

St Nicholas, Chawton, GU34 1SJ

Although Jane Austen is buried in Winchester Cathedral, memorials and graves from her family abound in this lovely church in the grounds of Chawton House. Most notable are the graves of her mother and sister, both named Cassandra.



This statue of the village's most famous resident was erected in 2018

Alton, St Lawrence GU34 2BU

Once again some lovely Norman architecture with magnificent stained glass windows. It was the site of the concluding fighting during the Battle of Alton, during the Civil War – you can see some bullet holes in the woodwork of the south door.

The original Saxon font was discarded during restoration work in 1878 and ended up in Cirencester; it was purchased for £10 and brought back to Alton and placed on top of a millstone and is again used for its original purpose.



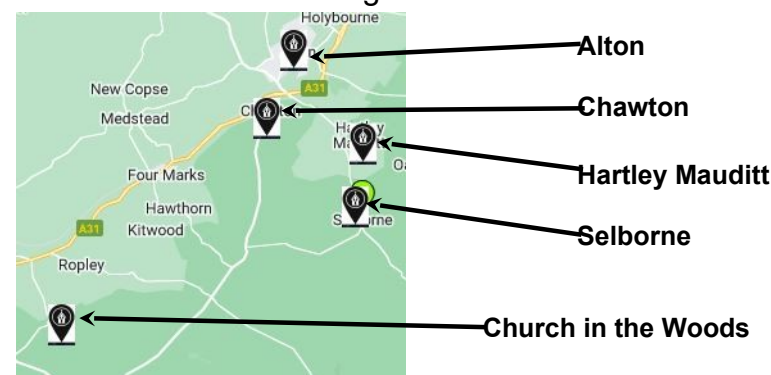
Hampshire and the Islands
Historic Churches Trust
DAYS OUT:
near Alton and Selborne

These brief notes are intended to whet your appetite for the unusual and quirky secrets hidden in our churches. We have in Hampshire and the Islands the oldest bell in the world still being rung, Handel's organ, myriads of TV and Film locations and many other lovely oddities.

And, yes, please do tell us if you discover something we haven't spotted.

Alton and Selborne

Our churches play an integral part in the South Downs National Park; many of you will just visit one church and then find somewhere nearby for a picnic. Surely no one should drive faster than Jane Austen's carriage?



Copy link to get map: <https://tinyurl.com/55d2e8hk>

St Leonard's, Hartley Mauditt

GU34 3BL

As well as the unusual horse-shoe shaped chancel arch and some very rare fish-patterned floor tiles, it is the history of this Norman building that excites our interest.



The nearby manor house was destroyed by the Roundheads in the civil war. At the restoration Charles II gave the land back to Nicholas Stuart who rebuilt the manor and became the first Baronet of Hartley Mauditt. You can find some imposing memorials to the Stuart family within the church.

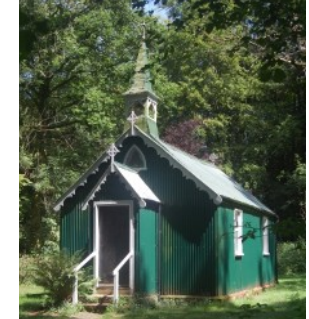
The land then passed to the Stowell family. Lord Stowell loved city life but his wife preferred the village so, in a fit of irritation, he demolished their manor (hence the church now stands on its own) and passed various items around the neighbourhood: the staircase to Alton Council Offices, floor tiles to Calmore Rectory (in the New Forest) and a round tower to a nearby cottage.

It is said that the cellars of this second manor house still exist with a secret passageway leading to Selborne Priory, not to mention ghostly apparitions of the lady of the house with her coach and horses and music playing in the empty church!

Tabernacle in the Woods,

Bramdean Common SO24 0JH

Built in just five days in 1883 for Travellers and Romanies this lovely church holds a 3 pm Evensong twice month in the summer, with a Carol service on the second Sunday of December.



When attending services wear wellie boots and listen for the bell which will help you find the building!

For access at other times contact Trustee James Stanley on 01962 771793

St Mary's, Selborne

GU34 3JQ

Although people come to Selborne to visit the home of the naturalist Gilbert White, his church also well worth a visit: described "a symphony of Norman Architecture" some of the elements may well be Saxon. In chancel are two Flemish paintings from 1515 and 1520, together with several stone coffin lids with the insignia of the Knights Templar – reminder of their occupation of nearby Temple Manor in the 13th century

