



# Alresford Historical & Literary Society

## Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**Last meeting of the year: Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. 7:30pm, Methodist Hall**  
***“Austen Sisters”***  
**a literary performance by celebrated TV and radio actress Rowan Suart**

For our November meeting we welcome back Rowan Suart who promises to take us on a journey back in time in a captivating solo performance of staged readings that bring the poignant words of Jane and Cassandra Austen to life. In “*Austen Sisters*” Rowan has compiled and performs a selection of the sisters' most heartfelt letters, prose and poetry, in a tribute to sisterhood and the enduring power of words. Her performance aims



not only to showcase the depth of Jane and Cassandra's sisterly bond but also to offer a glimpse into the historical context that shaped their lives and writing. Don't miss it!

**An appreciation of our October speaker Jude Hayland on:**  
***Writing out of the recent past - how, why and when to set a novel with reference to social, political and cultural contexts***

Quite a title! But it made sense after Jude's excellent talk. A fascination with the “the recent past”, for example the mid-80s, led her to write novels true to the perceptions and normalities of the time. On a very wet and windy evening it was a joy to be so engaged and entertained. Jude Hayland's published novels are: *Counting the Ways*, *Miller Street SW22*, *The Legacy of Mr Jarvis* and *The Odyssey of Lily Page*, and the next one is on its way.



**Our Annual Dinner** took place in The Vault at The Swan Hotel on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Our Guest of Honour Paul Beaver gave an excellent talk on “Winkle” Brown, test pilot extraordinary who “flew everything” and whose life was the subject of Paul's recent book.

Mike Dickens, Hon Secretary, [secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk](mailto:secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk)