

## **NEWS RELEASE FROM CHAWTON HOUSE LIBRARY**

**8 January 2007**

### **Austen Lecture at Chawton House Library**

On Thursday 18 January Professor Sandie Byrne will give a talk at Chawton House entitled "Not what they say but how they say it": Language & Character in Jane Austen's Novels.

Reception with complimentary wine and canapés is at 6.30pm followed by the lecture at 7.00pm. Tickets £15.00 (£10 Students & Friends of Chawton House Library)

Contact 01420 541010.

We learn about Austen's characters from their actions and their dialogue, but we can also learn a lot from the way they speak and the way they think, and even more if we know something about the way in which the English language has changed since Austen's time.

Sandie Byrne will tell us who calls her mother a 'slattern', who uses 'elegant' as an insult, who is 'pretty' but not necessarily good-looking and why 'horrid' is really rather enjoyable.

Professor Byrne is Director of the Oxford University Summer School at Exeter College where she teaches a course on Austen's novels. Her book on Hector Hugh Munro (Saki) will be published by Oxford University Press later on this year.