



Friends' Newsletter



Perhaps the Highlight of the year for Sackville College was the visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, to unveil the Archibald McIndoe statue. Although not a College function, it provided great excitement and some of the Residents who were in the quadrangle were presented to Princess Anne

News from the Warden

This year has been a very busy, exciting year (see above- the Royal visit) but also an expensive one.

When Flat 5 became empty, we discovered a serious damp problem in the corner of the sitting-room, which proved to be caused by an ingress of rainwater around, and down, the chimney stack. Happily, this has now been cured and the flat is about to be redecorated. Less happy is the cost. The complete job will have cost in the region of £10,000: a huge amount of money for Sackville College to find.

In May, Hilary Waddingham and Ivor

Humphreys gave a concert at Sackville College in aid of the Repair Fund. The duo played piano and flute music in a sparkling evening that was much enjoyed by all. It is very good of them to give their time and talents in this way.

In July, the Sussex folk group 'No Strings Attached' came to Sackville College for a fundraising evening. They performed songs, some unaccompanied and some with instruments. The evening was great fun and we hope to see them at Sackville College again, next summer.

Thank you to all those kind people who have made donations. I will write to each one. Also thank you to Chris and Julie of CJ's for their kindness and help (see later).

I would also like to thank those who wish to remain anonymous, for their kindness in paying for the restoration of the College name board which stands beside the front gate to the High Street. It was finished just in time for the Princess Royal's visit and looks very smart. It cost approximately £600.

Also Mr Robin Whalley had all the small signs that hang by the College front door repainted for us. They had become almost unreadable. Thank you so very much, Robin.

I am sure that some of you would have noticed that the cushions on the settles in the Common Room had so many holes in them that they were almost beginning to resemble lace. Well, now we have some very posh new ones of the same colour. They have been donated by Mrs Mary Kapp, a resident of Sackville College, and her son. Again, so very kind. A big thank you.

Some months ago we received an email from a Mr Dale Greene who lives in the U.S to tell us that he had in his possession a leather bound Common Prayer Book with silver corners, bearing the Sackville coat of arms embossed on the front. The book is dated 1852. Now, the big surprise! Inside, it has a page bearing the signatures of the Patron of the College, the Warden (The Rev'd Dr John Mason Neale, who wrote 'Good King Wenceslas' at the College), the Assistant Wardens and all the Residents of the College at that time. We were truly amazed.

However, after many emails back and forth, Mr Greene decided to donate it to the College. Another act of considerable kindness. The book now sits behind glass in the Study and looks very impressive.

Mr Greene has been sent a special certificate making him a Life member of Sackville College Friends.

A very happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Friends' Lunch

A very successful Friends' lunch was held in early June. This followed the pattern of last year when everyone brought a platter of food



to share. Chris Spear read 'Voices of Sackville College', including this from J.M Neale in February 1866 "*and last Sunday afternoon in that tremendous storm, at 7 minutes past 4, our largest elm, the glory of all the countryside, was snapped and torn off, about 4 feet from the ground. Great was the fall of it*".

Charity Dinner

A Charity Dinner was held at CJs Café Bar. All 65 places were sold. Guests were asked to bring something Victorian and a number entered into the spirit of the occasion by dressing up.



From the Archives

Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset

'The Elizabethan theatre as we know it

develops slowly. In 1562 the play *Gorboduc*, the first English play to include blank verse, is performed in front of the Queen at the Inner Temple in London. This is written by two gentlemen, Thomas Sackville (the future earl of Dorset) and Thomas Norton, and leaves a lasting impression. Its tale of a kingdom torn between two heirs has great significance for the audience of the day.'

Ian Mortimer, *The Time-Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England* (London: Vintage, 2012), p. 352.

Letters to the Editor

Mr M.J. Leppard has kindly provided the following additional details on past articles.

THE MOUSETRAP (*Autumn 2013*)

My late mother told me in 1970 that this trap was given to the College by a Mrs Knight who lived there in the 1920s and 30s, in 'block 4' according to the 1928 local directory. This Mrs Knight was (she said) the mother of Mrs Susy Wood, the mother of Mr Stan Wood of Dallaway Gardens, whose wife Hilda was a contemporary and friend of my mother.

THE INSCRIPTION (*Autumn 2013*)

The inscription on the College wall in Church Lane was composed by the Rev. C.W.P. Crawford according to a note by his son Robert P. Crawford at page 107 of his interleaved copy of W.H. Hills's *History of East Grinstead* (the property of Dr R Crawford of Tenterden).

J.M. NEALE ON RAILWAYS (*Spring 2013*)

The letter quoted under this heading in the Friends' Spring Newsletter is indeed about a footplate ride. It was written on 7 July 1855, two days before the opening, when test-runs would have been being made. Anyone who travelled on the line when it was still steam-operated will remember it took much more than twelve minutes to reach Three Bridges when hauling two or three carriages. Someone in authority must have known of Neale's enthusiasm for

railways and given him the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

In his sermon on the following Sunday he referred to the work of building the line that had begun two years before (*Sermons in Sackville College Chapel*, vol.2, p.57; cf. p.271). Passing mentions in earlier sermons show he had been following its progress.

I do not know when he made his first rail journey. The earliest mention I can find of his doing so is in March 1842, a perfectly matter of fact statement that he had gone to Bridgewater by train from Bristol. In his East Grinstead years he travelled widely by train across Europe pursuing his researches.

Neale also knew something of the technicalities of railway work, as shown by the poem 'The engine drivers' in his *Songs and Ballads for Manufacturers* published in 1844.

John Mason Neale on Railways

Here are verses 2 & 3 from that poem

*The sign is made, the word is said,
And the boiler coughs and hoots,
And taught to go at the first right slow,
The long line onward shoots;
Till with valves that rattle quick, and with
steam that volumes thick,
And with buffers each from other far apart,
While the sleepers quake below, and the
wheels like lightning go,
Through the tunnel and the bridge we dart.

Through the chalk-built hill, by the busy mill,
By the stream where the waters splash,
Through the Kentish hops, through the
Sussex copse,
O'er the breezy heath we dash:
Where the small birds sing, where the sweet
bells ring,
Where the earliest flowers are plucked,
We thunder away the livelong day
O'er embankment and viaduct.*

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.

Guides & Helpers team, are always pleased to welcome new people. If you can spare time during the College opening times to be a Guide or Helper, please contact them on 01342 322994

Graham and Ann Edwards, who run the

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
Sackville College Office		01342 323414
Warden	Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn	01342 326561
Chaplain	The Rev Canon Clive Everett-Allen	
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

Tuesday 9 th December	Public Carols in the Chapel followed by refreshments £5	Booking 01342 323414
Thursday 11 th December	Public Carol Concert featuring 'Cantu Amici' in the Chapel followed by refreshments £5	Booking 01342 323414

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

Notes

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, webmaster@sackvillecollege.org.uk

Sackville College is now on Twitter as [@SackvilleColl](https://twitter.com/SackvilleColl) and on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/SackvilleCollege>

REGISTERED CHARITY 220488

Contact: The Warden, Sackville College, High Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3BX
Tel: 01342 323414 | Email: admin@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Website: sackvillecollege.org.uk