



## **Sitwell Society Newsletter Number Twelve.**

### **2014 - a year to be inspired! The Edith Sitwell Festival**

2014 is fifty years since Edith died. A group of us in Scarborough are determined that this anniversary should be used to encourage people to discover more about Edith and also to explore their own creativity. So come along and get involved. Edith Sitwell (7<sup>th</sup> September 1887- 9<sup>th</sup> December 1964) was a greatly regarded writer and poet in her time, and has, for the most part, been neglected in the intervening years since her death. She was born in Scarborough and spent time in her childhood there at the family home Woodend, now a creative industries centre. Woodend and Scarborough echo through her poetry despite her long estrangement to the place. Her best known poem is *Façade*, a fore-runner to the modern rap. However, her later poetry – such as *Still Falls the Rain* and *Heart and Mind* – are probably the most engaging, blending, as they do, technique with deep-felt emotion.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> March 2014, Writing from the Heart.**

A Creative writing workshop led by Kate Evans and Felix Hodcroft 10.00 am to 4.00pm. Create your own work using Edith Sitwell's poem *Still Falls the Rain* as inspiration. Part of the Stephen Joseph Outreach Festival. Contact: 01723 370541 <https://www.sjt.uk.com/>. Cost £10

#### **26th April 2014 "Scarborough South Cliff - literary society, high society and history" Part of Scarborough Flare.**

A literary and historical walk on the South Cliff "Step Back in Time" with Suzanne Potter: explore the literary, historical and artistic past of the South Cliff: the Sitwells, the Great War, Atkinson Grimshaw and more .... Venue: meet outside the Library, Vernon Road, at 1.30 pm; walk will start at 1.45 pm and finish at Wood End, The Crescent, at around 3.15 pm. Length of walk: approximately one and a half hours and approximately one and a half miles. Please wear stout shoes and warm clothes. Cost: £5 tickets will be available from the Tourist Information Office.

#### **26th April 2014 3.30pm-4.45pm, Taking Tea with Edith Sitwell** Part of Scarborough Flare.

Woodend Creative Industries Centre, the Mezzanine, first floor over-looking the conservatory. There was much more to Scarborough-born poet Edith Sitwell than her calling-card, 'Facade'. In the fiftieth anniversary year of Edith's death, Scarborough author and poet, Kate Evans, will present a dynamic celebration of this remarkable woman. Examples of Sitwell's finest poetry will be set alongside fascinating, scandalous details of her life and times. Kate's acclaimed tribute to Edith, 'Words in my Head' will be presented. The audience will be invited to collaborate on a 'poem to Edith' and (to the delight of Ms Sitwell's ghost) delicious free cake will be served with tea at the start of the performance at 3.30. Contact: [www.discoveryorkshirecoast.com](http://www.discoveryorkshirecoast.com) 01723 383636

#### **13<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Heritage Open Day**

Sitwell Library open to the public. Contact: 01723 384500, [www.woodendcreative.co.uk/](http://www.woodendcreative.co.uk/)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014, National Poetry Day**

Exhibition and events at Scarborough Library and Woodend Creative Industries Centre. More information to come.

**Throughout 2014 we plan to continue study sessions on the first Tuesday of each month from 10am to 12noon at Woodend Creative. The next event is on Tuesday 4th February 2014.** Karen Snowden will organise a "hands on" exploration of the Sitwell literary output. We plan to continue to catalogue the collection but there will also be an opportunity to browse among the books. The event is free and everyone welcome.