

JANE AUSTEN – CHAWTON AND WINCHESTER
On Thursday 19 July 2018

This visit has been organised by Tony Colclough

We shall visit Jane Austen's home in Chawton, now the Jane Austen House Museum, when she produced most of her best work. We then move on to Winchester Cathedral where she lies buried for a guided tour focusing on both her and on the waterlogged foundations of the ancient building and the challenges which they presented to its stability.

Details:

Jane Austen left us six great novels of the English literary canon which after 200 years still inspire interest as witnessed by a steady succession of costume dramas on film and television. Like those of Dickens, her characters and their worlds have become familiar to many who have never read her works. Jane spent her most productive years in the cottage at Chawton with her widowed mother, her sister Cassandra and their friend and helper Martha Lloyd. They kept house and she wrote. Their cottage is now Jane Austen's House Museum (Left) and our first stop of the tour. Here she prepared for publication *Sense and Sensibility* (1811) and *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). Encouraged by their success, she devoted herself fully to authorship



producing *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1816) and *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* both published posthumously in 1818. A seventh novel, later titled *Sanditon*, was uncompleted at her early death in 1817 at the age of 41. The Museum houses many relics of Jane and her family and well illustrates the domestic life of gentlefolk in the early nineteenth century. A short introductory film may be shown. Nearby stands the village church behind which you can find the graves of Jane's mother and Cassandra. Next to the church is her brother's home Chawton House, now a library specialising in women's writing.



Following lunch at The Greyfriar in Chawton, we move on to Winchester Cathedral some twelve miles away where Jane lies buried in the nave. Her stone claims her for the faith, but makes no mention of her literary achievements! A guided tour of the Cathedral will be provided taking in Jane's memorial and the intriguing story of the building's soggy foundations and how they were underpinned by the diver William Walker (shown).. Her final home stands nearby to which she moved in her last illness to be close to her physician. Those who do not know Winchester will find much else to see in the Cathedral and the City Centre.



Left :Winchester Cathedral. Photo by WyrldLight.com, CC BY 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12599680>

Right: William Walker. Photo by WyrldLight.com, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=23290113>



Where and when to meet.

Assemble from 10:30 at Cassandra's Cup Tea Rooms just opposite the Jane Austen's House Museum for refreshments. Its address is The Hollies, Winchester Road, Chawton, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1SB. We aim for an 11:00 start at the Museum.

At the Cathedral, we meet ca. 14:30 at the Entrance Desk identifying ourselves as **Retired Members of the Institute of Physics**. There we shall be introduced to our guide. Enter by the main entrance on the left at the west front. **Do not pay; this will already have been done.**

Getting there – to Cassandra's Cup and the Jane Austen's House Museum

By road from London: Set **GU34 1SB** on your SatNav. Otherwise take:

M25 Junction 10 onto A3 towards Guildford.

Follow A3 along Guildford bypass and on to A31.

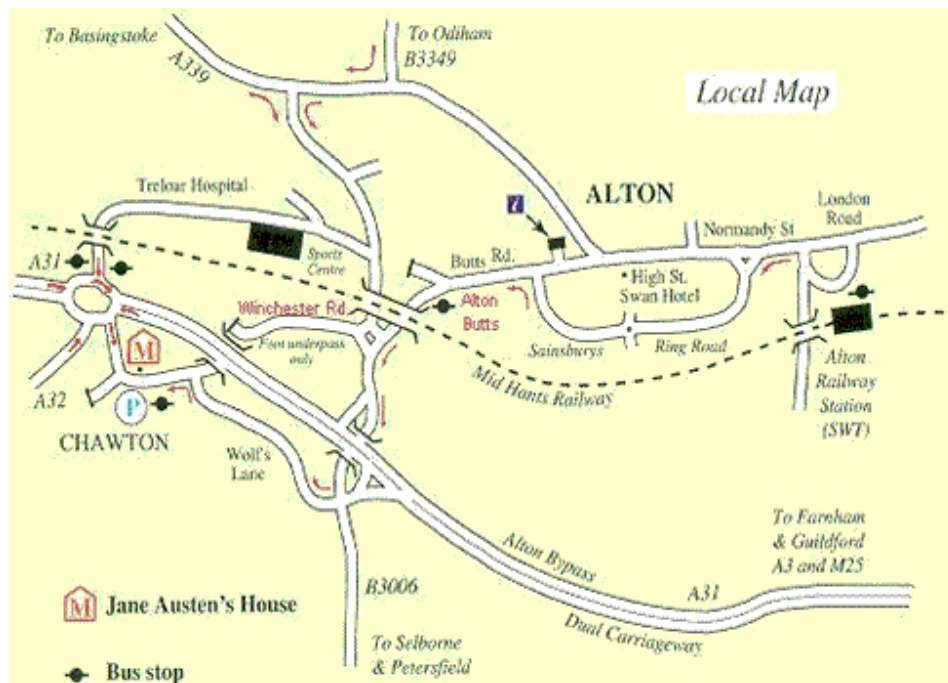
Follow A31 past Farnham and Alton.

At Chawton roundabout (A31/A32) Jane Austen's House is signposted.

Parking: Free parking in the public car park opposite the Museum beyond the pub car park. Please do not park on the street.

By Public Transport: Trains from London Waterloo run hourly to Alton.

Bus connection (Route X64) from Alton Railway Station to Alton Butts. Then take a 12 minute walk down Winchester Road to Chawton Village.



Getting there – from Jane Austen's House Museum to Winchester

We hope that drivers with spare places will kindly offer to take any fellow members without transport.

There are numerous public car parks in Winchester, but I suggest setting your SatNav to **SO23 9PG** where there is street parking in Kingsgate Road around The Queen Inn. From there it is easy to walk to the Cathedral.

Without a SatNav, take the following outline route from Jane Austen's House Museum to Winchester:

Start on Winchester Road at the Museum and head to the A31/A32 roundabout (0.3 miles)

At the roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the A31 signposted Winchester.

Follow Winchester signs along the A31 for 16 miles, then at roundabout take 2nd exit onto Bar End Road B3404 signposted Winchester, Bar End, B3330.

At lights turn right onto Bar End Road B3404 signposted City Centre.

At roundabout take 2nd exit onto High St B3404.

Look for a public car park and go to the Cathedral on foot.

Lunch

We lunch at **The Greyfriar** opposite the Museum in Chawton where a table is being reserved for us at 12:30. At the time of writing (March 2018) a set menu is offered at £15 for two courses and £18 for three as well as an a la carte menu. In order to facilitate the service, we may be asked to order in advance

Timetable

10:30 for 11:00	Assemble at Cassandra's Cup, Chawton, opposite Jane Austen's House Museum
11:00	See Museum and Chawton
12:30	Lunch at The Greyfriar in Chawton
13:45	Travel to Winchester
14:30	Meet our guide at Winchester Cathedral for a tour
16:00	Refreshments at the Cathedral Café prior to Departing

Cost: £15:00 per person covering entry charges and the Cathedral tour.

Maximum number: 30

Contacts: Organiser, Tony Colclough, can be contacted by mobile on the day (07930 171307) and, beforehand, on tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk. **Late arrivals** Just go to the Museum Reception and explain that you are part of the IOP party. We should be easy to find.

Works by and on Jane Austen.

For the novels: https://www.amazon.co.uk/Jane-Austen-complete-Novels-ebook/dp/B073SMMJFN/ref=zg_bs_4542820031_1?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=2WC04FRDHK2PY74G6TCM

Pride & Prejudice DVD (BBC): https://www.amazon.co.uk/Pride-Prejudice-Special-Colin-Firth/dp/B001E454FC/ref=pd_cp_74_2?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=8C649N58WJ3CNRB7C908

Sense & Sensibility DVD: https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sense-Sensibility-DVD-Emma-Thompson/dp/B00004CWP9/ref=sr_1_22?s=dvd&ie=UTF8&qid=1521915869&sr=1-22&keywords=jane+austen

For Lucy Worsley on Jane (BBC on YouTube):

<https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=Jane+Austen#id=1&vid=864c4f17343e6a0eabbca7a21c3afda1&action=click>