

1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012

**2011 – 12 Season News**

- ❖ *Dig for Shakespeare* continues – the archaeological excavation of New Place. Introductory talks available for pre-booked groups on arrival.
- ❖ Mary Arden's Farm will be open from 21 March – 31 October – experience all the sights, smells and activities of rural life in the 1570's on this real Tudor working farm.
- ❖ Reduced rate official guide books – *Shakespeare, Life, Work and Times* – available at the ticket desks at Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Shakespeare's Birthplace in English + 7 other languages.
- ❖ Shakespeare's Birthplace open until 6pm (last entry) during July and August

**Booking and Admission Procedures for Groups and the Travel Trade**

**A timed entry system for groups visiting the Shakespeare Houses is in place so we ask that you book your visits in advance whenever possible.**

**The Shakespeare Houses are intimate Tudor and Jacobean family homes visited by hundreds of thousands of people from around the world each year. To help us ensure that all of our visitors, whether individuals or groups, can make the most of their visit and have a pleasurable and safe experience we ask for your co-operation.**

**Please note: pre-booked groups will receive priority over those that have not pre-booked.**

When a group is booked in advance the Trust's Group Visits team will issue a confirmation that shows the time(s) the group is booked in to the House(s) and we ask that this information is made available to the group or tour leader. **If your group is delayed or you wish to change your scheduled slot for any of the Houses on the day of the visit please ring the appropriate House prior to your arrival to arrange this** (including swapping the order of visits to two or more Houses). If you wish to make changes in advance of the day of your visit please call the Group Visits team. **All of our staff will do their best to accommodate your needs so as long as you keep them informed.**

**Contact Information:**

**ALL ADVANCED BOOKINGS & AMENDMENTS -  
Group Visits Team**

**E: [groups@shakespeare.org.uk](mailto:groups@shakespeare.org.uk)  
+44(0) 1789 201806**

**On the day of your visit -**

Shakespeare's Birthplace Visitor Centre Ticket Desk	+44(0) 1789 262074
Anne Hathaway's Cottage Ticket Desk	+44(0) 1789 295517
Mary Arden's Farm Ticket Desk	+44(0) 1789 293455
Hall's Croft	+44(0) 1789 292107
Nash's House & New Place	+44(0) 1789 292325

**There are experienced, knowledgeable Shakespeare Birthplace Trust guides in each of the Shakespeare Houses so we continue to ask that visiting guides only act as translators / tour leaders whilst in the Houses.**

**For Travel Trade clients using the Voucher Scheme** may we remind you that a copy of the entrance voucher should be presented at EACH House the group visit, and the voucher should clearly list ALL the Houses the group will visit, together with the date(s) of the visit and group numbers. Vouchers should clearly show the breakdown of adults, concessions and children and must be presented before the group enter the House(s).

### **Groups at Shakespeare's Birthplace**

*Recommended minimum visit time 45 minutes*

The Coach Park for Shakespeare's Birthplace is in Windsor Street and is exclusively available to groups visiting the Shakespeare Houses. Please report to the Attendant as you pull in.

On arrival at the Centre, whilst the group wait outside, the Tour Leader should go to the Groups Desk. At this stage you can choose for your party to:

- Split into groups of up to 25 and progress through in turn (recommended)
  - Education groups must have a minimum ratio of one adult to every ten children
- Stay together in a large group of up to 50 to go through the Exhibition and for the House tour, if it is essential your party keeps together.
  - The tour leader will be required to assist in keeping the group together throughout their visit
  - Please state if you have an interpreter with you so that the House Guide can be made aware of this
- Take the alternate route (maximum 50 people) to the House – *available to Travel Trade only*. This would mean your party will miss the enthralling audio visual shows and the opportunity to see the rare First Folio edition of Shakespeare's Complete Works and instead will be escorted through Zone 5 of the exhibition only.
  - Please state if you have an interpreter with you so that the House Guide can be made aware of this
  - If some of your group wish to go through the exhibition and some want to take the alternate route please split them before entering the Centre and let our staff know the numbers so that they can facilitate your party's visit.

Your group will then be directed into the exhibition where the 'show' will last approximately 15 minutes. Zone 5 of the Exhibition leads into the garden and then into the Birthplace where you will be greeted by one of our House guides.

***or***

For alternate route Travel Trade groups you will be escorted through zone 5 which then leads into the garden and then into the Birthplace. So as to minimise disruption to visitors in the exhibition, access to the alternate route is managed by the Visitor Centre staff and you may be asked to wait until a convenient moment.

At the conclusion of your visit - in the garden during fine weather or the back rooms of the House in wet weather – your party will be able to see the SHAKESPEARE ALOUD! company performing excerpts from Shakespeare's plays.

**We look forward to welcoming you and your clients to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's Houses & Gardens in 2011-12.**