

*The Hampshire Regency Dancers
proudly present*



A Ball for Jane Austen “An English rose”

Friday 28th - Sunday 30th July 2017

In this special Anniversary year, our 13th Annual Regency Ball celebrates the life of England's famous author, Jane Austen, who died 200 years ago on 18th July 1817 and now rests in Winchester Cathedral.

We have organised an exciting weekend of events for you - with walks and visits to places that Jane would have known, including some exclusive locations not usually open to the public. The ball itself will be a grand occasion, held in Winchester's magnificent Guildhall and hosted by Stuart Marsden, a well-known caller, who features in 'Jane Austen - Having a Ball' (BBC TV 2013) and is the choreographer for 'Poldark' (BBC TV 2015-16).

Our musicians are the ever-popular Green Ginger and dances will be chosen from Jane's lifetime, with one or two favorites and a surprise or two!

Our Balls are historically informed, but adapted for the enjoyment and convenience of modern Regency Dancing enthusiasts. The Grand Jane Austen Ball is aimed at experienced dancers, but guests of all abilities are welcome. However our caller will be expecting a reasonable level of ability from guests, so inexperienced dancers might struggle. If you would like to gain experience of period dancing in advance of the Ball, you are welcome to attend our practice sessions in the Winchester area or, if you would like assistance in finding an alternative group near you, contact us and we will help you find one. The workshop on the evening before the Ball will be used to walk through and practice the dances. Attendance is optional, but strongly encouraged, even for experienced dancers.

Just a gentle reminder that guests are requested to wear costume suitable to the period of Jane's lifetime (1775-1817) for both day wear and evening wear, if possible.

Affordable accommodation has been reserved for guests at Winchester University's Halls of Residence, a short walk from the city centre, or you may choose from the variety of hotels and bed and breakfasts that Winchester has to offer (see below)

We expect demand for tickets to be high for this special anniversary event; so do not delay in securing your place, as tickets are limited. Payment can be made by cheque, PayPal or bank transfer and details can be found on the Booking Form attached.

If you have any questions regarding the weekend, please contact us at info@hrd.org.uk and we will be happy to answer them.



Programme of Events

28th July - Friday Evening

7.00pm - 10.00pm

Winchester Guildhall

Dance Workshop (not in costume) followed by a Buffet Supper.

Bring soft shoes to wear.

29th July - Saturday Morning

10.00am - 12.30pm

Meet outside the Tourist Information Centre at the Guildhall

A costumed walking tour of ancient Winchester, once the most important city in England with a city guide, particularly taking in the sites of most relevance to Jane, including the Cathedral where she now lies and the Cathedral Close. There will be a short refreshment stop at your own expense.

29th July - Saturday Afternoon

After lunch (at your own expense) there are many places to visit, depending on your interests, such as:

- a tour of Winchester College (the oldest public school in England and used as a location in the movie 'Les Miserables' (2012) and 'Riot Club'(2014)
- a walk to the beautiful Hospital of St Cross, used as a location in BBC TV's 'Wolf Hall' (2015)
- a visit to the Winchester Military Museums, which include The Rifles Museum (Sharpe's Regiment) and Winchester's Great Hall, home of Winchester's Round Table, which is linked to the Legend of King Arthur.

All activities will include recommendations for afternoon tea.

29th July - Saturday Evening:

7.00pm - 11.30 (reception 6.00pm - 7.00pm)

The Grand Jane Austen Regency Ball in Winchester's Guildhall, including a welcome drink, a two course served dinner and wine.

Please bring a Rose!



30th July - Sunday

10.00am - 6.00pm (approx.)

All Day Guided Tour of Jane Austen's Hampshire

Meet outside the Guildhall where guides in coaches will whisk you away to the charming village of Chawton, where Jane lived with her mother and sister from 1809-1817 and where she wrote and revised all her eight novels.

The group will divide, with one group visiting the Jane Austen House Museum for an introduction and tour of the house and garden, whilst the other group will continue to nearby Chawton House, home of Jane's brother, Edward Austen-Knight and now the Chawton House Library of Women's Literature.

Following an introduction and free-flow tour of the House and Garden, a picnic lunch will be served outside (weather permitting). Soft drinks will be served, but you may bring your own wine, if you wish.

The groups will then be reversed, with the Jane Austen House Museum group touring the Library and the Library group visiting the Jane Austen House Museum.

At 3.00pm you will board your coaches to be taken to the village of Steventon, near Basingstoke, where Jane was born in 1775 and where her father was vicar. We will visit the church of St. Nicholas, where Jane visited regularly and which features mementos associated with her and walk to the site of the old rectory, where she lived but which her brother Edward demolished, later in the 19th century. It was in this rectory that Jane wrote the first drafts of her novels which were to become *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Northanger Abbey*.

Then we board our coaches to be taken to our final venue of the day, Ashe Park - a private property, not normally open to the public.

In Jane's day, Ashe Park was owned by her friends, the Holders and Jane mentions it frequently in her letters to Cassandra, when she attended dinners and card parties there. The owners have kindly allowed us to have access to their gardens, a cream tea and possibly a dance or more on their patio, if weather permits.

Following our visit to Ashe Park the coaches will return to Winchester, where our weekend will end and we shall say our fond farewells....

Accommodation

We are delighted to be able to offer reasonably priced accommodation at the University of Winchester's Halls of Residence, which is walkable to the city centre (20 minutes), or a short bus ride.

The Burma Road student village is located on the main King Alfred's campus, postcode SO22 4SB.

Single Bedrooms are segregated into flats of 8, where each flat shares a kitchen area with oven/cooker, fridge/freezer, microwave and tea and coffee making facilities. All bedrooms are en-suite with wash hand basin, shower and toilet facility and come supplied with bed-linen and two medium sized towels per person.

Please note, as student accommodation, they do not provide televisions or hairdryers - however, there is Wi-Fi available:

<https://youtu.be/ISHzP34G9ro>

Rates: Single En-suite Room £35.20 per night.

A minimum booking of 2 nights (£70.40) is required for the weekend.

If required, rooms are available for the entire weekend, from Friday to Monday morning (£105.60)

Rooms must be paid for in full when booking. A 10% non-returnable deposit is included in the room rate. Rooms can be cancelled within 48 hours of the arrival date if no longer required, otherwise full payment will be due.

The rooms must be booked directly through the Hampshire Regency Dancers (see booking form)

Alternatively, if you prefer to book your accommodation independently, here are some local suggestions:

HOTELS:

Mercure Winchester Wessex Hotel, Paternoster Row, SO23 9LQ www.mercure.com

Modern hotel, situated just behind the Guildhall.

01962 312800

Winchester Royal Hotel, St Peters Street, SO23 8BS (just off the High Street) www.winchesterroyalhotel.com

Dating back to the 16th century, this modernish but traditional hotel is a 7-minute walk from

The Guildhall and a 9 minute walk from Winchester train station.

0300 102 7242

Winchester Hotel & Spa, Worthy Lane, SO23 7B www.thewinchesterhotel.co.uk

Modern Family run hotel. 6 minute walk from the train station, 15 minute walk from the

Guildhall.

01962 709988

BED & BREAKFAST

Wolvesley View Bed & Breakfast www.wintonian.co.uk

10 Colebrook Place, SO23 9LP

Former home of Sir Alec Guinness, a few minutes' walk from Guildhall

01962 852082

Wykeham Arms (Pub) www.wykehamarmswinchester.co.uk

75 Kingsgate Street, SO23 9PE

18th Century coaching Inn positioned just behind the Winchester College, Cathedral and

approx. 5 minutes' walk from the Guildhall

01962 853834

29 Christchurch Street B&B www.bedbreakfastwinchester.co.uk

29 Christchurch Street, St Cross, Winchester SO23 9SU

Regency period family home, approx. 12/15 walk to Guildhall

01962 868661

Visit Winchester Tourist information also suggest other accommodation in and around the city: <http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/where-to-stay>