

# Programme Information Highlights

April 2016



## Happening this month...

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April

40 years since Apple was founded

Apple Computer was established on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1976 in Cupertino, California by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne. The three men worked together at Atari. Wayne sold his 10% share of the company for US\$800 – a holding that today would be worth US\$35bn.

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Dutch referendum

The Netherlands are holding a referendum on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement after 450,000 people signed a petition. It is widely being seen as a test of public support for the European Union.

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Grand National, Aintree Racecourse, Aintree, Liverpool

Over 600 million people worldwide will tune in to watch 40 horses and jockeys line up to race across Aintree's famous fences including Becher's Brook, Canal Turn, Valentine's and The Chair. An estimated £500 million will be wagered in Britain on the race.

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Syrian Parliamentary Election

The Syrian People's Council's 250 members are elected every four years in 15 multi-seat constituencies. The parliamentary majority is currently held by the government coalition, with opposition Popular Front for Change and Liberation and independent MPs jointly having 82 seats.

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Oscar Pistorius is due to be sentenced for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. He faces a minimum of 15 years in prison.



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM - MARCH 3: Queen Elizabeth II smiles during a Queen's Trust visit to the Lister Community School in Plaistow on March 3, 2016 in London, England. (Photo by Toby Melville - WPA Pool/Getty Images)

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April

The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

The UK's Queen Elizabeth II will celebrate her birthday in Windsor with a royal walkabout. A beacon will be lit at Windsor Castle – the first of 564 beacons that officially mark the beginning of the birthday celebrations.

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## Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April

The Olympic flame will be lit in the Greek city of Olympia, the home of the ancient Olympic Games. From there, it will be carried on a relay in Greece until 27<sup>th</sup> April when it will be handed over to Brazil at a ceremony.

## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Jews around the world celebrate the Feast of Passover (Pesach) to commemorate the liberation of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses. It is one of the most important religious festivals in the Jewish calendar.

## Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare  
Various events will be taking place across England to mark 400 years since the death of the English playwright. In London, The Globe theatre will be showing a production of Hamlet.

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April

London Marathon  
Every year, approximately 36,000 people run the 26.2-mile marathon through the streets of London. It was created by former Olympic champion Chris Brasher, who was inspired by the New York Marathon. The inaugural London Marathon took place on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1981. Since then, participants have raised £716 million for charity. The race holds a Guinness World Record for one-day charity fundraising.

## Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

30 years since Chernobyl Disaster  
In the early hours of 26<sup>th</sup> April 1986, one of four nuclear reactors at the Chernobyl power station in Ukraine exploded. The disaster released at least 100 times more radiation than the atom bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Traces of radioactive deposits were found in nearly every country in the northern hemisphere. It was the world's worst nuclear accident and contamination remains a problem today.



A painting of William Shakespeare which is believed to be the only authentic image of Shakespeare made during his life is unveiled by The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust on March 9, 2009 in London, England. The recently discovered painting, which is believed to date from around 1610, depicts Shakespeare in his mid-forties. (Photo by Oli Scarff/Getty Images)