

The  
**BULLETIN**  
of the  
**EAST GRINSTEAD**  
**SOCIETY**

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THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY

[www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org](http://www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org)



**The Society was founded in 1968 to protect and improve the amenities of East Grinstead and its environs. The Town has a long history and a unique architectural heritage, entrusted for the time being to the hands of our generation. It should be our concern that such contributions as we in turn make are worthy of the past and a fitting bequest to the future. Key to this is an active role in scrutinising planning applications and regular liaison with planning authorities and our publications: of which the *Bulletin* is one.**

The *Bulletin* was established and edited by Michael Leppard. This is the third *Bulletin* to be produced since his death and in a very real sense, the continuance of the *Bulletin* is both a tribute to Michael's legacy to the Town and a source of future research on the Town's history,

The *Bulletin* is an important tool for highlighting the rich and varied history of the Town and a key resource for the general reader, schools and researchers. As such we welcome suggestions for topics to be covered and, of course, draft articles for possible inclusion.

The strength of the Society lies in the extent to which it can be seen to represent public opinion: the larger the membership the greater the influence. We are committed to expanding our membership by offering benefits such as a regular Newsletter and meetings and a social programme when conditions permit.

Full information on the Society and updates on activities can be found on our website: [www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org](http://www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org).

We also welcome comments on the *Bulletin* and any aspect of the Society's role to: [Chairman@eastgrinsteadsociety.org](mailto:Chairman@eastgrinsteadsociety.org).

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## Some Royal and National Occasions in East Grinstead

*The Platinum Jubilee of the Queen is fast approaching. Here is a piece compiled by Michael Leppard summarising past Royal visits and Jubilee celebrations in our town.*

by M.J. Leppard, from the *Bulletin* 21, May 1977 **Special Jubilee issue**

Visits to East Grinstead by King Edward I in 1299 (when he bought 55 gallons of beer from Peter de Hakenden for 4s. 7d.) and Edward II in 1325 are recorded as part of their travels with their courts but then we hear of no other royal visitors until in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Thomas Palmer obtained a warrant for his quill pens on the strength of having sold some to a royal duke en route to Brighton whose horses were being changed at the Dorset Arms opposite. In 1832 a crowd gathered to see the young Princess Victoria while her horses were changed at the same place. But it is only in our lifetime that members of the royal family have come here to fulfil functions, as when the King and Queen were soon on the scene in July 1944 to inspect flying bomb damage in the town centre. In 1946 the Queen returned to open the American surgical wing at the Hospital and again in 1955 for other extensions and in 1963 for the centenary. Other members have come for semi-private functions at other institutions.

A photograph of the Queen Mother's 1946 visit and the programme for that in 1963 are included in the special jubilee exhibition in our cabinet in the entrance hall at East Court throughout May and June, together with pictures, programmes and souvenirs of other royal and national occasions in the history of East Grinstead. The earliest item is a notice of the Coronation dinner to be held at the Crown in 1821 for which tickets (including a bottle of wine) would cost 12s., about as much as a working man would have earned in a week. There

is also a unique photograph of the East Grinstead Rifle Volunteers celebrating the wedding of the Prince of Wales in 1863.

*[Michael Leppard's account of the drinking fountain, given to the town in 1887 by the Rev'd Charles Payne Crawford to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee follows here, but you can read the extract in the East Grinstead Society Newsletter.]*

*Michael noted that Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 raised less enthusiasm and correspondingly smaller funds, so all that was attempted was an extension to the Institute for the benefit of working men, who had wanted a club of their own. Later, Queen's Hall was erected for the purpose.*

*The death of Queen Victoria in 1901 was marked by new buildings for the hospital, to which her name was now attached.*

*It is not known how the Coronation of her son, King Edward VII was celebrated (beyond the naming of Coronation Road at Sunnyside), nor the Coronation of her grandson, King George V in 1911.*

*For King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935 the proceeds of the local celebrations, about £300, were used to provide ornamental gates and brick piers for the field, renamed King George's Field.*

*The Silver Jubilee of King George V and then the coronation of his son, King George VI, after the abdication of King Edward VIII, were marked by processions, teas and outdoor entertainment.*

*Michael continued:*

The end of the First World War had brought grand plans for a local war and antiquarian museum but funds never ran to more than the memorial which now stands in the High Street. The end of the Second World War was marked by the acquisition of East Court for the town (see *Bulletin* 8, p. 9) and grandiose plans were entrusted to Louis Osman for its development, but again funds did not permit. The usual processions, church services and bonfires were held, of course, and homelier celebrations like the street party of which there is a photograph in [the Museum].

For the coronation of the present Queen in 1953 the children received a pocket New Testament, one of which is also on show, together with the programme of celebrations and souvenirs given at a street party in Knole Grove. Memorials seem to have been confined to seats and trees (some of which never materialised) and the naming of a road on the new Blackwell Farm Estate.

For the record, this article has been largely compiled from W.H Hills, *History of East Grinstead* (1906), E.W. Young, *Pageant of East Grinstead High Street* (1936), old parish magazines and newspaper cuttings of various dates.

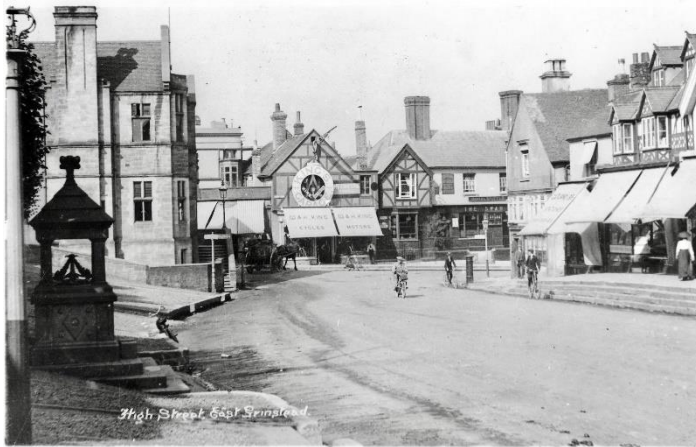
## The Jubilee Drinking Water Fountain

By Robin Whalley

The Society is currently spearheading the renovation of the Grade 2 Listed Jubilee Drinking Water Fountain, which occupies a prominent position in the old High Street.

The Fountain was a gift to the Town from the Reverend Charles Walter Payne Crawford in January 1887, to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

It was designed by the then vicar of St Swithun's, the Rev'd D.Y. Blakiston and built by local builder James Charlwood and the mason's work was executed by James Jenner, whose descendants still live in the town.



The High Street in 1903-1909



The builder's name is still visible on the south side of the fountain.

Charles Payne Crawford was born at Saint Hill on 14th March 1826. Charles was the son of Robert Payne Crawford (1801-1883). Charles entered the Anglican Church and was ordained in 1850.

The Rev. Charles Payne Crawford married Mary Ogle and the couple had eleven children including Gibbs (1854), Arabella (1855), Caroline (1856), Robert (1857), Georgina (1858), Charles (1860) and Lionel (1864). The Rev'd Charles Payne Crawford served as a curate at Bourton-on-the-Water, then returned to East Grinstead in 1863 and established a home for his family at East Court.

Once back in East Grinstead, Charles Crawford became involved in the local community. With the help of Dr J. H. Rogers, assistant warden at Sackville College, Crawford established a Cottage Hospital in Green Hedges.

Crawford was also active in local politics. A staunch Conservative, Crawford was elected to the Local Government Board in August 1884. Appointed chairman, Crawford held the post until December 1894. He was also the first chairman of the newly formed East Grinstead Urban District Council but relinquished this post in August 1895 on medical advice.

Although Charles Crawford did not return to political office after 1895, he continued to serve as a magistrate



until shortly before his death on 10th March 1909.

Unfortunately at daybreak on Jubilee day on 21 June 1887, the fountain was found to be smeared with boiled tar. It is believed this was because of Crawford's withdrawal of his support from the town band. In the previous month the band had taken part in popular



demonstrations celebrating the verdict that the former workhouse site was parish property.

The fountain is constructed of yellow York stone with a red Mansfield stone pyramidal roof. The finial, also of red Mansfield stone, is in the form of feathers from the town's 1572 seal of arms. The water originally spouted from the mouths of two of four bronze dolphins with tails entwined and with metal drinking cups attached with chains. There are diamond shapes and roundels on the faces of the fountain, which mirrored a similar detail on the south entrance to Sackville College.

Over the years the "dolphins", a heraldic term applied to somewhat ugly creatures, disappeared and it is thought that they were replaced at some time, first by cast iron replicas and later in the 1970s, by "somewhat crude" concrete replacements used solely for



decoration. These together with a concrete replacement finial also disappeared without record sometime later. In 1972 the fountain was listed Grade 2.

There has been no definitive record of the water flowing recently, other than a delightful photograph of Jill Eustathopoulos drinking from the fountain in 1953.

In 2005 East Grinstead's two Rotary Clubs, in partnership with the Town Council, commissioned cleaning and restoration to mark the centenary of their movement. No attempt was made to re-establish a water connection. A plaque on the ground and a short ceremony marked completion of this in June 2005.

On the south side of the fountain is a blank panel and it is thought this originally held a Latin inscription, a contemporary translation of which was

*"Charles Walter Payne-Crawford in this parish whilom born and therein afterwards long resident, erected this fountain for the public use in the year of grace 1887, when Queen Victoria had fulfilled the fiftieth year of her reign. God Save the Queen."*

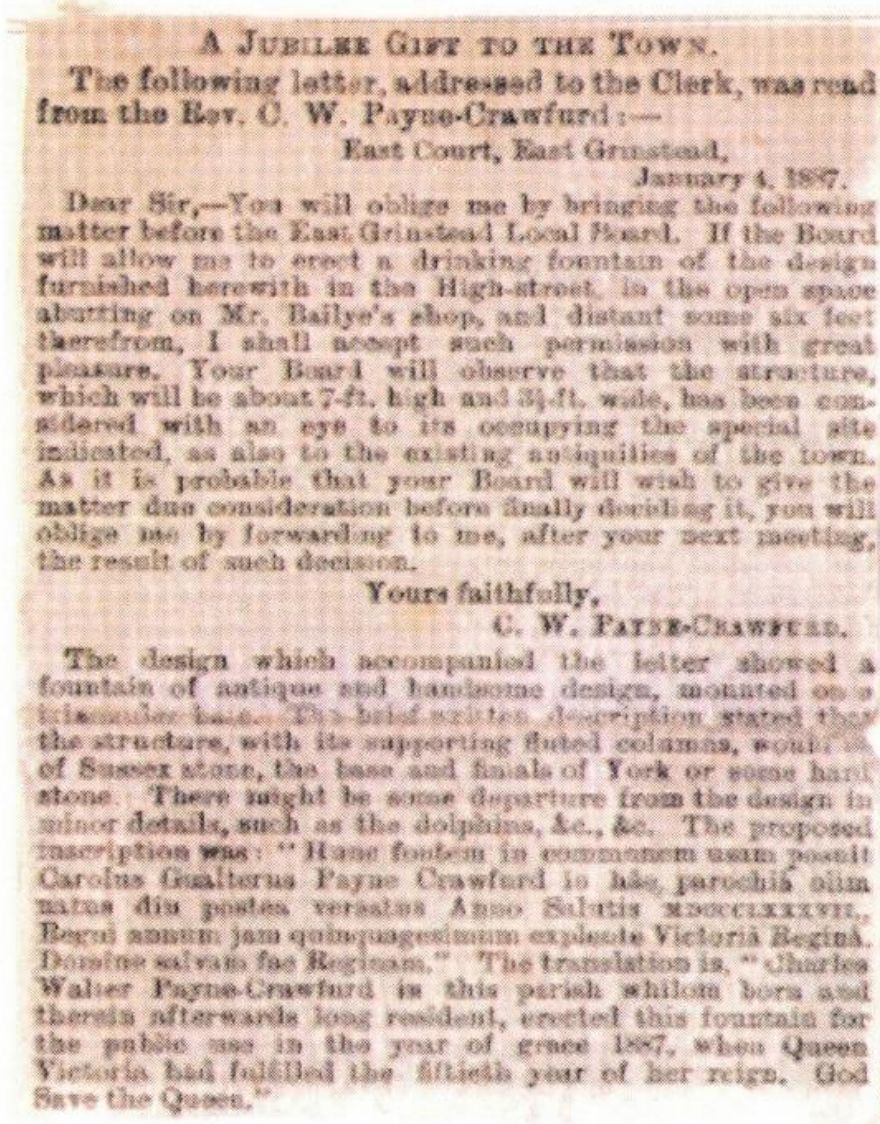
In 1939 the grandson of Rev Payne Crawford sent a letter to the East Grinstead Observer

**MR. M. E. CRAWFORD** has written to the East Grinstead Urban District Council stating that he is sorry to see that the inscription lettering on the base of the Jubilee memorial fountain (East Grinstead's last Victorian memorial) in the High Street, which was presented by his grandfather, the Rev. C. H. **Payne-Crawford** is practically obliterated. He wants to have the inscription renewed, but whilst the council are apparently anxious to assist Mr. **Crawford** they have come across an unexpected difficulty. The Clerk (Mr. George E. Coldwell) says that he has searched the records of the council but cannot find any trace of the wording of the inscription. We have searched our files and find that the inscription was in Latin, the literal translation being: "Charles Walter Payne-Crawford, in time past born and afterwards long resident in this parish, the abode of his forefathers, erected this fountain for the public use in the year of grace 1887, when Queen Victoria had just completed the 50th year of her reign." Mr. **Crawford's** letter which is written from the Ashdown Forest Hotel, Forest Row, does draw attention to the

asking if the Latin inscription could be reinstated as it was "practically obliterated".

Rev Payne Crawford's great grandson Arthur Crawford has raised this matter again for the current renovation and the East Grinstead Society is exploring whether the inscription can be put back.

We do have a better idea now of the Latin inscription from a newspaper article of January 1887.



#### Acknowledgements:

Much of this information has been obtained from an article by our founder the late Michael Leppard in his book "100 Buildings of East Grinstead" as well as from newspaper cuttings kindly provided by Society member Arthur Crawford.



## The Design of The Jubilee Fountain

By Caroline



This was designed by the **Rev'd Douglas Yeoman Blakiston**, Vicar of St Swithun's church, East Grinstead, from 1871 to 1908. Blakiston had trained as an artist but then became a clergyman. He and his wife, Sophia, had four sons and two daughters. Three of the sons died in tragic circumstances whilst relatively young: Charles was killed in shooting accident; William fell under a train and John was a telegraph clerk numbered among those killed while defending

Mazowe, Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, in 1896, during the Second Matabele War. Sophia and their 2 daughters had died by 1914, when Douglas Blakiston died.



Writing about the eldest son, Herbert, biographer Clare Hopkins commented that in this household there was '*an atmosphere of impoverished respectability*'. A devastating fire at the Vicarage in 1908 led to Douglas Blakiston retiring: he had lost possessions of his own, was inadequately insured and he was badly shaken by the experience. He, his wife and their two daughters all died between 1910 and 1914, leaving only Herbert Blakiston, who lived until 1942.

Several monuments in St Swithun's church pay tribute to the Rev'd Blakiston and his family and this brass plaque near the altar honours John Lionel Blakiston.

A wall tablet on the north wall commemorates Herbert Blakiston.



The font cover was given by parishioners in memory of the Rev'd Douglas Blakiston in 1928 and has the heraldic shield of Blakiston.



During Blakiston’s time, a new organ was installed in the east end of the north aisle between 1883 and 1888. Blakiston undertook decoration of the organ pipes on the south and west fronts, which faced outwards and could be seen. He used gold leaf and artist’s colours.

A pretty panel, written by Blakiston, explains who paid for the paints and that he painted the organ pipes.

When this organ was replaced in the 1930s, some of the organ pipes painted by Blakiston were kept. Four pipes on the wall in the Chapel of the Nativity have portraits painted by Blakiston. The faces represent: Blakiston’s son Charles, who died in a shooting accident; Richard Buckley, who died aged

17½; and parishioners William Heasman and William Wilkinson.



During the 1930s the church organ installed in Blakiston’s time was replaced. The pipes for the new organ were placed up in the Gallery. This left space for the new Chapel of the Nativity where the old organ had been. Beautiful stained glass was put in the two windows created in this Chapel, depicting scenes from the life of Christ.



There are more organ pipes decorated by Blakiston up in the gallery. These are generally only seen by the organ tuners and wedding photographers. This reminds me of the medieval church tradition of having pieces of skilled craftsmanship high up, hidden from view, where only God could see the work.



Clare Hopkins, 'Blakiston, Herbert Edward Douglas (1862–1942)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/31917>, accessed 5 Oct 2015]

M.J. Leppard, 'The Faces on the Organ Pipes', *East Grinstead Society Bulletin* 89, Autumn 2006. p. 10

MJ Poffley, *A Brief History of the Organs in St Swithun's Church* (1999)

## The Vicarage Fire in February 1908

It is over a hundred years since the former Vicarage of St Swithun's church burnt down. I have not found a record of the cause of the fire. Once the flames took hold, the water pressure, in the days before the water tower in the Chequer Mead car park was built, was so weak that efforts to put out the fire were ineffective.



The dramatic photograph of the family and staff standing watching the fire was taken by Arthur Harding (1869-1947), who climbed the Church Tower to take this picture. Another picture shows people still at work on the rubble. A third picture shows people watching from a hedge in the Vicarage garden.

The Gas and Water Company were blamed for the inadequate water pressure and invited to contribute to the rebuilding, but they declined.

This Vicarage building was at least the second version of a Vicarage house on the site. The older Vicarage was 'nearer the church', according to the 1946 Church Guide. Michael Leppard, in an article in the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society*, wrote that when Vicar Christopher Nevill died in December 1847, the Earl and Countess Amherst, as patrons of the living, commissioned extensive additions and alterations for the new Vicar, the Rev'd John Harward, Vicar 1848-63.



In a surveyor's report, a Mr Back wrote on 28 February 1848 that '*It would be highly desirable that there should be fireplaces in three at least of the attics in case of infection and sickness. One might then be used as a Hospital*'. It is not known if this early idea for a hospital in the Vicarage was put into place.

The Vicarage that was rebuilt in 1848 and destroyed by this fire in 1908 was a brick and stone building, with massive internal beams, built mainly at the expense of Countess Amherst (1792-1864).



Countess Amherst was born Lady Mary Sackville, the eldest daughter of John Frederick Sackville, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Dorset. She married the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Plymouth in 1811. After his death, she married William Pitt Amherst, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Amherst of Arracan, in 1839. Both marriages were childless. Her brother, the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Dorset, died in his 20s, in 1815, in a hunting

accident in Ireland, unmarried and without heirs. He is buried in the Sackville Chapel at Withyham, where an inscription reads: '*His premature death was by two Nations deplored as a publick calamity*'. Countess Amherst and her sister, Countess De La Warr, became co-patronesses of Sackville College, the almshouse on Church Lane, founded by their ancestor, Robert Sackville, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Dorset. They embroidered crosses on a funeral pall to be used for the funerals of residents of the almshouse, during the wardenship of John Mason Neale (1846-66). Countess Amherst and her second husband lived at Knole, the Sackville family house and estate. The Sackville family appointed the clergy for St Swithun's after the Reformation for many years.

A new Vicarage was built in 1909, but this, in turn, was pulled down in the 1960s to make way for a new car park. So the Vicarage of today was built in the 1960s, and is at least the fourth version of the Vicarage building here.

Amongst the ruins of the Vicarage that burnt down in 1908, a very old iron grave slab, dated 1616, was found. It had been used upside down, as a hearth slab, in that house. It was rescued and you can now see it on the floor inside the church, near the lectern.

### Sources

M.J. Leppard, 'The Pre-History of Our Hospital', in *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 108 (Winter 2012-13), 7-8

Robert Sackville-West, *Inheritance*, (London: Bloomsbury, 1910)

Guide to St Swithun's Parish Church 1946.

Two photographs of the Fire given to me by Mr Peter Hunter

<http://www.sussex-opc.org> (sussexonlineparishclerks) [accessed 15/2/2016]

<http://www.sussexpostcards.info/publishers>. [accessed 15/2/2016]

<http://www.crawleynews.co.uk/Lack-water-pressure-failed-burning-vicarage/story-12602394-detail/story.html> [accessed 15/2/2016]

## The Faces on the Organ Pipes

Michael Leppard investigated the lives of the four people depicted by Blakiston on the four organ pipes which hang in the Chapel of the Nativity in St Swithun's church. You can read the full account in *Bulletin* 89, Autumn 2006, and see the results of Michael's meticulous research, but the key points follow:

**Charles Blakiston** was probably the youngest son of the Rev'd Douglas Blakiston and his wife, born c. 1863, and who died on 4 October 1889, 'accidentally shot' according to the diary of Thomas Cramp.

Michael thought that the name **William Walker Heasman** used by the Rev'd Dr Golding-Bird in his *Guide to St Swithun's church* was a mistake for **Henry Walker Heasman**, who was buried on 23 July 1887 aged 61, so Henry Walker Heasman was someone who died at the time of the installation of the new organ.

**William Wilkinson** lived at Sackville Cottage, the house which used to stand in front of Sackville College and was renamed Kennedy's. Wilkinson was buried in 1888 and was described in the Parish Magazine as 'a courteous English gentleman' and a 'humble Christian'.

**Richard Theodore Buckley** was buried on 23 August 1882. The window on the north wall of St Swithun's church was given in memory of Richard, who died on 17 August 1882, aged 17½. The window was made by Clayton & Bell and depicts the Transfiguration and the Raising of Lazarus. Mrs Buckley lived at Hill Place and was buried some fourteen years after her son, in 1896. (*Bulletin* 90, 2006/07).

Michael Leppard commented that we do not know why the other three men were chosen as subjects to accompany Blakiston's son in portraits. Incorporating them into a decorative scheme was a unique tribute. Michael also noted that the information in the old Church Guide may have been inaccurate because Dr Golding-Bird relied upon the recollections of parishioners.

Whatever the reasons were for Blakiston's unusual art work, we have the four rather haunting faces on the wall in the Chapel to this day. Michael finished his piece with a plea for more information if anyone had any, a plea which I echo.

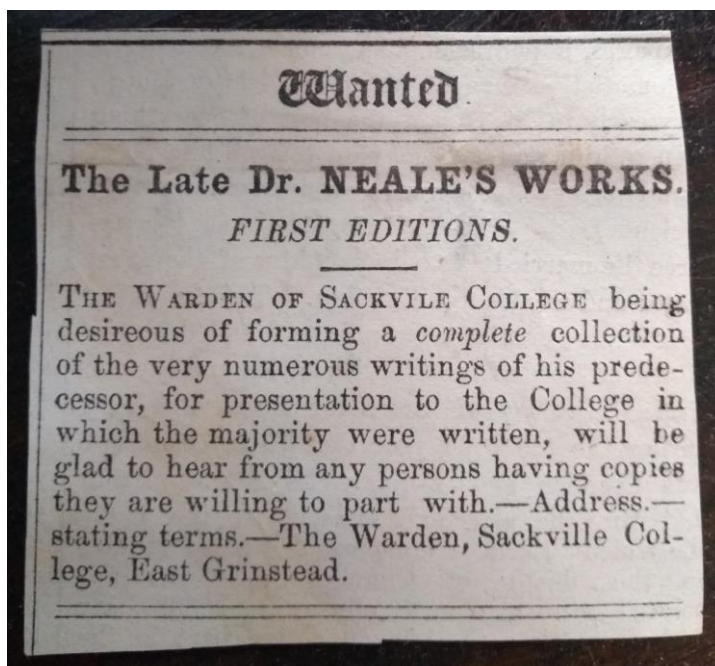
## Dr J. Henry Rogers (1812-79)

Robin Whalley's article on the Jubilee Fountain mentions that the Rev'd Charles Payne Crawfurd founded the Cottage Hospital at Green Hedges with the help of Dr J.H. Rogers, Assistant Warden at Sackville College. Michael Leppard wrote extensively about Dr Rogers in the *Bulletin* 120 (Autumn 2017) and *Bulletin* 121 (Spring 2018). Guides giving tours of Sackville College are always loyal to John Mason Neale, who did so much for Sackville College and its residents, but fell out with Dr Rogers. Michael Leppard wanted to restore the balance, because as he once said to me 'Rogers always seemed to be prowling about like a baddie'.

Briefly, Rogers was a medical Doctor and trained as a Surgeon as well. Rogers once condemned Dr Whyte, who helped some of the residents at Sackville College, for being 'only a common physician', whereas, he, Rogers, was a surgeon as well! Rogers and John Mason Neale were friends at first, travelling to Portugal with two others and intending to write a Guide Book together. Neale invited Rogers to become one of two Assistant Wardens of Sackville College. Rogers became a thorn in the flesh to Neale, trying to instal his own choice of Resident in the almshouse, against Neale's wishes and constantly stirring up trouble for Neale. The Neale children nicknamed Rogers 'The Bear'.

Yet Rogers also did much good. In 1858 a Dispensary was established in East Grinstead and Rogers gave his services free to the sick poor. When the Rev'd Charles Payne Crawfurd returned to East Grinstead to live and wished to establish a Cottage Hospital, Dr Rogers assisted him and provided a cottage that he owned, near his own house.

After Neale's death at Sackville College in 1866, another medical doctor, Dr William Hooper Attree became Warden (1866-72), then Dr Rogers was the Warden 1872-79. Rogers set about creating the Neale Memorial Library in the Study at Sackville College. Many of the



books there have a book plate inscribed by Dr Rogers, showing that he gave the book. Rogers died in 1879, apparently by his own hand, when the balance of his mind was disturbed, possibly by the prospect of losing some of his own beloved garden to a new railway line. He was buried in Queen's Road cemetery, despite the suspicions about the manner of his death.

I found this undated clipping from *The Times* tucked into a book in the

Library at Sackville College, showing Rogers wishing to create a *complete* set of first editions of Neale's books.

Was this some kind of atonement for his former hostility, or did Rogers see Neale in a different light when became Warden, himself? We must be grateful to Rogers for assembling the remarkable collection of books by Neale which are still at the Library in the Study at Sackville College. Rogers also had the porch on the north side of Sackville College built.

**This lovely photograph shows Warden Dr James Harrison (Warden of Sackville College 1893-1908) with the coachman William Samuel Lindfield and a dog, outside the porch built by Dr Rogers at Sackville College.**



The son of Warden Dr Harrison, the Rev'd James Harrison, wrote in reply to a query about the photograph from a later Warden

*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.*

Four successive medical doctors became Wardens of Sackville College: Dr Attree 1866-72; Dr John Henry Rogers 1872-79; Dr George Covey 1879-1893 and Dr James Harrison 1893-1908.

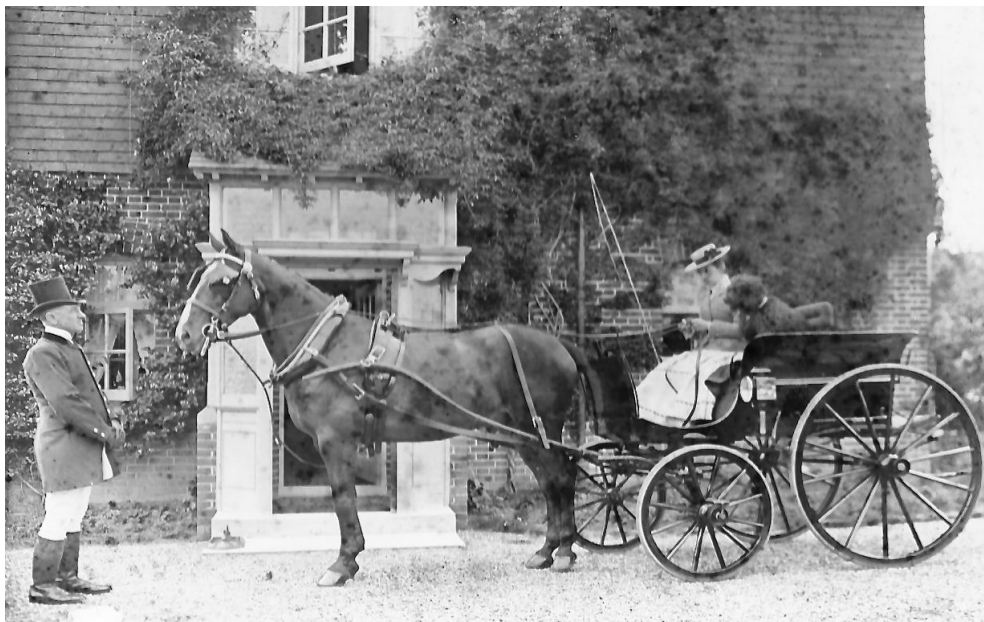
The photograph was in a scrapbook at Sackville College, compiled by the late Teddy Collison who was a resident.

The coachman in the photograph is **William Samuel Lindfield** (1854-1905). Thank you to Graham Edwards for sharing his research into Lindfield and Lindfield's family.

**William Lindfield** 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.

Lindfield's wife, Amelia Ann, ended her days as a resident at Sackville College, from 1939, recorded as Ann. She died in 1945.

One of their daughters, **Alice Amelia Lindfield** (1879-1958) 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 two daughters. Robin happened to be the Guide that afternoon and he has kept in touch with the family. They sent this photograph of William Lindfield to Sackville College, showing their ancestor very clearly. Can anyone identify this house, or the lady with the dog in the carriage?



### **Thomas William Bush, FRAS, astronomer**

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 was an improvement 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. The article says that the 'fee' was £100 a year, which makes me wonder if Bush was admitted as some sort of 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](http://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/nph-iarticle_query?1929MNRAS..89Q.298).

**Brockhurst Observatory** was set up in the grounds of a house owned by F.J. Hanbury, who appointed William Sadler Franks (1851-1935) as his Observer. The Observatory was dismantled after the death of Hanbury in 1939, but Patrick Moore wrote 'Trees now grow over the site of Brockhurst observatory, but it played a role, albeit a minor one, and I at least will remember it with great affection.'

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](https://issuu.com/richardspearson/docs/a4_bush_manuscript_best)

## The Churchyard Railings

Discussion of repairs to the church railings prompted a search in the old Parish Magazines. The entrance arch from the High Street to St Swithun's churchyard is listed by Heritage England and has been so since 1972. The whole churchyard was once surrounded by railings.

### From St Swithun's Parish Magazines

In September 1932 Mr A Huggett wrote in the Parish Magazine that

'As a great deal of interest is now being taken in the upkeep of the Parish Churchyard, it may not be out of place to mention here a suggestion put forward sometime ago, that at one time the Churchyard extended over a portion of the Vicarage garden. The evidence against this is, that excavations were made in the garden during the late Rev. D. Y.

Blakiston's residence, and close to the Churchyard wall, and the earth had not previously been disturbed.

It is also on record that the finials [*ornaments forming the crown or completion*], formerly on the standards of the iron fencing which surrounds most of the Churchyard, were knocked off, with one exception, during a single night. I may say these ornaments were knocked off, at intervals, by boys and young men with hockey sticks, going or coming away from the playfield. Some of the boys are living in East Grinstead today, of ages between 70 and 80.'

*Perhaps there were some red faces amongst the congregation after this article was printed. It is hard to date the incident as the earliest surviving Parish Magazines date from 1873 and I did not find a reference to damage to the railings there.*

*The Rev'd Youard, Vicar 1908-24, once wrote that a gentleman's hat had been thrown over the railings into the Vicarage garden, presumably by some 'playful companions'. If not claimed, the hat would be sold at the next Jumble Sale, along with the collection of umbrellas that people had left by mistake at the back of the Church.*

**In 1925** it was estimated that proposed repairs to the railings would cost £100.

**In December 1931** 'The restoration of our Churchyard has gone on apace. When spring comes the improvement will be still more in evidence. Flower beds will be marked with tablets bearing the words, 'Kept by the Mothers' Union', 'Kept by Miss Leach's Bible Class', 'Kept by the Vicarage'. The railings round some of the altar tombs have been painted by Toc H, and I hope the work will go on...'

'A most interesting discovery was made on November 18 of another iron tombstone, the date 1691, found some 18 inches below the soil.'

*[This iron slab is now inside the church].*

*During the Second World War there was an appeal for scrap metal, which, it was believed, would be used to make aeroplanes. People contributed items eagerly to help the War Effort and this is presumably when most of the Churchyard railings were cut off.*

**June 1942 Our Churchyard**—'The removal of railings has emphasized the need to keep the grass mown and God's acre in attractive state. To Miss Thompson we are very grateful: she has been working splendidly to this end, having volunteered last month to devote one or two nights a week to the job. Mrs. Caldwell has also given much help; to this lady and her husband, with members of the Junior Communicants' Guild, we return sincere thanks. We hope that others will be stimulated by these good examples.'

Reference was also made to the removal of the railings in the Parish Magazine for July/August 1989

'Mr Norman Pearson has many happy recollections of St Swithun's, where he was a choirboy for several years. He recalls playing in the church yard as a boy, encouraged by the vicar to do so! During the early part of the war, he used to hear the lowing of cattle in the church yard as he went to bed. Cows and sheep were kept there **until the railings were removed as a token of the war effort.**'

**In May 1944** there was 'wanton damage to gravestones in our churchyard: the destruction of the- cross over the grave of the Rev. Christopher Nevill, Vicar of East Grinstead (1835-48) shows malicious intention as it suffered from many vicious blows. One man has been apprehended by the authorities. The removal of the railings has exposed the churchyard to desecration which residents in the town deplore. The stones have been repaired'.

*The writer concluded with these two lines which are also found on William Shakespeare's grave up near the altar in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon:*

'Blessed be the man that spares my bones,  
And cursed be he that moves these stones.'

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CHURCHYARD RAILINGS: A number of members and friends, organised by Mr G Jefferies, has been working long and hard to prepare the path and existing railings. When Messrs Granthams are able to install the new rails, our own public memorial of the Jubilee will contribute handsomely to the townscape. Our thanks to all who donated to the cost and all other helpers.

### Jubilee Activities in 1977

These included the establishment of the Greenwich Meridian line at East Court, suggested by Miss Rosalind Willatts and commissioned and installed by the Town Council on the terrace at East Court to mark the line of the prime meridian.

**THE TOWN TRAIL** was launched on 25 May 1977 at a meeting in the coffee shop. 'This provided a more sociable gathering than usual followed by the chance to put the trail to practical test. It is good to report that the trail has been so well received that the first printing of 1000 copies was sold out within three months and we have ordered another 5000.'

Although not part of any Jubilee celebrations, it is interesting to learn that

**Standen (National Trust) was first opened to the public, in 1977**, with a Guide Book costing 40 pence, written by the then tenant, Mr Arthur Grogan. Michael Leppard's one criticism of this Guide Book was this: 'the only information needed by visitors that has been omitted is the correct pronunciation with the stress on the final syllable'.

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### War Memorial

**The War Memorial** on the High Street in East Grinstead was unveiled and dedicated on **Sunday, 23 July 1922** at a special service. More about this will follow in the *Autumn Bulletin* for Remembrance time.