

History

Walton Hall was the ancestral home of the famous naturalist Charles Waterton 1782 – 1865

It was Charles' father, Thomas Waterton who had the original Elizabethan buildings on the island demolished in 1767. He then proceeded to have the house we see today built as the replacement.

Charles Waterton was well known for his amazing travels around the world and his eccentric behaviour. He set about creating the worlds first nature reserve, here at Walton Hall and commissioned a wall to be built around the estate. This wall still stands it can clearly be seen as you approach the hotel on the drive by the humped back bridge the golf course was built within these walls.

Charles was good friends with Charles Darwin who often came to visit him at the hall.

The Waterton National Park in Western Canada, which covers thousands of acres of unspoilt wilderness was named after him.

Following the death of Charles and the demise of his son, Edmund, to alcohol, the estate was sold to Edward Simpson the son of one of Charles old adversaries. The Simpsons remained at Walton Hall until the 1940's when the Hall was requisitioned as part of the war effort and became a military hospital.

After the war Walton Hall become a maternity hospital for the local community only closing in 1966. For the next few years the Hall was left in a state of disrepair.

In the 1970's it was bought by a local entrepreneur who set about the mammoth task of renovation and the addition of leisure facilities to create a Country Club. The Hotel on the mainland once housed six squash courts and gymnasium, and water skiing on the lake was a regular pastime.

The Hotel has now been privately owned since 1989, and we have seen many new developments with a total number of 63 bedrooms, conference rooms, spa and leisure facilities.

More detailed information on the history is available from reception