

# Jane Austen's Worthing

Welcome to Jane Austen's Worthing, an exhibition designed to explore and celebrate the links between one of Britain's best loved authors and our seaside town.

It is of special significance that we have been able to stage this exhibition within the Chatsworth Hotel as it was built by Edward Ogle, a local property owner who helped to transform Worthing into a modern seaside resort. Jane Austen became friends with Ogle during her stay in Worthing in 1805, and later based a character in her unfinished novel *Sanditon* on him.

Indeed, the exhibition is centred around the parallels between Worthing and Austen's fictional town of Sanditon, as researched by historian Antony Edmonds. The display-boards on show here illustrate this connection, as well as telling the story of Austen's visit to Worthing and life here at the time. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Antony for writing these boards - has enabled us to provide a wealth of fascinating information for you, the visitors.

Additionally, it has been my intention for the exhibition to provide insight into the world of Austen and her enduring appeal. Alongside the displays, visitors are able to listen to excerpts of *Sanditon*, watch highlights from a contemporary operatic production of *Mansfield Park*, and explore the Regency period and its fashions. There is also a 'dress up' area which offers visitors (of all ages!) an opportunity to try on Regency-style costumes, so please do dive in and have fun!

I would like to pass on my thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time to help get this exhibition up and running. As you can see from the photos here, our volunteers have been involved in all areas of the project. Many local Austen enthusiasts have provided information and lent their collections of Austen material for us to display, which has enriched the exhibition you see before you today. In this respect I owe particular thanks to Janet Clarke and Alice Forsyth. Special thanks must also go to Rene Hardman, who has made one of the beautiful Regency-style dresses on display today, as well as helping to create outfits for our 'dress up' area.

Finally, I must thank Worthing WOW and Melody Bridges for the opportunity to curate the exhibition and to be involved with such an exciting project in my home town.

I hope you enjoy the exhibition and that you get to experience some of the many exciting events that are running alongside it. Please do fill out a feedback card and sign our visitors book at the end - I would love to hear your thoughts!

Carly Vaughan  
Curator of *Jane Austen's Worthing*



Dress and bonnet making



Regency dress workshop at  
Worthing Museum & Art Gallery



The first meeting of our volunteers



## WITH THANKS TO:

Director of the Jane Austen's Worthing Trailer: Alan Stockdale, Foundlight Productions

Recording of *Sanditon*: Voice of Becky Simmons

*Mansfield Park* Trailer: By kind permission of Sarah Helsby Hughes, Heritage Opera

Exhibition Music: A selection of classical music selected by local composer, Dan Knight