



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF PLUMBERS

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Visit to Jane Austen's and Gilbert White's houses, Hampshire: 18 May 2017

Jane Austen's House in Chawton was where she lived with her mother and sister, Cassandra, from 1809 to 1817. Here she revised some of her earlier novels and then wrote three more including *Emma*. This year is the bicentenary of her death. The 17th century house is laid out as it was in Jane's time and includes many artefacts of hers and her family.

Four miles away in Selborne is Gilbert White's 18th century house and garden and tells the story of the man inspired by his surroundings to spend his life investigating the natural world. Later extensions to the house host the Oates Collection. Captain Lawrence Oates accompanied Scott to the South Pole in 1910-12 and Frank Oates explored Africa and the Americas in the 19th Century.

Outline of Visit

The first visit commences at 11.00am at Jane Austen's House in the village of Chawton lying just off the A31 (Guildford to Winchester), 2 miles SW of Alton. Lunch, for which menu choices are attached, will be taken at The Greyfriars pub opposite in a private room. After lunch a drive of 4 miles will take us to Selborne for the visit to Gilbert White's House at 2.30pm. Both houses also have gardens. For those wishing to extend their visit there is an excellent tea room at Gilbert White's House and the church and village are well worth exploring.

The total cost of the two visits and lunch is £39.50. Anyone who may have access problems should contact Steward Ian Smith on 01483 415317.

Jane Austen's House

Tours are self-guided commencing at 11.00am. Access is easiest from the roundabout at the junction of the A31 and the A32 taking the first left if travelling from Alton towards Winchester. As this road bears left parking is readily available on the right in the village car park or that of the pub. Those arriving early can have a coffee at "Cassandra's Cup" tea room opposite Jane's House. The tour would last for 1-1.5 hours allowing time to explore or sit in the garden. A 15-minute film introduces the House and visitors will then commence the tour of the house in small groups. Visit can also be made of the Bakehouse and the Kitchen, both in outhouses.

The Greyfriars Pub

The pub is located almost opposite Jane Austen's house and the private room is up steep stairs but a table could be arranged downstairs for anyone needing it if notified in advance. The menu choices are attached and pre-ordering is essential to maintain the

timing of the two visits. The price includes starter and main courses, but any drinks must be purchased individually.

Gilbert White's House

Drive the 4 miles to Selborne following the signs to Gilbert White's House and park at the far end of the village in the public car park. This will entail a flat walk of some 300 yards back to the house. Arrive to commence the visit at 2.30pm. There will be an introductory talk followed by a self-guided visit which would last 1-1.5 hours. This is the end of the arranged visit, but a further hour could be spent in the garden if weather permits and there is an excellent tea room serving home-made cakes. Visitors would be free to partake of this facility, visit the church with its wonderful stained glass window in memory of Gilbert White where he is buried in the churchyard or leave whenever they wish.

Menu choices

Starters:

- Seasonal soup of the day - served with a warm half baguette and butter;
- Chef's velvety duck liver pate - with gherkins, plum sauce, melba toast and rocket garnish;
- Home-made salmon & haddock fish cake - comes with a tomato, onion, & cucumber salad & sweet chilli dip;
- Tomato & mozzarella salad – served with dressed leaves, basil, pesto & balsamic vinegar (V).

Mains:

- Traditional steak & ale pie - prime cut of beef, slow-cooked in ale, in shortcrust pastry, served with new potatoes & fresh broccoli;
- Chef's chilli con carne - served with rice, finished with sour cream, jalapenos & coriander;
- Chef's fish pie - fresh fish of the day, cooked in a cream sauce, topped with creamed potatoes, served with fresh broccoli;
- Ham & eggs - hand-carved breaded Hampshire ham, served with a brace of free range eggs, fries & garden peas;
- Veggie burger - breaded goat's cheese, tomato, aubergine, field mushroom, lettuce & mayo, all stacked in a brioche bun with fries and dressed leaves (V).

Further Information

For those with satnav, the postcodes are GU34 1SD (JA) and GU34 3JH (GW)

You may find the following websites useful: www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk
www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk www.thegreyfriar.co.uk

The cost of the Tour including lunch, excluding drinks, is £39.50. Please return the below form by email to the Clerk (clerk@plumberscompany.org.uk).

Booking Form
(Please return to the Clerk by 5th May 2017)

I wish to book places at each. Total cost:

Name 1

Name 2

Name 3

Name 4

Starters: 1 2 3 4

Soup

Pate

Fish cake

Tomato salad

Mains: 1 2 3 4

Steak pie

Chilli

Fish pie

Ham & eggs

Veg. burger

Please tick the appropriate choices against each guest 1-4

*(Preferred) I have paid by BACS (sort code 16-00-15, account number 23161144; using reference <surname> and "18 May 2017").

I enclose a cheque made payable to The Worshipful Company of Plumbers.

When you have completed the form, click the green SEND button and it will be attached to an email for you to send to the office. You can also simply save the completed form and attach it to an email in the usual manner.