

Access at Shakespeare's *New Place*

The logo for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, featuring the words 'Shakespeare', 'birthplace', and 'trust' in a stylized, overlapping arrangement.

Shakespeare's New Place is fully accessible and welcomes all visitors to the site where William Shakespeare spent the last 19 years of his life with his family.

We want to make your visit to New Place as memorable as possible. Practical information is included to help you to get the best out of your visit.

A brief history of New Place

Shakespeare described New Place as 'The house wherein I dwell' in his will and it was the only home he bought for himself and his family to live in.

- 1482** New Place was built and was the largest house in the borough of Stratford-upon-Avon.
- 1597** Shakespeare purchased the property and owned the house for 19 years until his death.
- 1702** New Place was demolished by the Clopton family to build a Queen Anne style house.
- 1759** New Place was demolished a second time.
- 1876** New Place came into the care of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Shakespeare's New Place today

This registered park and garden has been reimagined to include a gate-house which we know was there during Shakespeare's time at New Place.

The focal point of the garden is a large sculpture of a tree, known as His Mind's Eye, cast in bronze and around five metres tall.

The Exhibition Centre

Conservation work on the Exhibition Centre, formerly Nash's House, has been carried out to preserve and protect it for future generations. A lift takes you to the exhibition on the upper floor which includes a copy of Shakespeare's will. This lists most of his personal items and who they were left to. His eldest daughter, Susanna, was bequeathed New Place and his youngest a silver gilt bowl (along with a large sum of money).

Items found during recent excavations of New Place are on display, including a thimble from 1500 and a left over sheep's shin bone with beautiful holes cut into it from the process of button making.

A medieval bone die, roughly the size of your little finger-nail, and an 18th century domino can also be seen.

What will I see?

The contemplative space around His Mind's Eye is an integral part of the rejuvenated gardens and allows people to make their own connections with this important site.

A series of sculptures, reflecting Shakespeare's legacy, include representations of his desk and chair. There are brass wind vanes naming each of Shakespeare's plays, as well as white bronze floor darts each depicting the first two lines of Shakespeare's sonnets.

The Knot Garden has been lovingly restored and follows the exact pattern produced by Ernest Law originally installed in 1920. Beyond this, the Arbour is a haven of tranquility.

Can I touch and smell things?

You can touch His Mind's Eye, as well as the desk and chair. Brush your hands across the many flowers and shrubs in the Knot Garden and Arbour to release and enjoy their smell throughout the year.

Exhibits will be displayed from time to time showing items across the decades from the 1950's onwards. You can see, touch and smell these to help you reminisce about earlier times in your life.

Check www.shakespeare.org.uk for dates and times.

Planning your visit

Parking: Parking is free in all District Council car parks for blue badge holders. If designated blue badge spaces are full you may park in any other parking bay. On-street parking is also free for blue-badge holders (excluding bays designated for specific purposes e.g. Taxi ranks. Time limits may apply).

Stratford Park & Ride: Located at Bishopton CV37 9QY.

Accessible Taxis: For more information visit www.stratford.gov.uk.

Tickets: Available from SBT ticket desks or at www.shakespeare.org.uk. Local residents (CV37) can gain free entry with our Community Card (proof of address required).



Toilets: There are accessible toilets in the Exhibition Centre which are clearly signposted.

Quiet Area: There is a Quiet Area available to all who wish to spend a few minutes in a minimal sensory environment located in the Great Garden. Ask a member of staff or a volunteer if you wish to use this space during your visit.

If you need assistance with lost property, access to the Quiet Area, a medical emergency or have become separated from your group/carer, we have visible team members of the SBT across the site who will be able to help. They will locate the nearest first aider during a medical emergency for you. Every staff or volunteer at Shakespeare's New Place wears a clearly branded lanyard or name badge.

Staff and volunteers are here to help you. Please ask if you need any help or information when you arrive or at any time during your visit.

Opening Times

We are open all year, except Christmas Day.

Until 28 Aug	9.00am - 5.30pm
29 Aug - 30 Oct	9.00am - 5.00pm
31 Oct - 19 Mar 2017	10.00am - 4.00pm

Visiting first thing in the morning or later in the afternoon is often quieter. Please call us on 01789 204 016 if you would like to discuss your visit so that we can understand your needs and expectations and help you get the most out of your visit.