

18 April 2007:

PRESS RELEASE

*Pregnancy in Jane Austen's Time*  
A Lecture at Chawton House

Jane Austen is not usually thought of as a writer who deals with pregnancy, but the subject does surface - significantly - in *Sense and Sensibility*.

Professor Clare Hanson will give a lecture at Chawton House on Thursday 26 April entitled *Sense, Sensibility & Maternal Impressions, Pregnancy in Jane Austen's Time*. She will examine the set of ideas surrounding pregnancy in the late 18th and early 19th century, with a particular focus on the idea of 'maternal impressions'. That is, the belief that emotions and impressions of the mother could affect the health and even the appearance of the unborn child.

The theme of the over-susceptible mother is a recurring one in women's fiction of this period and will be discussed with particular reference to novels by Mary Wollstonecraft, Charlotte Smith and Amelia Opie and others which are in the Chawton House Library collection.

Reception with wine and canapés at 6.30pm, lecture at 7.00pm  
Tickets £15.00 and £10.00 for Friends of Chawton House Library and students, available from Corrine Saint on 01420 541010, or email [corrine.saint@chawton.net](mailto:corrine.saint@chawton.net)

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For further information, please contact: