

SACKVILLE COLLEGE Autumn 2017



Friends' Newsletter

News from the Warden

On behalf of the Trustees, I should like to thank all our hard working Guides, Friends and other Volunteers for their commitment and endeavours on the College's behalf throughout the 2017 season. In terms of visitors and income generated, this has been a successful year and your contributions have been integral to this.

The works to the Well House previously referred to in the Spring newsletter were substantially completed on time & budget and we are very pleased with the results. Unfortunately replacement of the Motto boards due to extensive rot necessitated a further Listed Building Consent application, but this has now been resolved and the new boards will be installed shortly.

The heating in the Chapel is now completely installed and functioning. We have had many positive comments about this. Hopefully attendees at our Christmas Carol Services will not require the number of layers that they have needed previously.

Looking to the future, the Trustees are committed to seeing an improvement in the appearance of the College's grounds. The falling off in standards over recent years has been disappointing BUT this is a priority for us moving forward. The other priority area for 2018 is a comprehensive refurbishment and re-decoration of the room above the Common Room, thereby enabling its future use for College based activities and events. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation we are now in a position to do this.

I do hope you will be able to join us at our Christmas events and I take the opportunity to wish you well for this wonderful season.

The Trustees are pleased to announce the appointment of Marcus Bryant as Gardener/Handyman; he will take up his duties in November. Marcus, who is local, is looking forward to starting work at Sackville College and getting to know the Residents, Friends and Guides. He and his wife and daughter will move into The Lodge formerly occupied by Stephen Pearson. We look forward to welcoming Marcus and his family.

News

We would like to welcome all the new Friends who have joined this year and we hope to see you when the College is open and at events.

The Friends' Lunch was held in June and we were privileged to be entertained by 'Cantu Amici' who sang from the Minstrels' Gallery.



“No Strings Attached” Concert



Thank you to ‘No Strings Attached’ for a really sparkling evening at Sackville College. Along with some old favourites, such as ‘Save the Last Dance For Me’ and some sing-along songs, they performed new material. David’s guitar playing as he and Alex performed the Simon And Garfunkel song, ‘The Sound of Silence’ was very poignant, as was ‘I Would Give Everything I Own’, a song originally sung by Bread in the 1970s.

Thank you to the Warden for all his support, and for allowing the group to sing from the Minstrels’ Gallery after the interval, to Rachel and her fiancé Steve and to Chris for all their help with serving drinks and clearing up. Thank you, too, to Penny Fisher and Shirley Streeter for quietly lending a hand when needed.

Marion Small- Concert at Trinity Methodist Church

Thank you to Marion Small and to everyone who took part in, and attended, a heart warming concert in September, on the night of a torrential hailstorm. I particularly enjoyed Bernard Gillbard’s reading of ‘The Footless Army’ by Cornish poet William Quintrell, and Janet Gillbard’s piano playing to accompany 2 performers. The remarkable sum of over £300 each was raised for Sackville College and Street Pastors. Well done, Marion!

Farewell and thank you

Stephen Pearson, variously described as Maintenance, Caretaker and General Miracle Worker, has left Sackville College after 29 years of loyal service. We thank him for all his hard work, and for all his help, and wish him and his partner, Viv, all the very best in their new venture in Wales.

Simon Kerr has moved to the west of England. We thank him for his enthusiastic support for Sackville College, long membership of the Friends, and for his 2 wonderful performances as John Mason Neale. We wish Simon and Susie great happiness.

CJ’s Evening Monday 13th November

A Fundraising Evening in aid of Sackville College

Tickets £16 per person, not including drinks.
(Sorry, no concessions possible, this time.)

The meal will be a 2 course meal, consisting of main course & a pudding

CJ’s need to know in advance if they need to prepare a vegetarian dish or to be aware of other special dietary considerations.

Tickets are available from the Sackville College Office (weekday mornings 10am-1pm)

The theme is **‘The Scarlet Pimpernel’**

It is thought that John Sackville, 3rd Duke of Dorset (24 March 1745 – 19 July 1799), may have been the inspiration for the Scarlet Pimpernel books by Baroness Orczy

John Mason Neale commemoration

Next year will be the 200th anniversary of the birth of John Mason Neale, on 24th January 1818. There will be small displays in the Library and the Museum in January to mark the occasion. The Town Council will dedicate one of the flower beds in the High Street to John Mason Neale. ‘Cantu Amici’ have very kindly offered to come to Sackville College Chapel on the evening of the actual day, Wednesday, 24th January to give a

concert. This will include the first public performance of a Cantata in honour of John Mason Neale, composed specially by George Clifford.

St Swithun's church will also mark the occasion with a Choral Evensong. Further details will follow.

From the Archives

At The Keep Archive, we read the Will of Ann Bartholomew, resident of Sackville College, dated 6th December 1722, in which Anne Bartholomew, spinster, being '*infirm of body but of parfitt mind and memory*' left £11 to the son of one brother, one shilling apiece to the five children of another brother, only one shilling to a sister in law, and what little remained to her own sister. The will was witnessed by John Millington, Warden (1716-32). Millington was admitted as a pensioner in 1710, became Assistant Warden in 1715, even though the Assistant Wardens were not usually resident, then Warden in 1716.

Sometimes visitors have a family connection with Sackville College. A gentleman told John Monks that as a boy, he used to visit his great aunt, whom he identified in a photograph of the Queen Mother's visit in 1967. He described her room as 'warm, clean and cosy'.

A lady told Robin Whalley that her Grandmother and Great Grandmother had been residents at Sackville College, following the death of Great Grandfather, who was a coachman, in his 50s.

One of the Residents today remembers visiting her 'Little Friend' who was a Resident in the 1950s.

The daughter of 'Sam' Cyril John Howson, told me that during the 1970s, her father was able to grow vegetables in the garden at Sackville College, in return for ringing the bell every evening, presumably to sound the curfew. No money changed hands in this arrangement. He and his wife had a large family, because both had been left widowed with children. Their daughter

remembers riding in her father's wheelbarrow from their home in De La Warr Road to Sackville College.

These glimpses of the community in days gone by add to our understanding and knowledge of this community.

It is interesting to compare Sackville College with other almshouses. The Royal Magdalene Almshouses and St Margaret's Chapel, in Glastonbury, date from the 11th century.



Two rows of almshouses replaced the 'Hospital' in the 16th century. Almsfolk no longer live there. One furnished room is on show, with a bed on an upper section, reached by a ladder.

Dr Henry Rogers, Warden of Sackville College 1872-79. Mr Leppard has written extensively about Dr Rogers in the latest *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society*, (120) November 2017. Sackville College Guides tend to regard Rogers, the former friend turned enemy of John Mason Neale, in a bad light. Rogers subsequently became Warden, himself, and founded the John Mason Neale Memorial Library in the Warden's Study. It will be very interesting to read a reappraisal of the life and work of Dr Rogers.

Fundraising

If you have any left over foreign coins, banknotes or obsolete British currency, please consider donating them/it to Sackville College. Such currency can be sold to raise funds for Sackville College. Donations may be left at Sackville College or at St Swithun's Parish Office.

Guides

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

Accommodation Availability

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

- 1 First Floor Flat
- 1 First Floor Bedsit

Sackville College

Patron	The Earl De La Warr	
Trustees	Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn	
	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	Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn	01342 326561
Chaplain	The Rev'd. Andrew Hawken	St Swithun's Church
Head Guides	Contact the Office- Mrs Linda Bryant	01342 323414
Friends' Secretaries	Steve and Caroline Metcalfe	01342 312722 metcas2@gmail.com

Maintenance Marcus Bryant

Important Dates for Your Diary 2017-18 (**Friends' Events**)

Mon 13 th Nov	Charity Dinner at CJ's Cafe Bar, 7pm for 7:30 £16 per head 2 course meal (drinks not included) Half the money will go to Sackville College	Tickets from Office
Mon 4 th Dec	Public Carols in the Chapel 7.30pm	Tickets from Office
Tues 5 th Dec	Public Carols in the Chapel 7.30pm	Tickets from Office
Wed 6 th Dec	Christmas Music by Cantu Amici in the Chapel 7.30pm	Tickets from Office
Mon 11th Dec	Carols in the Chapel for Friends, Guides and Helpers 7.30pm	No tickets, but please let the Office know if you are coming (it helps to know approximate numbers).
Wed 24 th Jan 2018	Cantu Amici will perform in the Chapel to celebrate the 200 th anniversary of the birth of John Mason Neale. Light refreshments 7.30pm	Retiring Collection. Please let the Office know if you are coming: it is helpful to know approximate numbers.

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).