

2020 EVENTS PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

1620—2020
Mayflower
400™

Mayflower 400 will be a programme of events on a transformational scale; a platform for an international commemoration of the remarkable relationship between our nations linking our people and communities through shared heritage, culture, arts, sports education, science, business, law, politics and international relations and the shared defence of our values.

Steering our future,
inspired by the past.

NOVEMBER 2019

Illuminate

The international Mayflower 400 opening event – a series of cultural events commemorating the first Thanksgiving that took place between the Mayflower Pilgrims and the native American people in 1621. Mayflower destinations across the UK, Netherlands and the USA will participate in Illuminate.

'Just as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many.' Governor William Bradford, 'Of Plimoth Plantation'.

Mayflower400UK.org



NOVEMBER 2019

Rotherhithe

Rotherhithe Talks

Launch of the year long programme of Mayflower themed talks in Rotherhithe, London.

Touring Exhibition & Education Project

Launch of the Rotherhithe Mayflower touring exhibition and education project.

'Charting the Mayflower'

'Charting the Mayflower' by London Bubble Theatre Company. Exploring the ship and crew, culminating in a public performance involving staking out and packing the ship, performing the shanties and occupying the ship with passengers, plants, seeds and animals.

Dartmouth

Mayflower Opening Event

A spectacular light festival with a special peal of bells ringing at St. Saviour's Church.

Worcester

Thanksgiving at The Commandery 23 – 24 Nov

Follow in the footsteps of future US Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams to "the ground where Liberty was fought for" and celebrate the city's significant American connection and history of Thanksgiving in Worcester's Commandery; a beautiful building with an 800-year history.

Worcester Victorian Christmas Fair 28 Nov – 1 Dec

Hundreds of stalls fill the atmospheric streets of Worcester's historic heart with the colours, sounds and smells of a traditional Victorian Christmas.

DECEMBER 2019

Rotherhithe

Rotherhithe Scandi Market

Scandinavian Christmas Market taking place on Albion Street in Rotherhithe between the Finnish and Norwegian Churches.

Dartmouth

Mayflower Exhibition

The Mayflower exhibition will open in the Dartmouth museum; showcasing Dartmouth's role in the Mayflower story.

Harwich

Harwich Commemoration

The ship's Captain Christopher Jones was twice wed in Harwich, Essex. A commemoration of his first wedding will take place...

JANUARY 2020

Rotherhithe, London

New Years Day Parade, London

The annual new year's day parade in London; passing through the Borough of Southwark.

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition launches.

FEBRUARY 2020

Plymouth

Mayflower Anthology

Launch of the Mayflower Anthology education project. Creative writing and literature celebrated through a range of art forms with Mayflower themes.

Gainsborough

Artwork unveiling

A new piece of public art reflecting Gainsborough's connections to the Mayflower story will be unveiled in the town; where the Separatists worshipped in secret.

Harwich

Mayflower Seminar

Hear from leading academics about the role Harwich played in the Mayflower story.

Worcester

Living History Weekend

A multi-period living history weekend at the Commandery, Tudor House and Greyfriars in Worcester. One great show, three great historic venues. Bringing 2000 years of history to life with over 200 re-enactors.

MARCH 2020

Plymouth

Mayflower Anthology

The three-month long Anthology project continues.

British Science Week

Schools across Plymouth will be engaging in STEM activity with a Mayflower theme.

Rotherhithe

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition continues.

Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire

Christian Heritage Conference

Acclaimed speakers and professionals will present at the annual Bassetlaw Christian Heritage Conference in Retford, Nottinghamshire.

Religious Tolerance Forum

Mayflower themed religious tolerance event in Retford, Nottinghamshire. Run by Bassetlaw Christian Heritage.

Lincolnshire; Gainsborough, and Boston

Discover Lincolnshire Weekend

Mayflower sites and other historic attractions open their doors for free to visitors during the Discover Lincolnshire weekend. Including Gainsborough Old Hall, Boston Guildhall and Immingham Museum.

APRIL 2020

Plymouth

Opening of the Box

The opening of Plymouth's brand new £38m+ cultural and history space, the Box. This will include a permanent Mayflower exhibition, and a further series of work exploring the relationship between the US and UK.

Launch of the Theatre Royal's Mayflower Production

Plymouths Theatre Royal will launch a dedicated Mayflower production, telling the story of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag.

OSTAR

24 – 25 April

The Original Single-Handed Transatlantic Race will celebrate its 60 birthday in 2020, with competitors sailing solo from Plymouth to the US.

Rotherhithe

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition continues.

Rotherhithe Walks

Explore Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark on foot.

Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire

Roots Lecture Series

A series of lectures focused on the Pilgrim Roots region will take place from April to November.

Doncaster

Heritage Festival

A programme of events, talks and workshops across the metropolitan borough of Doncaster celebrating the regions rich heritage.

Lincoln

Mayflower Conference

The University of Lincoln will host the Mayflower Conference. (tbc)

Worcester

Mayflower 400 Pilgrim Conference 24 – 25 April

Hear the fascinating story of Pilgrim Father Edward Winslow and his connection to Worcester Cathedral. The two day conference held at the Cathedral will explore life and religion in the early 17th century both in England and in the New World.

MAY 2020

Plymouth

Mayflower History Festival

A city wide programme of activity, including talks, tours, reenactments and exhibitions run by local people and organisations. This will incorporate Mayflower related activities, and celebrate Plymouth's wider history.

Pirate Weekend

Plymouth's award winning pirate weekend, including a full sized pirate ship and loads of family activities.

Mayflower Cup

Leander Swimming Club's national elite swimming event, hosted at Plymouth Life Centre. Over 900 competitors from around 80 swimming clubs are expected.

Mayflower Youth Festival

A dedicated festival for young people, by young people. Incorporating music, dance and a range of other activities, organised in conjunction with partners from across the city.

Dartmouth

Dart Music Festival 8 – 10 May

Over 100 performances spanning almost every musical genre are performed in venues across the town.

Southampton

Mayflower Festival

Rotherhithe

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition continues.

Rotherhithe Walks

Explore Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark on foot.

Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire

Pilgrim Roots Festival Taking place across the Pilgrim Roots region, including North East Lincolnshire (Immingham), Scrooby, Babworth, Austerfield, Gainsborough and Boston.

Roots Lecture Series

The series of lectures focused on the Pilgrim Roots region continues.

Brewster Exhibition

See an exhibition dedicated to William Brewster in Retford.

Retford Charter Day

Gainsborough & Lincolnshire

Churches Festival

Churches across Gainsborough and the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire open their doors for the churches festival, including special events and talks.

Doncaster

Mayflower Festival

Doncasters Mayflower festival commemorates the regions connections to the Pilgrims.

JUNE 2020

Plymouth

Armed Forces Day

A celebration of Plymouth's military heritage and the ongoing commitment of Armed Forces personnel based in the city, with parades, demonstrations and other activity on Plymouth's historic Hoe.

NSSA Mayflower Regatta

A national sailing regatta, bringing young people from across the country to Plymouth for a series of events and activities that will fill the water with boats.

Mayflower Marine Tech Expo

Highlighting Plymouth's world-class marine tech businesses and research institutions, the expo draws in over 100.

Flavour Fest

The South West's largest food and drink festival.

Stamp Fair

The Plymouth Philatelic Society hosts the Mayflower stamp fair.

Dartmouth

Arts & Crafts trail. Running June – September.

This artistic, creative town hosts a Mayflower themed arts and crafts trail.

Rotherhithe

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition continues.

Rotherhithe Walks

Explore Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark on foot.

Bermondsey Carnival

Family friendly Carnival with a Mayflower theme brought to you by Southwark Council in partnership with Bermondsey Beat.

Rotherhithe Festival

Community based festival run by a committee of local volunteers.

Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire

Embroidery Project

A Mayflower themed embroidery project with the North Nottinghamshire Embroidery Guild.

Bassetlaw Open Churches Weekend

Visit the churches in Bassetlaw, including those where Brewster, Bradford, Clifton and other Pilgrims preached and worshipped.

Roots Lecture Series

The series of lectures focused on the Pilgrim Roots region continues.

Short Story Competition

Bassetlaw District Councils annual story writing competition – write your own story inspired by the journey of the Mayflower Pilgrims.

Harwich

Mayflower Festival

Harwich, the port town in Essex where the Mayflower was built and her Captain Christopher Jones was twice wed commemorates the Mayflower story.

Worcester

Worcestershire LitFest & Fringe

The Worcestershire LitFest & Fringe has something for everyone. A mixture of poetry and spoken word, with a programme filled with workshops, readings and much more across multiple venues.

JULY 2020

Plymouth

The Atlantic Project

The Atlantic Project is a major international festival of contemporary art, bringing world-class artists to Plymouth. In 2020 the programme will investigate the contemporary relationship between the UK and US, using this as an opportunity to reassess Western principles such as freedom of speech, religious freedom, civil rights and the right to privacy, as well as tackling themes of colonisation, globalisation and democracy.

Mayflower Music Event

A major multi-day music festival with a US twist, bringing world-class acts to Plymouth. Hosted on Plymouth Hoe, overlooking the city's historic Sound; from where the Mayflower sailed to America.

Dartmouth

Shakespeare Week

The Inn Theatre Company's new production of the Tempest is performed in the stunning setting of Dartmouth Castle, overlooking Bayards Cove.

Dartmouth Crabfest

Enjoy some of England's South Coasts finest food – South Devon Crab.

Film Festival

The Mayflower Film Festival takes place in Dartmouth.

Rotherhithe

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition continues.

Rotherhithe Walks

Explore Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark on foot.

Southwark Splash!

Join over 500 Southwark children for Splash 2020 This is a specially-commissioned piece from composers Ross Power and Laura Howe.

Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire

Roots Lecture Series

The series of lectures focused on the Pilgrim Roots region continues.

Worcester

Three Choirs Festival

A week long programme of the world's oldest music festival celebrates over 300 years of musical history with a week-long programme of concerts from 25 July to 1 August 2020, based around beautiful Worcester Cathedral.

JUBILEE SAILING TRUST

The proposed locations for the Jubilee Trust to visit include Harwich, Dartmouth, Southampton, Rotherhithe and Plymouth.

The Jubilee Sailing Trust has the only two fully accessible tall ships in the world. For nearly 40 years the JST has used the challenge and adventure of tall ship sailing to facilitate the building of stronger, more connected, resilient and inclusive communities, allowing people of all abilities to sail.

In 2020, in honour of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's journey, the JST will undertake a voyage from Plymouth, England to Plymouth, Mass, empowering a socially inclusive crew as they sail along the Mayflower's original route, giving them the chance to experience a life changing adventure.

The Trust's visit to Plymouth will be accompanied by a range of activities celebrating diversity and promoting social inclusion.

AUGUST 2020

Plymouth

The Atlantic Project

Continuation of the Atlantic Project.

British Firework Championships

Building on Plymouth's existing national fireworks championship, in 2020 the event will be bigger and better.

Mayflower Classic Car Show

A family friendly car show, with a US twist.

Dartmouth

Dittisham Regatta 1 August

A fun filled family event with sailing and rowing events, children's activities and the Regatta Crabbing competition.

Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta. 27 – 29 August

A three-day programme of sailing events, air displays, live music, street food and fireworks.

Grand Dart River Pageant

30 August – 5 September

A major river based event signifying the end of Dartmouth Royal Regatta 2020 and the start of Dartmouth's week of Mayflower commemorations. On the River Dart, tall ships and visiting local vessels will take part with flags and fancy dress – culminating in a sail-past of the South Embankment.

Visiting Warships and Tall Ships

30 August – 5 September

Royal Navy and US Navy warships, 'Tall Ships' and Matthew, Mayflower and replica training craft visit Dartmouth – until 5th September.

Mayflower River Dart events

31 August – 5 September

Clubs and groups take part in water based events including the Royal Dart Yacht Club, New York.

Southampton

Mayflower Cup

Two football teams go head to head in the Mayflower Cup.

Maritime Festival

Britain's cruise city celebrates its maritime heritage, past present and future.

Rotherhithe

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition continues.

Rotherhithe Walks

Explore Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark on foot.

Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire

Roots Lecture Series

The series of lectures focused on the Pilgrim Roots region continues.

SEPTEMBER 2020

National – The annual 'Heritage Open Days' provide unique opportunities to explore some of England's often hidden heritage sites.

Explore historic sites; enjoy tours and talks and a programme of events.

Plymouth

Mayflower Muster

A nine day festival, incorporating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's departure from Plymouth on the 16th of September.

The Muster will involve music, fireworks and a huge range of other activity, with support from the city's Armed Forces.

Mayflower Arts Weekender

Over 100 arts events will be hosted across the city, involving local, national and international artists.

Events range from outdoor cinema screenings through to major visual arts commissions and learning opportunities.

Seafood Festival

The Seafood Festival will bring Plymouth's historic Barbican and Sutton Harbour alive with entertainment, activities and dishes to celebrate the city's fantastic caught seafood.

Ocean City Festival

A spectacular festival, celebrating Plymouth's relationship with the sea.

The Box – Oceania

A new, interactive Captain Cook exhibition opening at The Box.

Volunteer Celebration

Mayflower 400 volunteers from Plymouth come together to celebrate their contribution to the commemoration year.

Dartmouth

BRNC Mayflower Son et Lumiere

5 September

Experience a grand Son et Lumiere event in the spectacular setting of the Britannia Royal Naval College overlooking the River Dart.

Mayflower Play

A new, original Mayflower play is being created by Theatre Hub. To be performed in Dartmouth and then will tour other destinations.

Rotherhithe

Totally Thames

An annual celebration of the River Thames with a creative and diverse programme that inspires, connects and enthalls throughout the month of September. Curated and managed by the Thames Festival Trust.

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition continues.

Rotherhithe Walks

Explore Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark on foot.

Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire

Roots Lecture Series

The series of lectures focused on the Pilgrim Roots region continues.

Scrooby Show

The annual Scrooby village fete, a traditional English village event – with plenty of tea and cake.

Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire

Salt Festival

Pilgrim Edward Winslow's Father was a salt merchant. Winslow was born and schooled in Droitwich Spa; also famous for its unique salt heritage.

Worcester

The Battle of Worcester Commemorative Drumhead Ceremony

3 September
The Drumhead Service of Remembrance commemorates those that fought and died for their beliefs during the English Civil Wars. Join the parade from Worcester Guildhall to Fort Royal Hill for the service, culminating at the Commandery Great Hall. NB. Muskets will be fired.

OCTOBER 2020

Rotherhithe

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition continues.

Rotherhithe Walks

Explore Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark on foot.

Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire

Roots Lecture Series

The series of lectures focused on the Pilgrim Roots region continues.

Dartmouth

Food Festival

23 – 25 October

A mouthwatering mix of regional English food and drink with a Mayflower theme, chef demonstrations and food stalls.

NOVEMBER 2020

Rotherhithe

Mayflower Touring Exhibition

The London Mayflower touring exhibition continues.

Rotherhithe Walks

Explore Rotherhithe in the London Borough of Southwark on foot.

Lord Mayors Show

The Lord Mayor of London show and fireworks provide a fitting finale to the Rotherhithe commemoration programme.

Charting the Mayflower

Charting the Mayflower Bubble Theatre. The third phase of Charting the Mayflower involves community participants in exploring the voyage and the financial dealings.

Mayflower Signature Event

Large scale performance on the River Thames.

Café Gallery Projects CGP

Large scale visual arts project and gallery exhibition.

Worcester

Thanksgiving at The Commandery

21 – 22 Nov

Follow in the footsteps of future US Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams to "the ground where Liberty was fought for" and celebrate the city's significant connection and history of Thanksgiving in Worcester's Commandery; a beautiful building with an 800-year history.

ILLUMINATE 2020 CLOSING CEREMONY

The international Mayflower 400 closing ceremony event; a series of cultural events commemorating the first Thanksgiving that took place between the Mayflower Pilgrims and the native American people in 1621. 'Just as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many.' Governor William Bradford, 'Of Plimoth Plantation'.

The cultural events programme will develop significantly in advance of 2020. Across the nations, programmes and plans are in development. The final programme will be a cultural commemoration on a significant scale.

For further information about the Mayflower 400 commemoration year and the events programme, visit Mayflower400UK.org

All information correct at time publishing. Please check with each destination / organisation before making travel plans.