

# ALTON ASSEMBLY ROOMS

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## RAISING THE ROOF

Many buildings in Alton have become shrouded in scaffolding in recent weeks, enabling essential repairs to be carried out following the harsh winter weather.

One such building is Alton Assembly Rooms, where after 130 years, 2 World Wars and everything else nature can throw at it, vast areas of the roof have come to the end of their natural life and, unfortunately have decayed to such an extent that they are now letting in water which is causing damage inside.

The current works, totalling nearly £70,000 and being funded by owners Alton Town Council, will see the building's front wing facing the High Street have its tiles totally stripped, saving and reusing as many as possible, and then new insulation, felt, battens and tiles replaced. Meanwhile the roof of the Main Hall is having its flat 'felt' section on the top re-laid and broken tiles on the sides replaced, thus making the building watertight for generations to come.

However, in a novel initiative, parts of tiles not good enough to go back into service are being offered to collectors of all things Alton-related, complete with an attractive Certificate of Authenticity, for the princely sum of just £2.50.

Assembly Rooms Manager Jason Passingham said "This is a once in lifetime opportunity to own a unique piece of Alton's history and is strictly a Limited Edition offer that will not be repeated! Seriously though, hopefully we will raise a few pounds towards these costly works and at the same time it's a bit of fun as well. People buy lumps of coal from the wreck of the Titanic and planks of wood from the deck of old warships, so why not a piece of tile over 100 years old?"

For more details contact the Assembly Rooms on 01420 82203 or e-mail [assemblyrooms@alton.gov.uk](mailto:assemblyrooms@alton.gov.uk).

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