

SACKVILLE COLLEGE



Friends' Newsletter
Spring 2022



News from the Warden

Dear Friends of Sackville College

As Easter approaches and the weather improves, our thoughts are once again turning towards the coming year. In the last 2 years, we have all become accustomed to hearing phases such as “social distancing” and “the new normal” as we shared and experienced life in a way we never imagined. However, we have learnt how to adapt and change our way of living. The College has remained a secure haven for our residents and the sunshine is lifting the winter blues. We are busy planning this year’s programme and there are lots of things to look forward to: tours of the building will restart, by appointment only, private venue hire and hopefully some long awaited fundraising events. We will be open for the Lions May Fair on Monday 2nd May so please pop in and say hello.

Wishing you, your family and friends a Happy Easter.

With best wishes

Rosalind Crowther

Warden

Derek Victor Chislett

We offer our sincere condolences to the Warden and her family upon the loss of her father. He was the Warden from 1988-1996 and his portrait hangs in the Common Room: he is also the longest-lived warden on record. During his wardenship he acquired funding for major repairs to the College and the updating of the residents' flats. Warden Chislett launched the Friends of Sackville College and the Newsletter that still continues today. 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.

Events at Sackville College

Christmas Carol Evenings

It was very good to see as many people as the Covid-19 limits allowed in the Sackville College Chapel in December for Carol Evenings. Thank you to our organist, Janet, for playing for us. Thank you to Cantu Amici for a sparkling evening. Thank you to the Residents who helped to decorate the Chapel and Common Room so beautifully.

Forthcoming events

On May Day Sackville College will be open to visitors for refreshments and short guided tours at £3 for adults & £1 for school age children and students. 11am to 4pm.

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 leaves, weeding and other tasks and this all helps Marcus to keep Sackville College looking so pretty.

News from the Potting Shed



The warmer weather in the last few weeks turned our minds back to the garden, only to find that it has been a 'Fool's Spring' as the weather then turned colder again and we needed woolly hats and jackets!

After the nocturnal raids from the local

wildlife last year (badgers, I think) the vegetable garden now resembles Colditz with its electric fencing around it, hopefully saving some of the potatoes and sweetcorn for the Residents.



As the eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed, we have planted some new fruit trees. The plum we planted last year is doing very well and hopefully the cherry tree we planted a few weeks ago will follow suit. The smaller of the two greenhouses had new staging made for it last Autumn, allowing us to overwinter more plants and start off new seeds this Spring.

I have been growing a few extra plants to sell on May Day this year. Any donations of extra plants for the May Day Stall would be greatly appreciated and gratefully received.

Unfortunately it looks as if this year I will not have the supply of Summer bedding that we usually sell at the Church Lane entrance, due to a change in circumstances.

Could I take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Sackville College for their continued support at the monthly Work Parties? Thank you.

Marcus Bryant



From the Archives

Lady Anne Clifford as Cleopatra



A picture showing Lady Anne Clifford dressed as Cleopatra was used by James Shapiro in his book *1606: Shakespeare and the Year of Lear*. The Jacobean painting, by an unknown artist, came to auction at Christie's in 1931 and was sold for 8 guineas in 1948. It is not known where the painting is now. The National Portrait Gallery photographed the painting, which is how the author was able to see the black and white image.

The figure is thought to be Lady Anne Clifford (1590-1676) who was a great patron of the arts. A miniature at her neck shows her husband, Richard Sackville, 3rd Earl of Dorset (1589-1624) dressed as Anthony, in Roman costume.

Lady Anne's costume is similar to one designed by Inigo Jones for her as Berenice of Egypt in Ben Johnson's *The Masque of Queens* which was staged before Lady Anne Clifford's marriage to Richard Sackville, 3rd Earl of Dorset, in 1609.

Another clue is a folded playscript in the top right corner which has 16 lines from the death scene in Samuel David's *Cleopatra*. Samuel David had been Lady Anne's tutor and dedicated a sonnet to her in his 1607 volume that included the story of Cleopatra.

This small painting reflects Lady Anne and Richard Sackville, 3rd Earl of Dorset as a young, fashionable and cultured couple at the Court of King James I.

Information from James Shapiro, *1606, William Shakespeare and the Year of Lear* (Faber & Faber, 2015), pp. 261, 285-88. Thank you to one of our Guides, Angela, for telling me about the book and this picture.

Roger Ascham and the Sackville family

A copy of a book called *The Scolemaster* by Roger Ascham in the Study at Sackville College was presented to the Neale Memorial Library by Dr Henry Rogers, Warden 1872-1879. This copy was printed in 1870 and is a reprint of a seventeenth-century volume.

Roger Ascham or Askham (1514-68) was an author and royal tutor to the Princess Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth I. Ascham was born in Yorkshire and educated at Cambridge. He wrote a book called *Toxophilus* about the merits of archery and gave a copy to King Henry VIII, hoping for court patronage. Archbishop Cranmer gave him a generous money gift. Ascham became tutor to the Princess upon the death of his own former tutor, William Grindal in 1548.

In 1563 Ascham began work upon *The Scolemaster* which was published in 1570, after his death, c. 1568. He stated in the preface that **Richard Sackville** had spoken to him of a schoolmaster whose brutality had made Richard hate learning, when young, to his great loss. With a young son of his own, whom he wished to be learned, Richard Sackville now offered to pay for the education of his own son and Ascham's sons, and asked Ascham to name a tutor and write a treatise about the 'right order of teaching'. *The Scolemaster* was the result.

Richard Sackville died in 1556. He was the father of Thomas Sackville (1536-1608) who became Lord Buckhurst and 1st Earl of Dorset, and wrote *Gorboduc*, the first English play written in blank verse. Thomas Sackville was the father of Robert Sackville, 2nd Earl of Dorset (1561-1609) who founded Sackville College.

It is good to think of Robert Sackville's grandfather wishing for kinder tutors for his son, in an age when teaching was often cruelly done. Both Thomas and Robert Sackville were educated and cultured men. Perhaps this owes much to Richard Sackville and royal tutor, Roger Ascham.

Storms in Victorian Times-

The recent storms reminded me of two occurrences of storms recorded in letters of Warden John Mason Neale (Warden 1846-66).

In January 1866, he recorded: *We have had a most dreadful snow-storm, ushered in by thunder and lightning, and a tempest the whole day. More snow fell that day here than on any one day within the memory of man... The whole of the north side of our scaffold poles though double braced, were torn out of the ground, and the east poles were so distressed that they will have to be taken down. This disaster will cost us £20. Providentially it happened at night. The best trees in our garden are destroyed by the weight of snow.*

In February 1866 he wrote: *'the late storms have done us sad harm...the eastern cross of our Chapel was snapped off and smashed; next, undermined by rain, part of our garden fell into the road and had to be built up, 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'.*

Some Sackville College People from the Past



Warden Dr James Harrison (Warden 1893-1908) with the coachman William Samuel Lindfield and a dog.

The son of Warden Dr Harrison, the Rev'd James Harrison, wrote

It certainly is my father. I remember that dog cart so well. The coachman we had most of the time was called Lindfield... I don't think that the horse had a name. ... I should say that the date would be 1899 or 1900.

Thank you to Graham Edwards, our Head Guide, for his research and for sharing information about the Lindfield/Streatfield families and their association with Sackville College, and to Robin, who had the good fortune to be the Guide a few years ago on the day that a descendant of those families visited Sackville College. Thank you to the visitor for sending information and pictures.

The coachman **William Samuel Lindfield** (1854-1905) married **Amelia Ann Pattenden** in 1878. In 1881 he was a grounds gardener living in Cemetery Road, now Queen's Road, East Grinstead. In 1891 he was a domestic coachman living in College Lane. In 1901 he was a coachman living in Cemetery Road again, and he died in 1905.

Amelia Ann Lindfield (née Pattenden) (1855-1945) married **William Samuel Lindfield**. After his death she was recorded as the keeper of a boarding house, living with one of her daughters in Forest Row in 1911. By 1939 she was living in Sackville College, recorded as Ann. She died in 1945.

One of their daughters was **Alice Amelia Lindfield** (1879-1958) who married **Jonathan Streatfield** (1876- 1922) a farmer, in 1900. She was recorded as working as a cook in a house in Lewes Road in 1939. She died in hospital in 1958, having lived latterly at 1, Sackville College. She and her husband had daughters, and the grandchild of one of those daughters visited Sackville College with her own daughter.



*Amelia Ann Lindfield at
Sackville College*

It is interesting to have a record of a mother and daughter who both lived at Sackville College for a few years and whose husband or father served as coachman to the Warden.

The Astronomer Thomas William Bush FRAS who ended his days at Sackville College

Thomas William Bush, astronomer, 'the baker of Nottingham' ended his days as a resident at Sackville College. He was born on 19 May 1839 in Nottingham to John Bush (1802-47), dyer, and Mary née Nepp (1807-?70), and they lived at 4, Canal Street, Nottingham. His father died in 1847, and his mother then married John Marriot, baker and flour seller, in 1848. Thomas attended the Standard Hill Academy but had help from the Rev'd G Roebuck at the Wesleyan Methodist School, who was a keen astronomer. Thomas joined the Nottingham Mechanical Institute and attended lectures including some given by a relative, Samuel Bush. In 1863 Thomas married Martha Cecilia Johnston, a teacher of music. They lived at 4, Canal Street until 1870, when his Mother may have died, and they moved to 102, Canal Street with their bakery and grocery business. Bush worked on developing a telescope that developed the Newtonian (designed by Sir Isaac Newton in 1671). At the Working Mens' International Exhibition in Islington in 1870, the telescope designed by Bush was on display and was much praised for the intricacy of his calculations. According to *The Times* of 12 July 1870, Queen Victoria was shown the telescope and awarded Bush a gold medal. Prime Minister William Gladstone also took an interest and put Bush in touch with the Astronomer Royal. Bush was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and took on a new post as secretary of Nottingham General Hospital and was able to sell the bakery and grocery business and design his own house, with an observatory. In 1909, Bush came to live in the district of East Grinstead in 1909 and continued with his important astronomical observation work. He moved from Dormansland to help William Sadler Franks, a professional astronomer, who also had Nottinghamshire roots, at Brockhurst Observatory. Bush continued to work on perfecting his telescope until he retired to **Sackville College, aged 84, on 8 January 1924**, when he was recorded as a widower. An article by Richard Pearson says that the 'fee' was £100 a year, which makes me wonder if Bush was admitted as a paying tenant, rather than as a poor brother. **He died on 23 April 1928**. His effects were valued at **£708 3s. 10d**. His funeral service was held in **Sackville College Chapel**. It is unclear where he was buried.

William Sadler Franks was a friend of Sir Patrick Moore, the television astronomer.

The Royal Astronomical Society's brief tribute to Bush can be found at

http://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/nph-iarticle_query?1929MNRAS..89Q.298.

An article about Thomas William Bush, astronomer and two others, by Richard Pearson, can be found online:
https://issuu.com/richardspearson/docs/a4_bush_manuscript_best

Carved Portrait Heads Around East Grinstead

By Robin Whalley

In 2009 Michael Leppard, in the East Grinstead Museum's "Compass No 28", wrote an article about several carved wooden portrait heads that can be seen around East Grinstead, particularly the prominent carved portraits in the Dining Hall at Sackville College. In the article he suggests that these portraits may well be mid 19th century attachments carved locally and added during the restoration by the Rev'd John Mason Neale, rather than as previously assumed, mid 16th century. The V & A's Assistant Keeper in the Department of Furniture and Woodwork had identified these as such in 1972. Michael referred to a personal communication with Mrs K S Coutin who said that "16th century carvers did not do heads in profile", as the rationale for reaching his conclusion.

However, Michael went on to ask a number of questions challenging other researchers to clarify this conundrum (see Compass No 28, article reprinted below) and add to our collective knowledge.

So I have taken up Michael's challenge below, but fear I have only added to the controversy.....

The carved portrait-heads at Sackville College depicted on the cover of this *Compass* are not unparalleled locally; there are comparable heads at 22-24 High Street (the Bookshop) and the Guest House (the public library) at Lingfield. All are circular medallions, showing head and shoulders in profile, with a vaguely Renaissance/16th century appearance, and of oak. The one at the Bookshop (dated 1535 over the entrance but actually mid-15th century), has been asserted to be Anne Boleyn, beheaded 1536, or her sister Mary¹; their family home was not far away at Hever. The pair at the College (founded in 1609) was judged by Dr Wheatley to be 'likely from the Sackville family home at Buckhurst'², from the demolition of which it has long been plausibly claimed that some of the stonework of the College was derived. I do not know any attribution of the ones in Lingfield library, built c.1475 but adapted within, not entirely authentically, at the end of the 19th century.

They also have in common a lack of any evidence for these identifications and a much later date than claimed; 16th century carvers did not do heads in profile.³ Moreover they sit awkwardly, as if later attachments rather than integral to the original decor. I tentatively suggest that they are all late-19th/early 20th century products, supplied, perhaps even commissioned, to augment the appropriateness of the 'restorations' undertaken around that time. The Bookshop gained its first-floor idiosyncratic cork-oak bark facing and a good deal of not always well-fitting panelling under John Tooth in c.1880. Following Sackville College's major restoration in the mid-19th century by William Butterfield for J.M. Neale (who chose ecclesiastical subjects for his interventions), it underwent further antiquarianising under his successors around the end of the century. The architect C. Forster Hayward acquired the Guest House in 1896 and restored it in 1898.⁴

If there is a common local source for these medallions I suggest it is Miss Barr and her pupils at the East Grinstead School of Arts, of which I gave some account, spanning 1909-18, in *Compass* 23. They were certainly responsible for major wood-carving commissions in East Grinstead and Dormans Land churches⁵ and it is perfectly possible that some of the pupils found willing homes for their efforts at portrait heads, rather as in the 1930s the shields of arms carved by Boy Scouts were accommodated on the ends of the seats in East Grinstead parish church.⁶

At Gravetye there are two far more sophisticated heads over the fireplace in the former master bedroom, claimed to represent Roger and Katherine Infield⁷, for whom the house was built in c.1600 and whose initials are carved in the stone spandrels of the building's garden entrance. Though they are full-face and not in medallions, they look like modern people in a costume drama and seem to have been put in so as not to leave blank the round-headed panels they occupy. William Robinson, who bought Gravetye in 1885, 'panelled the interior ... in wood from the estate and enriched the rooms with chimney-pieces and fireplace furnishings entirely in keeping'⁸ (which is not the same as saying authentic features brought in from other houses of the same date).

All this amounts to, however, is three instances of similar medallions, two confidently-executed portraits and some guesses flimsily supported by known facts that may or may not be relevant. What is needed now is that other people (the more the better) try to answer the following questions. Are there any other similar heads locally, and, if so, where? Are such heads in fact a regional or national phenomenon? Are the similarities strong enough to suggest a common origin? Can they be related to known two-dimensional images? Were any intended to be particular historical characters? How accurately are the costumes portrayed? When, where and by whom were they made? All information sent in will be printed.

¹ e.g. *E.G. Courier*, 3 Sept. 1981 ² his caption to his drawing ³ Mrs K.S. Coutin, personal communication ⁴ A.B. Hayward and S. Hazell, *A History of Lingfield* (1933), p.33 ⁵ *E.G. Museum Compass*, 23 (Summer 2007), p.7 ⁶ G. Golding-Bird, *E.G. and its Parish Church* (3rd ed., 1934), p.1 ⁷ e.g. *E.G. Observer*, 30 Jan. 1989 ⁸ as note 7

The carved portrait heads in the Dining Hall at Sackville College, mainly in profile...



Portraits either side of the fireplace

Portraits on the reredos at the east end of the Dining Hall

By searching the internet it is easy enough to come up with many examples of 16th century carved heads looking similar to those in the Dining Hall as below.





These are described as “Romaine” panels and 16th century. The word Romaine in furniture applies to a style of decorative carving introduced into England from Italy in the early 16th century, featuring portrait heads or busts set in medallions. The name was coined in the 19th century and is a derivative of “Roman”. What is striking with these examples is the vertical symmetry, whereas for the Sackville portraits, the bottom of each appears to have been cut off. There is however, also clear evidence of the panels being let into the surrounding panelling, lending weight to the theory of a later addition. However, that there are many other examples of 16th century Romaine heads in profile tends to negate Mrs Coutin’s assumption!



Interestingly, the head in the panelling of the High Street Bookshop, purporting to be that of Anne Boleyn, has not been formally dated, but the Bookshop structure is mid-15th century. This head is also in profile so adding to the mystery!

There are also two lesser-known and much overlooked carved heads in the entranceway to Sackville College, which look very old indeed, one of which is in profile and one full-face.

It strikes me that the carvings in the College are crying out for further expert opinion to clarify this once and for all and a request has gone out once more to the V & A seeking their views!!



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.

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. This year the subscriptions from Friends have been used to purchase CCTV for the College, to add to security. Thank you.

As the College has not been open to visitors for so long your support is particularly valuable.

The newsletter can be downloaded from

<https://sackvillecollege.org.uk/Files/Friends/Newsletters/Newsletter%20Spring%202022.pdf>

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 2020-21 (**Friends' Events**)

Monday May 2 nd	Lions May Fair Sackville College Open 11:00-16:00	Offers of help and gifts of plants to sell will be much appreciated
----------------------------	--	--

We have used email addresses where possible to save printing and postage costs.