Jane Austen was born on 16 December 1775 in Steventon, Hampshire, where her parents had moved in 1771. She was the seventh of eight children. Her father, George Austen, was a local clergyman. She was educated at home by her father and a private governess. She also attended Reading New School for Girls before her family moved to Bath in 1786. She continued her education in Bath before returning to Reading in 1788.

For her brother Frank, who was thought to have been ill from early on, the family knew that the third child, Edward, would inherit the family fortune from their cousin, Mr. Thomas Austen. In 1789, they moved to Steventon and the girls were placed under the care of Mrs. Bridges, a governess. She taught at the school and cared for the Austen children. Mrs. Bridges was a strict and demanding teacher, but she was able to instill a love of learning in the girls.

Jane's relationship with her mother was close and affectionate, and she continued to court her until they got married on 25 August 1805. Mr. Austen's brother, James, took charge of the rectory whilst living at the rectory. Jane's father, George Austen, (1731-1805), was a respected local clergyman and the family were part of the local Georgian society in the great green countryside. As well as spending time with the family friend Madam Lefroy, who lived at Ashe Rectory, we know that Jane and Cassandra moved in College Street and the unauthenticated silhouette featured in the draft of A History of England, which Jane and Cassandra came into when her uncle, Theophilus Cooper, moved into the house in College Street. The house in College Street is now a private house but Winchester's College Street residence is now a private house but Winchester's 1000-year old yew, which used to house the key in the time of the Austens, still yields berries - its secret, central bonds and respectable rural connections.

Jane's father, George Austen, was a local clergyman and the family were part of the local Georgian society in the great green countryside. As well as spending time with the family friend Madam Lefroy, who lived at Ashe Rectory, we know that Jane and Cassandra moved in College Street and the unauthenticated silhouette featured in the draft of A History of England, which Jane and Cassandra came into when her uncle, Theophilus Cooper, moved into the house in College Street. The house in College Street is now a private house but Winchester's 1000-year old yew, which used to house the key in the time of the Austens, still yields berries - its secret, central bonds and respectable rural connections.

The film touches on Jane's famous novel with plot and characterisation - meaning that Firth's casting lent an ironic, modern twist on the persona of the Austen anti-hero who came good. Another box office success came with Joe Wright's 2005 adaptation of Northanger Abbey, which Jane also wrote. The regional premiere of this film was screened in Winchester. The film is an expertly crafted tale of Gothic romance and mystery, with Keira Knightly (see left and overleaf) making her screen debut as the heroines Emilia and Catherine Morland. The film is a triumph of period storytelling, with Keira Knightly's performances as a true Austen heroine. The film is a triumph of period storytelling, with Keira Knightly's performances as a true Austen heroine. The film is a triumph of period storytelling, with Keira Knightly's performances as a true Austen heroine.
For more information on planning your visit call Winchester Tourist Information Centre on 01962 840 500 or see www.visitwinchester.co.uk

www.beaulieu.co.uk SO42 7ZN

Beaulieu Abbey (within the grounds of Beaulieu National Motor Museum),

www.bucklershard.co.uk SO42 7XB

visit or 01590 616 203

A34 and M3 and South East M20, M25 and M3 or A272.

www.hiddenbritaintours.co.uk

Hidden Britain Tours runs a ‘Dancing Years’ tour, exploring Hampshire from Ston Solent by 1817 Jane lived in Chawton village near Alton with her mother, sister Cassandra and their friend Martha Lloyd. Restored to the rural setting of Jane’s time, Chawton House is a centre for visitors interested in Jane Austen’s life and the works she wrote while at Chawton.

From 1809 until her father’s death in 1817 Jane lived in Chawton village near Alton with her mother, sister Cassandra and their friend Martha Lloyd. Restored to the rural setting of Jane’s time, Chawton House is a centre for visitors interested in Jane Austen’s life and the works she wrote while at Chawton.

To visit from Winchester by car, follow signs to the town centre. To visit from London by car: from M25 Junction 12, M3 to Junction 5, B3349 to Odiham and Alton, follow signs for Chawton.

Travel by train from Winchester or see

www.infolinewinchester.co.uk

www.samphireonline.co.uk

www.historicdockyard.co.uk  PO1 3LJ

www.watercressonline.co.uk 01962 733 810

For more information on planning your visit call Winchester Tourist Information Centre on 01962 840 500 or visit www.hiddenbritaintours.co.uk

Getting to Southampton

Winchester is just under an hour by direct train from London Waterloo and between 15 and 25 minutes from Southampton Central. Travel Information Centre on 01962 840 500 or see www.hiddenbritaintours.co.uk

For more details call 023 8083 3333 or visit www.southampton.gov.uk

Getting to Poole

Naval history by visiting: • Farleigh House
• The Royal Yacht Squadron

www.cricketingwinchester.co.uk

Visit www.watercressonline.co.uk for details or call 01962 733 810. A taxi from Alton Station to Chawton House costs approximately £7. Booking advised, tel: Chawton Cabs 01420 564 448 or Wilson’s Taxis on 01420 877 77.

Edward’s home - now Chawton House Library. The collection of women’s writing from 1600 to 1830 stored here is accessible to visitors by prior arrangement.

Information Centre on 01962 840 500 or visit www.hiddenbritaintours.co.uk

Sisterly love: Jane, Cassandra, Colin, George and Emma. Colin, Jane’s brother, took over the farm at Chawton, but was dark brown and curled naturally, her large dark eyes were widely opened and her clear brown skin and blushed so brightly and so readily.'

Although there were adequate description of her by Sir Egerton Brydges who had visited Steventon: ‘Our pond is witness to the life in Hampshire chronologically but the few visitors to this beautiful area feel that past 300 years. You might be like to take a tour and see other mapped trails that overlap. Our cricket trail, for example, has link
directions and directions contact Portsmouth Visitor Information Centre, tel: 023 8028 4404.

To reach Steventon House follow signs to the Midlands, M3. Leave the M3 at Junction 7 and take the first exit to the A30 (signposted Basingstoke). At traffic lights turn left (A30) then turn right to North Waltham and follow signs to Steventon.

Southampton

love her mother and sister Cassandra moved to Southampton after the death of her father in 1805. Jane found living in a wonderful city a change for Portsmouth, journey duration one hour. Trains depart from London Waterloo every 15 minutes, journey duration around 2 hours. For more information and directions contact Portsmouth Visitor Information Centre, tel: 023 8028 4404.

- Getting to Winchester

Winchester, 17 miles and 14 miles from Winchester Central Station. Direct approach: Winchester from the north should not be at junction 27, as the south coast. On the A303 to Alton, A32 and to North Hartley, A30 and A3042.

- Getting to Chawton

Beaulieu, M3 and South East M20, M25 and M3 or A272.

www.cricketingwinchester.co.uk

Travelling to visit

for Portsmouth, journey duration one hour. Trains depart from London Waterloo every 15 minutes, journey duration around 2 hours. For more information and directions contact Portsmouth Visitor Information Centre, tel: 023 8028 4404.

- Getting to Portsmouth

Dorset, visitors depart from Southampton Station. Chawton is not so changed by progress in the 20th century as it is a rural village. The map opposite traces Jane Austen’s journeys by coach and horse from 1804 to 1817, on one of the district’s official tourist guides.

- Getting to Poole

• Farleigh House
• The Royal Yacht Squadron

- Getting to Portsmouth

- Getting to Southampton

Winchester

To reach Winchester from Southampton Station. Chawton is not so changed by progress in the 20th century as it is a rural village. The map opposite traces Jane Austen’s journeys by coach and horse from 1804 to 1817, on one of the district’s official tourist guides.

- Getting to Poole

Dorset, visitors depart from Southampton Station. Chawton is not so changed by progress in the 20th century as it is a rural village. The map opposite traces Jane Austen’s journeys by coach and horse from 1804 to 1817, on one of the district’s official tourist guides.

- Getting to Poole

Dorset, visitors depart from Southampton Station. Chawton is not so changed by progress in the 20th century as it is a rural village. The map opposite traces Jane Austen’s journeys by coach and horse from 1804 to 1817, on one of the district’s official tourist guides.