

Wythenshawe Hall

The Ante-room



Top: Wythenshawe Hall, 1837
Above: The Hall before the sale in 1926

Below: View of a half-timbered house, painted by Thomas Stringer, 1770s-'80s



Marble bust of
Thomas William Tatton
(1816-1885) by William
Theed, 1848

Welcome to Wythenshawe Hall which was the home of the Tatton family until 1926. The oldest part of the Hall was built in the 1540s by Robert Tatton. Over the centuries it was extended and altered by his successors, eager to leave their mark on the family home. As a result, Wythenshawe Hall is a mix of historic styles, reflecting changes in lifestyles and fashions over more than four hundred years.

Most of the original furnishings were divided up between the family when they left the house in 1926. The majority of the furniture and paintings you can see today are part of Manchester City Galleries' collection.

This room, known as the ante-room or entrance hall, has a varied history. Over four hundred years old, it is thought to have been a chapel and then a billiard room before becoming the entrance hall in the 1870s.

Around the room are several pictures relating to local families with whom the Tattons were connected. The two horse paintings either side of the fireplace were painted by a popular local artist from Knutsford, Thomas Stringer, and originally belonged to the Tatton family.

The picture on the left is inscribed, *'DRIVER, hunter given by the Hon. Le John Grey to Mr Cooke.'*

The Grey family owned the nearby Dunham Massey estate.

With his wife, Harriet, Thomas William Tatton made extensive adaptations to the house in Victorian times. These included refurbishing the dining room and adding the tenants' hall, which is now used for functions.

The Memories of Betty Broun (nee Tatton)

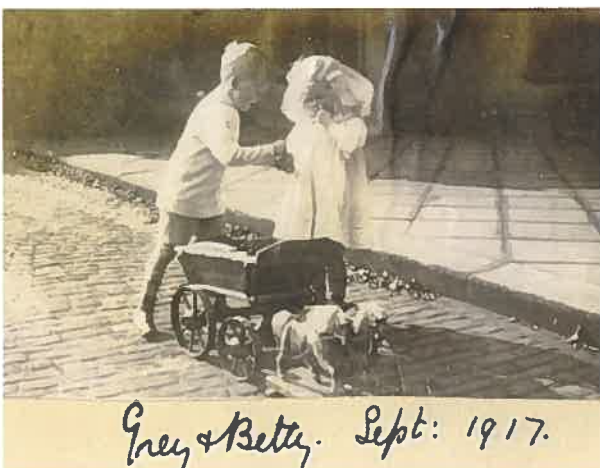
Betty Tatton was born in 1914. She was the eldest daughter of Peter Tatton, the last owner of Wythenshawe Hall. Betty never lived at the Hall but came on long visits with her older brother, Grey, to stay with her grandparents.



Betty aged 94, 2008



Betty as a child, about 1918



Grey & Betty. Sept: 1917.

Betty and Grey playing in front of the Hall, 1917

In 2008, when she was 94 years old, Betty's memories were recorded for the exhibition, 'A Park for the People'. Her recollections capture a lost world: those last few years when the Hall was still a family home.

Betty remembers visiting the Hall all year round:

“ *We loved going there. You see, we had a very dull life. We never went anywhere or did anything as small children, so going to Wythenshawe was a great excitement.* ”

The children were picked up from Sale station in the Daimler by their favourite servant, Mr Browning, the chauffeur. On arrival:

“ *Aunt Alice was waiting for us on the doorstep, plump and cosy, her arms wide open for hugs and kisses. Grandpapa, Grandmamma and Moocha, the Pekingese dog, would greet us in the ante-room, and then Nanny would hustle us across the hall, through the door to the kitchen quarters, up the back stairs and to the day nursery and night nursery next door.* ”

The children had an inventive use for the bust of their great-grandfather in the ante-room:

“ *We used to put our hats on him. He looked very nice sometimes in a summery hat.* ”

At Christmas time a large tree was put in the ante-room in the corner near the fireplace. After lunch the family gathered in this room and presents were given out whilst a pantry boy stood by the tree with a long cane with a sponge on the end, ready to put out any fires caused by the candles.