

'Sweet lovers love the spring.'
As You Like It, Act 5 Scene 3
William Shakespeare

Shakespeare
birthplace trust

What News?

FOR PATRONS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS



SPRING 2019

Welcome ❁ Thank You For Making A Difference ❁ Shreds & Patches
Houses ❁ Learning ❁ Collections ❁ International
What's On ❁ Shopping ❁ Friends' Exclusive ❁ Creative Muse



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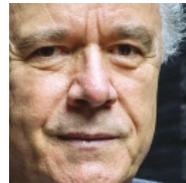
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Welcome to our first edition of *What News?* for 2019

You will see as you leaf through this edition that there is a strong emphasis on our education work. This is an important part of our brief in bringing Shakespeare to the world. You may have seen in recent news that there is growing evidence to support a belief many of us hold instinctively – that participation with art, literature and performance make life better for people in a range of ways. Children who take part in arts activities do better in reading and maths, and they improved their creative and communication skills. People who take part in the arts report 38% better health than those who do not.

We are pleased to play our part in encouraging as many people as possible to participate in a range of Shakespeare-inspired formal and informal learning opportunities. In March 2019 we are celebrating Shakespeare Week, involving more than one million primary schoolchildren across the UK. They'll be discovering some of Shakespeare's forgotten words, expanding their vocabulary and developing a love of language and learning that hopefully will last a lifetime.

Throughout the year, we run a wonderful series of After Hours talks and Research Conversations. These lively and insightful events are presented by subject experts who are passionate about sharing their learning and discoveries with you.

Knowledge is, as Shakespeare put it, 'the wing wherewith we fly to heaven'... so do come and soar with us if you can.

Our educational and artistic outreach is made possible by our generous donors and Friends. I do hope you will enjoy reading about the difference you make. Thank you for all your help and support.

To use one of Shakespeare's forgotten words... benisons to you all (find it for yourself in Macbeth!)

My best regards,

Tim Cooke
CEO

Thank You For Making A Difference

Getting to know Will

At the end of last year the Trust launched a new workshop for Key Stage 2 children (age 7-11) called Getting to Know Will. The workshop, designed following consultation with teachers, brings Shakespeare and British History to life in practical and creative ways.

The new hands-on session is a fascinating window into William Shakespeare's world in Stratford-upon-Avon, allowing children to learn about his life from cradle to grave. The session captures imaginations as children discover what life was like for William as a schoolboy, actor and playwright. Using clues from our collections, including original documents, artefacts and portraits, as well as the historic houses, the children become history detectives as they piece together evidence to find out about William Shakespeare's life and legacy. Children learn why Shakespeare is as relevant today as he was over 400 years ago.



Discovering the First Folio

One particular highlight was a visit from the Year-6 class from Acocks Green Primary School in Birmingham. Previously they had not been able to fund a visit themselves, but they were able to participate in the new workshop as it was kindly funded by Friends' donations. It was great to see the children engaging with the Trust's treasures in a fun and educational manner. Many thanks to all of you who made this visit possible. As one child said of the day:

'It was amazing and I loved absolutely everything about it!'

Thank you for making a difference for these children.

Our generous Donors



Ortelius Map of England, 1603

We are very pleased to have received a generous donation in memory of Patrick Hartrey, which funded the acquisition of a map of England by Ortelius. Published in 1603 it is now the earliest detailed map of England we have in the Collection. It has an interesting decorative cartouche in one corner celebrating the victory over the Spanish Armada. You can see more details here: shakespeare.org.uk/ortelius-map

We have also been lucky enough to receive a gift in memory of Olwen and Edwin Powell, to fund a researcher one day a week for six months to work on the composer Guy Woolfenden's archive, which is in our care. As well as composing for radio, theatre and television, Woolfenden wrote more than 150 scores for RSC productions whilst Head of Music at the theatre. Thank you to our generous donors.



Guy Woolfenden

It costs just £15 per pupil to bring school children to the Shakespeare Centre, who wouldn't otherwise be able to visit.

You can donate by calling us on: **01789 339804**
To make a credit or debit card payment, or donate online: shakespeare.org.uk/donate

Shreds & Patches



'All is True' playing at a cinema near you

The Trust goes to Hollywood – well nearly!

Kenneth Branagh's new film *All Is True*, was released in UK cinemas during February.

Our own Head of Research and Knowledge Dr Paul Edmondson was asked to comment on the screenplay and answered questions during the film's shooting. The film stars Branagh as Shakespeare and Judi Dench as his wife Anne Hathaway. Ian McKellen co-stars as the Earl of Southampton. The plot involves Shakespeare's return to Stratford-upon-Avon in 1613 after a devastating fire destroys the Globe Theatre.

Directed by Branagh, with a script by Ben Elton. Read more from Paul Edmondson questioning 'Is All of this True?' shakespeare.org.uk/all-is-true

New acquisitions

We are pleased to share with you how we have added to our archive collection over the last few months.

We have successfully purchased two John Hutton paintings, one of Ophelia and one of Romeo and Juliet. Hutton designed the glass panels that are in the 1960s built Shakespeare Centre, so it's a nice link! They need to be re-framed before we can put them on display.

Five paintings by local artist William Wells Quatremain have been acquired. Quatremain painted the backdrops for the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford upon Avon. The paintings were commissioned by J Salmon Ltd for postcards in the early 20th Century. You can view all five images here: shakespeare.org.uk/quatremain



Quatremain's painting of Hall's Croft

Disabled Access Day

On Saturday 16 March, Shakespeare's Birthplace will be taking part in our annual Disabled Access Day.

This year, the property developer Cameron Homes is sponsoring the day to deliver a quality experience for the local deaf community. One in six people in the UK has hearing loss or is deaf and we will be running fantastic talks on this theme. We will have guest speakers, alongside British Sign Language Interpreters, talking to us about how we can engage deaf children with Shakespeare and gaining insight into the world of productions from deaf actors and actresses. Key items from our collections will be on display to illustrate this fascinating subject.



Shreds & Patches

News from the Reading Room

The opening hours of our Reading Room at the Shakespeare Centre are to be extended.

From 5 March 2019, we will be open Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 4.30pm, and on Saturdays, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Access to the Reading Room is free to all.

The Trust holds the world's largest Shakespeare-related collection open to the public. It also has an extensive local history archive of Stratford-upon-Avon and south Warwickshire that includes records dating back to the 12th century, and manages the Royal Shakespeare Company's library and archive. We look forward to welcoming you in person.

For more information: shakespeare.org.uk
or to arrange a visit contact us at:
collections@shakespeare.org.uk



Explore the Reading Room five days a week

Henley Street happenings

We were delighted to receive the news in late October that our grant application to Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Fund, alongside Stratford-on-Avon District Council, was successful.

The project to redesign Henley Street, outside the Shakespeare Centre, will go ahead in 2019-20. While we will be working closely with the District Council on the streetscape elements of the project, we will be leading on the development of a new cafe, Will's Kitchen, opposite the Birthplace, delivering fresh seasonal food in a new creative space.

Our Hospitality team has, for the second year running, gained the GOLD Food for Life Served Here Award from the Soil Association. We are proud that the Trust is still the only visitor attraction in the country to be awarded the GOLD award.

Cross-gender Shakespeare



Lisa Wolpe

In Shakespeare's time, nobody questioned that the female roles in his plays would be played by men.

Through most of the intervening centuries, nobody questioned that male actors would play men's parts and female actors would play women. But more recently, these assumptions have been challenged in a variety of ways.

Along with our partners the University of Warwick and Misfit Inc., we've been pleased to host Lisa Wolpe, an American actor, director and scholar as our current writer in residence.

She is a leading expert in the field of cross-gender Shakespeare. Her motivation for playing male characters? They often have better parts!

Lisa was in conversation with Dr Paul Edmondson at a recent Research Conversation. A lively discussion ensued with the audience about women playing male roles and men playing women's roles, as well as re-gendering roles; where characters become different genders. Timon of Athens being played as a woman in the recent RSC production, is a recent example. Wolpe has been researching in our Library and Archive the life, career and reputation of Charlotte Cushman, the great 19th-century American actor who was famous for playing Shakespeare's male roles.

This is currently a topic of great importance to many theatre goers and scholars as various Shakespeare companies explore parity of gender and race. Let us know your thoughts on this topic so we can continue the discussion.

Our Research Conversations are audio-recorded and available in our Reading Room. Research Conversations take place on the second Wednesday of every month, details on pages 12/13.

Read more about Lisa here: lisawolpe.com



Houses

Mary Arden's Farm – springing into life!

Although Mary Arden's Farm is the only one of our properties to close over winter, the team have not been resting on their laurels (or feather beds...). They've been working hard to get ready to reveal some important changes.

One of the major responsibilities of the Trust is to protect and conserve our ancient buildings for all to enjoy, now and for the future. At the Farm, major work is being carried out after listed building and planning consent was granted last summer. This has necessitated removing a large window in Palmer's Farmhouse to investigate the surrounding timber structure that was failing in a number of places due to beetle infestation and rot. Parts of the frame have previously been filled with cement mortar many years ago, probably as a temporary repair, and this is being removed carefully and replaced with some new oak beams. An infestation of Deathwatch beetle and water ingress in the same timbers has meant that surrounding panels to the window and a nearby doorway are failing, so they are being repaired or replaced and timber pegs in the joints are also to be replaced.



Replacing panels at Palmer's Farmhouse

Cement mortar was used to repair two of the chimneys many years ago. This was general practice at the time however, the use of cement on historic properties can be extremely damaging as it is a very rigid material. The old cement is being drilled out and will be replaced with hydraulic lime; a permeable and flexible material.

In the great barn, one of the oldest buildings on the farm, the walls are being drilled through and stitched together with stainless-steel rods and fixed with resin bonding. This will prevent further bowing of the walls that has been caused by the original rubble infill between the two walls settling to the bottom, probably as the result of water ingress over many years.



Zack Ward drilling out concrete at Palmers Farmhouse

Most of this work is being carried out by our two in-house builders, Chris and Andy, who are part of the property services team. Zack is retail and visitor assistant at New Place, but is spending a few months job shadowing the building team, to experience a different role within the Trust.

Growing unusual crops

The farm is committed to growing rare species and raising rare breeds, many of which are linked to the Tudor period. One of the most striking crops introduced last year and ready to harvest this spring, is the Manglewurz. Part of the sugar beet family it is used for animal food although no longer grown commercially. It can grow to around 30 cm long with leaves over twice that size – quite a sight at the farm!



Teddy the Ryeland ram

Meet our new breed of sheep

A lovely new breed of sheep, the Ryeland, has been introduced at the farm. So far we have two ewes and our ram, Teddy. This spring we will have a number of new Ryeland lambs arriving courtesy of Teddy and the ewes.

They are one of the oldest English sheep breeds dating from seven centuries ago when the monks of Leominster, in Herefordshire, grazed their sheep on the rye pastures, which gave them their name. They were considered to have one of the finest fleeces of all British breeds of the time. Queen Elizabeth I was given 'Leomster' wool stockings and liked them so much that from then on she insisted only on 'Leomster' Ryeland wool. With such a pedigree we thought they'd be a perfect addition to the farm!



Woolly Week at Mary Arden's Farm

Every spring during 'Woolly Week' our farm team hand shear the sheep, giving our visitors a unique insight into the whole process and a real appreciation of the different textures of the wool. This year, we are sending the wool to an organic mill to be spun and turned into wool, which will be available to buy in the shop later in the year. Woolly Week runs from 25 May – 2 June.

Building a new humble hovel

Finally, there is much excitement at the farm as our volunteer carpenter, John Stowe, is designing and constructing a timber-framed hovel, which will be located in the woodland. A hovel is a small, humble dwelling house. Throughout the project John will be using 16th-century building techniques and replica tools as much as possible to create an authentic Tudor structure. Visitors will be encouraged to help out as the building progresses.

A model of the hovel will be on display in Mary Arden's Farmhouse for everyone to see and play around with the structure on a miniature scale.



The hovel under construction

The farm re-opens on **Saturday 16 March** and will be open from 10am every day until October.

Come and catch up with all that is happening and have a wonderful day out.

Learning

Shakespeare Week

From the 18 to 24 March 2019, Shakespeare Week will provide another series of exciting events to give nearly two million children a fun first taste of Shakespeare.

Shakespeare was never lost for words, but young people in the UK increasingly are so. A national survey published last year, reported that more than 60% of primary and secondary school teachers were seeing a rise in pupils with an underdeveloped vocabulary. This can hold back their learning and has a long-term impact on their communication, creative and critical thinking skills and confidence. In order to help children across the country find their words, Shakespeare Week will be embracing the theme of Language and Literacy in 2019.

This year we will also be introducing Will's Word Warriors, who will be recruited from all walks of life to promote a more diverse use of language and champion **Shakespeare's Forgotten Words**. The linguist, author and academic, Professor David Crystal, has compiled a list of Shakespeare's Forgotten Words. These are words that were commonly used in Shakespeare's time and can be found in his works, but are rarely used today. We've had fun choosing our ten favourites and are dropping them into conversation daily! So, do you tell your friends not to '**drumble**'* along, or accuse them of being '**slug-abled**',* or even tell your family to stop their '**bibble-babble**'*? You may soon hear school children all around the country quoting Shakespeare!

*drumble = dawdle or loiter

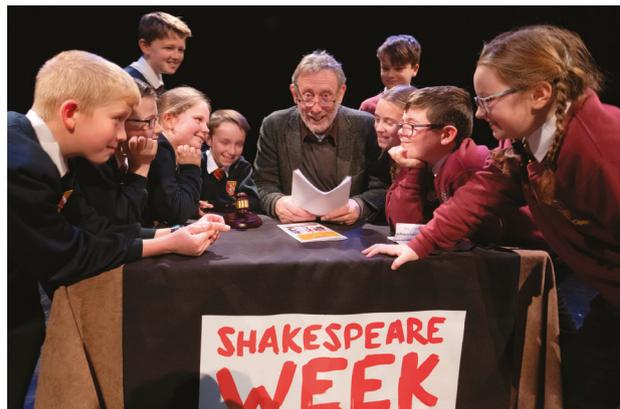


*slug-ableds = lazybones

*bibble-babble = idle talk or chatter

What is your favourite forgotten word from Shakespeare?

This year Shakespeare Week was launched at The Playhouse, Whitley Bay with The Big Shakespeare Debate, hosted by celebrated children's author Michael Rosen. Four local schools came together to debate the moral dilemmas in Romeo and Juliet, and vote on the arguments that they felt were most persuasive. A brilliant use of words! The general consensus – the children felt that Romeo was a bit irrepresible!



Michael Rosen and school children from Whitley Bay

'More needs to be done to address the word gap in primary schools. Our language is changing constantly, but the next generation's vocabulary is shrinking. Shakespeare's imaginative and inventive language is tinder to ignite young minds and can inspire a love of language.'

Jacqueline Green, Head of Learning and Participation

So, what is the real value of all of this?

The Trust has delivered Shakespeare Week since 2014, reaching well over 6 million primary school children in that time. So, can we be certain that the work is having the positive impact that we believe it is having?

Research has shown that taking part in Shakespeare Week benefits children in many ways. In fact, our assessment suggests that around £3 million worth of educational benefit to the young people of the UK arises from this programme.

We can be sure that Shakespeare Week really is generating immense educational benefit, and that Friends are an important part of the community of support that enables the Trust to undertake such valuable work.

The Shakespeare Week website offers a variety of resources including Shakespeare's Top Ten Forgotten Words, and Will's Word Warriors activity books. You can find them here: shakespeareweek.org.uk take a look and share with young people you know.

To support Shakespeare Week, you can donate online: shakespeare.org.uk/donate or by calling **01789 339804** and help make a difference.



Be inspired: Shakespeare and Me

A celebration of creativity inspired by Shakespeare will form part of a new exhibition at the Shakespeare Centre and online.

We contacted creative people from around the globe to find out about their personal relationships with Shakespeare. We've explored how Shakespeare has inspired artists, actors, writers, editors and others throughout history and into modern times. Here is a taste of the stories our research uncovered.



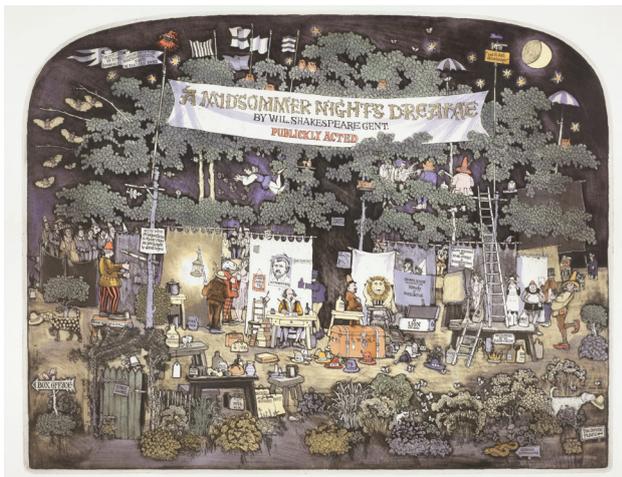
David Garrick appearing as Shakespeare's Richard III, about 1745

2019 will mark 250 years since **David Garrick**, leading 18th-century actor and theatre manager, organised the first Shakespeare Jubilee at Stratford-upon-Avon. Events to mark the occasion are planned for later in the year, but what we can say is that

he was truly inspired by Shakespeare throughout his life and it was his influence that brought celebrating Shakespeare back to Stratford-upon-Avon.

Graham Clarke, artist and author, told us how Shakespeare inspired his work:

'As an artist I have always been attracted to the idea that grand, important and serious subjects can be interpreted through the eyes and hand of the 'common man'. After learning from childhood that William Shakespeare was the world's greatest playwright and therefore to be taken very seriously, it was wonderful to find later that part of his genius was to be funny. This is my tribute to a fellow 'common man.'



'Not So Neither; or; A Midsummer Nights Dream by Wil. Shakespeare Gent' by Graham Clarke, 1992, held in our collection

Collections



Devon Glover – Sonnet Man

Devon Glover, Sonnet Man, who sets Shakespeare's sonnets to hip hop, said:

'Shakespeare inspired me to explore the evolution of language and storytelling... His work inspires me to think outside the box when writing a song or project, and encourages students to erase limitations when writing poetry.'



'Sir Walter Scott at Shakespeare's tomb' by an unknown artist, about 1830

Author and poet **Sir Walter Scott** was not only inspired by Shakespeare (he once referred to him as 'the great wizzard'), but was himself described as 'the Shakespeare of novelists.' Scott was modest when talking about these comparisons, and once stated in his journal: 'The blockheads talk of me being like Shakespeare – not fit to tie his brogues.' A painting from our collection shows Scott paying his respects to Shakespeare at his tomb in Holy Trinity Church.

From 16 March, you can visit the 'Famous Beyond Words' exhibition at Shakespeare's Birthplace where some of this work will be featured. A more extended version will be available in an online exhibition 'Be Inspired: Shakespeare and me' later in 2019. Visit our online exhibition: shakespeare.org.uk/online-exhibitions



International

Shakespeare in America – an update

How can we engage and reach as much of our audience as possible on both sides of the Atlantic? This is one of the many important questions which the Education team here at the Trust asks itself on a regular basis.

While it is an indisputable fact that the experience of being in Stratford-upon-Avon in person and walking in Shakespeare's footsteps could never be replaced, the number of opportunities available online via our website and throughout the year through projects with our international partners helps to ensure our international audiences can always be part of the Shakespeare action either in person or from somewhere closer to home.

International Digital Webinars

One of the ways which we are working with international partners is through our digital classes and webinars. Starting in April, there will be a series of three video webinars delivered by Dr Nick Walton, Shakespeare Courses Development Manager, Dr Anjna Chouhan, Senior Lecturer in Shakespeare Studies, and Dr Darren Freebury-Jones, Lecturer in Shakespeare Studies, as part of the events schedule for The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles. These lectures will be using items from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's Library and Archives to highlight the sources and inspiration behind three of Shakespeare's plays: *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Cymbeline* and *Twelfth Night*.



Dr Anjna Chouhan

Attendees at the lectures will gain a deeper insight into the performance history and audience expectations surrounding these plays from the time in which they were written, helping to enhance their understanding of the play before they watch a performance delivered later that day. If you live in or around Los Angeles and would like further information on how to attend these webinars, please check the link on the website for the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles:

shakespearecenter.org/bard-talks/



Students from Philadelphia High School

Touring America with Shakespeare

With the polar vortex threatening a winter of Shakespearian discontent proportions, Dr Darren Freebury-Jones and Catherine Fannin Peel, International Education & Development Executive, visited six cities across four states over eight days on a whirlwind lecture and outreach tour across New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The team delivered educational outreach classes in Philadelphia, Cleveland and New York City meeting with students from English, History and Theatre classes. Focusing on Shakespeare and the power of language to unite us all, students were on their feet delivering sonnets and soliloquies from across the canon. Teacher training sessions were another core element of the trip, offering the opportunity to unite teachers and Shakespeare scholars in discussing the challenges faced in classrooms today and how Shakespeare can help us to bridge the divide.

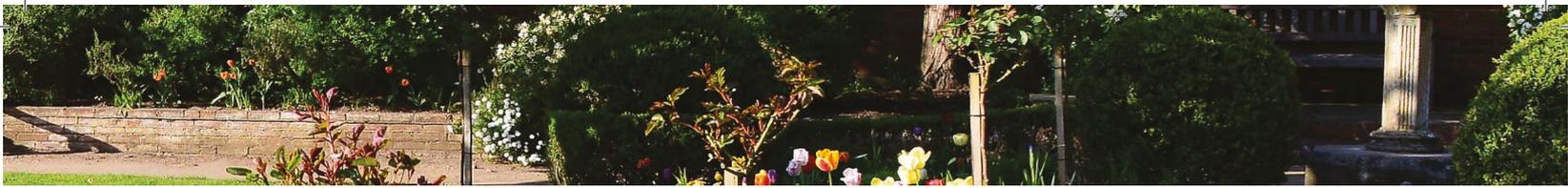
As the English Speaking Union's (ESU) Travel & Learn Abroad (TLab) speaker, Dr Freebury-Jones also delivered evening talks to ESU members in all six cities featured on the tour.

The ESU will be running another one of their week long TLab residential courses in Stratford-upon-Avon this July, and places are still available at the time of this publication going to press. To sign up and be part of this residential course, please visit

esuus.org



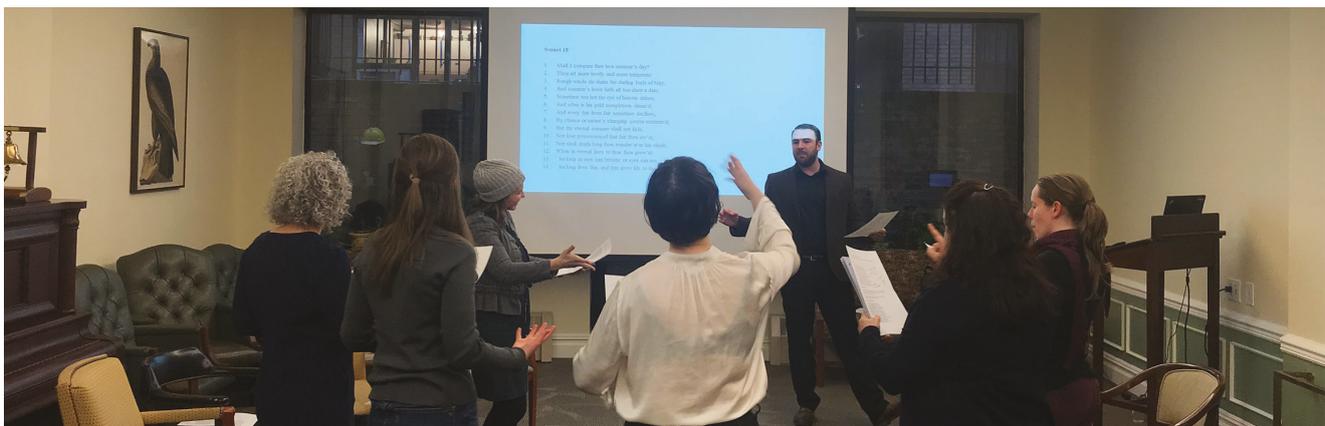
Dr Nick Walton



Dr Darren Freeby-Jones meeting US students and teachers whilst on tour

It is through the support of our Shakespeare's Birthplace America Patrons and Friends that we are able to deliver more of these outreach classes and offer scholarships for students and teachers who would otherwise be unable to attend the residential courses and educational opportunities we provide both in person in Stratford-upon-Avon and online.

Please help us to continue these programmes by making a donation today to SBA or becoming a Friend or Patron of the Trust. Together we will continue to make sure that we bring Shakespeare to the world.



Darren leading some Shakespeare in action

**Shakespeare's
Birthplace
America**

Shakespeare's Birthplace America (SBA) is recognised by the United States Internal Revenue Service as tax-exempt under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code as a charitable and educational organisation. Contributions to SBA are tax-deductible for US taxpayers to the extent provided by the law.

To find out more about the work of SBA, become a Friend, or make a donation visit: shakespeare.org.uk/support-sba/ or email us: shakespearesbirthplaceamerica@shakespeare.org.uk

What's On

SATURDAY 9 MARCH

5.30pm – 7pm

After Hours – The Art of Design with Lee Laphorne

HALL'S CROFT

Our Artist in Residence talks about how he has been inspired by pieces in the Trust's archives, with an exclusive first look at the furniture he has designed. He will talk about new ways of reinventing old pieces of furniture and textiles to create something unique. Includes a limited edition tea towel to take away.

Adult £10 Child £6 **Friends £8**



WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL

5pm – 6pm

Research Conversation – Phillip Watson and Adrian Spaak

THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE

Phillip Watson and Adrian Spaak from New Place, on Drawing New Place.

Free



SATURDAY 13 APRIL

5.30pm – 7pm

After Hours – Giving birth to the Tudors

THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE

To celebrate William's birthday we are talking all things birth with Lesley Smith. Find out about medicine, doctors', weird and wonderful advice and the tools used to help women give birth – Tudor style! Not for the faint hearted!

£10 **Friends £8**



WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH

5pm – 6pm

Research Conversation

THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE

Mareike Doleschal, Collections Librarian, talking about Translations of Shakespeare.

FREE



FRIDAY 26 APRIL

4pm

The Annual Shakespeare Birthday Lecture

THE SHAKESPEARE INSTITUTE

Professor Jerzy Limon OBE, founder and artistic director of the Gdansk Shakespeare Theatre, Poland, will be in conversation with Professor Michael Dobson, Director of the Shakespeare Institute. Presented in partnership with the University of Birmingham.

Adults £10 **Friends £8**

WEDNESDAY 8 MAY

5pm – 6pm

Research Conversation – Moving Pictures

THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE

Moving Pictures: The Shakespeare Scrapbooks of George Williams. With Gary Fisher, Ph.D. student, University of Nottingham.

Free

SATURDAY 11 MAY

5.30pm – 7pm

After Hours – ‘Here’s flowers for you’

THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE

Award winning florist Carole Patilla and our Gardening team present a fun and informative bouquet arranging workshop using beautiful handpicked flowers, including a few special cuttings from the Shakespeare Birthplace gardens! And you can take home your handiwork.

£30 Child (over 12) £20 **Friends £25**



TUESDAY 28 – FRIDAY 31 MAY

Living Shakespeare – Adult leisure learning

THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE

A study of three plays – *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Venice Preserved* and *As You Like It*

Discover performance histories and the different ways they have been presented on stage and watch the performances at the RSC with the group.

Talks from Abigail Rokison-Woodall from the Shakespeare Institute, Russell Jackson (University of Birmingham), Ailsa Grant Ferguson (University of Brighton) and others. The course is led by the Trust lecturers Dr Nick Walton and Dr Darren Freebury-Jones.

Prices start from £175

Contact: learning@shakespeare.org.uk or shakespeare.org.uk/leisure-courses

SATURDAY 8 JUNE

5.30pm – 7pm

After Hours – Poetry workshop

THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE

Poetry with Punch

Matt Windle, Birmingham's Poet Laureate 2016-18, leads this workshop full of useful tips and advice to help you move forward with your poetry. Suitable for beginners to well-established writers, this workshop will get you thinking about next steps and exercising those poetry muscles to create writing that packs a punch!

Adult £10 Child £6 **Friends £8**

SATURDAY 15 – SUNDAY 23 JUNE

The Stratford Poetry Festival

THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE

The festival presents an exciting line-up of readings, performances and workshops showcasing the talents of inspirational and award-winning artists from all over the world. Activities this year include a midsummer bonfire, an international poetry picnic, a celebration of David Garrick's 1769 Jubilee, and many special-guest appearances, including Michael Rosen, Wendy Freeman, Richard O'Brien, Raymond Antrobus and Julia Copus.

Save the date – check online for tickets

THROUGHOUT 2019 –

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Shakespeare for all!

STRATFORD UPON AVON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Reading through the Complete Works of Shakespeare continues into 2019. 6 April (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), 4 May (*King John*), 1 June (*The Merchant of Venice*)

Free



How to book

There are special prices for Friends at all events – check when booking

Online: shakespeare.org.uk/events

Call: 01789 339804

By post: complete the enclosed booking form

Shopping

Apple Juice

Last autumn staff and volunteers rallied to help us pick the heavy-laden apple trees in the orchard at Anne Hathaway's Cottage. The result is our very own Shakespeare Birthplace Trust apple juice, produced from our own apple crop and pressed locally at Pershore College.

The varieties used are a mix, predominantly Worcester with some Cox's Orange Pippin and Bramley, and a few others thrown in for good measure. With no added sugar, the individual characteristics of each apple variety dictate the sweetness of the final drink. We're really pleased with the result but do try it for yourself and let us know what you think.

Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped with the picking!



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust pressed apple juice is available to buy exclusively in our shops and cafes.

750ml £3.50 Friends £3.15
33cl £2 Friends £1.80

Prices in the cafes may vary.

Wrapping paper

We've got present buying all wrapped up in the Birthplace Shop. Our new range of gift wrap is inspired by beautiful illustrations in our collections. Too nice to cut up? Why not hang one on the wall as a poster.

Gift wrap (50 x 70 cm sheet) £2.50 Friends £2.25



Postcards

We love these new wooden postcards featuring images from books and prints in the Trust's collections. Keep as a mini artwork – or send one in the post. You can write on the back and post for the same price as a standard postcard.

Wooden postcard £4 Friends £3.60



Don't forget to use your Friends' 10% discount in the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Cafes, Shops and online: shop.shakespeare.org.uk. Every purchase helps support our work.



Friends' Exclusive

Christmas Quiz

Thank you to everyone that entered our Quiz before Christmas.

Clearly it was brain-tingling as no one entry had all the answers correct! However, we have a winner – Bernard Hall from Stratford-upon-Avon who has been a Friend for many years. Well done Bernard!

*'Then with the losers let it sympathize,
For nothing can seem foul to those that win'*

Henry IV Part I, Act 5 Scene I

New! Friends Student Memberships

New for 2019 is our Student Friend Membership which is for those under 21 or in full-time or part-time education.

All the usual benefits are included – free entry to all houses, discounts for events, talks and in the cafes and shops, plus this newsletter, What News? delivered digitally. Ideal for grandchildren or student friends!

£25 Call us on 01789 339804 or buy online: shakespeare.org.uk/friends

Shakespeare's Birthday weekend Friday 26 – Sunday 28 April

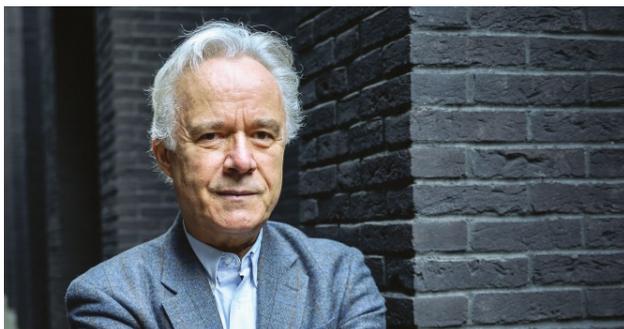
Join us for some of these events – special prices for Friends where noted.

The Annual Shakespeare Birthday Lecture

Being held at the Shakespeare Institute this year, Professor Jerzy Limon OBE, founder and artistic director of the Gdansk Shakespeare Theatre, Poland will be in conversation with Professor Michael Dobson. Presented in partnership with the University of Birmingham.

Friday 26 April at 4pm. **£8 Friends**

For tickets call 01789 339804 or online: shakespeare.org.uk/events



Birthday lecture – Professor Jerzy Limon OBE

Shakespeare's Birthday – join us for breakfast before the parade

Join Trust staff, Friends and guests for coffee and pastries at the start of this special day.

Saturday 27 April. From 9.30am at the Marble Hall, the Shakespeare Centre leaving by 10.30am for the parade.

Free for Friends – please reserve your space.



The Annual Shakespeare Birthday Lunch

This will be held on Saturday 27 April at the Crowne Plaza in Stratford-upon-Avon. Tim Cooke, our Chief Executive, will be speaking and offering a toast at the event and he will be taking the opportunity to draw attention to the fabulous Trust collections. The other speakers will include Erica Wyman from RSC and the Pragnell prize winner.

Tickets are available from RSC box office.

We look forward to celebrating Shakespeare's birthday with you.

Stay connected

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Creative Muse

Shakespeare's creative legacy lives on through the exciting new work produced by artists from around the world as well as here in the UK.



Artists impression of pop up sofa.

The Bard's Rest is a pop-up sofa designed with bespoke textiles inspired by the intricate embroidery from a 16th-century sweet purse, and the original rosette from David Garrick's Shakespeare Jubilee of 1769.



Artists impression of love settle.

The Love Settle is an outdoor garden lounger bearing digital, screen-printed and embroidered weather-proof fabric inspired by love and romance in Shakespeare's world. Featuring a modern-interpretation of Shakespeare's quotes, characters from his plays and items from the collection.

Prominent artist, fashion and textile designer, Lee Lapthorne has been appointed our current Artist in Residence. Lee uses hand printing, painting, embroidery, embellishment, devoré, fringing, digital printing, and sequinning in his work to manipulate fabric. We have commissioned two bespoke pieces of furniture inspired by the historic interiors of the Shakespeare houses and the Trust's museum and archive collections.

'It was a real privilege to have access to the Trust's extensive collections, a rich and vast treasure trove of over 1 million Shakespeare-related items. I was especially drawn to the colours in the 250 year-old Garrick Jubilee rosette, which was commissioned for the very first festival in Shakespeare's honour, and widely celebrated in his hometown of Stratford every year since. Working with specialist British weavers in Sudbury over a three month period has resulted in a sophisticated material that embodies the essence of Shakespeare's continuing influence on the world.'

Lee's unique pieces of furniture will be on display at Hall's Croft and Anne Hathaway's Cottage in Stratford-upon-Avon from 11 March – 15 September 2019.

Come and hear Lee talk about his work at the Trust on Saturday 9 March 5.30pm – 7pm at the Shakespeare Centre as part of our After Hours programme. Tickets £10 **Friends £8.**

For more details see page 12/13 or go to: shakespeare.org.uk/events