



## Friends' Newsletter



The Winter weather took its toll and the poor Sackville Ounce or Snow Leopard took on a dangerous lean. Emergency works had to be commissioned to stabilise him. We hope that a permanent solution can be found soon, but fear that this could be very costly.

### News from the Warden

What a joy it was to wake up this morning to the first signs of Spring. Firstly, I have to tell you that, unfortunately for us, Caroline Metcalfe has resigned from the position of Almoner at the College. We are very sorry to lose her. However, Caroline will carry on as a Guide and as joint Secretary of the Sackville College Friends, with her husband, Steve, who will also continue to look after our IT. Thank you, Steve, for all that you do for us.

The new Almoner is Mrs Linda Bryant, whom many of you may know. We are very pleased

that she is joining us and I am sure that Linda will carry on the role very well. Welcome Linda!

Looking back to the end of last year, the two public Carol Evenings were a great success. They have become so popular that we had our first booking in September! Our special thanks to Andrew Clifford, who stood in as Organist at the last minute for Diana Harris. Diana is so very good to the College, giving her valuable time to the College through the year.

My thanks also to Glynda Rendell and the members of Cantu Amici, who sang and

played for us at the second Carol Evening. It was truly delightful.

Many people are asking what has happened to the Leopard on the roof. Well, he was knocked over to a drunken 45 degrees by a severe storm on the night of 14<sup>th</sup> January. He is now lashed to, and swathed by, tubular scaffolding. Plans are being drawn up for his removal and repair. The roof of the tower also needs repairing. When all the repairs are completed, the leopard will be replaced. A crane will be needed for his removal and replacement, and the whole job will cost a few thousand pounds. The College is desperately seeking help and donations to meet the cost. Any contribution, however large or small, will be most welcome.

Ginnie Waddingham and East Grinstead Meridian Rotary Club have kindly offered to give what help they can. My thanks go to them for their support.

### ***Carol Evenings***

We had a very successful series of Carol evenings in December. Thank you to Andrew Clifford for playing the organ, and to Glynda Rendell, Jane Clifford and Cantu Amici for their Christmas Choral evening.

Look out for the dates for this year's carols evenings in the autumn.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### ***Friends' AGM***

12<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm in the College Common room - We look forward to seeing all the Friends at the AGM

#### ***Spring Sunday & Bus Running day***

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April College will be open 12 noon- 3:00 pm.

We welcome any Friends who can help with manning the door, the merchandise stall and a book stall

### ***Lions May Day Fair***

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May College will be open 11 am – 4 pm

We again welcome any Friends who can help with manning the door, the merchandise stall and a book stall

### ***Friends' Lunch***

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 12:30 in the College Dining Room. Once again we will have a Friends' Lunch when we hope to see as many of you as possible. As in the past few years, it will be a 'Bring & Share' event. Please bring food you like, savoury or sweet, and a bit extra to share. Drinks will be provided. We hope to arrange some entertainment.

Please let Steve or Caroline know if you are able to come, so that we have some idea of numbers.

### ***Concert***

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 7pm for 7:30pm. We are very pleased to welcome back the A Capella Group "No Strings Attached" on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June. The format will be Music – Light Buffet – More Music. They will sing and play a variety of popular songs.

Tickets from the College Office.

Friends £10 and others £12

### ***Charity Dinner***

We hope to arrange another fund raising dinner at CJs later in the year. Please look out for announcements.

### **From the Archives**

#### ***From St Swithun's Parish Magazine April 1873***

*On 15th April (Easter Tuesday), at three p.m, there was a Choral Service at Sackville College, and the Warden, after welcoming his numerous guests in the Hall, where Dame Knight, aged 91, and Dame Payne, aged 85,*

*strewed bay leaves, bade them partake of the beverage of tea in the west room, which he had lately fitted up. The old character of the decoration was in keeping with the date of the College. There was a buttery fitted up, whence cake and ale were dispensed, reminding one of the cheer of ancient days. Among the company was the late Charles, Earl De La Warr.*

**The Warden** at the time was **Dr John Henry Rogers**, Warden 1872-79. He was Assistant Warden during the time when John Mason Neale was Warden (1846-66), and had several serious arguments with Neale. However, Dr Rogers bequeathed the Neale Memorial Library to the College. He also continued to hold the Christmas festivities, and gathered supporters of the Sackville Dole and Sustenation Fund. Most of this money was spent on a weekly allowance for meat. Dr Rogers was the founder of the first cottage hospital in East Grinstead. He died suddenly in 1879.

**Charles, Earl De La Warr** was Major-General Charles Richard Sackville-West, 6th Earl De La Warr KCB (13 November 1815- 23 April 1873). He was the second son of George West, 5th Earl De La Warr and Lady Elizabeth Sackville (daughter of John Sackville, 3rd Duke of Dorset, sister of the 4th Duke who died in a hunting accident). He had a sister and 4 brothers. He was educated at Harrow, then served in the British Army. He served in the Crimean War, and was later promoted to the rank of Major-General. He succeeded his father to the earldom in 1869. He was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB). Lord De La Warr died in April 1873, aged 57. He was unmarried. He was succeeded in the earldom by his younger brother Reginald, Lord Buckhurst.

### ***Lieutenant Harry Sackville Lawson (1876-1918)***

Harry Lawson was a grandson of John Mason Neale, but he was born 10 years after Neale's

death, at Sackville College, in 1866.

Harry Sackville Lawson was one of 7 children born to the Rev'd Robert Lawson and Mary Sackville Lawson, who was one of the daughters of John Mason Neale.

Lawson married Janet Kathleen Trinder and they had 4 children, 3 boys and a girl. He became Headmaster of Buxton College in 1911.

Harry was commissioned into the 4<sup>th</sup> North Midland (Howitzer) Brigade RFA as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1915. Initially he was 'engaged in lecturing', but early in 1917, he volunteered for service at the Front. He was killed in action on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1918. Lawrence Housman commented that his sense of duty must have been very strong to take a public school Headmaster into the Army at the age of 41. Lawson wrote 'Letters of a Headmaster Soldier', published shortly after his death. In the Letters, written to the boys back at Buxton College, he tried to give some impression of his life in the Army, and to inspire the boys with the ideals of citizenship and public spirit.

This account of the loss of a grandson, father, son, brother, headmaster and soldier gives Sackville College a connection of sorts with the First World War.

## **Members, Guides and Helpers**

We are always in need of new Friends, so please pass on details to those who might be interested in joining.

Graham and Ann Edwards, who run the Guides & Helpers team, are always pleased to welcome new people. If you can spare time during the College opening times to be a Guide or Helper, please contact them on 01342 322994

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## Sackville College

Patron	The Earl De La Warr	
Trustees	Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn	
	The Countess De La Warr	
	The Rev Canon Clive Everett-Allen	01342 323307
Sackville College Office		01342 323414
Warden	Graham Gaisburgh-Watkyn	01342 326561
Chaplain	The Rev Canon Clive Everett-Allen	
Head Guides	Graham and Ann Edwards	01342 322994
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 2015

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Friends AGM 7:30 in the Common room	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	East Grinstead Spring Sunday and Bus Running day	College Open 12noon - 3:00pm
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	East Grinstead Lions May Day Fair	College Open 11am – 4pm
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Friends Lunch 12:30 in the Dining room	Please let Steve or Caroline know if coming
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Concert – return of “No Strings Attached” 7pm for 7:30	Booking 01342 323414

We hope you enjoy our coming events and look forward to seeing you

### Notes

If you have received a printed copy of this newsletter and you have email, it would save the College printing and postage costs if you could receive Newsletters and other communications electronically.

If you are willing to do this please email me, [webmaster@sackvillecollege.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@sackvillecollege.org.uk)

Sackville College is now on Twitter as [@SackvilleColl](https://twitter.com/SackvilleColl) and on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/SackvilleCollege>

REGISTERED CHARITY 220488

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