Programme Information Highlights
April 2016

Happening this month...

**Friday 1st April**
40 years since Apple was founded
Apple Computer was established on April 1st 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 6th 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 9th 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 13th 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 18th 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.

**Thursday 21st April**
The Queen’s 90th 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.

All the information included in this document is correct at the time of publication (3rd March 2016) but is subject to amendment.
Thursday 21st 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 27th April when it will be handed over to Brazil at a ceremony.

Friday 22nd 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 23rd April
400th 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 24th 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 29th March 1981. Since then, participants have raised £716 million for charity. The race holds a Guinness World Record for one-day charity fundraising.

Tuesday 26th April
30 years since Chernobyl Disaster
In the early hours of 26th 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)