

## The Shakespeare Club of Stratford-upon-Avon

The 945<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Club was posted on 12 April 2022. It was an address by Tim Cooke, CEO of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. His talk was entitled “The Revolution of the Times”.

The effect of the pandemic has been profound on SBT. The challenge has been how to respond. A phased recovery model is in place and three houses are now open while educational and research services have partially resumed. The enforced closure has had some positive outcomes, allowing conservation work to be done at the Birthplace, and the improvement of Henley Street.

Museums help us think about the present and the future as well as the past. The SBT’s collections, including the Shakespeare houses, are of national and international significance. These real or virtual meeting places offer ways of looking at life through the prism of Shakespeare’s work. In recent years SBT has made progress in online engagement, and its Shakespeare Week reaches 2 million children each year.

It is Tim Cooke’s ambition to provide the best Shakespeare experience in the world. The Gateway site on the Birmingham Road would be a significant development allowing SBT to engage with future visitors in new ways.

2023 sees the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Anne Shakespeare’s death and the publication of the First Folio. Despite changes, opportunities exist to ensure that Shakespeare’s works are appreciated well into the future.

The lecture was viewed 144 times online.