

SACKVILLE COLLEGE



Friends' Newsletter

Autumn 2018

News from the Warden

Since my appointment as Warden, Brian and I have been very grateful for the kindness and support we have received. Sackville College has a strong sense of community, with its residents, staff, guides, volunteers and Friends; many of whom have offered advice and ideas for improvement to this wonderful building and gardens. To be surrounded by such enthusiasm is more than encouraging and my thanks are sincerely meant.

The College has now closed for the general public visits, following a successful and weather blessed summer. Work will soon start within the building with a rather belated and overdue "spring clean", starting with the restoration and polishing of the panelling and furniture. I would also like to produce a photographic inventory of the contents of the College, and if you can offer any assistance please let me know.

Next year is an important anniversary; it will be 400 years since the completion of the Almshouse and the admission of our first residents. This will be an excellent opportunity to raise much needed funds and increase our profile.

I am delighted to report that Caroline Metcalfe has accepted the position as the first Honorary Historian of Sackville College.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

News

John Mason Neale Evensong

In May a Choral Evensong was held in St Swithun's Church and Sackville College Chapel, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of John Mason Neale. Thank you to the Vicar, the Revd. Andrew Hawken, to the Director of Music, Mr. Adrian Goss and the Choir for such a thoughtfully prepared and beautiful service.



Friends' Lunch

The weather was kind to us in June for the Friends' Lunch and we were able to sit outside in the quadrangle. Thank you to Cantu Amici who gave us a lovely and varied performance up in the Minstrels' Gallery.

Work Parties

Work parties meet on the 'last Friday of the month' to tackle a variety of jobs which help to keep the College looking so pretty. If you would like to join us, we meet at 9:30, finish around 12:30, with a break for coffee and cake.

East Grinstead in Bloom



Congratulations to Marcus Bryant for achieving a Certificate of Excellence at the recent South East in Bloom Awards. This is a well deserved tribute to Marcus for all his hard work at the College.

Thank you to the Town Council's gardeners for the flower bed dedicated to John Mason Neale in the year of the 200th anniversary of his birth. The figures of King Wenceslas and his Page were presented in a garden of bushes with white flowers.



From the Archives:

Whilst researching the 96 names listed on the Memorial Board in St Swithun's church, naming men with a local connection who were killed in the Great War, I found:

Horace Knight

Lance Corporal, C Coy, 1st Bn Rifle Brigade

d. 23 October 1916, aged 27, Thiepval Memorial.

Son of Alice Knight, 4, Sackville College, and the late Horace Knight

Lady Anne Clifford's Almshouse: Appleby in Westmoreland

The **2nd Earl of Dorset**, who founded Sackville College, died in 1609. His son, **Richard, 3rd Earl of Dorset**, died in 1624 and had the almshouse built, with a grand wing for his occasional use, called the Dorset Lodgings. He was married to **Lady Anne Clifford (1590-1670)**. Their stormy marriage produced 3 little boys who died, and 2 daughters. Lady Anne remarried, unhappily, and after the death of her second husband, went north to her father's estates in Cumbria and Westmorland. Having fought legal battles to inherit these estates, she then stayed on them for the rest of her long life.

She founded her own almshouse, called St Anne's Hospital, in Appleby.

Land in Boroughgate, Appleby, was purchased for her almshouse on 31 December 1650. Provision was made for 12 Sisters, and a Mother who would run the almshouse according to rules approved by Lady Anne. Land was purchased by Lady Anne to endow her almshouse, which was finished in 1653. Lady Anne chose as residents the 'Mother' and 12 good women, 11 of whom were to be widows (one a deceased Minister's widow) and 1 an 'injured Maid'.

The building is a quadrangle of small, self-contained dwellings around a cobbled courtyard with a fountain, and there are gardens beyond. Carved heraldic shields on walls and in the gatehouse proudly declare Lady Anne's ancestry.



A bell in the gatehouse was rung every 3 months to call the residents to come and collect their small allowance. A strongbox in the Chapel contains the title deeds to the lands from which the Hospital draws its revenue. A portrait of the young Lady Anne hangs in the Chapel.

Some 300 years later, after the Second World War, the Residents were offered the installation of **electricity**. By tradition, they refused at first, because they thought that Lady Anne might not like it.

Lady Anne was a courageous woman. The survival of this small almshouse is remarkable and suggests that her arrangements were sound. There is never time on the usual guided tour of Sackville College to tell her story as well. She was connected to the Sackvilles by marriage. Her foundation of St Anne's Hospital may have been inspired by the foundation of Sackville College by her father in law and its completion, after ten years, by her first husband.

(See *The Diaries of Lady Anne Clifford*, ed by DJH Clifford (Sutton: Stroud, 2003), pp. 115; 121, 157.)

Cobham College, Kent.



This almshouse was founded as a Chantry

College for 5 priests, in 1362, by John de Cobham, 3rd Lord Cobham (d. 1408). The priests were to pray for him & for Lady Margaret during their lives, for their souls after death, and for their ancestors and heirs.

During the Reformation, the 9th Lord Cobham (d. 1558) arranged for the Master and Fellows to surrender the College to him in 1537.

In 1597, the 10th Lord Cobham (d. 1597) ordered his executors to have the ruined buildings turned into an almshouse for the relief of the poor, to be called The New College of Cobham. He gave 100,000 bricks, 40 tonnes of timber and £2,000 for this and asked his executors to finish within four years, endow the College with property and draw up rules and ordinances.

Today the number of almsfolk has been reduced in order to provide 12 self-contained flats. The quadrangle looks very like Sackville College, but there are differences as well as similarities in the stories of the two Colleges.

When a Lord wore his spurs



The Wallace Collection in Manchester Square, London, houses an impressive array of armour. The Treasure of the Month for October is the Garniture for the Field of Sir Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst who became the first Earl of Dorset. The armour was made in 1587 in the royal

workshop in Greenwich under Jacob Halder. The armour, decorated with etching and gilding, is a rich form of clothing, emphasising the owner's high status, as well as being a piece of fighting equipment.

Mrs Neale (1814-73)

We celebrated 200 years since the birth of John Mason Neale this year.

People sometimes ask what happened to Mrs Neale after the death of her husband, John Mason Neale on 6 August 1866. (He was Warden of Sackville College from 1846-66). It is not clear when she, her four daughters and one son, left their accommodation in the Warden's Lodge at Sackville College. She would have left by the time that Dr Rogers, Neale's former friend turned enemy, became Warden in 1872.

Sarah Norman Neale, née Webster, survived her husband by seven years. She was four years older than him. She died on 29 March 1873. By then, she was a parishioner of Christ Church, St Leonards on Sea, Sussex. She and her two younger daughters, Katherine Ermenild, aged 21 and Margaret Isobel, aged 17, were recorded in the 1871 Census, living with her at 3, Oriol Terrace, St Leonards on Sea. A 'visitor' was also recorded: Ellen Horner, a Nursing Sister aged 45. Ellen was a Sister of Mercy of the Society of St Margaret, the sisterhood founded by John Mason Neale. Perhaps Ellen Horner was a friend of the family, or perhaps Mrs Neale needed some nursing care. Katherine Ermenild later became one of the Sisters, herself, and eventually Mother Superior, so she may have been receiving some instruction to prepare for her calling.

Christ Church was proudly High Church and linked to the Oxford Movement. The Rev'd Father Charles Lyndhurst Vaughan was the first permanent vicar of Christ Church, from 1863. He was the son of Lady St John, who paid to have a new church built. There were no pew rents in his new church, to make it as inclusive as possible. The poor, who could not afford to pay to rent a pew, did not have to stand at the back. John Mason Neale served as Warden of an almshouse for poorer people for twenty years and established The Society of St Margaret to help the poor, so concern for the poor would have been a familiar tradition to his widow and daughters.

The new Christ Church at St Leonards on Sea was completed by 1877, after Mrs Neale's death in 1873. The architect was Sir Arthur Blomfield. The many statues and beautiful stained glass windows there today reflect aspects of the Oxford Movement, whose clergymen favoured the use of ceremonial, vestments and statues. The phrase: 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness', was painted over the door to John Mason Neale's Study at Sackville College, and encapsulates the ideas of Oxford Movement and its later friends such as Neale.

Mrs Neale died in 1873, before the new church was completed. In 1877, the Vicar at Christ Church received a letter from The Rev'd Robert Lawson of The Parsonage, Peasedown St John, Bath, dated April 25th 1877. He was the husband of Mrs Neale's second daughter, Mary Sackville. Robert Lawson enclosed a cheque for £63, to cover the cost of '*the first four windows in the Baptistry of Christ Church, St Leonards on Sea*'. He asked for a small brass plaque to be made with the following inscription:

'To the Glory of God and in affectionate memory of Sarah Norman Neale, late of this parish, widow of the Rev. John Mason Neale DD, Warden of Sackville College, who entered into her rest on the 29th day of March AD 1873, these four windows are erected.'

He added '*I must not go to more expense with the brass than I can help, as the four windows quite use up the money I have collected.*'



We could not find a plaque. The church suffered bomb damage during the War, and the west end has been extended, with no public access up to the windows. The plaque may not be accessible, may have been removed, or it may never have been made.

This church has no graveyard. It is recorded that Mrs Neale was buried at Fairlight churchyard, next to St Andrew's church, east of Hastings. Lady St John, who paid for the new Christ Church, was a friend of Countess Waldegrave, who paid for the rebuilding of St Andrew's church, Fairlight, so the two churches were linked through their benefactors.

There is no surviving record of the precise location of Mrs Neale's grave. Some of the graves at Fairlight are so worn that the lettering has been lost, so it was not possible to identify her actual grave.



May she rest in peace, in that lovely setting, high above the Saxon Shore.

Bibliography

Burial record supplied by the administrator for Fairlight & Pett churches

1861 Society of St Margaret Census entry & 1871 Census entry for 3, Oriol Terrace kindly supplied by the Warden

<http://www.christchurchstleonards.co.uk/history.html>

<https://www.fairlightandpett.com/history>

Letter from The Rev'd Robert Lawson, The Keep, East Sussex Record Office
PAR 470/4/3/1

Dates for your Diary

CJ's Evening

We are very grateful to CJ'S who have kindly offered to hold a 5th Charity Dinner on Tuesday 13th November. The theme this year is 'Heroes'. Bring your friends and family, dress up if you like,

bring information about your own hero or heroine, or just come along!

Fund Raising

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. The College can also accept cigarette cards and tea cards, to sell for College funds.

Thank you to Dr Kathryn Ferry for her lovely article in the October issue of *East Grinstead Living*.

<https://issuu.com/nathan2003/docs/egliving-oct18-lr>

Dr Ferry has researched the Church Lane buildings extensively and has written a fascinating piece- complete with a ghost story- to show the historic importance of the Church Lane houses as homes to the early Sisters of the Society of St Margaret and the orphans. The outhouses are important too: one was used as an oratory, and the corrugated iron building, which was used as a schoolroom, is Grade II listed and a rare survival.

Welcome to new Friends and Thank you to all Friends.

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

Thank you to the growing number of Friends. Your continuing support is much appreciated and adds funds, practical help and additional support to the life of the community at Sackville College.

Visits

Although the College is closed for the winter months, booked Groups can still visit by prior arrangement. If you know of, or belong to, an organisation that would like to visit, please contact the Office.

1619-2019

Next year we will celebrate 400 years since the actual building of Sackville College, based on the

evidence of the boards in the Chapel and Dining Hall, dated 1619.

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 admin@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Almoner	Mrs Linda Bryant	01342 323414 almoner@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	friends@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Maintenance	Marcus Bryant	

Important Dates for Your Diary 2018 (Friends' Events)

Tuesday 13 th November	Charity Dinner at CJ's 7pm for 7:30	Tickets £17.50 from Office
Monday 3 rd December	Christmas Music by Cantu Amici in the Chapel 7.30pm	Sold Out
Tuesday 4 th December	Public Carols in the Chapel 7.30pm	Tickets (£5) from Office
Wednesday 5 th December	Public Carols in the Chapel 7.30pm	Tickets (£5) from Office
Monday 10 th December	The Carol Service for Friends, Guides and Helpers will be held in the afternoon at 4pm and will be followed by tea in the Common Room.	No Tickets, but please let the Office know if you are attending, for catering purposes.

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).