

# SACKVILLE COLLEGE



Friends' Newsletter

**Autumn 2022**

## News from the Warden

Dear Friends of Sackville College

Life is slowly returning to normal with tours and fundraising events reinstated. There are still small restrictions within the building but it is a great relief that the College is now open for all.

In June, we planted a tree for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11, which we will now nurture and cherish in her memory.

I look forward to welcoming back familiar faces at our Carol Concerts.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With best wishes

Rosalind Crowther



The Warden, Residents and Friends gathered together at 9.00am on the 9th September for the lowering of the flag to mark the sad passing of HM the Queen.

## Events at Sackville College

### May Day



We had a record number of Visitors on May Day, when the College was open for the first time this year. Many visitors were delighted to see the door open and keen to find out what lies inside.

### No Strings Attached Concert

It was wonderful to welcome No Strings Attached back to Sackville College for their seventh visit. They performed a wide range of songs, some new to us and some familiar. They summoned us back to the second half of the evening by singing from high up in the Minstrels' Gallery in the Banqueting Hall. There was loud applause at the end of their Concert and they gave an Encore.



### BBQ for the Friends of Sackville College



It was very good to see so many Friends at the lovely occasion of the Barbecue Lunch in the Warden's garden at Sackville College. We thank the Warden and her husband (and their dog) for allowing us to be there. Huge thanks go to Marcus and his wife and daughter for all their hard work in manning their barbecue. Thank you to Dave Phillips and George for their excellent music.



## Forthcoming events

We will again have Christmas Carols in the Chapel open to all on 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm and Cantu Amici will perform on 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm.

The Carols for Friends & Guides will be on 9<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm.

Please book all of these via the College office 01342 323414.

## Work parties

These have continued on the last Friday of the month. We are very grateful to everyone who comes along for giving their time and energy. They carry out clearing of leaves, weeding and other tasks and this all helps Marcus to keep Sackville College looking so pretty. If working outside does not appeal, there are always indoor tasks such as sorting out boxes of documents. Please contact

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

## News from the Potting Shed

Seasons' Greetings from the Potting Shed here at Sackville College.



It seems such a long time ago now that we were bathed in warm sunshine for days on end, and the weather was maybe a little too hot for the garden. I'm sure my arms are a little longer after the introduction of the hose pipe ban and having to carry watering cans round the College, however we managed to grow some vegetables during the heat wave. The apple tree cropped too well this year causing a large limb to split off in the wind under the weight of the apples. We have managed to bind it back in place in the hope that it will repair itself- only time will tell now. The lawns didn't fare quite as well, looking scorched when viewed from the High Street, but the grass has been very resilient and it has come back green and lush again with only a few small bare patches. Some other news from the grounds of the College that some of may have noticed- we managed to resurface the path alongside the vegetable garden down to the pedestrian gate leading onto Church Lane. Keep your eyes peeled in the new year for a new gate onto Church Lane .

May I finish with a big thank you to all the garden volunteers, who help keep Sackville College tidy once a month with the help of tea, coffee and cake mid-morning. Thank you, Caroline for supplying us with cake.

Hope you all have a good Christmas

From the Sackville College Potting Shed

Marcus Bryant

## Obituaries

### Mrs Olive Combe

We are sorry to report the death of Olive Coombe in August. She was a Guide from June 2012 until 2019 and a loyal and generous supporter of Sackville College. She was an excellent Guide- informative, clear and concise, and very good at tailoring the tour to the particular visitors before her. She was a lovely lady. May she rest in peace.

### Mr Peter Roberts

We are very sorry, too, to report the death of Peter. He became a Guide in 2011 when his wife Joan became a Helper. An afternoon at Sackville College with Peter waiting for visitors to appear was always full of lively talk. He was an enthusiastic Guide and supporter of Sackville College, still acting as a Helper even after his memory began to fail. Joan cared for Peter devotedly at home, latterly. We offer our sincere condolences to Joan, to their son and daughter and their families.

## From the Archives

### Royal Visits

The late Queen Elizabeth II never visited Sackville College, but her late Mother, first as Queen Elizabeth and then as The Queen Mother did so in 1946 and again in 1963. The late Queen's sister, HRH Princess Margaret visited and Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, came in 2014 to unveil the McIndoe statue on the front lawn below Sackville College.

#### 1946



*East Grinstead Observer 2 August 1946*

On 25 July 1946, the Queen (the Queen of King George VI and the late Queen's Mother) went to a luncheon with Lord and Lady Kindersley at Plawhatch Hall before the opening of the American Surgical Centre. Guests included Lady Louis Mountbatten, Lady Katherine Seymour, Mr & Mrs Edward Blount, Mr Alfred Wagg and Mr A. McIndoe.

After visiting the Queen Victoria Hospital and the College of St Barnabas, the Queen came to Sackville College.

1946: Queen Elizabeth (1900-2002), Queen Consort to King George VI visiting Sackville College, East Grinstead, whilst on a tour of Surrey, accompanied by Lieutenant-General Sir George MacMunn. (Photo by PNA Rota/Getty Images)

*'The Queen had a great reception from the crowd when she arrived at the historic Sackville College. Here she was met by the Warden, Lieutenant-General Sir George MacMunn. Presentations to Her Majesty included Lady MacMunn and the two Assistant Wardens, Lady De La Warr and Mr A.H. Hastie. The Queen inspected the common room, chapel and banqueting hall, and spoke to the oldest resident, 89 year old Mrs Card of East Grinstead, and to Miss Page, who is blind and has lived for 33 years at the College, longer than any other resident. Her Majesty took sherry with Sir George and Lady MacMunn and signed the Visitors' Book before leaving. She received another big ovation when she left the College for the drive back to London'*

This may have been the occasion when the Queen was offered 'the royal chair' thought to have been used by King Charles II, and formerly at the Copthall property of the Sackville family. The response was 'in future the Guides will be able to say with certainty that a Queen of England has used this chair'.

### **The Visit of the Queen Mother in 1963**



As Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Her Royal Highness visited Sackville College again on 5 June 1963. By now the Warden was Sir Harry Sinderson. The Queen Mother met the Residents, including Miss Page and Mr Thomas Warner, whom she had met on her first visit. Miss Page was apparently the only Collegian allowed to keep a cat (with a bell on its collar, perhaps because of her blindness).<sup>1</sup> Mr Thomas F. Warner (born in 1872), was the Senior Brother at the College and had won £1, 500 on the Pools in about 1950 - an enormous amount then - but stayed on at Sackville College. He showed the Queen Mother photographs of her

previous visit in 1946 'which she looked at closely'.

### **Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret 1990**



Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret visited Sackville College when the present Warden's late father, Derek Chislett, was the Warden. In May 1990, he welcomed HRH Princess Margaret to Sackville College, where she attended Holy Communion in the Chapel, toured the College and met the residents on one of the days during her stay at Buckhurst with the Earl and Countess De La Warr.

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<sup>1</sup> Michael J. Leppard, *A Brief History of Sackville College*, p. 21.

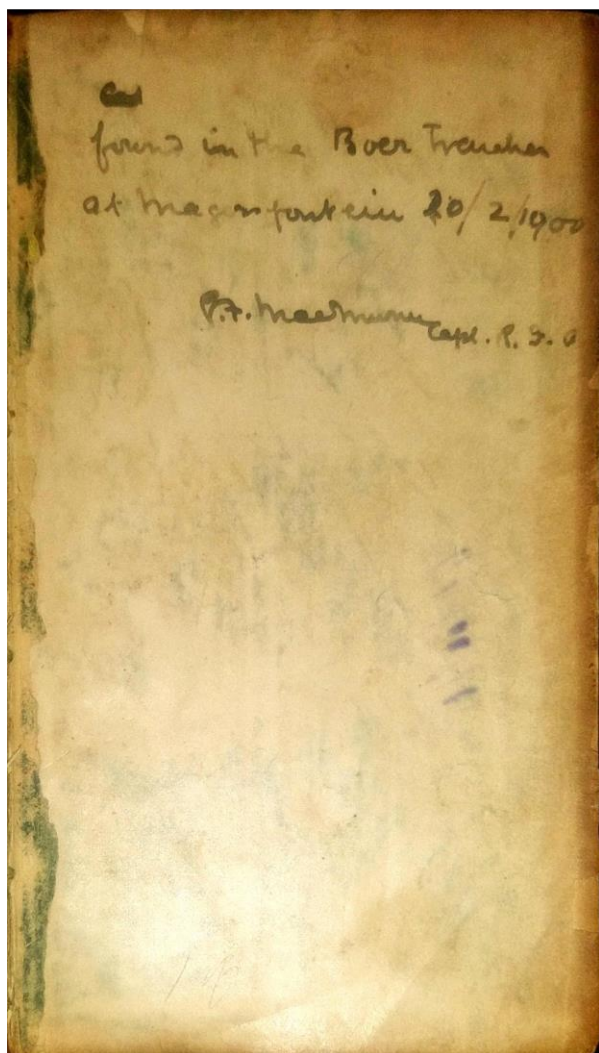


## Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal 2014

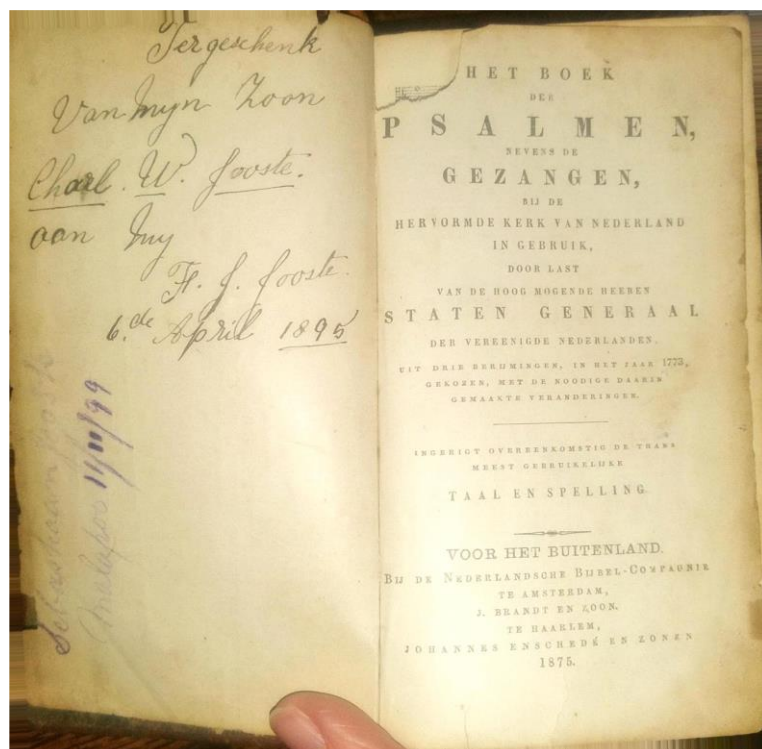


**Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Princess Anne**, visited Sackville College in 2014 to unveil the statue of Sir Archibald McIndoe, when the late Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn was the Warden. This was not a Sackville College function, however the Princess Royal halted in the quadrangle so that the Residents who were there could be presented to her. She was gracious and charming in her conversation with them. This was just one of several visits that she carried out that day.

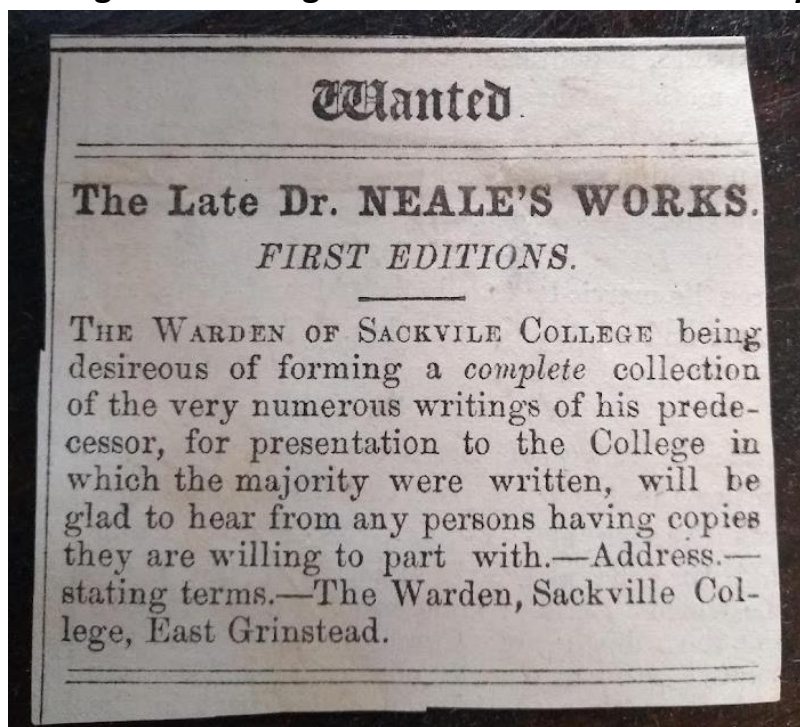
## Book of Psalms from the Boer War



Amongst the books on the Study shelves, we found a small book of Psalms written in German. Lieutenant General Sir George MacMunn found it in the trenches whilst serving in the Boer War and brought it home. It is over a hundred years old and should stay in the Study as a small testament to the folly and sadness of War.



## Dr Rogers Collecting for the Neale Memorial Library



A newspaper cutting from *The Times* inside a book in the Study shows how Dr Rogers wished to purchase a *complete* set of first editions of the works of John Mason Neale. Dr J. Henry Rogers, as the Guides know, was a 'thorn in the flesh' to the Rev'd John Mason Neale during Neale's time as Warden. They had been friends, and Neale appointed Rogers as one of his Assistant Wardens, but they quarrelled after a trip to Portugal. Neale ended up writing the Guidebook to Portugal by himself, without any contribution from Dr Rogers. The Neale family nicknamed Rogers 'The Bear'. Rogers tried to have his own choice of resident installed, against Neale's wishes and stirred up discontent amongst residents. Yet when Rogers became Warden himself, a few years

after the death of Neale, Rogers set about creating the Neale Memorial Library.

### George Sackville, later Germain, Viscount Sackville (1716- 1785)

I am very grateful to one of our Guides, John, who found reference to Lord George Sackville, third son of the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Dorset, in the book *Culloden*.<sup>2</sup> Lord George was the favourite son of Lionel, first Duke of Dorset and Lord George accompanied his father to Ireland to hold office several times. Lord George was also a politician and a soldier.<sup>3</sup> Horace Walpole described Lord George as 'a man of very sound parts, of distinguished bravery and of honourable elegance'. Lord George had been injured at the Battle of Fontenoy in 1745, with a wound in his chest and a 'leg that is wounded and considerably shrunk up'. The Duke of Cumberland noticed Lord George's skill as a soldier and summoned him to Scotland after the 1745 Jacobite Rising, and Lord George arrived in Scotland in 1746 just after the Battle of Culloden. When his baggage horses, clothes, provisions, linen and bedding were seized by clansmen, he 'allowed his men to take his revenge at the next village'.<sup>4</sup> It is hard for us now to understand the very real threat posed to the Hanoverian monarchy by the Jacobites and the consequent brutal repression. The Duke of Cumberland, who summoned Lord George to Scotland and was his commanding officer, is remembered as 'Butcher Cumberland'.

When Lord George transferred to a different regiment, Major Wolfe commented that 'no possible successor can make amends for his loss'. In 1759, however, at the Battle of Minden, Lord George was accused of disobedience towards his commander, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick. From an account of the battle it seems that there were communication problems - the Prince wrote in French and German, and Sackville and his staff had not heard an instruction, and two messengers arrived in the wrong order, with conflicting instructions. The French were defeated, but not as soundly as the commander had hoped.

<sup>2</sup> John Prebble, *Culloden* (Penguin, 1996).

<sup>3</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/10566>, by Piers Mackesy.

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1754-1790/member/sackville-lord-george-1716-85>, b John Brooke

<sup>4</sup> *Culloden*, p. 199.



Lord George Sackville commented '*I never knew anything so unfair, so unjust and I must say so wicked*' in response to the accusations against him. In the Study at Sackville College there is a printed pamphlet defending his actions.

The accession of the new King, George III, in 1760 eased life for Lord George and he returned to office in Ireland. In 1770 he assumed the name Germain after the death of Lady Elizabeth Germain, who left him her fortune. Visitors to Knole may remember Lady Betty Germain's pretty room.

Lord George Sackville retired with a peerage as Viscount Sackville. He sometimes spoke in the House of Lords, staying at his London house, but latterly he spent more time in Sussex at what was then called Stoneland Lodge, living the life of a country squire, taking an interest in the welfare of his tenants and cottagers and 'reproving the singing of the village choir'.

His wife, Lady Diana Sambrooke, had predeceased him. They had two sons and three daughters. Their eldest son, Charles, born in 1767, eventually succeeded to the Viscountcy, and then in 1815, upon the tragic death of the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Dorset, unmarried, Charles became the fifth and last Duke of Dorset. Charles died unmarried and without heirs in 1843, and is buried at Lowick, Northamptonshire.



The heraldry representing the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Dorset has been made to fit into the space available at Lowick.

## Red Deer Pies from the Earl of Dorset

The household Accounts of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury 1635-42, included a payment of '*£1 5s. for 5 Red Deer Pies from the Earl of Dorset*'.

This would have been Edward Sackville, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dorset. Perhaps the red deer were at Buckhurst.<sup>5</sup> This was before the English Civil War broke out.

## The Chapel Key at Sackville College

According to a letter at Sackville College, from David J. H. Clifford, of the Clifford Association, the Chapel lock was made by George Dent, a lock-maker of no little skills. It is documented in the Westmorland archives that Lady Anne Clifford was one of his regular customers because she liked to give gifts of locks and keys to her friends and visitors to her castles, following her return to the north of England in the 1650s. Her *Diaries* give examples of gifts of gloves to some; of portraits to Bishop Rainbow of Carlisle and to George Sedgwick and Sir Edward Hasell, who were two of her secretaries, whilst she gave one of George Dent's locks to others.

In her Account Books for 1673, three years before her death, she recorded: '*Paid to George Dent for two great large stock locks he made for me, to give away, the sum of £2*'.

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<sup>5</sup> *The Household Accounts of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1635-1642*, ed. by Leonie James, Church of England Record Society, 24. (Martlesham: Boydell, 2019).



David Clifford thought that the locks are embossed with the initials A.P., for Anne Duchess of Pembroke, because Lady Anne Clifford's second husband was Philip Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. David Clifford suggested that the Sackville College lock would have been presented in the 1650s, after Lady Anne went north to secure her estates in Westmorland and Cumbria. Once there and having claimed her estates, she never returned to London or the south east, but she could have had the lock and key sent, or brought by one of her descendants.

At Appleby Castle in particular, there were examples of locks and keys on display. Perhaps the keys reflect her long years of trying to claim the Clifford inheritance, and her legal battles. Having finally won the lands after the deaths of her uncle and cousin, she was determined to keep control of her lands, castles and other properties.

Visitors, especially children, love the big key. It is one artefact that really draws comparison with tiny modern day Yale keys.

## Wanderings

### Lewes

Whilst visiting Lewes churches we found several interesting connections with the Sackville family or with John Mason Neale.

#### St Michael's church

Has an impressive marble or alabaster monument to Sir Nicholas Pelham (1515-59) and his wife, **Anne Sackville**, whose dates do not seem to have survived.



She was the daughter of John Sackville of Withyham. Sir Nicholas and Anne were married by 1537 and had 6 sons and 4 daughters, depicted underneath their parents on the monument.<sup>6</sup> Sir Nicholas was knighted in

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.edavidarthur.net/SirNicholasPelham.pdf>.

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/pelham-nicholas-1513-60>

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sackville-john-i-1484-1557>

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sackville-richard-ii-1507-66>.

The 3 articles in the History of Parliament database are by RJW Swales.

1549 and served as sheriff of Surrey and Sussex. His reputation for good leadership and valour in the field was marked on his tomb

*'what time ye French sought to have Sackt Sea-Foord, This Pelham did repel them back aboard'.*

In 1545 the French raided the Sussex coast between Newhaven & Brighton and the militia under Pelham's command repelled them. The Sackville family were influential so 'Pelham's marriage to the daughter of a local gentleman strengthened his Sussex connections'. In Parliament he sat with two brothers in law, John Sackville II and Richard Sackville II, and he purchased land in Hartfield from another brother-in-law, Christopher Sackville. In his will, he appointed 'Anne Pelham my wife' as his executor. Anne's father, John Sackville married Margaret Boleyn, aunt of the more famous Anne. John Sackville's eldest son was Sir Richard Sackville, whose eldest son was Thomas Sackville, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Dorset and Baron Buckhurst. This makes the tomb inscription quite wrong- Anne Sackville, married c. 1537 could not possibly have been the *granddaughter* of Thomas Sackville, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Dorset (d. 1608), but was his Great Aunt and a Great Great Aunt to Robert Sackville, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Dorset and founder of Sackville College.

### St John's Church, Southover

In 1845 workmen building the Brighton to Lewes railway, which cuts right across the site of the former Lewes Priory, found two small lead boxes or cists, engraved with the names of the founders of the priory, Gundrada and William de Warenne. A chapel was created in the church of St John the Baptist, Southover, to house the cists and the remains of the founders. The Rector of Southover at the time was the Rev'd John Scobell. Fund raising for the Chapel saw the creation of the Sussex Archaeological Society in 1846.<sup>7</sup> Major contributors to the fund included the Earl Amherst and Earl De La Warr, who were married respectively to the two sisters of the late fourth Duke of Dorset, Lady Mary Sackville and Lady Elizabeth Sackville. (The two Countesses were co-patronesses of Sackville College, with Earl De La Warr as the patron). In the Gundrada Chapel of St John's



church, Southover, some of the tiles on the floor have the Sackville shield and are similar to those found in the Banqueting Hall and the Chapel at Sackville College.

The discovery of the remains aroused great interest and the Rev'd Scobell wrote an article for *The Ecclesiologist*, which had been founded and was edited by John Mason Neale. Neale

subsequently criticised Scobell for an inaccurate Latin translation! Boards in the Chapel at Southover show something of the work of Scobell. They also show that his *facts* were at fault as well as his Latin- modern scholars do not believe that Gundrada was the daughter of William the Conqueror.

Amy Scobell, the Rector's daughter, became interested in joining the Society of St Margaret, founded in 1854 by John Mason Neale. She joined the Sisterhood on 15 August 1857, aged 30, without her father's blessing, changing her name to Sister Emily. Wanting to play a full role in the work of the sisterhood, she asked to help with nursing the sick, caught scarlet fever and tragically died from it on 13 November 1857. She left a sum of money to the Sisterhood in her will, which enraged her father still more. At her funeral he preached referring to her disobedience and he blamed John Mason Neale. Neale and some of the Sisters went to the funeral and there was a riot. Neale had to escape by climbing over walls, helped by the kindness of some

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.lewespriory.org.uk/gundrada\\_chapel](https://www.lewespriory.org.uk/gundrada_chapel)



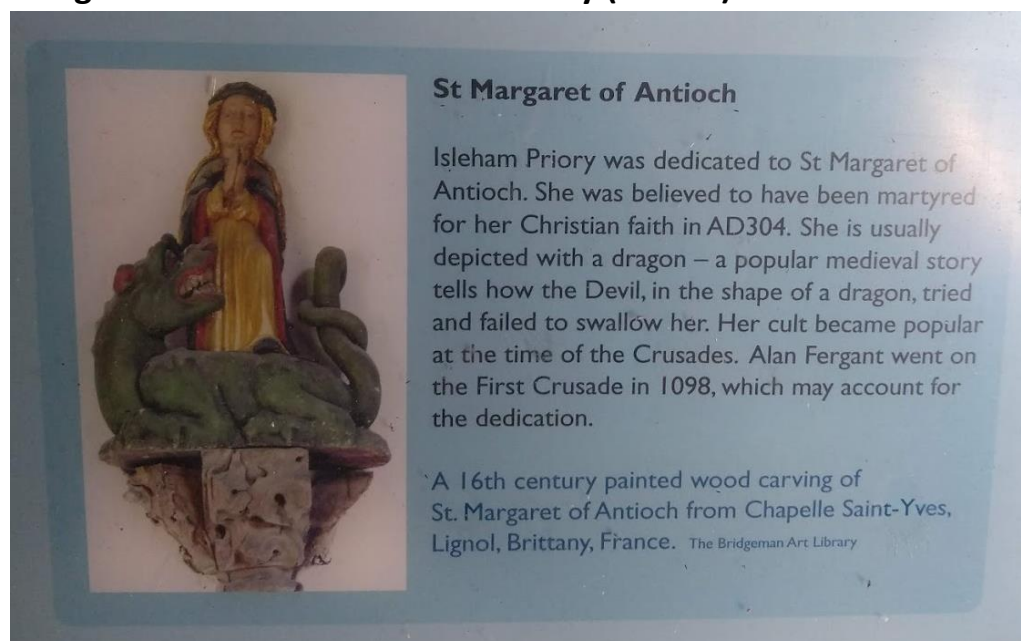
townspeople and the local police. He returned the next day, but was ill a few days later, writing to a friend asking him to excuse pencil because he was writing from his sickbed.<sup>8</sup>

### Church of St Wilfrid, Haywards Heath



A stained-glass window in the south of the Chancel was given by the family sisters of John Mason Neale in his memory. The sisters ended up living in Haywards Heath, according to the Vicar. Neale had three sisters: Elizabeth, who became a nun, Cornelia and Susannah.

### Margaret of Antioch at Isleham Priory (Cambs)



One of the four female saints in the Sackville College Chapel is Margaret of Antioch, depicted transfixing a dragon. She is the patron saint of childbirth. John Mason Neale and his wife had five children, so perhaps Margaret of Antioch was important to them.

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.lewespriory.org.uk/gundrada\\_chapel](https://www.lewespriory.org.uk/gundrada_chapel) A.G. Lough, *John Mason Neale, Priest Extraordinary* (Devon, privately printed, 1976), pp 106-113. Letters of John Mason Neale edited by his daughter, Mary Lawson, (London: Longmans, 1910), p. 299.

## Saffron Walden Almshouse



The Edward VI and Rev'd Joseph Prime's almshouse has had an interesting history, from its beginnings in 1400 as the Guild of Our Lady of Pity, given by John & Eleanor Butler to provide succour and sustenance for 13 poor men. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century the 13 Residents had weekly:

*'1 bushel of wheat for bread, 2 bushels of malt to make drink, and 2s. 2d. with candles for winter, fish and peas for Lent, and butter for summer, with 700 faggots of wood annually'.*

Additional buildings were added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to house 30 old people, with a hall with a large fire for 8 months of the year, and a chapel. Residents were provided with

*'firing, 7 quarts of beer, 5s. 6d. a week and special treats at Christmas.'*



## General Matters

### Amazon Smile

We are now a registered charity with Amazon who will make a small donation to Sackville College with each purchase. Please recommend to family, friends and contacts working for large companies who order from Amazon.

### 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 are flats available at the College. If you know of anyone who may be eligible, 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 please call the Office 01342 323414 for further details. To arrange a group visit please call the Office.

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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.

**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.

As the College has had limited opening recently your support is particularly valuable.

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 warden@sackvillecollege.org.uk
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
Maintenance	Mr Marcus Bryant	thepottingshed@sackvillecollege.org.uk
Chaplain	The Rev'd Andrew Hawken	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 2022 (**Friends' Events**)

5 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7:30pm <b>Sold Out</b>	Carols in the Chapel Followed by Refreshments	Tickets from the College office £10 (£8 for Friends)
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7:30pm <b>Sold Out</b>	An evening of Christmas music with Cantu Amici in the Chapel Followed by Refreshments	Tickets from the College office £10
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7:30pm	Carols in the Chapel Followed by Refreshments	Tickets from the College office £10 (£8 for Friends)
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec 3pm	<b>Friends and Guides Carols in the Chapel Followed by Refreshments</b>	<b>Please let Linda in the office know if you are coming so she knows numbers</b>

## Other Events

- For Events run by The Bookshop at Sackville College see <https://www.eastgrinsteadbookshop.co.uk/events-2>
- Museum Town Quiz and walking Trail packs are available from the Museum.  
All proceeds go to supporting the Town Museum.