



Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust



*PATRONS: Richard Briers CBE. Sir Geoffrey Cass . Michael Frayn. Bamber Gascoigne
Sir Peter Hall CBE . Robert Pennant Jones . Roger Pringle . Sir Donald Sinden CBE . Claire Tomalin.*

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May Day Celebrations at Garrick's Temple

The old English Festival of May Day will be celebrated again at Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare and will replicate in full costume how Garrick and his wife Eva Maria used to sit on the Temple steps and greet local children and offer them cake and a shilling.

Children and their families are invited to the Temple on Sunday afternoon at 2.00pm to join in the celebration. Children will have the opportunity to have a go at mask making, paper sculpture, writing with a quill pen, and decorating a party invitation. From 4.00pm children will be invited to meet 'David Garrick and Eva Maria' to receive their cake and chocolate coin.

Scott McLean, senior representative of Garrick's Trust said, "May Day is a wonderful opportunity to replicate how Garrick and his wife used to celebrate the day by giving the village children a little treat. I invite local families to attend this fun event, and to see this historic Grade 1 building with its interesting exhibition of Garrick's life and work. The exhibition includes a full size copy of Roubiliac's statue of Shakespeare, over 60 pictures, and full size reproductions of great paintings of Garrick's life and work." more/....

Since the Temple was restored in 1998 children have been especially welcome and there have been many events to help further their knowledge of acting and local history. This has included special days for young children to dress in theatrical costumes, and educational events for older children to assist their understanding of music, drama, art and architecture.

-ENDS-

Notes for Editors

1. The renowned actor-manager, David Garrick 1717-1779, built the temple in 1756 to celebrate the literary skill of William Shakespeare, and commissioned the sculptor Roubiliac to provide a life-size statue of his hero to be placed inside. In 1999 restoration of the temple was completed and the statue reinstated in replica. The original statue is on display at the British Library.
2. The temple houses a display which celebrates David Garrick's acting career and his life in Hampton.
3. The temple is opposite Garrick's Villa on the Hampton Court Road, Hampton (near the junction with Thames Street and Church Street). The temple and its gardens, owned by the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames, are managed with the assistance of a team of local volunteers.
4. Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust is registered charity No. 1107200.
5. The temple is open to the public on Sundays between April and October 2.00pm - 5.00pm, and the garden is open daily throughout the year from 7.30am - dusk.
6. Trustees are: John Andrews OBE (USA), Clive Bradley CBE, Clive Francis, Colin Hunter, Richard Parry, Martin Harvey, Iain Mackintosh, Pat Parsons, Ronald Smedley, William Weisblatt.

7. For more information on the temple visit the web-site:
www.garrickstemple.org.uk

For further media information please contact: Scott McLean tel:
020 8977 8272