

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

During December you are invited to share in the wonderful festive atmosphere at Alston Hall.

Traditionally decorated, this makes the perfect venue for that special occasion. Enjoy a festive meal prepared on the premises by our catering team and then sit back and be entertained by some of the finest musicians and presenters – all in the intimate atmosphere of a Victorian country house.

Day programmes include a two course festive lunch and afternoon tea.

Evening events include a three course festive dinner.

Christmas programme guests are invited to make their visit extra special by staying for bed and breakfast – reduced rates apply, £25 per person, per room. Bedrooms will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & FASHION WITH JANE BURNS AND CLIFF BASHFORTH

Monday 1st December 11am – 4pm
8JYNP2A003 Fee £36
(coffee served from 10.30am)

NAFAS tutor, **Jane Burns**, will demonstrate contemporary Christmas designs for your home, using a selection of natural materials with complementary decorative materials and a bit of sparkle. Teamed up with Jane is **Cliff Bashforth** (Director of Training for Colour Me Beautiful) who will show you how to look younger, healthier and slimmer. Discover the shades that suit your natural colouring and which styles flatter your body shape and proportions.



PRESENTING THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS

Monday 1st December (012)

Tuesday 2nd December (014) or

Wednesday 3rd December (015)

8JTNP2A Fee £30
(begins with dinner at 7pm)

December evenings with the Houghton Weavers have become a regular feature of the Alston Christmas programme and we look forward to concerts filled with songs and humour from this very popular musical trio – made all the more special as they sing in the intimate atmosphere of Alston Hall.



AN AFTERNOON WITH THE COMEDIANS

Tuesday 2nd December

8JTNP2A013 Fee £24
(begins with lunch at 1pm)

From Music Hall to television, popular entertainer and presenter **Gerald Holden** shares his life long interest in Music Hall variety and TV comedians. An afternoon of humour awaits you.

OR EMAIL alston.hall@lancashire.gov.uk

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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A BUTLER

Wednesday 3rd December

8JXNP2A005 Fee £24
(begins with lunch at 1pm)

What do Joan Collins, Koo Stark, the Duke & Duchess of Bedford – a former U.S. Ambassador to Canada and countless other celebrities, politicians and diplomats have in common? They have all had the distinction of being served by **Donald Lodge** during his long career.

CHILDREN OF THE WINTER QUEEN

Thursday 4th December 11am – 4pm

8JTNP2A017 Fee £33

The life of Elizabeth Stuart, the Winter Queen, reads like Lichon – daughter of James I and most important Princess in Europe, Queen of Bohemia and finally penniless exile. She had 13 children, most famously Rupert of Civil War fame and Sophie of Hanover, mother of George I. But what happened to the rest of this family, brought up in such strange circumstances.

Tutor **Lizzie Jones**

AN EVENING OF MAGIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday 4th December

8JTNP2A016 Fee £26
(See also second presentation on Wednesday 10th December)

Andrew Green, one of the leading UK magicians provides a spellbinding after dinner presentation of parlour magic and an insight into the history of magicians and conjurers through the ages. Guests will be given the opportunity to learn a few secrets to take away and amaze friends at their own Christmas party. A magical evening of entertainment not to be missed.



CAROLLING BRASS Four concerts with 'Intrada'

8JTNP2A000 Fee £27.50

Sunday 7th December

Afternoon concert starting with Festive 2-course lunch at 1pm – ends with afternoon tea.

Evenings

Sunday 7th December (001)

Monday 8th December (002)

Wednesday 10th December (005)

Evening concerts start with dinner at 7pm (6.30pm on Sunday)

Christmas hasn't started until we've been to Alston Hall and heard 'Intrada'.

'Intrada' pride themselves on being the region's most versatile brass ensemble, presenting programmes ranging from 'Early Music' through to light Jazz. Every year, the ensemble prepare a special programme for the Alston Christmas series featuring traditional carols and sophisticated versions of festive favourites. Whatever your musical taste, you are sure to get your Christmas off to a cheerful start with the glorious sound of 10 brass instruments ringing in your ears!



MY 'ENTERTAINING' LIFE (It all started one Christmas...)

Monday 8th December

8JWNP2A000 Fee £24
(begins with lunch at 1pm)

A nostalgic and humorous stroll through the many ways in which **Ken Dagger** has been an entertainer. From Parish Pantomimes to Clubland star. From Gilbert and Sullivan to TV appearances. Start the Christmas season with a smile and chuckle all the way home!



IN WINTER, ENJOY!

Tuesday 9th December 11am – 4pm

8JVNP2A001 Fee £33
(coffee served from 10.30am)

Alan Crosby invites you to celebrate the period before Christmas with readings, poetry, music and entertainment, and come to an event that's become an Alston Hall institution – roam through snowy landscapes of literature, listen to medieval carols, join in a mystery play, share the experiences of diarists and letter-writers. Not too deep, pleasantly crisp, and even better than last year!

CHRISTMAS BANQUET WITH THE TAPESTRY OF MUSIC

Tuesday 9th December

8JTNP2A003 Fee £26
(begins with dinner at 7pm)

Tapestry of Music invite you to share in a Christmas banquet from times gone by. After a traditional festive dinner, what could be better than to relax and enjoy a feast of early and traditional music provided by four costumed minstrels. The programme includes medieval and traditional carols and songs, performed on a fascinating array of early instruments.



AN AFTERNOON OF MAGIC AND ENTERTAINMENT WITH ANDREW GREEN

Wednesday 10th December

8JTNP2A004 Fee £24
(begins with lunch at 1pm)

See Thursday 4th December for further details.

MORE VICTORIAN FROLICS

Thursday 11th December

8JTNP2A019 Fee £24
(begins with lunch at 1pm)

Join the landlady **Ann Kelly** and maidservant **Joanne Braithwaite** in exploring Victorian entertainments and customs. Discover how the Victorians enjoyed themselves. Audience participation is expected and welcome.



CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE AGES WITH GRIMSARGH PLAYERS

Thursday 11th December

8JTNP2A006 Fee £21
(begins with dinner at 7pm)

A celebration of Christmas from Medieval to modern, with poetry, prose, music and beautiful costume.



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ANDREW WILDE, CELEBRITY LUNCHTIME RECITAL

Friday 12th December

8JTNP2A007 Fee £26
(begins with lunch at 1pm)

Performances by internationally acclaimed pianist **Andrew Wilde** at Alston Hall are eagerly awaited and the Christmas concert is always very special. Don't miss this opportunity to hear him in the intimate surroundings of Alston Hall. The experience will be truly breathtaking.



CONSPIRING COUNTESS

Sunday 14th December

8JTNP2A018 Fee £24
(begins with dinner at 6.30pm)

Bess of Hardwicke was one of the richest women in Elizabethan England but began life in modest circumstances. Her rise to fame was full of intrigue and danger as she set herself against Queen Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots in her attempts to forge a Royal Dynasty. A living history presentation by **Lizzie Jones**.

BERNARD WRIGLEY

Monday 15th December

8JTNP2A008 Fee £26
(begins with dinner at 7.00pm)

If you are suffering from pre-Christmas onslaught then you need to recharge with an evening with Bernard and his inimitable songs and stories.

OUR ROAD TO THE ISLES

Tuesday 16th December

8JXNP2A006 Fee £21
(begins with dinner at 7pm)

Share the journey made by **Steuart and Anita Kellington** with their two friends. Their Road to the Isles began at the traditional starting point of Pitlochry and took them by lochs, over moors and on ferries to Eigg, Rhum and Canna before walking by the "far" Cuillins on Skye from Elgol to Sligachan and finally walking in the spectacular Quiraing in the north of the island.

WINES FOR CHRISTMAS

Wednesday 17th December

8GGNP2A007 Fee £27
(begins with dinner at 7pm)

This light-hearted evening with **Christopher Rodwell** aims to present a selection of wines suitable for the Christmas period. Whether it's a light red to go with the turkey or a dessert wine to go with the Christmas pudding, you will find plenty of suggestions on offer, including six wines for you to sample. (Fee includes wine and additional cheeseboard).

