



Bath Decorative and Fine Arts Society

## Jane Austen's Christmas - The Festive Season in Georgian Times



Before the Victorians reinvented it, the traditional Christmas was a very different affair. Devoid of Father Christmas, Christmas trees and commercialisation, the emphasis was on gentility, tradition and sociability. Jane Austen set many scenes from her novels during the Christmas period exactly because this was a time for social gatherings. We'll look at the balls, parties, dinners, games, traditions and celebrations that filled the festive season. Novels, letters, paintings and engravings are used to bring the Georgian Christmas to life.

**Lecturer Claire Walsh.** MA V&A and RCA; PhD European University Institute, Florence. Having previously worked at the Victoria & Albert Museum and lectured for the University of Warwick, now teaches at the Open University. Claire has lectured widely in Britain; at the Courtauld Institute of Art, Victoria & Albert Museum and Museum of London amongst others, and to specialist groups including the NACF, the Ceramics Society, the Costume Society and the Ancient Monuments Society. Also lectured in Europe, the USA (including Yale and the Huntington) and Canada and has numerous publications.

**Date and Time:** 11.00 am, Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. December 2020.