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The Arts Society, Wilmslow

Renishaw Hall, Derbyshire, S21 3WB

Tuesday June 25th, 2019

Renishaw Hall is a Grade I listed, country house in Renishaw in the parish of Eckington, Derbyshire. It has been home to the Sitwell family for nearly 400 years. The famous literary trio, Edith, Osbert, and Sacheverell Sitwell were all patrons of the arts and played a significant part in the artistic and literary world at the beginning of the 20th-century. Renishaw is still very much a family home which adds to its unique atmosphere.

The hall is located southeast of Sheffield and north of Renishaw village, which is northeast of Chesterfield. The Hall was built in 1625 by George Sitwell (1601–1667) who, in 1653, was High Sheriff of Derbyshire. The Sitwell fortune was made as colliery owners and ironmasters from the 17th - 20th centuries.

Substantial alterations and the addition of the west and east ranges were made to the building for Sir Sitwell Sitwell by Joseph Badger of Sheffield between 1793 and 1808 and further alterations were made in 1908 by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Renishaw had two owners between 1862 (when Sir George Sitwell succeeded in his infancy) and 1965, when Sir Osbert Sitwell gave the house to his nephew, Sir Reresby Sitwell, 7th Baronet. He was the eldest son of Sir Sacheverell Sitwell brother of Edith and Osbert and owned the hall from 1965 until 2009 when he bequeathed it to his daughter, Alexandra Hayward.

Renishaw has the largest private collection of John Piper paintings, and also features work by Rex Whistler and John Singer Sargent.

The house was built in stages and has an irregular plan. It is constructed in ashlar and coursed rubble coal measures sandstone with crenellated parapets with pinnacles. It has pitched slate roofs.

Gardens

The gardens, including an Italianate garden laid out by Sir George Sitwell (1860–1943), are open to the public. The park is listed in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England as Grade II. The gardens hold the national collection of yuccas. The garden is divided into 'rooms' with yew hedges, flanked with classical statues.

Access to the gardens is included in the entrance cost and time will be allowed for TASW members to visit the garden at their leisure.

The 1980 BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* used footage shot at Renishaw Hall. D. H. Lawrence is said to have used the local village of Eckington and Renishaw Hall as inspiration for his novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

Information from Wikipedia, www.visitchesterfield.info, www.renishaw-hall.co.uk/hall-tours/