



THE ALTONIAN WEEKLY

WEEK 22
16th June 2023

Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HD
www.alton.gov.uk 01420 83986

Alton Assembly Rooms



Alton Town Council, at its meeting on the 23rd March this year, agreed to work with the Whitehill and Bordon Town Partnership (WBTP) the group who successfully run the Forest Centre in Bordon and provide the base for the local group Pumpkin Pantos, to develop the Assembly Rooms in Alton as a centre for performing arts. This will be established through a long-term lease agreement, which will see the group invest in upgrading the building to provide, not just a better experience for current hall users, which includes a number of dance-based hirers as well as long established users such as Alton Operatic and Dramatic Society (AODS), Wey Valley Radio and Alton Arts Society but also to bring new events to the Town.

When a community facilities key stakeholders audit for the town took place back in 2018, an approach was made by a group of over 300 residents representing the performing arts in Alton, wanting the Council to consider developing a dedicated facility at the Assembly Rooms. This would provide a base for local talent and provide an opportunity to bring an enhanced programme of creative experiences to Alton, including in the evenings, to help develop an evening economy for the town centre as well as at weekends.

Development of this project was put on hold during Covid with the Assembly Rooms closed for an extended period. With events and hirings gradually coming back in 2022 the Town Council restarted the conversation about future uses of the building and was keen to consider revisiting the original performing arts proposal. Following a successful run by Pumpkin Pantos at the Assembly Rooms last Christmas, WBTP group approached the Town Council with an ambition to expand their Arts program to Alton, working with EHDC and Developers Contributions to invest in and develop the building for everything from theatre and stage productions to dance and exhibitions.

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WBTP have been working with ATC and the Alton Community Association to ensure a smooth transition for users in advance of the new arrangement coming into place in January 2024 and all regular hirers have now been contacted. The Alton Community Association will be stepping back from their involvement with the Assembly Rooms, focusing on their own exciting plans to improve the Community Centre, which subject to CIL funding being approved, will put significant investment into the existing building.

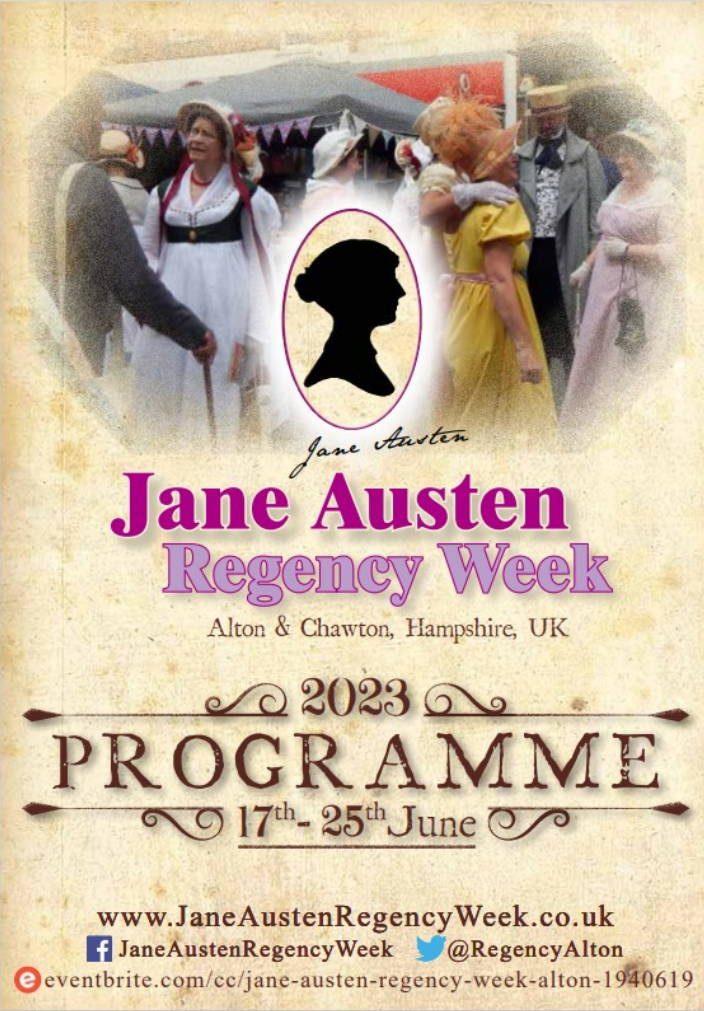
Curtis Bone, Chairman of the WBTP group said, "The Alton Assembly Rooms is such a lovely building with huge potential to support the arts and become a real local theatre. With the expertise of our in-house team and long-term plans, we have ambition to make the venue a real success story and something Alton can be proud of."

As part of WBTP plans, they have created a new role of Arts Promotion & Engagement Officer, who will start on the 2nd October this year. They will focus on bringing new acts to Alton, supporting local groups and artists, producing in-house productions and liaising with schools, organisations and the wider community.

"We look forward to working closely with Alton Town Council and Alton Community Association to make the Assembly Rooms a dedicated creative space in Alton, building on and expanding the established programme and great local talent."

WBTP and 9 Yards Entertainment are proud to announce the Assembly Rooms launch event will be one of the country's number one Abba tribute bands. The date is set for 10th February and tickets will go on sale soon.

Look out for details of other new events coming to the Alton Assembly Rooms for 2024 over the coming weeks.



The poster features a central illustration of people in Regency-era clothing. Overlaid on this is a circular silhouette of Jane Austen's head. Below the illustration, the text reads: "Jane Austen", "Jane Austen Regency Week", "Alton & Chawton, Hampshire, UK", "2023", "PROGRAMME", "17th - 25th June". At the bottom, it provides the website "www.JaneAustenRegencyWeek.co.uk", social media handles for Facebook and Twitter, and an Eventbrite link.

Jane Austen

Jane Austen Regency Week

Alton & Chawton, Hampshire, UK

2023 PROGRAMME

17th - 25th June

www.JaneAustenRegencyWeek.co.uk
f JaneAustenRegencyWeek @RegencyAlton
eventbrite.com/cc/jane-austen-regency-week-alton-1940619

Coronation Year Armed Forces Day Convoy Saturday 24th June 2023



- 7:00am: Convoy Assembles Southwick PO17 6ED
- 10:00am: Convoy Departs Southwick via B2177
- 10:30am: Wickham Square
- 10:45am: A32: Droxford >> Warnford >> West Meon >> Privett >> East Tisted >> Farrington
- 11:30am: A31 Alton: Butts Road >> High Street >> Normandy Street >> Anstey Road
- 12:00pm: Arrival at Anstey Park GU34 2NB

*Times are subject to prevailing traffic conditions

Alton Town Council will be hosting an event in Anstey Park 10am - 4pm
Veterans / Entertainment / Displays / Stalls / Catering and more



Fundraising for the Royal British Legion Riders Branch

Find us on   CommemorativeConvoys

<https://commemorativeconvoys.org>



ALTON VICTORIAN CRICKET

SUNDAY 25 JUNE

ON THE BUTTS GREEN 9.30AM - 6.30PM

LICENCED BAR

FOOD STALLS

VARIOUS STALLS

PRIZE DRAW

SIDE SHOWS
AND AMUSEMENTS

All proceeds this year will be use to support



**Dementia-friendly
Alton**



A small group of local volunteers, liaising with local businesses and stakeholders in helping to promote a dementia-friendly community that provides vital social support to people living with dementia in Alton and the surrounding area.

SILVER SPONSORS

CHARLES READ

WETONE MATTHEWS

GOLD SPONSOR



ALTON LIONS DEN

Local community and charitable organisations
are invited to pitch for a share of

£5,000

Individual grants of up to £1,000
What could your group do with a grant?



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Much friendlier than Dragons Den,
pitch to a Lions panel in a short
interview at Alton Community Centre.

Quick decision for local groups and small charities.

For details and to download the application
form visit facebook.com/altonlionsclub
or www.altonlions.org.uk

Applications to be submitted by hand or post to:
Hat Tricks, 17 Market Street, Alton, GU34 1HA.
Closing date: 31 July, 2023



Alton Lions Club (CIO)

Tel: 0345 833 2701

Email: alton@lions105sc.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1174502



THE HERO ACADEMY SUMMER CLUB

POW!

Wednesdays in August
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd
10am-1pm
St Lawrence Church Yard
For children currently in school
years R-6



To register
your child scan
the QR code.

ZAP!

Alton Lions 50 for 50 challenge

Raising money for Jacksplace
the hospice for young adults



Read 50 books



Bake and sell
50 cakes



Walk a mile 50 times



Take the stairs
instead of the lift
50 times



Pick 50 bags
of litter



Limit social media
use to one hour per
day for 50 days

Raise sponsorship
doing what you enjoy
50 times!

Telephone: 0345 833 2701

Email: alton@lions105sc.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/altonlionsclub

Registered Charity No: 1174502

**50
for
50**

ALTON LIONS - 50 YEARS SERVICE
1973-2023



Alton in Bloom Summer Show



At Alton's Summer Fete on Sat 15th July
10.00am - 2.00pm in the Public Gardens

Alton in Bloom is our community gardening initiative that focusses on bringing people together to make positive changes to our local environment through horticultural, environmental and community awareness. This year we will be asking people to join in the fun of growing their own food and flowers and to get creative with a plant to plate bake off, fun fruit and veg sculptures and floral displays at the Alton in Bloom Summer Show. For more information email Emily-Jane Messenger on events@alton.gov.uk

We are inviting you to enter your prize produce, best bakes and creative displays at Alton's Summer Fete on Sat 15th July

Incredible Edibles:



1. Supersized (heaviest) homegrown veg/fruit
2. Longest homegrown veg/fruit



3. Wonkiest/weirdest fruit and veg - let's celebrate the non-perfect too!

Flower Show:



1. Best Rainbow Themed Floral Display – adult and children
2. Best In Show - individual bloom



3. Indoor Gardening Contest - best house plant/potted plant category



Bake Off:



1. Plant to plate - most creative use of homegrown produce
2. Best British Bake - traditional cake category
3. Junior Bake Off (under 18)



Creative Categories:



1. Best fruit & veg sculpture / carving - adult and children
2. Most Imaginative Recycled Container - adult and children



Please complete this entry form by Monday 10th July - <https://forms.gle/ntsdFseyara9uMVq7> or scan the QR code

Bring your entries to the marquee at the Summer Fete in the Public Gardens on Sat 15th July

between 10.00am and 11.00am, judging will take place at 11.30am.



SCAN ME

The winning entries in each category will receive a 1st, 2nd, 3rd place rosette
and 1st place will also win Garden Centre Gift Voucher!



SCAN ME

