

The Sitwell Arms: Stay once, carry memories forever!

Despite setbacks, The Sitwell Arms Hotel has blossomed into a shining light in the hospitality sector.

THE Sitwell Arms Hotel, Renishaw is a Grade 2 listed building set in six acres of secluded grounds with a lake, lily pond, rose and orchard garden. The original part to this attractive stone-built hotel dates back to the 18th century when it was a famous coaching inn.

The name of the hotel came about from the wealthy Sitwell family who governed the majority of the land in Renishaw. Perhaps the most famed of the Sitwell family was the literary genius, Edith Sitwell. Legend has it that she actually wrote some of her poems and books at The Sitwell Arms Hotel. A much more recent visitor to the hotel was internationally acclaimed singer, Lulu.

INDEPENDENT AND FAMILY-RUN

Managing Director, Jo-Anne Oldfield has over 30 years of experience at the hotel, having started there as a waitress when she was just 14. From there, she progressed through various positions before eventually landing a management role.

In September 2000, opportunity arose to purchase the hotel off the owner-at-the-



time, Gordon Dunn. Jo-Anne's dad, John Selby, took up the challenge and proceeded to buy the prestigious hospitality venue, leaving Jo-Anne to manage and run it. As owner of the building company, John Selby Building and Construction Limited, John was able to orchestrate all the much-needed developments and improvements.

In September 2022, Jo-Anne would go on to purchase the hotel from her

parents, but her journey to this point would not be without challenges, trials, and tribulations – both in her private life and also in the life of the hotel.

Speaking to Jo-Anne, you can sense her passion and excitement. She exudes enthusiasm and wholehearted commitment and it's these enduring qualities, which have seen her through the darkest of days. However big the blow, Jo-Anne has always



Top: Jo-Anne with her Parents at the charity fundraiser.

Above: Fundraisers outside the hotel.

shone through as a beacon of positivity.

In 2005, major developments took place in the hotel with the construction of an extension, which would go on to house a second function room, a gymnasium, a hair and beauty salon, and staff accommodation.

In 2008, the first hurdle came in the form of the worldwide recession, which affected the hospitality sector badly.

CHARITABLE COMMITMENT

The hardest-hitting of all the things that Jo-Anne had to deal with, however, came in September 2013, when she tragically lost her baby boy, Mac. Mac would have been 10 years old on 18th September of this year. Such a devastating blow could have floored Jo-Anne, but somehow, and it's quite amazing how she managed to do this, she channelled her energies into doing something positive. Extremely positive, in fact. Over the next ten years, she proceeded to raise a staggering £111,000 for the neo-natal ward at Chesterfield Royal Hospital. "It's the only thing I could do for him," said Jo-Anne.

A succession of fund-raising initiatives and events followed. With an indomitable spirit,

Jo-Anne took part in marathons, 'tough mudders', organised Christmas



hampers, arranged 'Black Tie' dinners, and did stepathons. In recognition of World Prematurity Day on 17th November, Jo-Anne is embarking on a 25-mile walk to raise even more funds.

Jo-Anne's efforts have received both local and national acclaim. She has been nominated for a Pride of Britain award., as well as being selected to sit on the board for the brand-new Wellness Hub at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

In 2015, The Sitwell Arms was hit with a compulsory purchase order due to the HS2 project. It can only

be imagined what happened to wedding bookings after that! And to cap it all, in 2020, there was, of course, the worldwide pandemic! As said before, nothing would faze Jo-Anne. With the continued assistance of Daniel Nutt, head chef and senior manager, she used the lockdown time to do take-aways, renovations, and review all company policies and procedures. Once the lockdown was eased, the business exploded, In the first six months, they did wedding ceremonies every day of the week! This very busy and successful period allowed Jo-Anne to bring in a new management team, lead by John Makin.

Find information on all upcoming fundraising events on the website at www.sitwellarms.com/charity-work/

WEDDINGS, ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT, FUNCTIONS, AND MULTI-PURPOSE GYM

With three function rooms, accommodating 250, 150, and 120 guests respectively, and an idyllic setting outside, The Sitwell Arms now holds over 200 weddings a year, with a plethora of

splendid reviews from happy couples.

The hotel also offers 30 ensuite bedrooms including suites, four posters, family, doubles, twins, and single rooms. With its accessibility to the M1 motorway, the hotel is the perfect venue for tourists, overnight passers-by, and residential conferences.

Christmas is looming on the horizon, and a full programme of party nights, festive luncheons, and 'black tie' dinners awaits. There's also a 'Beaujolais Nouveau

Dinner and Dance' and a Peter Kay tribute act coming up.

The dining area and restaurant can cater for up to 70 covers – from traditional pub food to fine dining options. The kitchen is managed masterfully by head chef, Daniel Nutt, who has been leading the culinary experience at the hotel for over 30 years.

Is Jo-Anne now going to rest on her laurels? Not a chance!

Currently in the pipeline is a

£1million upgrade programme, which includes an expanded public lounge, accommodation improvements, large maintenance projects, and upgraded wedding and events capabilities. A separate house adjacent to the hotel will also be renovated and rented out. ■

The Sitwell Arms Hotel, 39 Station Rd, Renishaw, Sheffield S21 3WF.
T: 01246 435226
E: info@sitwellarms.com
www.sitwellarms.com



THE SITWELL ARMS

Hitched
WEDDING AWARDS
2023

