The Birthplace and the Revolution

'A passionate and compelling call to remember Shakespeare's radical credentials.' -- Erica Whyman, Deputy Artistic Director, Royal Shakespeare Company.

In his new book, Shakespeare for Freedom: Why the Plays Matter, Ewan Fernie shows how central Shakespeare is to the development of modern freedom, both as a cherished personal condition and as a fundamental moral principle.

In this exclusive event at the Trust, he will reveal the part which the Birthplace played in this story. Shortly after it was acquired by the Trust, an exquisite model of the Birthplace was presented to the most celebrated and notorious rebel in Europe: the Hungarian revolutionary, Louis Kossuth. It was the gift, by penny subscription, of ordinary English men and women, and Kossuth told them, to rapturous applause, that he had learnt not just his English but his politics from Shakespeare.

Ewan Fernie will be in conversation with the celebrated Shakespeare scholar Kiernan Ryan (author of Shakespeare’s Comedies and Shakespeare’s Universality: Here’s Fine Revolution).

This is the Stratford launch of Shakespeare for Freedom. The book will be available for purchase and signing.