



## *Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust*

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*PATRONS: Richard Briers CBE. Sir Geoffrey Cass. Michael Frayn. Bamber Gascoigne  
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### **Media Release**

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### **OPEN HOUSE FOR LOCALS AND LONDONERS AT GARRICK'S TEMPLE TO SHAKESPEARE**

London's largest architectural festival will again feature Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare from 19-20 September and visitors are welcome between 10.00am and 5.00pm.

For one weekend every year over 700 buildings of architectural significance in the Capital open their doors free of charge to the public and, apart from Hampton Court Palace (Tennis Court Lane), Garrick's Temple is the only Hampton building in the Open House London catalogue.

The charming octagonal Temple in its riverside setting, which was built by David Garrick in 1756 to honour the literary genius of William Shakespeare, houses a display which celebrates Garrick's acting career and his life in Hampton. Included in the display are copies of Garrick's portrait by Gainsborough, Zoffany and Reynolds.

Scott McLean, Trustee Coordinator, said, "Once again it's such a privilege to invite the public to visit Garrick's charming Temple and garden during Open House London. Garrick is a theatrical legend who played such a significant part in modernising acting and the theatre that he still inspires many actors today."

The Temple also houses a copy of Roubiliac's statue of Shakespeare that was commissioned by Garrick shortly after the Temple was completed in 1756.

-ENDS-

## Notes for Editors

1. For details about Open House London visit [www.openhouse.org.uk](http://www.openhouse.org.uk)
2. 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.
3. The Temple houses a display which celebrates David Garrick's acting career and his life in Hampton.
4. 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.
5. Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare is registered charity No. 1107200.
6. Apart from Open House London, 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.
7. Trustees are: John Andrews OBE (USA), Clive Bradley CBE, Clive Francis, Colin Hunter, Martin Harvey, Iain Mackintosh, Pat Parsons, Ronald Smedley, William Weisblatt.
8. For more information on the temple visit the web-site: [www.garrickstemple.org.uk](http://www.garrickstemple.org.uk)

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