

**JANE AUSTEN – CHAWTON AND WINCHESTER**

**On Wednesday 22 September 2010**

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This visit has been organised by Tony Colclough

**The Two Visits**

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 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. Just opposite the Museum, lunch can be had at The Greyfriar. Nearby stand 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.

The second stop is Winchester Cathedral some twelve miles from Chawton where Jane lies buried in the nave. Her stone claims her for the Christian faith, but makes no mention of her literary achievements! A short tour will be provided taking in the Cathedral and her final home nearby to which she moved in her last illness to be close to her physician. Those who do not know Winchester will find much to see in the Cathedral and the City Centre during the lunch break and after the tour.

**Where and when to meet.**

Assemble at Cassandra's Cup roughly opposite Jane Austen's House Museum at 10:30 for 11:00. Outside is a car park and refreshments are available. The Museum visit starts at 11:00.

Lunch at a nominal 12:30 in Chawton or 13:00 in Winchester, depending on how long you spend in the Museum and what else of Chawton you see.

At 14:30 assemble in Winchester Cathedral at the West End of the Nave to meet the guide

**Getting there – to Jane Austen's House**

By road from London (see the first map on page 3):

'Jane Austens House' was available under Points of Interest on my Garmin SatNav or use the postcode GU34 1SD.

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.

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 - see map below.

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

'Winchester Cathedral' was available under Points of Interest on my Garmin SatNav. If you don't have a SatNav, I suggest you download a route from the AA Route Planner from GU34 1SD, Chawton to Winchester Cathedral, Hampshire. See <http://www.theaa.com/route-planner/index.jsp> A map of car parks can be found at

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/Documents/Parking/winchestercitycentrecarparkmap.pdf> (see the second map on page 3). There are two Park and Ride stations, St Catherine's and Barfield, on the B3404 on the way into the city. Otherwise take the following outline route:

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

At the roundabout take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto the A31 signposted Winchester.

Follow Winchester signs along the A31 for 16 miles, then at roundabout take 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto High St B3404.

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

### **Lunch arrangements**

There are two main possibilities:

- (1) Lunch in Chawton at The Greyfriar pub or at Cassandra's Cup. Both are opposite the Museum. And
- (2) Lunch in Winchester where there are many places to eat. The Queen at 28 Kingsgate St has a car park and is in walking distance of the Cathedral. Also not far from the Cathedral are the Wyckeham Arms at 75 Kingsgate St (01962 853 834), The Old Vine in Great Minster St (01962 854 616) and the Old Gaolhouse, a Wetherspoon pub, in Jewry St (01962 850 095).

### **Timetable**

10:30 for 11:00 Assemble at Cassandra's Cup roughly opposite Jane Austen's House Museum, Chawton.	
11:00 See Museum and Chawton	
<b>Either:</b>	<b>Or:</b>
12:30 approx. Lunch at The Greyfriar or Cassandra's	12:30 approx. Travel to Winchester
13:30 approx. Travel to Winchester	13:30 approx. Lunch in Winchester
14:30 Assemble at the West End of the Nave in Winchester Cathedral for the tour	
15:45 Tours ends.	

### **Cost**

£12.50 per person covering the entry charge to the Museum and the Cathedral tour.

### **Maximum number in group**

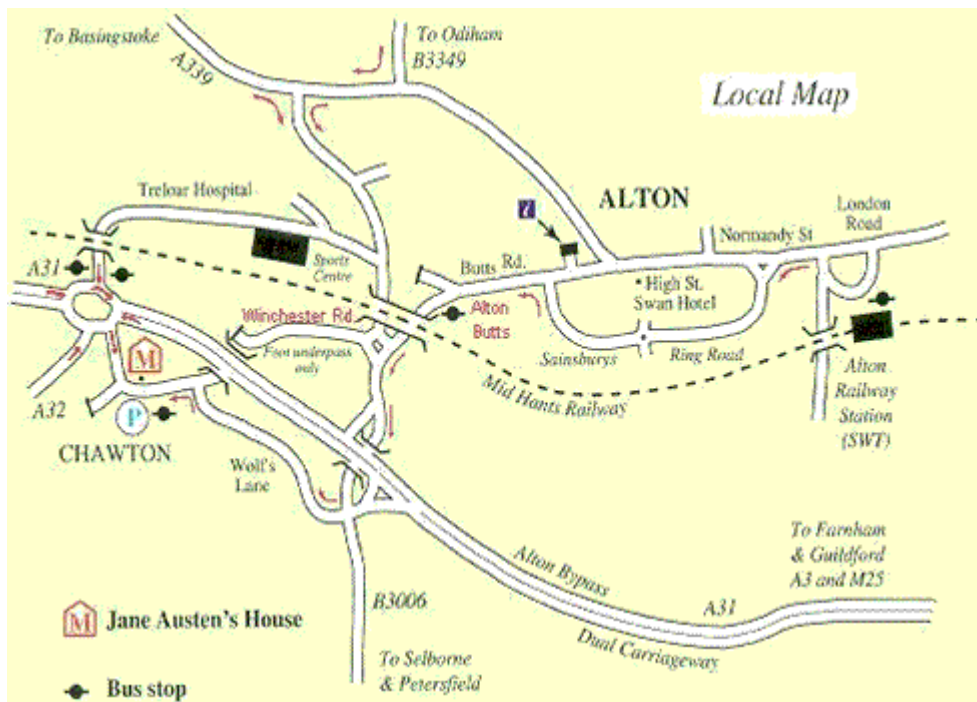
25 people.

### **Contacts**

Organiser, Tony Colclough, can be contacted by mobile on the day (07801 698336) and, beforehand, on [tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk). Reinalt Vaughan-Williams' mobile number is 07758 085741.

### **Late arrivals**

Just go to the Museum Reception which is open for the day and explain that you are part of the REMS party.



Map of Chawton area



Map of Winchester