the Ancient Order of Foresters in funeral regalia, members of the Redhill Workman's

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<sup>3</sup> <https://history.rcp.ac.uk/inspiring-physicians/thomas-bishop>

Provident Society, Mr E. Budd (The Grange), Dr Wallis (Hartfield), Dr J. Magarth (Forest Row), Dr P. R. Wallis, Dr C. E Collins, Dr J. A. Mahoney (East Grinstead), Mr MacLean (Rocklands), and a large number of the leading tradesmen and inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. The shops were partially closed on the line of route, which was by Church Street, High Street, London Road, to the Cemetery, where the procession was met by the Rev. D. Y. Blakiston, the Vicar, who conducted the solemn rites prescribed by the Church of England, assisted by the Rev. J. F. Brown, Curate. The little chapel would not contain a tithe of the large assembly collected to pay their last token of regard. The coffin, which was covered with wreaths of lovely flowers and ferns, was of plain oak with black furniture, and bore the simple inscription: 'John Henry Rogers, died Oct 18th, 1879, aged 68 years.' Deceased leaves no relative whatever to survive him, both his parents, of whom he was the only child, being buried in the old parish churchyard. It is reported that a medical gentleman has been found to fill the office of Warden of Sackville College, vacant by the death of Dr Rogers.

*This information was kindly provided by Graham Edwards, our Head Guide.*

Perhaps the 'Sanctuary' refers to the Chapel at Sackville College. The Warden who succeeded Dr Rogers was indeed another medical man, Dr George Covey, Warden 1873-93. Covey was in turn succeeded by another medical man, Dr James Harrison, Warden 1893-1908.

#### **From St Swithun's Parish Magazine for October 1879**

**The Late Warden of Sackville College.** By the death of Dr J. H. Rogers, (on October 18th), East Grinstead has lost one of its best-known inhabitants, and many of the poor a kind friend, while the Inmates of Sackville College have to mourn for one who took a constant, active and benevolent interest in their welfare. During the Christmas tide of 1871, the late Warden inaugurated a gathering in the College Hall, accompanied by distribution of gifts to the old people. Friends and neighbours sent gifts in money or in kind of large value and '**The Sackville Dole**' became a pleasant annual meeting of rich and poor, while the major part of the money was afterwards expended on weekly allowances of meat to all alike. The late Warden spared no pains, to form a local 'Neale Memorial' library, and also a local library which he has bequeathed to the College. Dr Rogers originated a Cottage Hospital close to his house (Green Hedges), and for many years gave unremitting attention to the patients, while twice a week he attended at the General Dispensary (Founded 1858), prescribing for the numbers who came with tickets from far and near. Dr Rogers was an enthusiastic botanist, and a most practical one, as his gardens and greenhouses, and the '17<sup>th</sup> Century Garden' planted at Sackville College prove, and long will he be known, and much missed as a man of general culture and artistic taste.

#### **Wolves in Ashdown Forest**

**John Mason Neale** famously looked out over Ashdown Forest, or at least the surrounding countryside of Kent and Sussex, and drew inspiration for the carol *Good King Wenceslas*. In an entry in the Diary of the Sisters of the Society of St Margaret, dated 23 May 1864, he recorded:

*'Four wolves and twenty-seven Boar were shot near the House. This will not be believed some hundred or hundred and fifty years hence.'*

Teddy Collison, a resident, who compiled a College scrapbook, typed this out and added that the information was given to him by Sister Gabriel of the Society of St Margaret on 14 May 1987.

Boar may have been active in the Forest, but wolves had died out in England long before Neale's time!

A 9 year old girl came back from a school visit to Ashdown Forest recently saying that **wolves** were to be re-introduced to the Forest. We were able to reassure her parents that it is only Pine Martens that are being considered for reintroduction.

## Richard Sackville, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Dorset



Figure 1 Richard Sackville (1589–1624), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Dorset, by William Larkin, c. 1613

As there is a marked Victorian emphasis in this Newsletter, I would like to conclude with a remark made by Richard Sackville, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Dorset. Richard Sackville's portrait was painted by William Larkin. The portrait is part of the Berkshire Marriage Set, now on display at Kenwood House. This year these portraits have been displayed with a set of 'Swagger Portraits' created by a modern artist. The seventeenth-century paintings are thought to have been commissioned for the occasion of the marriage of Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King James I, to Frederick, the Elector of Bohemia, or for the wedding of a cousin of the Sackvilles, Thomas Howard, the future Earl of Berkshire, to Elizabeth Cecil. Edward Sackville, who became the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dorset, is also depicted in this set.

The copy of the portrait of Richard Sackville at Sackville College shows us the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl resplendent in his wonderful costume, with his porcelain shoes, standing upon an expensive Turkey carpet.

Upon the death of Prince Henry, the eldest son of King James I and his Queen Anne, aged only 18, the Earl declared, writing to Sir Thomas Edmondson:

*'...Our Rising Sun is set ere scarce he had shone, and all our glory lies buried, you do know and do lament as well as we... and more truly, or else you were not a man, and sensible to this kingdom's loss.'*<sup>4</sup>

This was a beautiful and perceptive tribute to Prince Henry, by Richard Sackville, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Dorset, who would have known the Prince at Court.

Brenda Polan, fashion historian, wrote of Richard Sackville:

*'He was an interesting character and it's a strong, exciting portrait. He appears, in his lushly embroidered black velvet, to have been the kind of handsome, dashing, rather bad lot that make women go collectively weak at the knees.'*<sup>5</sup>

She also noted that seventeenth-century writer John Webster wrote about the big pom poms on shoes that were fashionable in about 1610, calling them 'overblown roses to hide your gouty ankles'.

She described the brothers Richard and Edward Sackville as 'fashion victims' for 'affecting the strands of black silk thread' through their ear lobes- the latest fashion in 1610.

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<sup>4</sup> Roy Strong, *Henry Prince of Wales and England's Lost Renaissance* (Pimlico, 2000), 167.

<sup>5</sup> Brenda Polan, 'Designer Collection', *Heritage Today* (English Heritage, November 2004), 32-35.

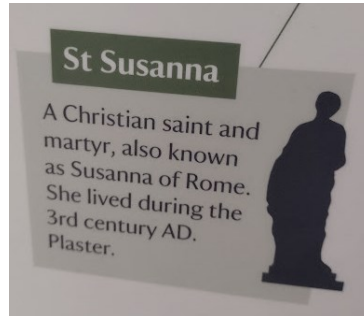


## Trivia

### St Susannah



The saints in the stained glass in the chapel at Sackville College include **St Susannah**, because Neale's own mother was called Susannah. We found a depiction of St Susannah at Stourhead in the temple.



### Almshouses in Durham on Palace Green



20 years. One man and one woman were to come from Brancepeth, a nearby parish where Cosin had previously been the Rector.

The almshouse was endowed with the sum of £70 a year for the support of the occupants and the upkeep of the building. Each of the occupants received an annual stipend of £6 13s. 4d., paid in quarterly instalments. They received an additional 15 shillings on St Bartholomew's Day, for buying fuel and repairing the windows. £1 a year was allocated to general building repairs, with £5 a year to be spent on buying gowns for the occupants every third year. £4 a year was to be paid in quarterly instalments to 'some honest woman to be

These almshouses were founded in 1666 by the Bishop of Durham, John Cosin. They were founded on the site of an earlier building, a grammar school and singing school, founded by an earlier Bishop, Langley, in 1414. The architect was John Langstafe, a Quaker, who was fined by the Bishop's court for his beliefs, at the same time as being paid to design the buildings for the Bishop. Originally there were 8 rooms, for 4 men and 4 women, who were to be unmarried and honourable citizens. 3 men and 3 women were to be from Durham, either born there or to have lived there for



nominated by the bishop and his successors' to take care of sick residents.

The occupants of the almshouses were expected to live as upright members of the community. They were to attend morning and evening services at the cathedral, walking together in pairs, wearing their gowns, and processing as soon as the bells started to toll, to ensure that they would not arrive late. They were to say their prayers first thing in the morning and last thing at night – the prayers were prescribed and written in each of their chambers. They were to live peacefully, quietly and humbly, to refrain from playing cards or gambling, to avoid taverns and alehouses, and lodge in the Almshouse at all times.

There was space for the Grammar School and School of Plainsong to continue. The Almshouses remained in use for their original purpose until 1837, when the property was given to Durham University. New almshouses were constructed nearby to replace them. The almshouse buildings were used for student accommodation and as a Museum. The Museum collection was dispersed about a hundred years ago, and the Almshouses currently function as a café, with the former grammar school buildings being used as University of Durham classrooms.<sup>6</sup>

Sackville College is unusual because it still serves its original purpose as an almshouse, after over 400 years. The requirements for good behaviour from the residents, and the funding arrangements are interesting. We do not know who the architect of Sackville College was, but I hope that he was not fined for his beliefs.

## **Group Visits**

Group visits may be arranged outside the general opening times, and refreshments can be provided at a very reasonable charge. If you belong to a group or society, do consider asking them to arrange a tour of Sackville College. This all helps to bring in funds and to raise awareness of the College.

## **General Matters**

### **Legacies to Sackville College**

Leaving a legacy gift to Sackville College is easily arranged with your solicitor. There are 3 main types: residuary, pecuniary and specific gift (personal possession).

### **Fundraising with Ebay.**

Sackville College is now an Ebay registered charity. Place items for sale in the usual way and follow the link to the donation site and pick us! Please ask family and friends who use Ebay to give a percentage of their sales to a good cause. Grateful thanks go to those who have done this, for their support. Sackville College is receiving regular small donations this way.

### **Accommodation Availability**

There is one studio flat available at the College at present. If you know of anyone who may be eligible to apply, please contact the Almoner at the College Office on 01342 323414 for more details.

### **Visits to Sackville College**

The College is currently closed until mid June. It will be open on May Day. Opening times will be advertised. Private visits are possible but must be arranged in advance with the Office.

To arrange a Group Visit please call the Office.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com/learn/architecture/palace-green/cosins-almshouses>

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## Welcome to new Friends and Thank You to all Friends.

We hope that new Friends will enjoy being Friends and supporting Sackville College.

**We offer a big Thank you** to the growing number of Friends. Your continuing support is very much appreciated and brings funds, practical help and additional support to the life of the community at Sackville College. This year, funds from The Friends of Sackville College are to be used for replacing the benches outside the front doors, facing the High Street.

The newsletter can be downloaded from

[https://sackvillecollege.org.uk/Files/Friends/Newsletters/Current\\_Newsletter.pdf](https://sackvillecollege.org.uk/Files/Friends/Newsletters/Current_Newsletter.pdf)

We have used email addresses where possible to save printing and postage costs.

## Sackville College Contacts

Patron	The Earl De La Warr	
Warden	Mrs Rosalind Crowther	Office 01342 323414 weekday mornings warden@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Trustees	The Countess De La Warr Mr Frazer Visser Mrs Alexandra Durrant	
Sackville College Office	Open Weekday mornings 9am-1pm	01342 323414 admin@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Almoner	Mrs Linda Bryant	01342 323414 almoner@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Maintenance		
Chaplain	The Revd. Luke Whiteman	St Swithun's Church
Guides	Contact the Office - Mrs Linda Bryant	01342 323414
Friends' Secretaries & Newsletter Editors	Steve and Caroline Metcalfe	friends@sackvillecollege.org.uk

## Important Dates for Your Diary 2024 (**Friends' Events**)

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 7:30 pm	Carols in Sackville College Chapel	£10 / <b>£8</b> for Friends, with refreshments afterwards
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 7:30 pm	Christmas Concert by Cantu Amici in Sackville College Chapel	£12 / <b>£10</b> for Friends, with refreshments afterwards
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 7:30 pm	Carols in Sackville College Chapel	£10 / <b>£8</b> for Friends, with refreshments afterwards
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 3 pm</b>	<b>Friends' Carols in Sackville College Chapel</b>	<b>Please let Linda in the Office know if you would like to attend. There is now a Waiting List.</b>

If you have already booked for any of the above events and cannot attend, please contact us via email [events@sackvillecollege.org.uk](mailto:events@sackvillecollege.org.uk)

## Other Events

- For Events run by The Bookshop at Sackville College see <https://www.eastgrinsteadbookshop.co.uk/events-2>