



PILGRIM TRAILS

November 2020

Welcome to our newsletter - Pilgrim Trails

This is our eighth publication charting the progress of the 'Pilgrim Roots' Project.

MEETING the CHALLENGES of 2020

At the beginning of **2020** we had anticipated welcoming more than 40 groups arriving over the summer from US and other destinations. Sadly by April, these had **all cancelled**, although some have expressed a wish to **rebook** when it is safe to do so.

Whilst many of the **commemorative events** planned in the **Pilgrim Roots** region have also had to be postponed or cancelled, North Notts rose to the challenge by working in a **'Digitally and Distanced'** way. We created an eight day Literary Festival which ran alongside Retford's Heritage Open Day, which, under the theme of 'Journeys' also ran for a week. With more than 50 hours of film content put on line and additional **live workshops** and **talks**, this meant that we reached over 270,000 people from over **40 different countries**.

We commissioned a **Mayflower poem** to be written and performed by local poet **Paul Cookson**. **'Heave Ho and Away We Go!'** which can be viewed by visiting Bassetlaw Museum and Pilgrims Gallery YouTube Channel.

Over 2,500 people took part in our truly unique **'First Chapters Trail'** using ArtCodes technology and fabulous authors including New York Times best sellers and wonderful local authors reading their first chapters.

People from all over the world attended our workshops with Author and Historian **Emily Brand** drawing audiences from **Toronto** and **Paris** and right back to **Workshop!** We left 50 copies of **Charlie Mackesy's** wonderful book *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* for people to find as part of our 'Bassetlaw Bookdrop' to **spread a little kindness and care**.

We interviewed **New York Times** Best Selling author Dion Leonard and his dog Gobi live from America where he talked about their incredible journey together. They also donated ten books which we dropped as part of the **Bassetlaw Bookdrop** for people to find too.

The wonderful **award winning** author **Onjali Raúf** joined us for an interview about her Waterstones Children's Book of the Year **'The Boy at the Back of the Class'**. **Onjali** donated half of her fee back into the festival which allowed us to donate a copy of her book to every school in Bassetlaw!

On **September 19** we celebrated the **first anniversary of Pilgrims Gallery**. It is hard to believe that the world has changed so much over the past 12 months, nevertheless, we continue to plan how we can engage with our prospective visitors and we would like to thank everyone who has continued to support us in these difficult times.

One Small Candle - for ILLUMINATE 2020

We are taking a **new approach** to **Illuminate** events this year, to keep everybody safe while commemorating the region's role in the **Mayflower Pilgrim story**. Annual Illuminate celebrations including lantern **workshops** and **parades** have become popular across the **Pilgrim Roots partnership** area over the last five years. In 2020, we encourage people to take part by creating and **displaying a lantern** at home.

The **400th anniversary** of the **Mayflower's** voyage from England to America, which took some of the Pilgrims from our region on a historic journey, was in September. The Pilgrim Roots partnership, where many of the Separatists came from, is part of the national Mayflower 400 programme **connecting places** across the **UK** linked to the story.

The **'One Small Candle'** campaign is inspired by a **quote** from Pilgrim leader William Bradford from Austerfield near Doncaster, who wrote:

"as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many". Bradford was reflecting on the Pilgrims' journeys and life experiences.

Places across the **Pilgrim Roots region** in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire will mark the commemoration on Thanksgiving evening, **November 26**. We're asking people to join in and light up their communities with **lanterns** displayed in **windows** as a sign of **hope** and **thanksgiving**.



How to take part

- 1 Make your lantern!** Look out for artwork in October Life Publications (Retford, Worksoop & Gainsborough) or visit www.pilgrimroots.co.uk for ideas to help you make your own Illuminate lantern to display at home.
- 2 Send us a photo!** We'd love to see your creations - post a video or photo of your lantern on social media on 26th November. You can find us on **Facebook, Twitter & Instagram**.
- 3 Include** the hashtag **#OneSmallCandle** with your post – and see what others have made too!



John Stirland plants the Pilgrim 400 apple tree at Bassetlaw Museum as part of the Pilgrims Gallery anniversary event

IN THE MEDIA

This **autumn** the **Pilgrim Roots Heritage Lottery Funded project** received a lot of **media attention**, with the anniversary date of the **Mayflower** leaving Plymouth being the 16th of September. The project, and **Babworth & Scrooby churches**, featured on a special **Mayflower** episode of **BBC Songs of Praise** on Sunday 13th of September. On the anniversary, footage from Bassetlaw Museum and the **Pilgrims Gallery** was **shown** on **BBC Look North** and **ITV news**.



Still from the Where It All Began videos

Photo credit Tom Cable

Project staff have also been **chatting** to **radio stations** about pilgrims history and anniversary commemorations including **BBC** stations for **Nottinghamshire, Sheffield** and **Lincolnshire**.

On the **anniversary date**, Mayflower 400 released an **online documentary** featuring **Dan Snow** and with contributions about the Pilgrim Roots story, featuring Gainsborough Old Hall <https://youtube/3DQC3S3bJc0>

Throughout **autumn** we are releasing **seven special videos** which have been filmed at **local sites** connected to the pilgrim story in the region. The short films **show off** the beautiful architecture and settings of the churches, and feature tales of the characters from the area **'where it all began'**. Released each Thursday at 8pm, the **films** are **available** on our **Facebook page** and the **Bassetlaw Museum & Pilgrims Gallery YouTube channel**.





Bone rattles

Wampanoag Learning Box

The visit from **representatives** of the **Wampanoag Nation** which we announced in the last newsletter was **postponed** due to Covid-19. But they will be coming to build a **wetu (traditional shelter)** in the **Bassetlaw Museum gardens**, work with local school children and speak at a conference **next summer!**

In the meantime, we are keeping the project and the connection of our shared history alive. We have commissioned and received an exciting **box of educational items** for facilitators to take out **into schools** to highlight **indigenous** history and perspective on the **Mayflower** story. The items in the box relate to different elements of **Wampanoag culture** and **community**: clothing, art, agriculture, religion and music.

Having **tangible objects** is a wonderful way to introduce local children to Wampanoag culture and heritage while building a realistic image of **Native Americans**. We are so pleased to have **authentic items** and sensitive interpretation which will support students to consider different points of view in the **Mayflower** story and to reflect on themes such as colonisation and democracy.

We have also received some **authentic ceremonial regalia** which will be on **display** at special occasions, such as during the **Wampanoag visit next year!**



Wampanoag



Opera in the grounds of Historic Scrooby Manor

On Saturday October 3rd **performers** from **Manor Opera**, a company founded to create new and engaging productions in the grounds of historic **Scrooby Manor House** braved **Storm Alex** for their debut performance of opera and musical theatre. **Kamilla Dunstan** explained that Manor Opera aims to include a series of relaxed performances for first time opera goers, **children** and those who usually are unable to attend long live performances due to personal reasons. These performances are considerably shorter allowing audience members to **interact with** both the **Production Team** and **Performers** pre and post performance. Despite the weather the event was a **resounding success** and **future plans** include staging Mozart's opera, **Così fan tutte** in **Tudor period** to fit in with the history of Scrooby Manor and **Mayflower** Pilgrims.

The Manor Opera performance was supported by Bassetlaw District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Heritage Lottery Fund.



The grounds of Scrooby Manor



Journeys & Where it Began Art Exhibitions

Two **Mayflower** inspired open art exhibitions have been curated in the popular Percy Laws Gallery at Bassetlaw Museum. The first, themed **'Journeys'**, launched after the Museum reopened in August and featured a wide variety of interpretations by individuals from the area. This exhibition tied into **Heritage Open Day** and **North Notts. Lit Fest's** theme of **journeys**, creating opportunities for people to reflect on their travels – **physical, spiritual** and **emotional**.



St Helena's Austerfield by Jill Temporal

Our **second exhibition** has just opened will run until early January, focusing on **'Where it Began'**. Depictions of local **pilgrim sites** are joined with **textile art, poetry, song** and **photography** in a display that commemorates the local impact on this international story. The pilgrim embroideries created by a local textile group are also featured and, as part of Heritage Open Day, a film discussing their creation was produced.



Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Trails of Discovery

The **Arts Society Dukeries** has a team of volunteers who regularly make **Trails of Discovery** in the local area, adding to the four hundred plus trails around the country. Usually the **trails** are **for children** to follow in churches, but **Memory Trails** for people living with **dementia** are also made to help stimulate conversation and evoke memories. A new venture for the team has been the creation of a **Village Trail** for **Scrooby**.

Following the **Mayflower 400** theme, **Children's Trails** have been made recently for All Saints Church, Babworth, St Wilfrid at Scrooby and also St Helena, Austerfield. The trails are for children aged 8-12, accompanied by an adult, guiding them around the church and looking closely at furnishings, architecture and local history. **Local primary schoolchildren** and **Brownies** have helped launch the trails and always comment on how much they have enjoyed themselves.



The mill at Scrooby

News from Pilgrim Roots in Gainsborough

The Pilgrim Woman

Local artist **Rachel Carter**, has designed a unique **bronze sculpture** of a **'pilgrim woman'**. This has been specially created in honour of the often **unheard stories of the women** in the history of the Pilgrims.

Rachel herself was the model for the sculpture and with the help of the local community and **new technology**, they have created a wonderful and **inspiring** piece of artwork.

The statue will be sited on **Gainsborough's Riverside** this November. The location of the stone-mounted figure also relates to the **Separatists' escape** from the town via the River Trent, making their way to Immingham before boarding a ship to Amsterdam in **1608**.

A new Cantata

Composer **David Fawcett** has written **'A Sure Refuge'**, a major new 50 minute cantata reflecting on the Pilgrims' story and its resonance today. David, a former student at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Gainsborough and **Head Chorister** and **Organ Scholar** at **All Saints' Parish Church**, is also a choral director and professional musician.



David Fawcett

The work deals with **themes** of **persecution, alienation, exploitation** and **refuge**. Choral movements draw on text from the Book of Psalms, to tell a **story** which is **as resonant today as in the seventeenth century**.

Originally scheduled for performance in November 2020, plans had to be changed in response to COVID-19 restrictions. It is now envisaged that the **first performance**, by Gainsborough Choral Society, **will take place in late 2021**. In the mean time you can listen to extracts on David's website.

Journey over land and sea

Special Edition Illustrated Children's Book **'Journeys Over Land & Sea'**. West Lindsey District Council have been working with local creative and media company, Electric Egg, to produce a **new illustrated book** telling the story of the Mayflower from the perspective of **Mary Brewster**, that is aimed at **children aged 5-8**. The book will be available in mid-November.

Also the second edition of **'Radical Routes'** will be available this November. An eclectic publication featuring stories about Journeys in the context of the Pilgrims' story. The **first edition** can be found at **discovergainsborough.com**

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