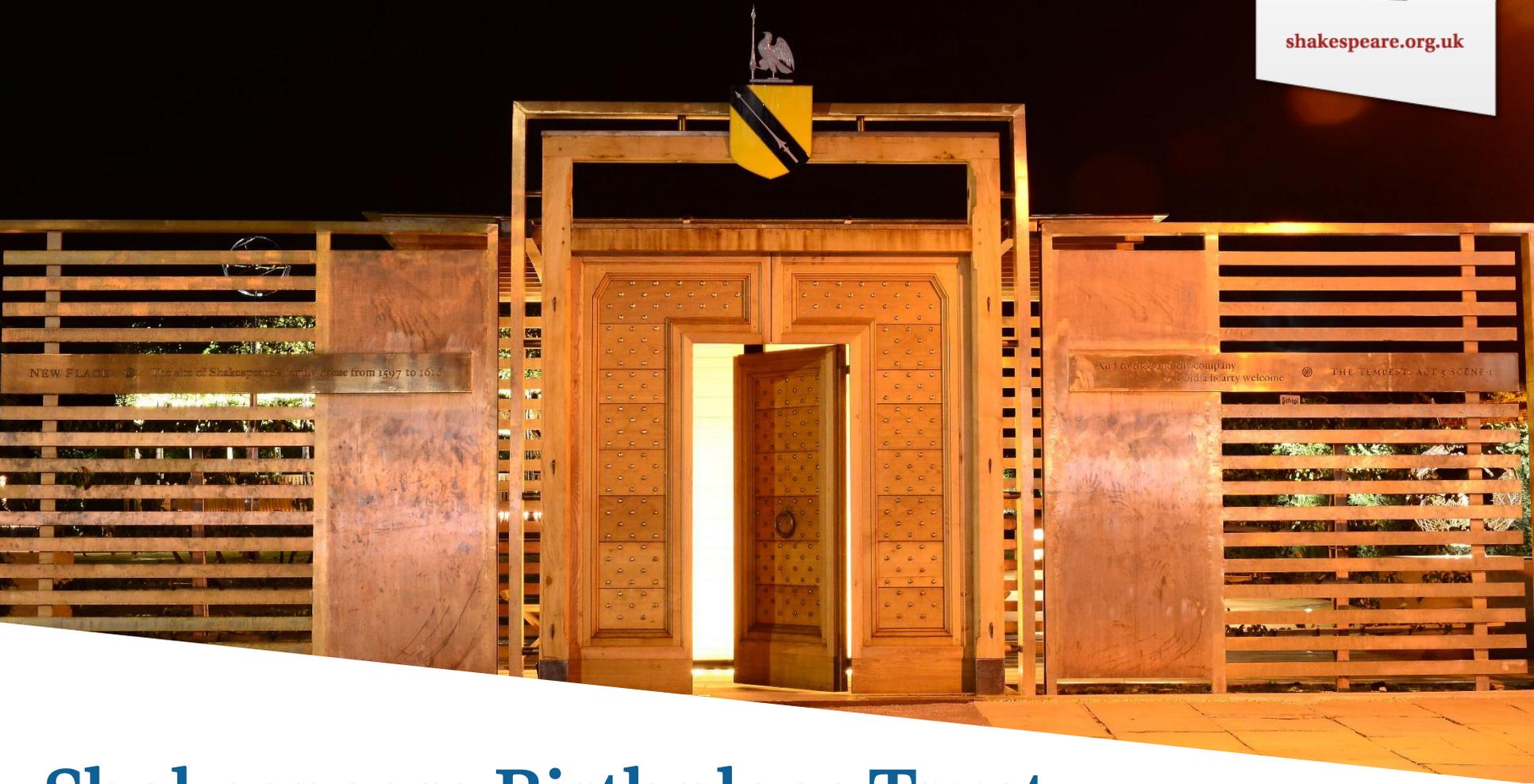


# Press Pack

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birthplace trust

[shakespeare.org.uk](http://shakespeare.org.uk)



## Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

*Leading the world's enjoyment and understanding  
of Shakespeare's works, life and times*

# About us



Celebrating Shakespeare is at the heart of everything we do. Formed in 1847 following the purchase of Shakespeare's Birthplace as a national memorial, we care for the world's greatest Shakespeare heritage sites – the five beautifully preserved homes and gardens directly linked to Shakespeare and his family in the world-famous Stratford-upon-Avon.

We enrich the lives of millions of people of all ages and backgrounds, providing a global cultural meeting place where everyone can share in the enjoyment and understanding of Shakespeare's works. The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust receives no public subsidy or direct revenue funding, and depends on income generated through the support of [visitors](#), [donors](#), [volunteers](#) and [Friends](#). In April 2018 the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust joined Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisation for the first time, enabling the Trust to boost its creative programmes and outreach to give people the opportunity to enjoy Shakespeare on his home turf and online.

## World class collections

We care for the world's largest and most important Shakespeare-related collection, including over 1 million documents, 55,000 books and 7,000 museum objects. Also, we care for the Royal Shakespeare Company's archive of theatre records, and an extensive local history archive of Stratford-upon-Avon and South Warwickshire, with records dating back to the twelfth century. So rare and priceless is the collection, it has been designated as being of international importance, and listed in the UNESCO International Memory of the World register. You can explore our collections through the displays and exhibitions in the Shakespeare properties, through our dedicated [online catalogue](#), through our blog [Finding Shakespeare](#), and by visiting our [Reading Room](#).

## Learning for all

We run a world-class programme [educational](#) activities for all ages, from pre-school to adult learners. These include online courses, programmes for international students and CPD for education professionals. We also run [Shakespeare Week](#), an annual national programme inspiring primary school children through fun and fascinating Shakespeare-related activities in their school and at home.

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# The Shakespeare family homes

A tour of Shakespeare's five family homes provides a unique insight into the life and works of Shakespeare. Experience what it was like for Shakespeare growing up in Stratford-upon-Avon, walk in his footsteps, and discover how his work has and continues to shape our world. Check out our [visitor experience video](#) for a sneak-peek into the world of Shakespeare.

## Shakespeare's Birthplace

A natural starting point for any visit to Shakespeare's home town, the Birthplace brings to life the world that young William first knew, and his enduring influence on our lives today.



## Anne Hathaway's Cottage

The picturesque thatched cottage was home to Shakespeare's bride to be Anne Hathaway and to generations of her family for centuries.



## Hall's Croft

A stunning example of Jacobean architecture, Hall's Croft was the elegant family home of Shakespeare's daughter Susanna and her husband Dr John Hall.



## Shakespeare's New Place

A new place to discover Shakespeare through stunning contemporary sculpture, historic gardens and a dynamic exhibition shining fresh light on the man behind the famous works.

## Mary Arden's Farm

Step back in time to experience the sights, smells and sounds of a real working Tudor farm, where Shakespeare's mother grew up.

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# Shakespeare's Birthplace

## *The story starts here*

# Shakespeare's Birthplace

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- Explore the home where Shakespeare was born and where he grew up.
- Hear fascinating tales of Shakespeare's family life from costumed guides, and enjoy live theatre on demand from resident actors, Shakespeare Aloud.
- Get up close to rare artefacts from the Trust's world class collection, including the First Folio.
- Discover how the extraordinary William Shakespeare continues to shape our lives today.



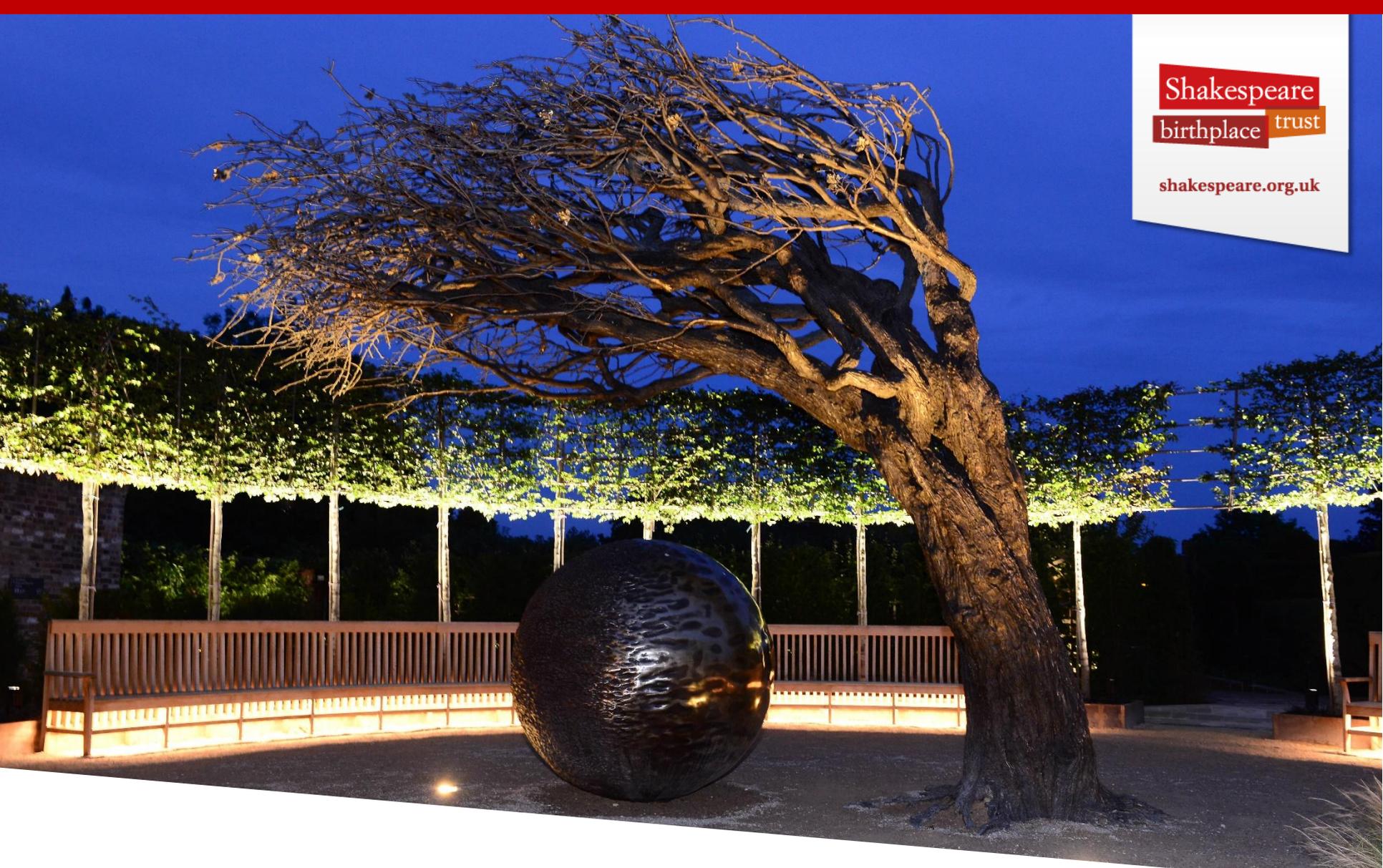
### *Visitor comments:*

*'Simply superb performance by Shakespeare Aloud! actors and costumed guides, really brought it to life!'*

*'Everyone from Granny to the 4 year old was enthralled with the visit. Can't wait to read his works now'*

### **Did you know?**

- Impresario, PT Barnum threatened to buy the Birthplace in 1847 and tour it around America in his circus. This sparked a national campaign to save the Birthplace and paved the way for the foundation of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.
- A preserved window can be found at the Birthplace, showing the engraved names of some of its earliest visitors, dating back to 1806.
- Shakespeare's father John was a glove maker, and he sold his wares through the window of his shop on to Henley Street.



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**Shakespeare's New Place**

# *See Shakespeare in a dramatic new light*

## **Shakespeare's New Place**

- Walk in Shakespeare's footsteps on the very ground where he had his family home for 19 years.
- Let your imagination soar - stunning contemporary sculpture and landscaped gardens introduce you to Shakespeare as you've never seen him before.
- Savour the heady scents of the sunken knot garden and relax in the lush Great Garden beyond.
- Meet the Shakespeare family and delve into the story of their lost grand family home in the fully accessible exhibition centre.

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### *Visitor comments:*

*'A really lovely garden, tranquil place to visit and reflect on your love of the Bard'*

*'Very modern and extremely interesting way to learn about the life of William Shakespeare by using modern sculpture to describe the works of the bard along with historical facts'*

### **Did you know?**

- Shakespeare was 33 when he bought New Place, the grandest home in the borough, and produced 26 of his major works before he died here in 1616.
- New Place was demolished in 1759 by an angry clergyman.
- Shakespeare's New Place opened in 2016 following a major transformation to re-present the story of the lost house and its most famous occupant – a permanent tribute to mark the worldwide celebrations of 400 years of Shakespeare's legacy.

A photograph of a man and a woman walking hand-in-hand through a vibrant garden. The woman is wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat, sunglasses, and a patterned dress. The man is wearing a black polo shirt and khaki pants. They are surrounded by tall purple flowers, yellow flowers, and green foliage. In the background, a white Tudor-style cottage with dark wood beams is visible.

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# Anne Hathaway's Cottage

## Relive the love story

### Anne Hathaway's Cottage

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- Follow young Shakespeare's footsteps to the cottage where he courted his future bride.
- Relive the love story of William and Anne in this romantic Shakespeare home.
- Explore the 550-year old cottage, which still has original family furniture, including the Hathaway four-poster bed and courting settle.
- Discover the Hathaway family's tale of fortune and hardship over the centuries
- Follow the sculpture trail and explore nine acres of beautiful English country cottage gardens and orchards.



#### Visitor comments:

*'This place is so lovely, the gardens are beautiful and the guides very knowledgeable'*

*'Lovely way to spend our honeymoon!'*

#### Did you know?

- The original two-room cottage was part of Hewlands Farm, where Anne's father Richard Hathaway tended to sheep, cattle and crops on the 90 acre plot.
- At 18, William Shakespeare was still a 'minor' and would have needed parental permission to marry Anne. He was one of only three men under 20 who got married in the parish between 1570 - 1630.
- You can still see the builder's fingerprints in the daub from when the extension to the cottage was built in 1610.



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# Mary Arden's Farm

## Step back in time

### Mary Arden's Farm

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- Experience the sights, sounds and smells of a real working Tudor farm, just as Shakespeare would have done as a boy visiting his mother's family home.
- Meet the Tudors as they go about their daily tasks of cooking, tending the farm and feeding the rare breed animals.
- Explore the farmyard with its centuries-old barns, outbuildings and original dove cote.
- Watch falconry displays, have a go at Tudor activities and roam the 23 acre site including nature trails, traditional orchards and wildflower meadow.



#### Visitor comments:

*"The birds of prey display was brilliant – very informative with a touch of comedy."*

*"Superb blend of historical and interesting facts...a glimpse of real life for the people and animals who lived on the farm"*

#### Did you know?

- The Tudors were very superstitious, so there are many protective charms in Palmer's House, including a fairy door, fairy plate and a dried toad to ward off evil spirits.
- Falconry was a popular past time for Tudors, and rarer, more expensive birds were considered only suitable for higher ranking persons. Hunting with a bird above your social rank was considered a serious crime, and offenders could be punished by having their hands cut off.



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**Hall's Croft**

# *The Shakespeare story continued*

## **Hall's Croft**

- Discover how further generations of Shakespeare's family lived.
- Explore the elegant Jacobean home of Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna and her wealthy physician husband, John Hall.
- Examine the intriguing collection of apothecary equipment in the dispensary, and learn about medicinal practices of the era in our exhibition.
- Wander into the tranquil walled garden and discover the same fragrant medicinal herbs John Hall may have once used in his remedies.

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### *Visitor comments:*

*'Very informative and lovingly preserved, adds depth to the Shakespeare family history with a beautiful garden as well'*

*'Took you right back in time. A must place to visit when in town'*

### **Did you know?**

- 80% of the house survives from the original structure of 1613.
- One of Dr John Hall's remedies for constipation included gunpowder.
- Susanna Hall was taken to court accused of adultery with a haberdasher. The court sided with Susanna, and dismissed the case.

# Shakespeare Welcomes the World

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Stratford-upon-Avon is a unique heritage and cultural destination, renowned worldwide as the home town of the world's most famous playwright, William Shakespeare.

6.1 million visitors from near and far visit the district each year, contributing over £300m to the local economy. Each year, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust welcomes around 850,000 visitors to the five historic Shakespeare family homes in Stratford-upon-Avon.

But it doesn't stop there. Our reach extends beyond Stratford-upon-Avon as we connect with over 2 million people around the world through our digital initiatives including our websites, social media feeds, popular blogging communities and international MOOC (massive open online course).

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is also headquarters of the [International Shakespeare Association](#), providing an opportunity for individuals and institutions to join together to further the knowledge of Shakespeare throughout the world.



# Ticket Prices

Enjoy fantastic days out at Shakespeare's family homes with plenty of events, activities and tours throughout the year. Visit [www.shakespeare.org.uk](http://www.shakespeare.org.uk) to plan your visit. All tickets are valid for 12 months\* unlimited return entry. \*Mary Arden's Farm is open March – October

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## Leave no story untold with our Full Story ticket

AND **SAVE UP TO 60%** ON SINGLE TICKET PRICES

BEST VALUE

### Full Story Ticket

Includes entry to: Shakespeare's Birthplace, Mary Arden's Tudor Farm\*, Shakespeare's New Place, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Hall's Croft.

	Adult	Child (3-17)	Family 2 adults (up to 4 children)	Concession
<b>Full Story Ticket</b>	<b>£22.50</b>	<b>£14.50</b>	<b>£59.50</b>	<b>£21.00</b>
<b>Shakespeare's Birthplace</b> 	£17.50	£11.50	£46.50	£16.50
<b>Mary Arden's TUDOR FARM*</b> <small>*Open 10 March - 28 October 2018</small> 	£15.00	£10.00	£40.00	£14.00
<b>Anne Hathaway's COTTAGE</b> 	£12.50	£8.00	£33.00	£11.50
<b>Shakespeare's New Place</b> 	£12.50	£8.00	£33.00	£11.50
<b>Hall's Croft</b> 	£8.50	£5.50	£22.50	£8.00

ALL TICKETS ARE VALID  
FOR 12 MONTHS\*

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AND WE WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL  
25P FOR EVERY POUND YOU GIVE

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### Group savings

Discounted rates and special interest talks & tours available for groups of 15 or more. Call +44 (0)1789 201806 or email [groups@shakespeare.org.uk](mailto:groups@shakespeare.org.uk)

# How to find us

Shakespeare's family homes in Stratford-upon-Avon are easily accessible by car or public transport.

## By car

Stratford-upon-Avon is 4 miles from J15 of the M40. Town centre parking is available. For Sat Nav users, enter the following postcodes:

- ❖ Shakespeare's Birthplace – CV37 6QW
- ❖ Shakespeare's New Place – CV37 6EP
- ❖ Anne Hathaway's Cottage & Gardens – CV37 9HH
- ❖ Hall's Croft – CV37 6BG
- ❖ Mary Arden's Farm (open Mar – Nov) – CV37 9UN

## By train

Regular train services run to Stratford-upon-Avon from:

London Marylebone (via Warwick, Warwick Parkway, Leamington Spa & Bicester North)

Birmingham Snow Hill

Birmingham Moor Street

Visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for train timetables

## Nearest Airport

Birmingham International Airport is 27 miles from Stratford-upon-Avon



# Contact the Press Office

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**The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust can provide information, images and spokespeople on all matters relating to Shakespeare and his historic homes and gardens in Stratford-upon-Avon.**

If you have a media enquiry, image/video request or would like to arrange interviews, filming or photography at any of the Shakespeare family homes, please get in touch. We accommodate filming and photographic shoots whenever possible, within the constraints of the historic properties and public visiting times. We also welcome visiting journalists.

## Contact:

Press Office

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Henley Street

Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6QW

Tel: +44 (0) 1789 207132 / (0) 1789 338498

Email: [pressinfo@shakespeare.org.uk](mailto:pressinfo@shakespeare.org.uk)

For all the latest information, visit our website [www.shakespeare.org.uk/news](http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/news) Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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