

# Shall we dance? *Pride and Prejudice* at 200

ANYONE who longs to immerse themselves in the elegance of the Regency period has much to look forward to this year. The Jane Austen's House Museum at Chawton, Hampshire, has several events in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Pride and Prejudice*, kicking off with an exhibition, 'The Story of *Pride & Prejudice*', in which visitors follow a trail of the novel's illustrations by Hugh Thomson, opening on February 2 (until May).

Writing workshops include 'But Intricate Characters Are The Most Amusing', on April 27, and 'Fifty Miles of Good Road', about the journeys Jane Austen sent her characters on, on May 18 (tickets cost £20, booking essential). There is a lecture by Prof John Mullan, 'Jane Austen's Tricks', on June 29 (£10) and 'accomplishment days' on which museum volunteers will demonstrate embroidery and so on.

A theatre company will enact scenes from the book on April 1 and the entire book will be read in relay on May 17 (01420 83262; [www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk](http://www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk)). The nearby Flora Twort Gallery at the Petersfield Museum has a display of Regency



costume (March 12–September 30, [www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk](http://www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk)). At Painshill, Cobham, Surrey, Marie-Elaine Houghton will give a lunchtime talk on March 21 on gardens in the time of Jane Austen (to book, telephone 01932 868113).

In advance of the Jane Austen Summer Ball in Bath (on June 22,

**Ever popular:** Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen in Joe Wright's 2005 take on *Pride and Prejudice*

[www.janeausten.co.uk](http://www.janeausten.co.uk)), the BBC is making a programme on Regency parties—*Pride and Prejudice: Having a Ball*—for Easter. The Hampshire Regency Dancers ([www.hrd.org.uk](http://www.hrd.org.uk)), and the Jane Austen Dancers ([www.janeaustendancersbath.co.uk](http://www.janeaustendancersbath.co.uk)) can expect to be inundated. (New books on Jane Austen, page 89)

## Soane's Ealing home to be restored

FUNDRAISING has begun for the restoration of the great British architect Sir John Soane's west-London home, Pitzhanger Manor in Ealing. Soane bought the house in 1800 and redesigned it to his specifications, with impressive vaulted ceilings, interconnecting rooms and stripped-back Classical detail.

He sold Pitzhanger in 1810—his main London home was in Lincoln's Inn Fields and is now the Soane Museum—and in 1843, it became home to the daughters of Spencer Perceval, the assassinated Prime Minister. It now houses art exhibitions and is owned by a trust, which has secured a first-round pass and a grant of £275,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund; further applications will be made for funding later this year. The trust, which has a new chairman, former ambassador Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, needs to raise £5 million towards the £8 million cost.



Pitzhanger Manor's library, with its distinctive ceiling

## See great art at the cinema

CAN'T get to London for the Royal Academy's current blockbuster exhibition on Manet? New cinematic technology can now provide the next best thing—or even an experience that's just as powerful as standing in front of a great work of art—through a series of new films, 'Exhibition', created by documentary-maker Phil Grabsky and presented by art historian Tim Marlow.

'Manet: Portraying Life' (COUNTRY LIFE, January 23) will be presented on cinema screens on April 11; 'Munch 150', which celebrates the 150th anniversary of Edvard Munch's birth at Norway's National Museum, Oslo, will be screened on June 27; and 'Vermeer and Music: The Art of Love and Leisure' from London's National Gallery will be shown on October 10. For more information, visit [www.ExhibitionOnScreen.com](http://www.ExhibitionOnScreen.com)

Everett Collection/Ret Features; Krays Bailey/Alamy; John Starrock



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