



Incorporated by Royal Charter 2005

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

MASTER'S WEEKEND, 10-12 APRIL 2026, PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

A weekend in the heart of Shakespeare Country, Stratford-upon-Avon!

The weekend begins on **Friday evening** with welcoming cocktails, and a three-course dinner at the elegant and stylish **Arden Hotel**, situated directly opposite the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

After a leisurely breakfast, we meet on **Saturday morning** for a private, exclusive guided tour of the Guildhall and Schoolroom, where the bard himself 'crept like snail unwillingly to school'. The tour includes the Priests' Chapel, a viewing of the very recently discovered medieval wall paintings, and an invigorating lesson with Master Jenkins, the (Welsh) Tudor schoolmaster of Shakespeare's day.

This will be followed by a short, guided tour of the adjacent Guild Chapel by the chair of the Friends of the Chapel.

We then disperse for a snack lunch in one of the town's many cafes, tea-rooms and pubs, before re-assembling at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. We will see a **matinee performance** of *Henry V*, in the comfort of some of the best seats in the house. No-one does Shakespeare like the RSC, and *Henry V* is one of the most stirring, accessible and appealing plays in the canon, providing so many well-known quotations, as well as memorable treatment in film, notably the classic 1944 version starring Laurence Olivier. War, leadership, nationalism, power – themes for our own times – and tennis balls!

For those not wishing to attend the theatre performance, Stratford has a variety of alternative attractions, including the Shakespeare properties, Holy Trinity Church, waterside walks, a good range of shops, and Stratford Butterfly Farm.

After a chance to lie down after the battle of Agincourt, we re-group on **Saturday evening** for a cruise and three-course dinner on the **Countess of Evesham**, Stratford's only floating restaurant. A 70-foot river cruiser, the boat takes us through three locks and along the iconic River Avon, past Holy Trinity Church, where Shakespeare is buried.

On **Sunday morning**, for those able to remain in town, we will enjoy an entertaining guided walk around the town centre, to learn something of the development of Stratford over the centuries, before our departure.

ACCOMMODATION

There are many hotels in Stratford, with a range of prices. At the top end of the range there are Alveston Manor, Hotel Indigo and the White Swan. Slightly less expensive is the Crowne Plaza, and there are many more budget-friendly alternatives of guest houses and Airbnb properties. Attendees are requested to make their own arrangements. However, we have made a special arrangement with the excellent **Arden Hotel** for a discounted price of £179 per night per room, inclusive of breakfast, based on double occupancy; and £139 per night based on single occupancy. **Those wishing to take up this offer, should contact the Arden Hotel directly, and claim the discounted rate.**

Whichever accommodation option is chosen, EARLY BOOKING is recommended.

COSTS

The indicative cost of the weekend, to include drinks, dinners and the activities listed above, **except the theatre tickets**, will be £200 per person. A deposit of £50 per person will be payable by 30 November, with the balance due on the finalized amount by 1 March 2026.

However, because of high demand for RSC tickets, we have them on hold now, only for a limited period. The tickets are £72.50 each, as they are very good seats.

Early expressions of interest would be very helpful. Please email Master's Consort Stephen Roberts skennethroberts@yahoo.co.uk

To book tickets for *Henry V*, please contact Stephen skennethroberts@yahoo.co.uk by **7 November** to make payment for the tickets.

It promises to be a great weekend: do come along.

'Water Conservators now a-bed shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here!'