

# The Life of William Shakespeare

## **Some important dates:**

- Shakespeare was born in 1564 and baptised on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, though his actual birthday is unknown, it is usually stated the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April
- He married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18 on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1582
- His first daughter Susanna was born in 1583, she was baptised on the 26<sup>th</sup> May
- His second daughter and his son Hamnet were born in 1585
- There is no record of the years between 1585 and 1592 (Shakespeares lost years)
- It is unknown when Shakespeare started writing, but he was already famous in 1592
- From 1594 his plays were only played by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, a playing company including Shakespeare
- Hamnet died of unknown causes in 1596
- Shakespeare and his playing company built the Globe theatre in 1599
- After 1613 he stopped writing plays
- He died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April in 1616

## **His family and education:**

- Shakespeare was born as the third child of eight, he lived in a house in Stratford-upon-Avon
- His father was the farmer and later alderman John Shakespeare, his mother was Mary Shakespeare (born Mary Arden), he was their eldest son

-Though the records of his education are not that accurate, he probably visited the Kings New Shool in Stratford, where he was intensively educated in Latin

### **Some information about his life:**

-William Shakespeare worked as a government informant, spying on political opponents of Queen Elizabeth I.

The historical records concerning William Shakespeare's life reveal many strange paradoxes.

-While the records from the theatrical world in London show that he worked as an actor and playwright, the contemporary documentation from Stratford-upon-Avon reveals no theatrical or literary interests of any kind.

-No record exists of Shakespeare receiving an education, buying a single book or writing poems or plays.

-Over the years this enigma has led to speculation that Shakespeare was not the author of the plays attributed to him.

-Various candidates have been proposed as the "real" author, such as the English statesman Francis Bacon and the earls of Oxford and Derby, whom it has been speculated used Shakespeare as a frontman as they wished for various reasons to remain anonymous.

The only problem with this theory is that it makes no sense. Why pick a frontman who seems to have had no literary connections - at least none that he advertised in Stratford-upon-Avon?