

NEWSLETTER

FOR PATRONS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Shakespeare
birthplace trust

Summer 2017

EVENTS PROGRAMME

SHAKESPEARE WEEK

FARM NEW ARRIVALS

ANNE HATHAWAY'S
COTTAGE

PT BARNUM &
THE SHAKESPEARE
BIRTHPLACE TRUST



Introduction



An announcement from Diana Owen, Chief Executive Officer

It's hard to believe that it's almost 10 years since I joined the Trust as Director

and now CEO. It is a great privilege to lead this wonderful organisation and to work with such talented teams of staff and volunteers. I have decided, however, that this will be my last year at the helm of the Trust and that 2018 will be the right time to hand over the baton to my successor:

Our Chairman, Peter Kyle, will be working with our Board of Trustees to lead a process to recruit our next CEO. In the meantime I will, of course, continue in my current role.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Friends, Patrons and donors for the generous support that you have given to help care for our priceless Shakespearian heritage and to enable so many people to connect with and be inspired by Shakespeare. I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you over the years, and it has always been wonderful to hear about your passion for the Trust and for our work.

I remain deeply committed to the Trust's aims and values, and I look forward to continuing to celebrate its achievements with you in the years ahead.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Owen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diana Owen

In this issue – at a glance

- 3** Trust Update
- 4** Events Programme
- 6** Education and Learning
- 8** Anne Hathaway's Cottage
- 10** My Role
- 11** Retail
- 12** PT Barnum and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
- 14** Trust Watch
- 16** What's on

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www.bloggingshakespeare.com

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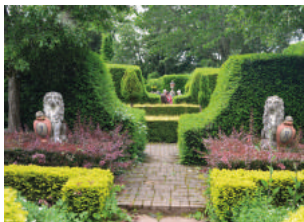
'Tell them there's a post come from my master, with his horn full of good news;'
The Merchant of Venice (Act 5, Scene 1)

Trust Update

You made it possible – thank you!

The generous support of the Friends has helped us to provide a range of interactive elements the Method in the Madness medical exhibition, which is currently on display at Hall's Croft. This included a children's activity booklet and some dressing up costumes to help young people to engage more fully with the exhibition and learn more whilst enjoying themselves at the same time. We would not have been able to finance the costumes – two physician's outfits and an apothecary's jacket – at all without this special support. The costumes have been incredibly well received and are often mentioned in visitor comments.

Please contact the Development team for more information on how you can support our work development@shakespeare.org.uk



An exclusive day out

On 7 June, a group of Friends and supporters were treated to a very special opportunity to visit Laskett Gardens in Herefordshire at the invitation of Sir Roy Strong, CH, an Honorary Fellow of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. The gardens were opened for us exclusively as a fundraising event for the Trust. Sir Roy and his late wife Julia Trevelyan Oman created the magnificent formal gardens which include 20 contrasting outdoor 'rooms.' The fascinating works of art, stunning vistas and beautiful flowers at their summer peak provided a delightful day out, with a delicious picnic lunch enlivened by Sir Roy's many stories.

Sir Roy's book *The Quest for Shakespeare's Garden* is available from the Shakespeare Bookshop on Henley Street or online at shop.shakespeare.org.uk

Making everyone welcome

At the beginning of the year, we were generously awarded funds from DCMS/Wolfson to improve our audio interpretation for visitors with visual impairments or learning difficulties. We have been organising training for staff members in the use of Audacity; audio editing software, and in visual awareness with VocalEyes. We are hugely excited about taking this project further as our aim is to tell the tale of ten objects in our town houses through audio description and creative storytelling techniques.



Objects such as the signet ring, the bed turning key, the apple corer and the wedding knife sheath currently at New Place, all have fascinating and rich stories that we cannot wait to tell a new audience about.

Like to know more about volunteering?

We need volunteers to help with volunteer recruitment. Could you – or someone you know – help us spread the word through talks, recruitment fairs or social media to tell people about some of our amazing projects and the huge impact volunteers can have? Please get in touch on **01789 204016** or volunteering@shakespeare.org.uk



Lively discussi

Join us for a special programme of unique events throughout 2017.

Sample a wide range of specially programmed talks and workshops. Plus special sessions to explore the Roman plays being performed by the RSC this season, with talks from our experts and displays from the Collections.

After Hours events programme

Book Binding workshop

Saturday 12 August, 5.30pm

The New Place garden talk

Saturday 16 September, 5.30pm

Explore Coriolanus (with Dr Anjna Chouhan)

Thursday 5 October, 6.00pm

Art at Anne Hathaway's Cottage

Saturday 14 October, 5.30pm

The Social Secrets of Fashion

Saturday 11 November, 5.30pm

Tudor Christmas

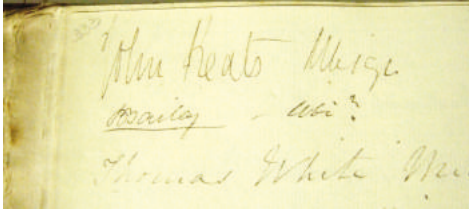
Saturday 16 December, 5.30pm

£5 SBT Friends

£8 General Admission



sions and new perspectives



'Everywhere': Shakespeare and John Keats at Eton

Tuesday 3 October 2017, Eton College, Windsor; 6.30pm to 9.00pm with actor Scott Handy, devised and co-presented by Paul Edmondson and Stanley Wells.

On 3 October 1817, the poet John Keats visited Shakespeare's Birthplace with his friend Benjamin Bailey. Next to his name in the visitors' book, under 'place of abode', Keats wrote 'Everywhere.' He was profoundly inspired by Shakespeare, and to mark the anniversary of his memorable visit, you are invited to a special evening with actor Scott Handy (as Keats) at Eton College, Windsor. A special programme of Keats's Shakespeare-related poetry and prose will be accompanied by the opportunity to see some of Eton College's special collections relating to Keats and Shakespeare.

Tickets: £15

(includes sandwiches and refreshments).
Car parking available.

Shakespeare Film Festival

21 – 23 September, Stratford Upon Avon

Shakespeare's work has not only changed the stage forever but has massively influenced film as well. On the Thursday enjoy an outdoor screening of *Omkara*, a popular Indian crime drama which is an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Othello*. And for all the family, on Friday, an outdoor screening of Disney's *The Lion King* heavily influenced by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. On the Saturday we will announce and screen the winners of our short film competition. We are delighted to be hosting two workshops during the day on Saturday looking at film making for beginners with Herbert Media (2 to 4.30pm) and animation for beginners with Yamination Studio (10.30 to 12.30). All film screenings start at 7pm in the Great Garden at New Place and all Workshops take place at the Shakespeare Centre.

Film Screenings are £8 per person (£15 Friends) Workshops £20 (£15 Friends)

DON'T MISS...

British Shakespeare Association Honorary Fellowship Event

Shakespeare Centre,
Saturday 4 November, 3.30pm to 6.00pm

A special event honouring two notable Shakespearians: Sarah Stanton (formerly Publisher: *Shakespeare and Early Modern Literary Studies* for Cambridge University Press), and the distinguished actor Adrian Lester.

**Free for members of the BSA
£15 for non-members.**

For more information or to book for any of this great programme of events, go to www.shakespeare.org.uk and click What's On or call the Development team on 01789 338496.

‘Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them’ *Twelfth Night* Act 2, Scene 5



Sally Gray, Shakespeare Week Education Officer, looks back on Shakespeare Week 2017

On Monday 20 March schools around the country rocked, setting the scene for a week of music and celebration of Shakespeare.

Over 12,500 UK primary schools registered for this year's celebrations, adding up to around 2 million children enjoying Shakespeare in an incredible variety of creative ways. Our Twitter account was flooded with images and comments from our participating schools, families, libraries and partners. We have put together a selection of highlights which really capture the breadth and diversity of the events and activities that children were involved in this March. You can take a look at this by clicking on our Storify compilation: storify.com/ShakespeareBT/shakespeare-week-2017

This year's music theme was a big success in enabling us to forge new partnerships with organisations including Birmingham Conservatoire, ABRSM, Classic FM and Musicline School Musicals. Composer Steve Titford created a song especially for Shakespeare Week, titled 'Shakespeare Rocks'. We know that many schools enjoyed learning this

song and included it as part of their 'Big Shakespeare Assembly'.

Ashburnham School in London led the way with an exuberant Big Assembly, which not only involved the whole school, but was broadcast live by Classic FM on their Facebook page. The performance had over 23,000 views and received accolades from around the world. Shakespeare Week Patrons, Marcia Williams, the children's illustrator; and actor Ben Crystal joined proud parents to watch the children sing, dance, act and share the knowledge they

“To see children so enthused about Shakespeare was excellent. A group of notoriously behaved boys staying in at playtimes to put on a show of *Macbeth* was a particular highlight.”

Melissa Fish
Victoria Primary
School, Edinburgh

had gained about Shakespeare. Ben declared the performance of *Romeo and Juliet* as one of the best versions of the play he had ever seen, which had him in tears at the end. You can see the inspiring and moving Big Assembly for yourself in full on the Classic FM Facebook page or watch the short film including messages from Ben and Marcia at www.shakespeareweek.org.uk/news/video-big-shakespeare-assembly/

Here in Stratford we welcomed over 1,400 children to our properties during the



week and many more over the weekend to enjoy the performances and activities on offer. The Warwickshire Schools Open Day on Friday 24 March brought together the RSC, Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Guildhall, Holy Trinity Church and the Orchestra of the Swan to offer workshops, music and dance, free tours and craft activities to over 500 local children.

We are continuing to celebrate the legacy of this year's Shakespeare Week with a concert that showcases the winners of our Composition Competition in association with Birmingham Conservatoire. The concert at Warwick School's brand new concert venue will feature the four winning schools as well as performances from other schools that celebrated Shakespeare Week. 200 children will take part in this celebration on 21 June.

It is wonderful to receive positive feedback from the schools and families that we work with, comments such as the following from a London teacher truly capture the ethos behind Shakespeare Week:

"All children were excited and produced imaginative and powerful writing through the week. It raised their self-esteem when performing out loud. It also allowed all children in the school to share conversations about Shakespeare and they were

more culturally aware after it. My deputy head commented that 'It's crazy and amazing how you can have 200 children in a playground talking about Shakespeare and his plays, in a school, bang in the middle of inner London (Tooting)'."
Chandni Makhecha, Sellincourt Primary School

Planning is already well underway for Shakespeare Week 2018 when our focus will be storytelling and poetry. If you have any ideas please do get in touch with learning@shakespeare.org.uk

Shakespeare Week would not be possible without the enthusiasm of people across the Trust as well as supporters and partners nationwide. Contact development@shakespeare.org.uk to find out how to support us.

Visit our Shakespeare Week website
www.shakespeareweek.org.uk/
or Twitter page [@ShakespeareBT](https://twitter.com/ShakespeareBT)



'Ere long I'll visit you again' *Measure for Measure* Act 3 Scene

Keeping up with the Shakespeares

Amy Davies, Conservation and Engagement Assistant at Anne Hathaway's Cottage, explores its long and rich history, spanning 13 generations of Hathaway descendants. The last descendant to live in the Cottage left in 1911. The Cottage was originally a farm, known as Hewlands Farm. John Hathaway, Anne's grandfather, took over the tenancy in the 1540s and farmed sheep on the surrounding 90 acres.



Portrait painting in oil of Anne Hathaway by Roger Brien Dunn BA. Painted from the 1708 pen drawing by Sir Nathaniel Curzon of Kedleston.

Anne was born in 1556, and she was the eldest daughter of seven surviving children. Being the eldest daughter in Tudor England was not easy. She would have been expected to assist in the daily management of the farm including the management of the farmyard, which once filled the land to one side of the Cottage.

Anne and William's fathers did business together and sat on the local council at the same time. They were both of a similar social class, but the Shakespeares' fortunes were now on the wane. The average age for people of their class to marry was 25, which enabled a man to learn a trade and a woman time to gather life skills. William was only 18 and Anne 26 when they married in November 1582, and Anne was three months pregnant, so we can only imagine that he must have had a way with words to sweep Anne off her feet. Following their marriage, they lived at the house we now know as Shakespeare's Birthplace.

By the late 1500s, William had amassed a large fortune from his playwriting and other business ventures. He and Anne were living in New Place, which was the largest domestic house in Stratford. The Cottage was home to Bartholomew Hathaway, Anne's brother. It is possible he felt like the poor relation as from 1610 he redressed the balance and greatly extended the Cottage. He didn't quite match the 20 rooms of New Place; rather a respectable 12 rooms (although two are large cupboards).

By the late 1700s, the later generations of Hathaways were beginning to sell off their family possessions to help make ends meet. Sadly, in 1838, the Cottage was sold and the Hathaways rented back part of their ancestral home from the landlord. In 1892 the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust stepped in to buy and conserve the Cottage for the future, something which we are enormously proud to continue today.

Preserving Shakespeare's Legacy

In Autumn 2017, we are tackling two big projects. The middle chimney of the Cottage has, over time, deteriorated. Loose mortar and some crumbling bricks have weakened its structure. The Trust has commissioned specialist builders to take down the chimney and repair it using carefully sourced building materials, in keeping with the material originally used.

The contractors are then tackling another problem we have; wet rot! When the steps to the Cottage were re-built, possibly in the 1920s, they were built too high. This has allowed rainwater to penetrate some of the lower beams, which is weakening the Cottage. The contractors are lowering the top step and replacing the affected wooden beams, which will ensure its long term conservation. We look forward to sharing updates on this special work throughout the autumn with you.

Every year, it costs hundreds of thousands of pounds to carry out essential maintenance and conservation on the Shakespeare Family Homes. Your support is essential in helping us ensure these priceless historic places are looked after so that future generations can continue to visit, learn and be inspired. To find out more about how to support our conservation work, contact **development@shakespeare.org.uk** or **01789 338496**.



A tale of two beds



Amy Davies, Conservation and Engagement Assistant at Anne Hathaway's Cottage, helps to conserve the building and its artefacts.

I joined the Cottage team in 2015 after volunteering at Hall's Croft as a Conservation Assistant. This voluntary role gave me a glimpse into the work of the Trust but I wanted to gain more experience of working in these wonderful properties. My role at the Cottage is half guiding and half conservation and I take pride in the fact I'm conserving objects that the Hathaways once owned.

We are very fortunate to have two beautiful and very historic beds linked to the Hathaway family. It is believed that the 'Hathaway Bed' (or at least parts of it) may be the second best bed that Shakespeare left Anne in his will and which would have been in New Place. The story goes that this bed was passed down to Shakespeare's granddaughter Lady Elizabeth Barnard but as she had no children it was given to the Hathaway family when she died in 1670.

The other bed is perhaps even more special. It dates from the late 1500s and is very rare as it remains unaltered from this period. It was handed down through many generations of Hathaways until Mary Baker, a direct descendant of Bartholomew (Anne's brother), sold it to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in 1892. Due to its age and family connection it is likely to be the very bed that Bartholomew slept in and a bed Anne herself may have known.

The current project I have been working on is the deep cleaning and waxing of the Hathaway Bed. Over many years, a build-up of oil from visitors' hands has disfigured the bed's beautiful carvings. I have been carefully removing this oil to reveal the natural colour of the wood before adding a protective layer of beeswax polish. Intensive work like this must be carried out delicately, to minimise the risk of damaging the treasures in our care. Please help us by looking but not touching!

On your next visit, do talk to our conservation teams about what they're doing and why conservation is such an important aspect of our work.



‘There is money; spend it, spend it; spend more;’ *Merry Wives of Windsor* Act 2, Scene 4

This summer we have a great selection of new gifts inspired by the Trust’s collections. Our library collection continues to be a rich source of botanical design. In association with Flametree Publishing we have produced a calendar for 2018 featuring illustrations from Walter Crane’s *Flowers from Shakespeare’s Garden*, printed in 1909. The calendar includes Crane’s stylised designs for blackberries, roses, daisy and corn cockle – and of course holly for December.

The exquisitely illustrated *Songs of Shakespeare*, printed in 1866, is the inspiration for the first of two new scarves designed in collaboration with local silk printers Beckford Silk. The repeat pattern on this square neckerchief is derived from the border decoration to the song ‘Take, O take those lips away’ from *Measure for Measure*.

An early seventeenth-century blackwork cap in the collections is the inspiration for our second scarf. Made of silk georgette, and hand rolled, this lightweight crepe fabric scarf is adorned with exquisite flower and strawberry motifs.

We are also delighted to announce two new plays in our exclusive Penguin Classics series, with beautifully patterned covers inspired by the gentleman’s nightcap in our collections. *Henry V* and *Hamlet* – in ‘inky cloak’ of course – are an attractive addition to any bookshelf, alongside *The Sonnets*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Tempest*. And if you think these are too nice to be turning down the page corners, how about one of our new magnetic bookmarks to mark your place? Choose from four exclusive designs illustrated by Alison Gardiner:



Don't forget you can browse and buy a whole range of exclusive gifts and books online at shop.shakespeare.org.uk

Use your Friends discount in our shops and online to receive 10% off your purchases.

Calendar	£9.99
Silk Neckerchief	£36
Silk Georgette Scarf	£65
Penguin Classics editions	£10 each, any 4 for £30
Magnetic bookmark	£3

COLLECTIONS

Saved for the nation

This year we celebrate 170 years since Shakespeare's Birthplace was purchased for the nation and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust was formed. Lucy Dale, Access and Interpretation Officer, tells us more.



Stratford on Avon. Shakespeare's House. (before restoration)

c.1847 Shakespeare's Birthplace before restoration

In 1847 the sale of William Shakespeare's Birthplace and childhood home was announced. The will of the previous owner stipulated that the house should go to public auction and so the race was on to save Shakespeare's house for the nation.

The press leapt upon the story and fears were raised regarding the fate of the property. The American showman PT Barnum, founder of Barnum and Bailey Circus, provided a focal point for concerns. Newspapers repeatedly talked of the Birthplace being purchased by some 'showman', who intended to dismantle the property brick by brick and transport it over the Atlantic. In his memoirs Barnum seemed to give credence to such ideas but the reality remains uncertain.

What is certain is that committees in both Stratford-upon-Avon and London immediately

The Campaign to Save Shakespeare's Birthplace exhibition will be held on 16 September 2017.

Visit www.shakespeare.org.uk/visit/whats-on for more information.

formed and set about mobilising the population, raising subscriptions to purchase the house for the nation as a whole. Membership of the London Committee and the Stratford-upon-Avon Committee included some of the most notable literary and public figures of the day such as Charles Dickens and Sir Robert Peel, also receiving the patronage of Prince Albert. But the London and Stratford Committees were not alone in their efforts. The People's Central Committee of the Shakspeare Memorial Fund was formed by American actor George Jones, with the intention, once again, to purchase the house for the nation. Jones became something of a figure of fun in the press and was the subject of anger from subscribers who wanted to know the fate of their donations when Jones ultimately failed in his endeavour. The answer seems particularly elusive as Jones was later arrested for debt.

Varied fundraising efforts

Many activities were devised to raise funds, including plays, performances, special newspaper editions and a campaign across the press. Two new plays were written and performed: *'This House to be Sold'* (described as a 'musical extravaganza!') and *'Shakespeare, His Life and Times'*. Corresponding activities captured something of the mood at the time. Quick's New Puzzle of Shakespeare's House, based on 'a recent drawing', was a template by which purchasers could assemble their own cardboard version of the property.

The auction was held on 16 September 1847, at the Auction Mart, London. Members of the London and Stratford committees were present, as was George Jones. The sale began and a number of bids were entered, for 1500 guineas, £2,000 and £2,100. But then a letter was handed to auctioneer Mr Edmund Robins, offering £3000

Sketch from the sale of Shakespeare's House, 1847



for the purchase of the property, on behalf of the London and Stratford Committees. According to the *Illustrated London News*, in line with the wishes of the Trustees, 'the property was then knocked down to the Stratford and London Shakspeare Committees for £3000, amidst immense cheering'.

The house was purchased for the nation but the story was far from over. In 1891, the *Shakespeare Birthplace &c. Trust Act* was passed, officially creating the SBT with an obligation to care for Shakespeare's Birthplace as a "permanent and national memorial of William Shakespeare". Today, we still carry out our expanded responsibilities – including caring for all the Shakespeare family homes and our collections – under an updated Act of Parliament. But we receive no money from the Government. As an independent charity we rely on our visitors, supporters, volunteers and Friends to continue protecting these treasures for the nation and sharing them with millions of Shakespeare lovers from all over the world.

Visit the Reading Room to find out more about local customs and stories, or visit www.shakespeare.org.uk/visit/plan-your-visit/reading-room

‘...the greatest of my pride is to see my ewes graze and my lambs suck.’

As You Like It Act 3, Scene 2



Abi Moore, Site Manager at Mary Arden's Farm, gives us an update on this year's new arrivals.

The life of a Tudor farm labourer was pretty tough. Hard work was the only road to survival. Agriculture was the primary industry and animals were an integral part of daily life, so at Mary Arden's Farm we are happy that we have had a few new arrivals this year to brighten up the tough life of a Tudor farm labourer:

The lambing season at Mary Arden's Farm officially came to an end in May and the Farm Team have certainly had a busy Spring. There have been lots of new arrivals since March, with a final count of 31 lambs in total: 20 Cotswolds, six Portlands and five Norfolk Horns.

There have also been bouncing babies elsewhere on the Farm, with four beautiful new calves born since we opened in March: one Hereford, two Longhorns and, the most recent, a Gloucester calf born on 14 May.

All of the livestock at the Farm are rare breeds and it is wonderful to be able to work towards preserving these traditional breeds. Perhaps most excitingly, in April our Arapawa goats, Davina and Patrick, became the proud parents of a very rare Arapawa goat kid. The Arapawa is one of the rarest breeds of goat in the world, thought to be descended from the two original Old English Milch goats that were left on Arapawa Island, off New Zealand, by Captain Cook in 1773. Since the 1970s, their number has been in decline and in 2014, the BBC reported that "only around 150" goats of the historic Arapawa breed were left in existence. Our cheeky little new addition is already getting up to mischief and winning the hearts of visitors and staff alike.

We are proud to be working towards an accreditation from the Rare Breed Survival

Mary Arden's Farm is open 10am - 5pm every day until 29 October. Come and visit to meet the newest members of the team and enjoy our Tudor-inspired menu in the cafe.



Trust to care for our rare breed animals and we are delighted to be welcoming such a rare and special new addition to Mary Arden's Farm.

And some more prickly visitors...

We're also delighted that the Farm is providing a safe haven for four rehabilitated hedgehogs. With the number of wild hedgehogs in decline, it's more important than ever that there are safe places for these traditional animals of the British countryside to call home. The Trust is working with three ten year-old girls from Stratford-upon-Avon, Kyra Barboutis, Eve Green and Sophie Smith, who have been on a mission to keep the hedgehogs of Warwickshire safe from harm. The girls are the founding members of Hedgehog Friendly Town, a group dedicated to helping hedgehogs in the area through fundraising and even fostering injured animals. Thanks to the efforts of the girls, rescued hedgehogs are now living securely at Mary Arden's Farm and Anne Hathaway's Cottage.



What's on

For full details of our latest events and information on how to book go to www.shakespeare.org.uk or call 01789 204016.

American Independence Day

HH

4 July. 11am – 5pm.

Free entry to the house.

As You Like It

MAF.

14 and 15 July. Doors open at 6pm.

MadCap Theatre Productions return to

Mary Arden's Farm with their new production

of *As You Like It*. Booking required

<http://www.madcaptheatreproductions.co.uk>

The Wind in the Willows

AHC.

13 August. 2pm – 5pm.

An Immersion Theatre company outdoor production in the Yew Circle. Pack your picnics and join Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad as they embark on the adventure of a lifetime, culminating in a battle to save Toad Hall.

Booking required <http://www.immersiontheatre.co.uk/the-wind-in-the-willows/>

Merry Wives of Windsor

HC.

20 August. 7pm – 10pm.

Acting in the garden by the Festival players.

Key

SB: Shakespeare's Birthplace

HC: Hall's Croft

HH: Harvard House

MAF: Mary Arden's Farm

AHC: Anne Hathaway's Cottage

NP: New Place

SC: Shakespeare Centre

Shakes-paws Day!

AHC.

26 August. 11am – 4pm.

Celebrate National Dog Day at Anne Hathaway's Cottage. Activities

including competitions for Best Waggy Tail, Best Junior Handler, dog treats, family crafts and games.



Michaelmas Fair

MAF.

23 to 24 September.

Celebrate the end of

harvest at our Michaelmas

Fair. Try your hand at

traditional rural crafts and pig racing. Bring your surplus apples along and use our apple press to make your own juice - remember to bring a container for your juice!



Flowerpots and Forget-Me-Nots garden demonstrations

NP.

27 September. 2pm – 2.30pm

Hear all about Shakespeare's garden at New

Place from our expert gardeners. They'll also be

revealing how they care for the impressive borders and manicured lawns.

For a large text version of this newsletter please contact the Development team on 01789 204016 or email development@shakespeare.org.uk

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