

Shakespeare's Birthday

William Shakespeare (1564—1616) was one of the greatest playwrights, actors and poets.

The **Painted Room** is all that remains of the Crown Tavern which was owned by John Davenant who was a friend of Shakespeare. Shakespeare is said to have stayed there on several occasions and was the godfather to Davenant's son William.



In the 1930s, OPT began a Shakespeare Birthday pageant so that on **23 April** each year, University and Town dignitaries would meet at the Lord Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall and parade to the Painted Room where they would raise a toast to the 'immortal bard'. This 'tradition' ceased in the 1960s and was revived in 2013 by OPT.

Shakespeare also wrote many plays including Macbeth. In this play a group of witches make a spell around a cauldron.

Here is an extract from Act VI Scene I:

**Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.**

Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Let a hell-broth boil and bubble.

**Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.**



Have a go at writing your own cauldron spell:

1. Use Shakespeare's format to support your writing, keeping the first two and last two lines the same.
2. Think about a selection of animals and what parts of each you might use.
3. Try to follow the rhythm of this poem.

Extra challenge: Look at which lines rhyme and try to incorporate this into your cauldron spell.

Illustrate your cauldron spell too.

What is your spell going to do?