

Why a family who were at one time the principal iron-traders in the country and were the world centre for the trade in nails should settle in Scarborough for over 50 years is a question whose answer has brought the town into international focus and bequeathed it a rich heritage. The answer of course is that name which is for ever associated with eccentricity, but which is now more firmly founded in literature, namely the Sitwells.

That family has been associated with the town at least since 1774 when in common with many other visitors Francis Hurt Sitwell came to the resort both for health as well as leisure. His family seat, as it had been since 1620, was at Renishaw Hall, the centre of a 7000 acre estate located in the parish of Eckington in North Derbyshire.

Renishaw Hall was closed in 1847 after financial disaster.

Bereaved in 1862 Lady Louisa came to Scarborough with her two infant children, Florence (1858-1930) and Sir George (1860-1943). At the age of two he was the nation's youngest Baronet.

At first living in "Sunnyside", a modest villa newly built adjacent to Royal Crescent, from 1867, she moved into Wood End in 1870.

Sir George married Lady Ida Denison the daughter of Baron Londesborough said to be the wealthiest man in England.

Their first child Edith was born in the house at Wood End on 7th Sept. 1887 and she was an immediate disappointment. Of the wrong gender she was not the expected heir to her father, Sir George. Failing to reflect the beauty of her mother, Lady Ida, a lifelong maternal barrier was established. Osbert was born in London on 7th December 1892 and Sacheverell was born in Scarborough on 15th Nov. 1897 to complete this fascinating "Trio"



Wood End entrance hall in the 1920s



Wood End in the 21st century

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## Promoting the Literary Legacy



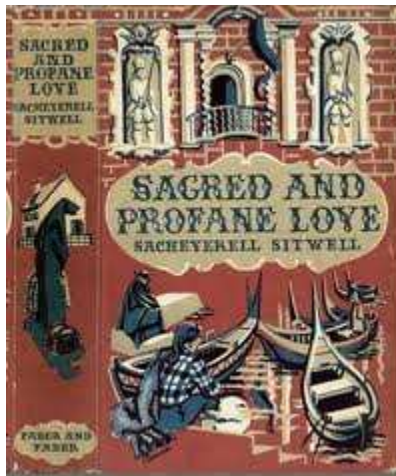
## The Famous Trio

## Edith



*“The trouble with most Englishwomen is that they will dress as if they had been a mouse in a previous incarnation; they do not want to attract attention”*

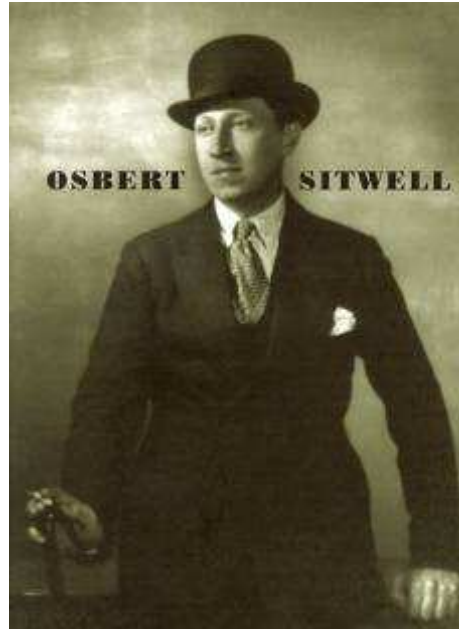
## Sacheverell



*Of the "Trio" his life was the most conventional, and it was he who secured the future of the Baronetcy.*

## Osbert

*Always remembered for his five volume autobiography referred to by the title of the first volume "Left Hand, Right Hand!" published in 1945.*



*Born in London on 7th December 1892 where his father was the sitting M.P. for Scarborough, Osbert would become the 5th Baronet in 1943. Osbert's charm and manners were honed by a number of Aunts in Scarborough, and also by the careful attentions of a Miss Lloyd, a cultured musician and ceramicist who steered Osbert into local social contacts. In later life this polish was to give him social access in London which paved the way for his siblings. Scarborough was remembered to the end because Osbert's wishes were that his ashes be interred, along with his book "Before the Bombardment" (which was set in Scarborough) in Florence.*

## Membership Form

***Well known for their eccentricity and literary output this family will repay much closer scrutiny, not just for the seventy years of close connection with Scarborough, but more for their links with spheres of influence at all levels of our national life.***

I would like to become a member of The Sitwell Society and receive information about the society. There is no charge for membership.

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