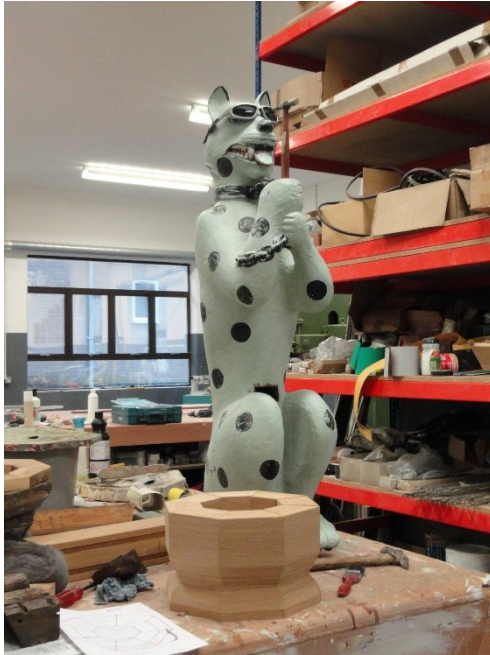




Friends' Newsletter



The Leopard is undergoing repairs at Virtuoso Joinery. Ian Godfrey, who took this photo, has told us " 'Leo' has settled in well. He is very chilled out, and even helping around the workshop."

While working on the Bell tower, Ian also came across the lead plaque with the following inscription:

**THIS BELL TOWER WAS REBURBISHED BY STEEPLEJACKS
ROBERT FRANK HARFIELD
LAURENCE SMITH
DANIEL HUETT**

**FROM OCTOBER 1985
TILL JANUARY 1986**

WARDEN AT THE TIME D.A.D.J. BETHALL

**GARDENER AT THE TIME
CRISTOPHER KING.**

News from the Warden

It is now rather late to wish everyone a Happy New Year, but I will do so all the same, and trust that it will be a good one for all of our Friends.

Sadly I have to report that Mr Robert Turner, one of our Friends, lost his dear wife, Marjorie, earlier this year. Both Robert and Marjorie have been keen supporters of the College, taking an active part in helping on the important open days. Marjorie always had a smile and was willing to

help out where needed. We will miss Marjorie very much, and have sent our condolences to Robert. We also offer up prayers for them both.

As you will read further on, this year is a very special one for Sackville College, but before we move on, I would like to step back into December 2015. On the 7th, we had the first of our annual public carol evenings. These have become so popular that people were booking seats in September. As usual – a full house. This year again, Andrew Clifford very kindly volunteered to play the organ for us. It is so good of him to do so, and much appreciated. He finished the evening with Christmas themed music to which we could all sing, 'Thank you Andrew'. Our thanks also to Marion Small, who sang a solo again this year.

Two nights later, we had our second evening of Carols and Christmas music, being entertained by Cantu Amici. They are such a popular group of singers and musicians, and extremely talented. We, the not quite so talented, joined in at the appropriate times. Thank you so very much Cantu Amici. Some of the group are professionals; all donate their time and talent for the benefit of the College. "Thank you". Again – Full house.

News

On Monday, November 2nd, 2015, a wonderful Charity Dinner was held at CJ's Café Bar. The theme, 'Dad's Army', was represented by the Warden, wearing part of his own Army uniform, and Steve, in overalls as the ARP Warden. We had sausage and mash and a lovely pudding with custard. The evening raised about £500 for Sackville College. Thank you to everyone who came along, to Penny Fisher for collecting Raffle prizes from local shops- an unenviable task- and for organising the Raffle, to the local shops who provided gifts, and to Chris and Julie at CJ's and their staff, for giving up their night off. Chris also acted as Master of Ceremonies for the Raffle draw.

This year is a special anniversary year- the 150th Anniversary of the death of Warden John Mason

Neale, at Sackville College on August 6th 1866. Special events will be held to mark the occasion, including a display in East Grinstead Library.

Forthcoming Events

Friends AGM Tuesday 12th April

at 7:30 in the Common Room at Sackville College

An Evening of Words and Music to celebrate the Life and Work of John Mason Neale

Tom Scratchley is kindly arranging an evening of music and words to celebrate the anniversary of John Mason Neale's death.

Music from the Sackville Community Choir conducted by Tom Scratchley with words taken from the Letters of John Mason Neale, performed by Simon Kerr, Caroline Metcalfe and others.

Saturday 30th April 7.30pm. Tickets £12 (£10 for Friends of Sackville College).

Classical Recital

Hilary Needham & Ivor Humphries, 'The Grenstede Duo', will be performing a recital of classical music in the Common Room, on Saturday, May 14th, at 7. 30pm. Tickets, price £10, include light refreshments. Tickets from the Office.

Hilary and Ivor have prepared a lovely selection of music for their Recital. It is very good of them to give their time to Sackville College – please do come along to this event.

Flower Festival -in celebration of its 55 year Emerald Anniversary, the Sussex area of NAFAS presents 'Ephemerald': A Festival of Flowers at Sackville College, supporting Sackville College Restoration Fund.

Wednesday, 1st June 2016 6.30-9pm (preview-tickets £16)

Thursday, 2nd June 2016 10 am-5pm (Festival)

Friday, 3rd June 2016 10am-7pm (Festival)

Saturday, 4th June 2016 10 am-5pm (Festival)

Early Bird tickets (booked before 20 May) £6.00;
after then and on the door £7.00

Tickets from Mrs Wendy Allaway 01323 895832

8, Barcombe Avenue, Seaford BN25 4DT

email: wendyallaway@talktalk.net

(Cheques to be made payable to 'Sussex area of NAFAS' and please enclose SAE).

Demonstration by Angela Turner at Chequer Mead Theatre, Friday, 3rd June 1.30pm

tickets £16, from Sheila Cheal 01903 773017

16, Beach View, Angmering BN16 4DE

email: sheilacheal@aol.com

No Strings Attached

Will be returning for the third time to perform their varied repertoire of songs, both unaccompanied and with strings and keyboard. They will be at Sackville College on **Saturday, June 18th**, for an evening concert. Tickets will include some refreshments during the interval.

We would like to hold a Raffle at this event. Donations of items suitable for raffle prizes would be much appreciated. Such items can be brought to the College Office on a weekday morning.

From the Archives

For this anniversary year, 150 years since the death of John Mason Neale, we include part of a letter from Neale to his second daughter, Mary, known as May. In 1859, Neale and his wife, with their eldest daughter, Agnes, and a dear friend's daughter, went for a tour of Brittany.

May 28th 1859, My dearest little May,

I wonder if I can write in this jolting carriage a letter which you may be able to read. We are going out from Brest to the Land's End of France. Agnes is further from you than she has ever been before, and we shall be so glad to get home to you all. I have a little silver cross for you, which I bought at Rennes. You and Ermy (*Ermenild*) and Baby, (*Margaret*) too, only Baby would have been rather frightened, would have liked to

see the Museum yesterday. There were a great many stuffed beasts- a bear, a leopard, a great many monkeys...

You can't think how many wayside crosses there are set up on the roads- some of stone, some of wood, some with several figures of the three Maries and S. John, some with only our Lord... The driver has just stopped to show us on the top of a hill at a distance a very tall menhir...

I am so very glad Master Chapman has been able to read prayers so well. Tell him so, and that I am very much obliged to him...

All well, we shall cross from Dieppe to Newhaven and so come home straight from there by the Brighton line, and very glad we shall be to have our pets (*younger children*) again. Now give my love to Er., and Baby and Miss Baker (*a governess or nanny?*) and remember me kindly to the servants and to all the people, and especially to Master Chapman and Simonds, and Mrs Payne and Mrs Alcock, and Miss Swayland and Mary Jenks. God bless you my pet, Your very dear Papa, JM Neale.

When Mary (by then married to the Rev'd R. Lawson and the mother of seven children) edited her Father's letters, she wrote that Master Chapman was one of the pensioners at Sackville College, but that they did not share her father's gratitude, for Master Chapman read very slowly, sometimes stopping to spell out a word. Once, one of the old women pensioners prompted him, calling out loudly 'Pavilion, Master Chapman, pavilion'! During short absences, the Warden generally deputed one of the brethren to read in the Chapel. Master Everest had died by this time, but was a much better 'scholar'. Master Everest was a great friend of the Neale children. He had been a cricketer in his youth and despite being very lame, gave Cornelius Vincent Neale his first cricket lessons. 'When the old man's turn to go in came,' Mary 'used to stand beside him and make his runs for him, he being nearly eighty and I about four or five'.

This letter and the touching footnote from his daughter give us a glimpse of Neale's character and family life. He was still 'inhibited' from celebrating Holy Communion in the Chapel, but read prayers for the almspeople. He clearly thought about the College residents whilst he was away. Here is Neale travelling in France, using the Brighton railway line to come home, taking an interest in the Breton scenery, but missing his younger children and writing home affectionately.

His daughter's commentary brings in all five Neale children.

Mary Lawson ed. *The Letters of John Mason Neale* (London: Longmans, 1910), pp. 305-07.

https://archive.org/stream/lettersofjohnmas00nealuoft/lettersofjohnmas00nealuoft_djvu.txt

[accessed 24/2/2016]

Thank you to all the Friends of Sackville College for your continuing support. It is greatly appreciated.

Sackville College

Patron	The Earl De La Warr	
Trustees	Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn The Countess De La Warr Chris Rolley	
Sackville College Office	Open Weekday mornings	01342 323414
Almoner: Mrs Linda Bryant		admin@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Warden	Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn	01342 326561
Chaplain	St Swithun's team ministry	
Head Guides	contact the Office- Mrs Linda Bryant	01342 323414
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 2016

Sunday 10 th April	East Grinstead Bus day	
Tuesday 12 th April	7:30 pm Friends AGM in the Common Room	
Saturday 30 th April	An Evening to celebrate the Life and Work of John Mason Neale. Words with Music from Sackville Community Choir, conducted by Tom Scratchley..	Tickets from Office
Monday 2 nd May	Lions May Fair: Sackville College open	
Saturday 14 May 7.30pm	The Grenstede Duo- a Concert of Classical Music performed by Hilary Needham and Ivor Humphries.	Tickets £10 from the Office
1 st -4 th June	NAFAS Flower Festival at Sackville College	Tickets from Mrs Wendy Allaway - 01323 895832
Sunday 12 th June	Friends' Lunch- Bring and Share, from 12.30	
Saturday 18 th June	Concert by No Strings Attached	Tickets from Office
Monday 5 th December	Public Carols in the Chapel	Tickets from Office
Wednesday 7 th December	Christmas Music by Cantu Amici in the Chapel Note Date to be confirmed please check nearer the time.	Tickets from Office

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).