

## The Shakespeare Club of Stratford-upon-Avon

**The 886<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Shakespeare Club took place at Mason Croft on Tuesday 8 April 2014.** Club members were entertained by Jen Stone, Rich Bunn and Martin Thomms of Shakespeare Aloud!, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's troupe of professional actors. The actors provide colourful performances every day of the year in Shakespeare's Birthplace and gardens, making Shakespeare's plays accessible to everyone who visits. Shakespeare Aloud! has become an integral part of educational visits to the Shakespeare Centre and visits schools and events across the country to bring Shakespeare's work to an even wider audience.

Starting with the 'Muse of fire' speech from *Henry V* the three actors performed excerpts from fifteen of Shakespeare's plays as well as the Sonnets with impressive energy and versatility which delighted and entertained Club members, especially those who found themselves serving as the 'rude mechanicals' in Pyramus and Thisbe scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was a fittingly festive end to the 2013/14 season.