

News release

November 2019

## **Jane Austen Regency Week 2020 tickets on sale 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Jane Austen Regency Week** is an annual Festival of events celebrating all things Jane and the Regency period which takes place in the Hampshire area of the South Downs National Park. The dates for 2020 are Saturday 20 to Sunday 28 June, with events happening in and around the market town of **Alton** in Hampshire and the nearby village of **Chawton**, where Jane lived and worked. The Festival boasts a unique line-up of activities and events, including **Regency period dancing, music, dining, exhibitions, talks and discussions, garden trails and tours, guided themed walks and more.** (Events are subject to change and full line up to be announced - visit website below) Tickets for events will go on sale on 7<sup>th</sup> January and tickets always sell out fast. (see website for details and how to book [www.janeaustenregencyweek.co.uk](http://www.janeaustenregencyweek.co.uk)).

**Chawton** is home to **Jane Austen's House Museum** where she spent the last 9 years of her life and wrote or reworked her 6 acclaimed novels. The village is also where her brother lived and the manor house and gardens of **Chawton House** are open to the public. The historic market town of **Alton** is the place where she shopped, banked, collected and delivered post, visited her friends and caught the stagecoach to London.

The Regency Week will begin in fitting fashion on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June with **Regency Day** Alton – a day full of period delights such as **carriage rides, costumes, market stalls, dancing and other entertainments.** The celebrations continue with a **Regency dancing workshop** followed by a magnificent **Regency Ball**, where you can dress up and put your dancing skills to the test! The week will unfold with daily themed activities for everyone to enjoy, whether or not they're a keen Jane fan.

Why not make the festival a great reason to take an early summer break away? Combine Regency activities and events on offer during the week with some great **walking, cycling, visits to historic houses and gardens** and many of the other delights this area has to offer. You may even like to walk in the footsteps of Jane Austen plus other literary greats associated with the Hampshire South Downs by taking a **literary walk**. [www.open-walks.co.uk/Explore/East-Hampshire/2829-East-Hampshire-Literary-Walks/View-details.html](http://www.open-walks.co.uk/Explore/East-Hampshire/2829-East-Hampshire-Literary-Walks/View-details.html) And there's a whole host of different places to stay - from hotels, B&Bs, farm stays and pubs-with-rooms to 'alternative' accommodation including shepherd's huts, yurts, eco – pods and lodges.

A full run-down of all the events planned for this year's Regency Week will soon be available from the Regency Week website - visit [www.janeaustenregencyweek.co.uk](http://www.janeaustenregencyweek.co.uk). The Box Office is Alton Community Centre and can be reached on 01420 85057. You can also find out more about the area's connections with Jane Austen by watching:

EHDC video introduction page: [www.youtube.com/user/EastHampshire/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/EastHampshire/videos)

Full documentary link (19m 48s): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Sz6IH7oFmw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Sz6IH7oFmw)

Trailer for the full documentary (1m 22s): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzROJWdbXcE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzROJWdbXcE)

Trailer for Jane Austen and Alton (53s): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AOtW5Fg-8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AOtW5Fg-8)

Trailer for Jane Austen and Chawton (2m 7s): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTRq0EQxG5U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTRq0EQxG5U)

Trailer for a previous Regency Week (43s): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6HludypY6E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6HludypY6E)

Visit Hampshire Regency Week promotional video (1m): <https://vimeo.com/350306658>

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**For further information, interviews or images, please contact:**

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

**East Hampshire** The area of the South Downs that spills into East Hampshire - around Chawton where Jane Austen lived – has quite a different feel from the rest of the new National Park. Hidden away between the cathedral cities of Winchester and Chichester, its steep wooded hills and hidden valleys of watercress farms, lavender fields, vineyards, hop gardens and trout-filled streams, together with its picture-perfect villages and peaceful market towns, make it undoubtedly one of the loveliest parts of rural England.

[www.easthants.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.easthants.gov.uk/tourism)