

# My gift to protect Shakespeare's Legacy

Thank you for taking the time to consider leaving a gift in your Will to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. If you have decided to include the Trust in your Will, we would be very glad if you would let us know so that we have the opportunity to thank you and discuss with you any areas of particular interest that you would like your gift to support. Of course, any information you give us will be treated with the utmost confidence, and is completely non binding as we understand that circumstances may change.

When the time is right for you, please complete the details overleaf and return this form to:

Head of Development,  
Development Office,  
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust,  
Shakespeare Centre,  
Henley Street,  
Stratford upon Avon,  
CV37 6QW.

01789 204016

[development@shakespeare.org.uk](mailto:development@shakespeare.org.uk)



We are very grateful for gifts of any amount left to us in a Will, from a few hundred pounds which can pay for conserving precious old books like this, through to large legacies that can help to restore one of our unique historic properties for the enjoyment of future generations.



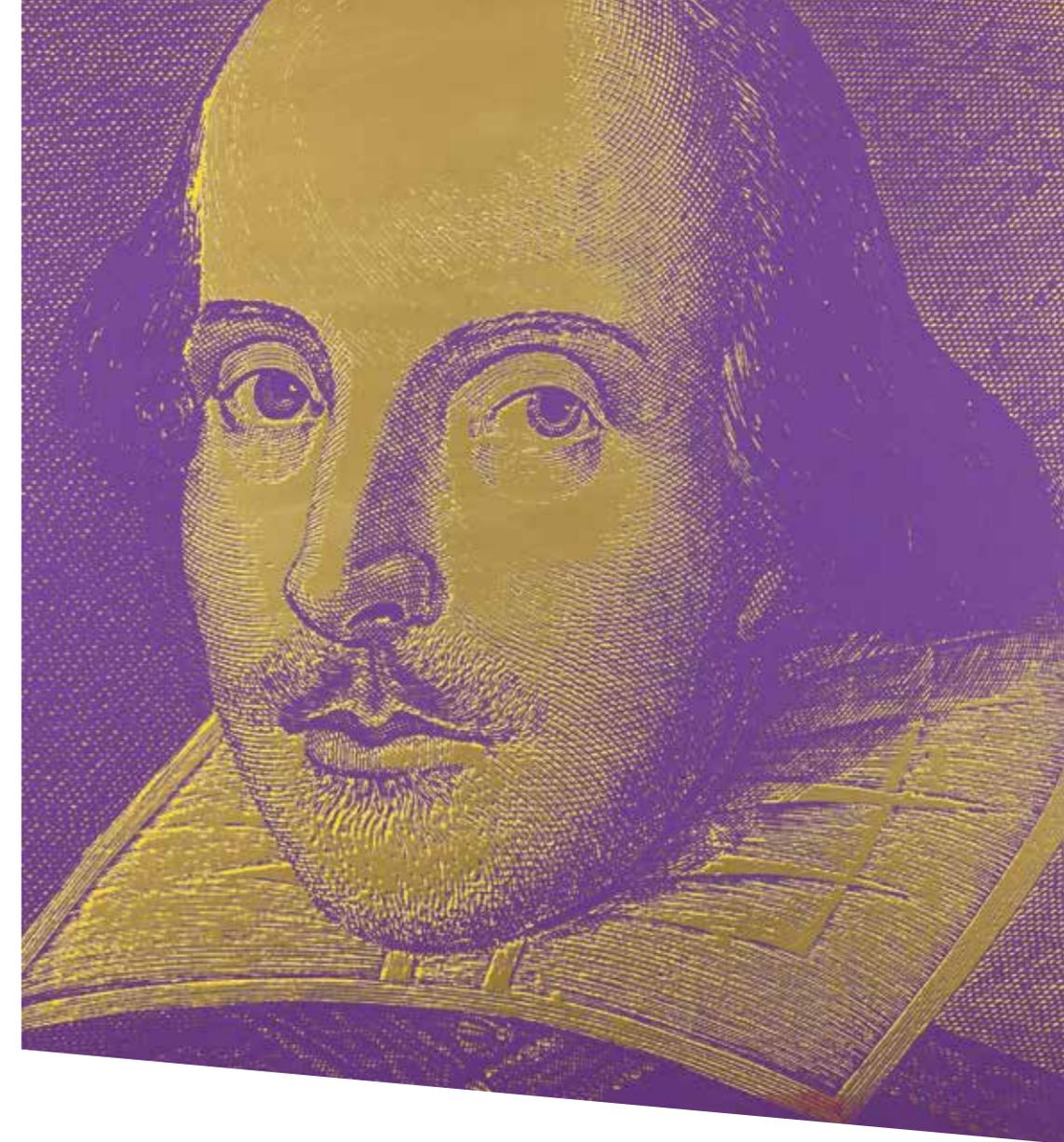
*Shakespeare State Two* by the New York pop artist Steve Kaufman was generously given to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust by his estate in 2016, and now hangs in the exhibition at Shakespeare's New Place.

Copyright © Steve Kaufman Art Licensing, LCC, 1996. All Rights Reserved.

**Shakespeare Birthplace Trust,  
Shakespeare Centre,  
Henley Street,  
Stratford upon Avon,  
CV37 6QW**

Registered charity no. 209302

Shakespeare  
birthplace trust



## Shakespeare's Legacy

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Shakespeare  
birthplace trust



# Shakespeare's Legacy

Even 400 years after his death, William Shakespeare remains the best known English writer of all time. The plays have been translated into at least 80 languages and *Hamlet* is on stage somewhere in the world every minute of every day. Shakespeare contributed over a thousand new words to the English language, as well as hundreds of phrases that are in common usage. The complex humanity of his characters keeps them constantly relevant, speaking afresh to new generations.

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is the charity that cares for Shakespeare's physical legacy – the homes where he and his family lived, and the historical documents, books and objects that shed light on his life and times. We work to bring an appreciation and understanding of Shakespeare to people everywhere, knowing that Shakespeare enriches lives, provides inspiration and brings people together in a spirit of friendship and understanding.

We receive no government funding and rely on charitable donations to help us meet the full costs of caring for Shakespeare's legacy and sharing it with millions of people every year. One very valuable way to help ensure that Shakespeare's legacy is preserved is by leaving a gift in your Will. Throughout our history, gifts in Wills, both large and small, have helped to look after the precious buildings, gardens, documents, books, paintings, and museum objects in our care, as well as to reach out to new audiences to stimulate an interest and enjoyment in Shakespeare.

To everyone who is considering leaving a gift in your Will to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, thank you for your support.

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The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is charged by Act of Parliament with preserving this Tudor house where the great writer was born, but we can only look after this and the other treasures in our care thanks to the generosity of people who share our love of Shakespeare.

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# A gift in your Will can help us to:

- Preserve Shakespeare's family homes – the five historic properties in and around Stratford upon Avon connected with William Shakespeare and his immediate family. These fragile buildings receive nearly 1 million visitors a year, resulting in inevitable wear and tear that requires expert conservation, in addition to the natural effects of weather and time.
- Conserve the priceless treasures in our collection, including 3 copies of the First Folio, 31 of the Shakespeare Documents (the handwritten documents referring to Shakespeare from his own lifetime, of which only 106 remain) and an unparalleled collection of museum items reflecting the daily life of the middle classes in Tudor and Jacobean England.
- Create thought provoking new exhibitions, trails and guides to inform and inspire visitors to Shakespeare's homes.
- Enrich the collection with important objects from around the world.
- Carry out research to increase the understanding of Shakespeare's life, works and times, such as the six new books published during 2016, the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.
- Provide a full range of education programmes tailored for learners from primary school children to post graduates.

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A generous gift in the Will of Mr Donald Petty helped to establish Shakespeare Week, our national programme to give primary schoolchildren a positive first encounter with Shakespeare. In the first three years of this programme more than 3.5 million children have engaged with Shakespeare, making a start on a lifelong journey of enjoyment and inspiration.

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Anne Hathaway's Cottage was home to members of the Hathaway family until it came into the care of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. In the 1960s, a descendant of the Hathaway family generously left the Trust a wonderful legacy, including a collection of family papers and the Hathaway family bible.



## How to leave a gift in your Will

Many people choose to leave a gift in their Will to the charities they care about, and it is very easy to do. We recommend that you ask a solicitor to draw up or amend your Will to ensure that it is valid. If you wish to leave a gift in your Will, your solicitor will need the following information:

Gifts should be made to **The Trustees and Guardians of Shakespeare's Birthplace of Henley Street, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire (Registered Charity Number 209302)**

### There are three main types of gifts that may be left in your Will

#### ➤ Pecuniary gift

An exact sum of money specified in your Will (the value of this gift tends to diminish over time because of inflation).

#### ➤ Specific gift

A gift of something that is not money – for example a painting or book, or stocks and shares.

#### ➤ Residuary gift

A percentage of what is left of your estate after all other gifts and costs have been settled. (This is the most common way to leave a gift to charities.)

### Tax considerations

Because the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is a registered charity, any gift you make in your Will is not subject to Inheritance Tax. If you leave more than 10% of the net value of your estate to charities, a reduced rate of Inheritance Tax may apply to some other assets that you leave. This can be of particular value in estate planning, and we recommend that you take professional advice.

### US citizens

US taxpayers may choose to leave a gift in their will to Shakespeare's Birthplace America, a 501(c)(3) registered non profit organization that helps Americans to connect with Shakespeare and supports the work of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

# Supporting a particular area of our work

Most legacies are left to us without restrictions. This is especially valuable to us, as it means they can be used wherever the need is greatest to carry out our mission. However, if you wish to support a particular area of the Trust's work that means a lot to you, such as education, research, one of the houses or the collection, this can be specified in your Will and your wishes will be respected.

## Gifts of objects

Many beautiful objects in the collection have been acquired through the generosity of individuals who have left them to us as gifts in their Will. We are very grateful to those who choose to ensure that these items of historic importance can be preserved for the nation and enjoyed by the public for generations to come.

Our Trustees are obliged to ensure that every acquisition is an appropriate fit for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust collection and that we have the resources to care for the objects that are offered to us. If we are not able to accommodate your gift, we will do our best to find a suitable alternative custodian for it.

If you have any queries about how you would like your gift to be used, or you'd like an informal chat with our Collections team about an object you are considering leaving to the Trust then please do get in touch and we will be happy to help.

Development Office, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Shakespeare Centre, Henley Street, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6QW.  
development@shakespeare.org.uk 01789 204016.



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We are very grateful to Mrs Amy Pratt, who kindly left us this beautiful drawing as a gift in her Will. The picture is by a noted 20th century British artist, Dennis Flanders, and shows the site of Shakespeare's adult home in Stratford, New Place.

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# Why people choose to leave gifts in Wills to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

“I first got involved with the Trust when I moved to Warwick a few years ago. I was looking for a home for a brand new video player when I remembered that the Trust still used video for some of their huge collection of recordings of historic performances of Shakespeare’s plays. They didn’t want the player but I got talking to the lady from Collections and as a result I came for an interview and started as a volunteer at the Birthplace and at Hall’s Croft. I love it!!

It’s not until you become involved with the Trust that you realise just how much it does. The five houses alone are a massive undertaking, add in the conservation work of the fabric of the buildings and the artefacts which are in them and you really see what is involved. Secondly, running alongside of that, is the education element of the Trust. From primary school to post graduate students the Trust is involved in running courses at the Shakespeare Centre and in schools, to instil in others a love of Shakespeare and his plays. Thirdly is the archive and Collections, one million documents, 50,000 books and 11,000 artefacts, is a massive responsibility.

I don’t have a great deal to leave but I want to make sure what I do have goes to help the causes that matter to me. Shakespeare and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust have brought me so much enjoyment over the years, and I like to think of that continuing for others in the future.”

**Christine Fell, Volunteer**

Please note that the information in this booklet is correct in July 2016 but inheritance and tax laws are regularly updated.



# My gift to protect Shakespeare’s Legacy

Title
Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone
Email
Date of birth
Areas of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust work that I am particularly interested in

## My intentions

- I have already included the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in my Will
- I intend to include the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in my Will
- I would like to discuss a possible gift in my Will – please contact me
- I am not interested in leaving a gift in my Will to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
- I am happy for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust to contact me by post/telephone/email (please delete any that do not apply)

We will never share your details with third parties, and will contact you only occasionally with news of our work, events, or opportunities that we think may be of interest to you. If at any time you wish to stop hearing from us, please call us on 01789 204016 or email [development@shakespeare.org.uk](mailto:development@shakespeare.org.uk)