

# Chawton House Library & University of Notre Dame London Lecture 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010

To Be Held At: University of Notre Dame's London Centre  
1 Suffolk Street, London SW1Y 4HG

## 'Anguish No Cessation Knows': Women and the British Elegy, 1660-1830

**Professor Anne K. Mellor, University of California, Los Angeles**

Do women grieve differently than men? And if so, in what ways? This talk explores the striking differences between elegies written by women between 1660 and 1830 and those by men. To date, our literary understandings of the structure and function of the poetic elegy have been based almost exclusively on the works of such male poets as Bion, Shakespeare, Milton, Percy Shelley and Yeats. Drawing on recent work in social psychology and therapeutic practice, Professor Mellor will discuss in detail the brilliant elegies of, most notably, Mary Chudleigh, Elizabeth Singer Rowe, Charlotte Smith and Amelia Opie, among many others, in order to define the particular nature and social roles of the female-authored elegy, as well as the way in which these elegies changed over time, to produce a distinctively "romantic" form of the female-authored elegy in the early nineteenth century.



*Austen family grave stones in the churchyard at Chawton*

**This is the inaugural Chawton House Library London lecture, co-hosted by the University of Notre Dame London Centre.**

**The lecture is free, however pre-registration is required.  
Please email or call Chawton House Library with your details.**



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*In London*

Chawton House Library



**6.00pm** Reception with drinks

**7.00pm** Lecture

**For more information, call 01420 541010 or email [info@chawton.net](mailto:info@chawton.net).**

Chawton House Library, Chawton, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1SJ [www.chawtonhouse.org](http://www.chawtonhouse.org)  
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