



Alresford Historical & Literary Society

NEWSLETTER 1st August 2022

THE SOCIETY'S UPCOMING AUGUST OUTING Wednesday 17th August – guided walk in Alresford

To join this event please meet at 2.30pm in St John's Church, when our very own Peter Pooley will share his local knowledge. A team of guides will then lead small parties on an easy stroll round central Alresford, pointing out items of interest and recounting anecdotes. We have managed to arrange visits to the Alresford Museum and Caroline Perry has kindly agreed to greet us in her garden to see the medieval bridge → and videos of the otters seen there. We will organise the parties to arrive separately to avoid crowding. The afternoon should be very interesting, and let us hope for good weather. [GG]



THE SOCIETY'S LAST OUTING: CHAWTON HOUSE

Just before 2pm on Wednesday, 20th July, thirty members and guests gathered on the circular lawn in front of Chawton House. Following a welcome from Kim Simpson, Deputy Director, we were led inside and split into two groups, and then conducted on separate tours of the house by helpful and knowledgeable guides Carolyn and Martin. As we made our way through the Great Hall and Dining Room, we learnt about the history of the house and its owners - particularly the Knight and Austen families – and, of course, the link with Jane Austen. The artefacts, furniture and paintings - and their contribution to the story - were described in a way that was both informative and entertaining. We ended up in the library, home to over 4,000 editions of work by women writers, dating from 1660 to 1860. Our tour was followed by an excellent cream tea served in the Old Kitchen Tearoom, and thanks to the weather many of us were able to enjoy this outside in the courtyard. All in all, it was a great afternoon out (and thankfully cooler than the record-breaking day before!), and we are very grateful to everyone at Chawton House for their help in making it possible.



[This report was provided by the trip's excellent organisers, our Fiona and Colin Scott-Morton]

A WARM WELCOME TO A NEW LOCAL ORGANISATION: The Ropley History Network and Archive (part of the Ropley Society). www.ropleyhistory.org.uk [GG]

Best wishes

Mike Dickens, Secretary