

# THE ARTS SOCIETY DEVIZES

## TRIP TO CHAWTON HOUSE ON 21st APRIL 2020

Join us on Tuesday 21st April 2020 to visit Chawton House, an Elizabethan manor house set in beautiful grounds, frequently visited by Jane Austen as it was the home of her elder brother.

8.00am Coach leaves the Station Road car park, Devizes.

10.00am Arrival at Chawton House for coffee and biscuits (included).

10.30 am Guided Tour of Chawton House.

12.00 noon Buffet lunch of salads, fruit, cold drinks, tea and coffee served in the Great Hall. (included)

13.30pm (approximately) Free time for you to explore the extensive grounds and garden of Chawton House. In addition you could take the 15-minute walk to Jane Austen's House (entrance fee £9/£8, not included) or just wander through the village to visit the church where Jane and her family worshipped.

16.15pm Coach leaves Chawton House.

18.45 pm (approximately) Arrive in Devizes.

Please send your completed booking form, together with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to The Arts Society Devizes, to: -

Mrs Linda Cassidy, 500 Semington Road, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6DX

or book at the February or March 2020 lecture meetings.

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### **Trip to Chawton House on 21st April 2020**

I wish to purchase..... member tickets@ £42.00 and ..... guest tickets @ £45.00

I enclose a cheque to the value of £..... made payable to The Arts Society Devizes

Name(s): .....

Contact Tel. No(s): .....

Emergency contact number(s): .....

**NB. THIS TRIP INVOLVES A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF WALKING AND USE OF STAIRS  
IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT IT IS THE RIGHT TRIP FOR YOU TO ENJOY.**

Should anyone, having booked, wish to cancel, every effort will be made to re-sell the tickets but if this is not possible there will be no refund.

This is your chance to walk in the steps of Jane Austen and her family as we take you on a visit to Chawton House, a beautiful manor house built by the Knight family over four hundred years ago, and which later in the early 1800s became the home of Jane's brother, Edward.

*In 1814 Jane Austen wrote 'I went up to the Great House and dawdled an hour very comfortably' and in 1815 'We four sweet Brothers and Sisters dine today at the Great House.'*

We won't be dawdling though as there is so much to see as we tour the house and have the chance to visit the wonderful grounds and gardens. We will, however, be dining in the Great Hall which you can only do on an organised group tour. Our trip takes place on Tuesday 21st April 2020.

We will leave Devizes promptly at 8am to arrive at Chawton in time for coffee and biscuits before we begin our guided tour of the House.

Chawton House is a wonderfully restored Elizabethan manor house, rich with quirky and fascinating features, from graffiti on paintings and 'witch marks' on walls, to heraldic stained glass windows and ornately carved fireplaces.

For Austen fans there are particular highlights associated with Jane including the reading alcove in the Oak Room where, it is said, she liked to sit and the Knight family dining table at which Jane dined with her brothers and sisters.

The House is also a centre for the works of early women writers. As well as numerous portraits and items associated with the Knight family there are portraits of early women writers, many of them famous in their day. The house offers a continuously changing display of works from the library's unique collection of women's writings.

After a buffet lunch of assorted salads, fruit and cold drinks followed by tea and coffee we have free time to spend in the grounds of Chawton House or in the village of Chawton.

The gardens, including terraces, a walled garden with herb garden and a wilderness, are beautiful and there is a Jane Austen trail that you can follow through the grounds if you wish.

Alternatively, you may like to walk through the village to visit St Nicholas' church or Jane Austen's own house, formerly the Bailiff's cottage for the Manor House. The walk to Jane's house will take approximately 15 minutes and there is an admission charge of £9 (£8 for over 65s) which is not included in the cost of this trip.

The Old Kitchen Tea Room at Chawton House will be open until 4pm for those who would like a sustaining cup of tea before our coach departs at 4.15pm.

The cost of the day including coffee and buffet lunch is £42 for members and £45 for guests. You can book by post, using the attached booking form, or at the February lecture meeting.

**We really hope that you will join us for this wonderful day out but please note that there are stairs to be climbed in the house and, being so old, the floors are uneven. If you have restricted mobility do make sure that this is a suitable trip for you. Please speak to Mo Edwards if you have any concerns.**