What’s On
Sept-Dec 2019
chawtonhouse.org
Welcome

Chawton House was owned by Jane Austen's brother Edward, and known to her as 'the Great House'. Jane lived in a cottage on his estate and would stroll up to 'dawdle away' many happy hours in the grand Elizabethan manor and its picturesque gardens.

To find out more visit chawtonhouse.org

Exhibitions & Displays

Exhibition: Jane Austen’s Reading
04 March - 16 December 2019

Jane Austen was an avid reader, taking inspiration from the quills of her predecessors.

On display will be the very books she had access to when staying with her brother at his estate in Godmersham, and which are now held in the Chawton House collection, as well as those that inspired her writing.

Display: Writing Women’s Rights
04 March - 16 December 2019

Long before the Suffragists and Suffragettes, long before feminist movements and #MeToo, the pen was in these eighteenth-century women’s hands!

This display includes writers from Bathsua Makin (c.1600-c.1673) to Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797) who took on issues of equality, gender difference, biology as destiny, education and equal pay.
Exhibitions & Displays

**Artist takeover: Louisa Albani**
Mary Wollstonecraft at Versailles during the French Revolution
01 September - 29 November 2019

2019 marks 230 years since the French Revolution, and 260 years since the birth of Mary Wollstonecraft, who was living in Paris during the Reign of Terror.

This exhibition is inspired by what she did, what she saw and what she wrote, whilst acting as a war correspondent for the English journal *Analytical Review*.

**Special Display: Sanditon**
11 September - 13 October
*Jane Austen’s Grandison manuscript*
11 - 13 October 2019

See a special display with material relating to Jane Austen’s final, unfinished, novel *Sanditon*.

The final episode of ITV’s new adaptation will air on 13 October. Visit the House on the same weekend and view the most special item in our collection: a rare manuscript written in Jane Austen’s own hand.

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**Exhibitions Programme**

**Exhibition Workshop: Rebel Women Writers**
Sunday 29 Sept, 2-4pm

A feminist creative writing workshop inspired by the rebellious spirit of Mary Wollstonecraft, philosopher, educator and author of the ground-breaking *A Vindication for the Rights of Women*.

£20 (please bring notebook & pen)

**Director’s Tour: Jane Austen’s Reading**
Friday 11 Oct, 2-3pm

Join Chawton House Chief Executive, Katie Childs, on a tour of the 2019 exhibition *Jane Austen’s Reading*. Discover why time spent in the Godmersham Park library was vital to Jane Austen’s inspiration and development as a writer.

£12/£10 Friends

**Talk: Bee Rowlatt - In The Footsteps of Mary Wollstonecraft**
Thursday 17 Oct, 6:30-8pm

Author Bee Rowlatt will share her journey exploring Mary Wollstonecraft’s extraordinary legacy, and the disturbing truth behind her erasure from history.

£12/£10 Friends

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Entry to all exhibitions and displays is included with general admission.
Exhibitions Programme

Curator’s Talk - Writing Women’s Rights
Monday 4 Nov, 2-3pm
Join Dr Kim Simpson, co-curator of the 2019 library display Writing Women’s Rights as she discusses the female authors who were taking on feminist issues long before the suffragettes.
£8/£6 Friends

Dr Georgina Lock - Lady in the Veil
Saturday 16 Nov
Writing Workshop: 2-4pm
Performance: 7-8:30pm
The “Giving Voice to the Ancestors” workshop will explore the writing of dramatic monologues for characters from history. It will feature drama improvisation and writing exercises designed to increase creativity, confidence in communicating and understanding of character and narrative.
Later in the evening, Dr Lock will perform a one woman show based on the life of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu – the eccentric literary genius and unsung pioneer who championed smallpox inoculation in Britain.
Workshop £20
Performance £15 (includes drink)
Joint ticket for both events £30

Talks and Tours

Heritage Open Days: Costumed Tours
Tuesday 17th Sept, 10:30am/2:30pm
Thursday 19th Sept, 10:30am/2:30pm
Sunday 22nd Sept, 10:30am/2:30pm
Step beyond the ‘no entry’ signs and discover hidden panelling, witches marks and more.
Free: book via Heritage Open Days

Talk: Jocelyn Harris - Satire, Celebrity and Politics in Jane Austen
Sunday 13 Oct, 2-4:30pm
Professor Jocelyn Harris talks about her latest book in which she argues that Jane Austen was “a satirist, a celebrity watcher, and a keen political observer”.
£15/£12 Friends (includes refreshments)

Talk: Alison Daniell - Elizabeth Knight: A Woman to be Reckoned With
Tuesday 22 Oct, 6:30-8pm
Elizabeth Knight: the only female to have presided over Chawton refused to relinquish control in an age when wives had no legal identity of their own.
£12/£10 Friends
Creative Workshops

Photography
Tuesday 10 Sept, 10:00am-2:30pm
Wednesday 23 Oct, 10:00am-2:30pm
Monday 4 Nov, 10:00am-2:30pm

In-house photographer Claire Lewis will guide you to take your photography to the next level. Don't worry about what type of camera you have, its all about enjoying the craft of capturing images.
£45 (includes light lunch)

Creative Writing
Saturday 7 Sept, 10:00am-2:30pm
Saturday 5 Oct, 10:00am-2:30pm

Everyone has a story to tell! You may be a complete beginner, or a more experienced writer in need of inspiration. A series of exercises will help you develop ideas into words.
£45 (includes light lunch)

Modern Calligraphy
Saturday 21 Sept, 10:30am-2:30pm (dip)
Thursday 24 Oct, 10:30am-2:30pm (brush)
Saturday 23 Nov, 10:30am-2:30pm (dip)

In this intimate workshop you will learn the basic strokes, practice writing the alphabet and joining up letters to make full words and flourishes
£65 Dip pen/£60 Brush pen (includes refreshments & materials)

Talks & Tours

HALF TERM: Louie Stowell - The Dragon in the Library
Tuesday 29 Oct, 2:30-3:30pm
Join author Louie Stowell as readers encounter crazy creatures, create magical artwork, wind their way through foreign dictionaries, and unleash their inner wizards just in time to save the librarian.
£6 Adults & Children Under 16 (Under 6’s Free)

Museums at Night - Late Night Gothic
Thursday 31 Oct, 7-9pm [SOLD OUT]
Friday 1 Nov, 7-9pm
Explore the house by candlelight on All Hallows’ Eve. Learn about the writers who produced the gothic era’s most terrifying novels, designed to curdle the blood and quicken the beatings of the heart.
£15/£12 Friends (includes drink)

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Seasonal Events

Apple Day
Saturday 19 Oct 11am-4pm
Meet our garden volunteers and find out about the unusual heritage varieties growing in the Chawton House orchard. Sample tasty apple treats from the Old Kitchen Tearoom’s special menu. Usual admission fees apply.

Late Night Opening: Bonfire Night
Saturday 2 Nov 4-6:30pm
Soak up the atmosphere of the house by candlelight in this rare after hours opening. Warm by the fire in the Great Hall with a cup of delicious mulled cider before heading to the village to watch Chawton’s fireworks spectacular. Usual admission fees apply.

Celebration: Happy 244th Birthday Jane!
Monday 16 Dec 11am-4pm
To celebrate Jane’s birthday Chawton House and Jane Austen’s House Museum will be offering a special joint ticket for one day only. Both attractions will be celebrating in style with music and cake. Half price entry. Joint ticket must be purchased online in advance.

Special Festive Openings
11am-4pm
* Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 Dec
* Friday 27 Dec
* Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 Dec
* Monday 30 Dec

Evening Openings
* 4-8pm, Thursday 19 & Friday 20 Dec

Make the most of time off with your family and enjoy a Regency-style Christmas at Chawton House. Usual admission fees apply.

Christmas Fayre
Saturday 7 Dec, 11am-4pm
Sunday 8 Dec, 11am-4pm
Browse the stalls selling handmade and local produce, enjoy a mince pie or three, take part in festive family activities and meet Father Christmas in his grotto. Tickets: £2. Free for children under 16
### Events at a glance

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Coming up in 2020

So that the 2020 exhibition can be installed, and to complete other essential maintenance, the House and Gardens will be closed from 2nd Jan through to 16 Feb except for on these special dates:

**Orchard Wassail**
Saturday 18 Jan

**Snowdrops Open Days**
Sunday 16 & Sunday 23 Feb

**Chawton House officially re-opens to the public**
Mon 17 Feb

**Gill Hornby *Miss Austen* Book Launch**
Wed 19 Feb

Further details of the 2020 programme will be released in due course.

Sign up to the mailing list at chawtonhouse.org to be kept in the loop.
Chawton House Library is an independent charity registered in England and Wales, no. 1026921