

## **Ten key facts about Jane Austen's House.**

1. The house has been open to the public since 1949, dedicated to the memory of Philip John Carpenter who died fighting in Italy in June 1944.
2. The seventeenth century building may once have been an alehouse and posting inn before serving as the farm bailiff's cottage.
3. Edward gave his family more privacy in their new home by replacing the road-facing front window with one overlooking the side garden.
4. Early every morning, Jane Austen played the drawing room's piano, similar to the one now on show there. She sometimes read from music sheets which she had copied out meticulously.
5. Jane Austen's first household task of the day was to take charge of the tea and coffee, kept in a locked cupboard beside the fireplace.
6. Mrs. Austen and her daughters created a patchwork quilt together which, along with other examples of fine needlework, can be seen at the house.
7. The three Austen women, with their friend Martha Lloyd, could use the donkey carriage, still to be seen in the Bakehouse, for local trips and visits.
8. Jane Austen used her last seven and a half years at the house to revise the novels she had already written, and to create three more.
9. Cassandra, the last survivor of the three Austen women, was grateful to Edward because she was able to live on in the house until her death in 1845.
10. The average number of visitors to Jane Austen's House in a year is over 30,000. They come from all over the world.