A Whistle-stop Tour

of the

Places That Inspire Me

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(Photos © Joana Starnes)

No better place to start than at Jane Austen's house in Chawton, where we can still feel her presence...





...and then continue to other places that were familiar to her. (Chawton Great House)





Looking out over "English verdure... a sweet view, sweet to the eye and the mind..." (Jane Austen ~ Emma)



Looking for Jane Austen's world and for Elizabeth and Mr Darcy at Steventon, where they were initially sketched in First Impressions'...





...then looking for them at Netherfield... ... and at Pemberley (of course!)



But wherever we go, travelling is so much more fun when we're travelling with friends.









We got to meet Mr Darcy's deer, Mr Bingley's horse and Mr Darcy's sheep... (but sadly not the gentlemen themselves)



Not in person, anyway 🕥



We ventured where eagles dare, looking for the Roaches (Don't be put off by the name, by the way. It doesn't come from creepy crawlies, but from Les Roches ~ The Rocks)





We discovered that, unlike Lady Catherine herself, her home is very warm and welcoming, and that Lady Anne Darcy and her sister must have had had similar tastes, because the master's bedchamber at Pemberley is furnished in the same red damask as the drawing room at Rosings.



Daffodils and bluebells always make me think of Mr Darcy's idea of courtship, just before the Hunsford proposal, when he was accidentally-on-purpose running into Elizabeth on her walks.



Other romantic walks for our favourite couple: Laburnum and Wisteria ~ Greys Court in Oxfordshire Azaleas ~ The Punch Bowl at Virginia Water in Windsor Great Park



Looking for Elizabeth and Mr Darcy all year round



Woodland walks in Hertfordshire (including a stile that can't be fun in long skirts) and Derbyshire in the summer



When gorse is out of bloom, kissing is out of fashion' (proverb) Gorse grows happily anywhere, even along weather-beaten coastal paths in Cornwall, so it has a place in 'The Falmouth Connection' (and it stays in bloom all year round).



Temple-swap for added privacy in 'The Unthinkable Triangle' (Thank you, Photoshop!)

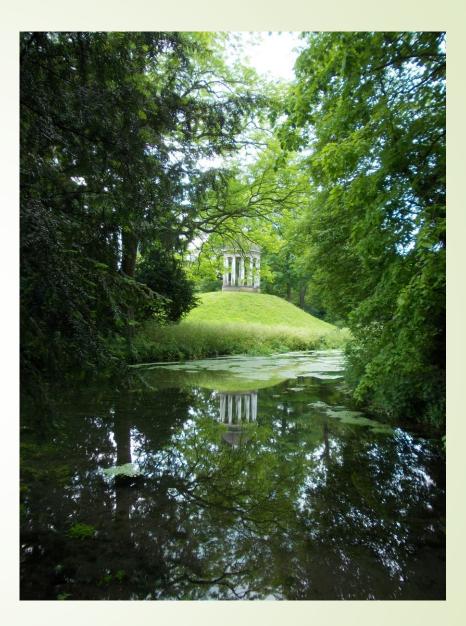


Inspiration for the troublesome temple in 'A Timely Elopement'

"A few long strides, and he espied the silhouette that stood under the dome of the rotunda [...]. She reached out to hold on to one of the columns and playfully circled round it once, then poised herself at the edge of the platform and leapt down, into the waiting arms of her companion.

There might have been a stolen kiss as well. Or several. It was hard to tell from such a distance and with the columns in the way – and besides, Darcy was not of a mind to pry, nor count some courting couple's kisses." (A Timely Elopement)

Ab, but which courting couple?



The looming storm clouds that delay Mr Darcy on his 'Journey Home to Pemberley' and the inn where he finds shelter (and also finds more than he had bargained for) ~ Kirkstone Pass Inn, 1496 A.D., 1481 ft. above sea level ~



Other coaching inns that have been around for a fair while: Left: the Bull at Sonning (built in the 1550s). Queen Elizabeth I visited it a couple of times. Right: the Waggon and Horses (built in 1669), on the Bath Road. Charles Dickens stayed there and mentioned it in 'The Pickwick Papers'.



Why are so many British pubs called the Red Lion? King James I was already King James VI of Scotland when he ascended to the throne of England. His coat of arms contained the heraldic Red Lion of Scotland, and on his arrival in London, he insisted that this sign be displayed on all buildings of public importance, including taverns.





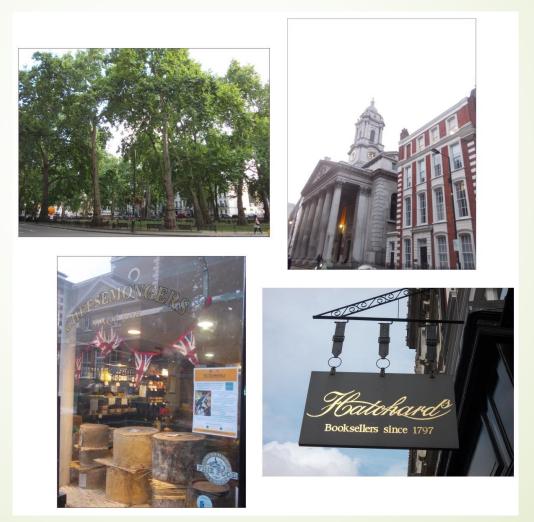
History in action at Chatsworth: laying the table with a ruler for perfect symmetry, in preparation for a grand dinner.



The incredibly lifelike display at No. 1 Royal Crescent in Bath always makes me think of Mr and Mrs Darcy and Georgiana having a quiet and intimate family dinner with Colonel Fitzwilliam and Mr and Mrs Gardiner



Glimpses from the Darcys' London: the plane trees in Berkeley Square, planted in 1789; St George's in Hanover Square; Paxton and Whitfield in Jermyn Street, purveyors of fine cheeses since 1797; and Hatchard's, which Mr Darcy must have visited often.



Thanks for taking the whistle-stop tour to some of the places that inspire me to write about Mr Darcy falling in love with Elizabeth Bennet over and over again. My books are available on Amazon in Kindle Unlimited, paperback and audiobook.

> Please get in touch if you'd like to chat about my books or this presentation www.facebook.com/joana.a.starnes www.joanastarnes.com and at Jane Austen Variations:

