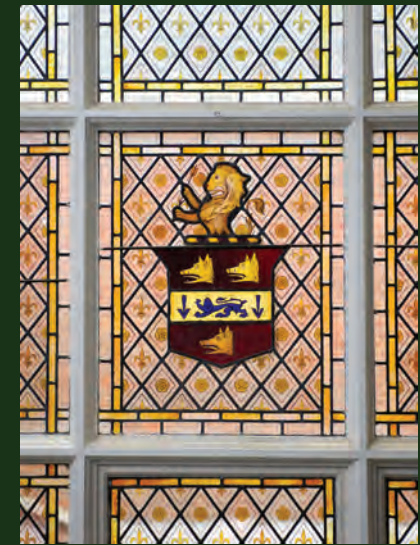




C I S S B U R Y



## *Hidden in the heart of the South Downs*



Cissbury is an impressive country house in a tranquil location within the South Downs National Park. The house is set in its own parkland and looks east towards Cissbury Ring, the largest Neolithic hill fort in Southern England, with a history dating back over 5000 years.

The house is virtually hidden from public view and only visible from the distant footpaths that cross Cissbury Ring. Positioned at the end of a long curving drive and shielded by mature trees, it is a treasure that has been waiting to be revealed to visitors!



## HOUSE WITH A HEART

Cissbury has been lived in continuously by the Wyatt family for over 200 years, even during World War II when the house was requisitioned by the Canadian Army.

The Wyatt crest appears in various contexts around the building and the family motto - *Duriora Virtus*, can be seen carved into the fireplace in the library. It translates as 'virtue in hard work'.

As a family home only recently made available for events, Cissbury retains a very special atmosphere that is rarely found in venues. It is an imposing interior, but with a warm, friendly and welcoming character.

**The Library**, for example, is a private space located off the main hallway and lined with leather bound volumes. In a perfect new role, it is ideal for the formalities of the pre-ceremony interviews and signing of the Register.

The main reception rooms are on the east side of the building, providing views towards Cissbury Ring. The dining room and drawing room are both available for hire and access the terrace in front of the house. The sweep of the South Downs beyond provides the perfect backdrop for your event.





## FAMILY MATTERS



**The Dining Room** is dramatically decorated with historic family portraits, including that of Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger, who was beheaded on Tower Hill in 1554 for leading a rebellion against Queen Mary, and his grandfather, Sir Henry Wyatt who was a courtier with Henry VII. Above the entrance door is a portrait of Sir George Scovell, Wellington's code breaker in the Spanish Peninsular war of 1808 to 1814.

There are many other portraits including a family group of Hugh and Evelyn Wyatt and their six children, who lived at Cissbury around 1900 when the house was in its heyday.

French windows lead onto the front terrace which offers wonderful views of the park. This room can hold up to 30 guests seated at one long table or up to 70 at round tables. When arranged for ceremonies there can be up to 70 chairs.



## SENSE OF OCCASION



**The Drawing Room** has sweeping views across the front lawns and to the south towards the summer house. The room includes a large carved marble fireplace that originally came from Bold Hall near Liverpool and other furniture and pictures that were inherited by Harriet Wyatt in 1893.

This elegant room can accommodate up to 70 guests for a Civil Ceremony or up to 200 for a drinks reception, by utilising the adjacent hallway with French windows to the terraces.

## TIME AND SPACE



In front of the house are three flat lawns which are ideal for marquees. Each lawn is terraced from the house and these were originally the rose garden, tennis court and croquet lawn. Beyond the lawns a bank rises steeply to a wooded path that leads towards the summer house at the top of the hill.

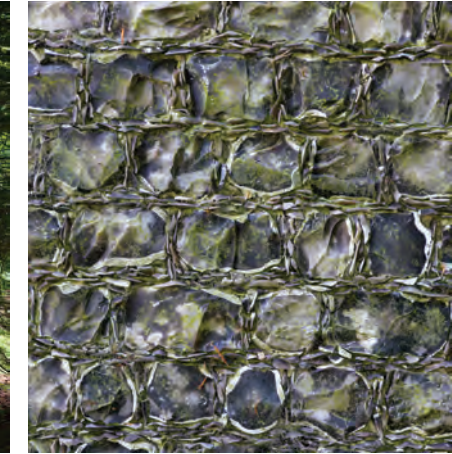


The garden was landscaped after 1945 by Oliver Wyatt, a prominent member of the Royal Horticultural Society, who planted cedar trees and the holm oak hedge along the drive. He designed the Shrubbery Walk that originally had extensive flower beds on either side of the path and the Aubrietia Walk which was planted by Richard Wyatt, his older brother, shortly before his death.



**The summer house** is octagonal and has unusual galletted flintwork - small shards of flint pushed into the mortar. To one side a lawned area is bordered by a yew hedge with five small semi-circular alcoves built into it, one for each of the children pictured in the dining room. Each alcove is planted with a different type of hedge including privet, berberis, beech and lonicera.

From the summer house the Hill Walk extends through woodland towards Cissbury Ring and up to the Hill Barns. The path passes Evelyn Wyatt's crescent shaped picnic spot, with a fence extending out into the field to allow better views over the park towards Cissbury Ring and out to the distant sea.





## PICTURE PERFECT



The house and grounds have many different aspects and unique features that can provide a wonderful location for memorable photos of your ceremony or celebration. There are brick and flint arches, stone steps, lawns, flower beds, decorative trees and shrubs, or you may simply prefer to utilise the backdrop of fields and downlands. For photos inside the house you have the choice of atmospheric settings against classic portraits and architectural features or views through the large windows to the park beyond.





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