



PILGRIM TRAILS

August 2021

Welcome to our newsletter - Pilgrim Trails

This is our ninth publication charting the 'Pilgrim Roots' Project

NORTH NOTTS BENCH TRAIL: Journeys

The William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation* bookbench at Bassetlaw Museum has been joined by others across North Nottinghamshire, forming a **bookbench trail**. Themed around journeys to commemorate the Mayflower's sailing, the trail was planned for summer 2020 but is going ahead this summer. The bookbenches will have been **designed** and **decorated by schools, colleges** and North Notts BID members.

Wild In Art, who are organising the trail said: 'The bookbenches will be displayed in cultural venues across the district and we hope the trail will help to reinvigorate local high streets across North Nottinghamshire and re-attract some of the footfall that has been lost during these uncertain times.'

The benches will be in place until September, featuring art work inspired by journeys, adventure, freedom and pioneering spirit and selected through a district-wide design competition. Pop into Bassetlaw Museum to **collect** a copy of the **trail leaflet** so you know where to look in Retford, Worksop, Tuxford and Harworth.

PILGRIM ROOTS - EDUCATION OFFER

During **lockdown**, we have been working with schools and community groups (such as *Cubs and Scouts*) to deliver video link sessions and our handling boxes to help them engage with pilgrim history.

We were delighted to **welcome** the first schools **back** to the **Pilgrims Gallery** in person during May, and the children loved exploring a new space, not having been on school trips in so long. It was great to be able to do more hands-on activities with the students, even through masks/visors! Going forward, we will continue to **offer tours** of the gallery both in person and via video to suit the needs of different schools from near and far.

For local schools, we have **handling boxes** which can be borrowed to enhance classroom learning. These are also great for use with young people working towards local history badges in uniformed organisations, or to add interest to WI meets and similar. The **boxes available** are:

- *Pilgrim Life: a selection of objects and learning prompts related to what life was like in the 17th century.*
- *17th Century Pastimes: explore what life was like for pilgrim children through the games they might have known, and imagine how you would have felt to be stuck on a ship for two months!*
- *The First Thanksgiving: a hamper bursting with foods enjoyed at the first 'Thanksgiving' feasts in 1621, plus resources to consider the different cultures, climates and diets in the Mayflower story & today.*
- *Pilgrim Costume: authentic replica costume to try on and admire, plus consider materials, fashion and gender roles from the time.*

We can also come out and **visit schools** and other groups, to deliver learning sessions; or to give talks on subjects related to the history of the pilgrims or the development of the **anniversary activities**. Our staff are able to bring precious replica items to sessions which we do not loan out independently, such as the authentic **Wampanoag objects** which help us explore their culture in more depth. **Talk topics** can be adapted to suit the **interests** of a group, but have previously covered 'Pilgrim Mothers' 'Challenging Anniversaries' and 'Careers in Heritage'.



Pilgrim children



A handling box



REOPENING

Bassetlaw Museum was able to **reopen its doors** in May as restrictions eased. It's been fantastic to welcome visitors from near and far back to the Pilgrims Gallery, and especially to see lots of **young visitors** enjoying **trail activities** during half term!

Gainsborough Old Hall also reopened in July, so the Pilgrims Trail is back to full strength in time for summer. If you would like to see inside the **churches** along the Pilgrims Trail, get in touch with us at Bassetlaw Museum or by emailing info@pilgrimroots.org to **arrange a visit**.

Holiday activities will be taking place across the trail sites **this summer**, and we have included some **dates for your diary** in this newsletter. For the most up to date information, visit our events pages at www.pilgrimroots.org or pop into the Pilgrims Gallery.



Gainsborough Old Hall



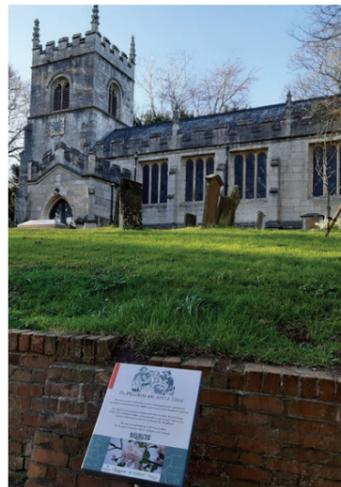
The bookbench at the museum

TREES & TRAILS

During the **pandemic**, more **commemorative trees** have been planted along the **Pilgrims Trail**. The wooded grounds at Babworth church have been planted with both a new Pilgrim 400 apple tree and one of '**400 Oaks**' being planted in the district as part of the commemorations.

Most of the oaks have been planted in a **pilgrim plantation** in the grounds of Hodsock Priory, where they will be a lasting legacy of the commemorations and have a positive impact on our environment. The **400 Oaks project** has been led by the **Sherwood Forest Trust**.

The commemorative trees make a **great addition** to the trail sites; the pilgrim 400 apple trees have plaques with unique wording, reflecting the historic Mayflower anniversary and the context of when they were planted. The **Bassetlaw Museum apple tree** includes the date of its planting and says 'On this day, Covid-19 Pandemic was still prevalent... we trust that future generations will flourish as the **world returns to normal**'. The Museum's tree has blossomed beautifully this spring and the pilgrim 400 apple trees will be mature enough to produce fruit within the next few years. You can read more about the Pilgrim 400 project in the previous edition of our newsletter.



Tree plaque at Babworth

The **pilgrim embroideries**, created in Retford, are also **being installed** in the churches along the Pilgrims Trail. The first was unveiled in St Swithun's Church by the Mayor of Retford on 1st July, and the other embroideries will be placed in their new homes throughout the summer. These artworks, crafted in traditional stitches by the pilgrim embroiderers, will be a **great addition** to the attraction of churches on the trail.



We're adding **new functionality** to our **website**, to host pictures taken by visitors to the trail sites so if you explore the pilgrims trail this summer, be sure to record it and **share your pictures** with us on social media [@PilgrimRoots](https://www.instagram.com/PilgrimRoots).



The Pilgrims Gallery

The Wampanoag Perspective Project – update

Delayed from last year, our exciting Arts Council funded project to host representatives of the **Wampanoag Nation** will go ahead **this September!**

From the **20th-25th of September**, Bassetlaw Museum will host guests from the Native American Wampanoag tribe who will be **artists in residence**, creating a **wetu** (traditional home) **in the Museum grounds**. During the visit, school groups will have specially designed sessions to learn about the Wampanoag culture, meet our guests and see the wetu being constructed. We will also be **open to the public**, who will have the opportunity to chat to the Wampanoag team about our shared history.

The project will also include a **conference on tolerance** and a cultural showcase with **music and dancing**. This is a unique opportunity to include the voices of the Native Americans who were already living in and around the Massachusetts area in 1620, and who have often been silenced or marginalised in previous anniversary's activities.

The **Wampanoag Nation** are descendants of some of those who first encountered the **Mayflower passengers** when they arrived in 1620, and of the group that shared vital skills – such as how to grow American crops – which helped the passengers to survive. 2021 is the **400th anniversary** of the first harvest **'thanksgiving'** meal shared between the pilgrims and Native Americans, so this has special resonance as we come together to share a more complete version of a common history.

Isabelle, Heritage Engagement Officer for Pilgrim Roots, who is managing the Wampanoag Perspective project said **'We are so honoured to be deepening our relationship with the Wampanoag Nation** and sharing a platform to tell the Mayflower story more inclusively. I hope local people feel inspired to take part in the project and make the most of this once in a lifetime opportunity.'

There are **lots of ways to get involved** in what will be a very busy and **exciting week!** If you might like to volunteer to help with school visits, support the events on site or even host some Wampanoag guests in your home, please get in touch or pop into the Pilgrims Gallery for a chat.



Building a Wetu



Inside a Wetu

PILGRIM WOMAN - ART

Over the **last four years** artist Rachel Carter has been working on a series of **sculptures** for the Pilgrim Roots Districts titled 'Pilgrim Woman', cast in bronze the sculptures feature a female figure dressed in authentic Tudor attire holding a **Pilgrim 400 Apple**.

Pilgrim Woman: Doncaster - A large plus life size bronze figure that stands in the new DANUM Gallery a striking new building in the centre of Doncaster. The Pilgrim's dress is adorned by intricate weavings made by the community and the artist.

About DANUM - It has the space and facilities to display exciting exhibits linked to Doncaster's fascinating history; including insights into its rail, mining and industrial legacy. This modern new build itself retains and sympathetically displays the core central frontage of the former Hall Cross Girls School building. This is encased in a glass façade to showcase an iconic part of Doncaster's architectural heritage.

Given the borough's strong connections to the Mayflower, it is fitting that the Pilgrim Woman has been given a prominent place in the new build where she is able to **share her experiences** of the **Mayflower voyage** with visitors from all over the world. Open's summer 2021

Take the gallery virtual tour - <https://www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/dglam/>

Try your hand at weaving a repeating leaf pattern which feature on the Pilgrims dress, with a macrame tutorial by artist Rachel Carter - <https://www.rachelcarter.co.uk/workshop>

Pilgrim Woman: Gainsborough - The **bronze statue** stands by the waters edge of the River Trent in Gainsborough, measuring 50cm tall she sits upon a plinth of local stone which reads **'Steering our future, informed by the past'**. The sculpture sits a stones throw from the Old Hall who's stitching group create the handmade Tudor outfit that the artist wore to become the digital version of the sculpture that all sculpture have been based upon. The outfit that consists of a Bonnet, Kirtle and Shift can be seen by watching the short film The Making of a Pilgrim Woman available on **Youtube** or the artist website <https://www.rachelcarter.co.uk/projects>

Pilgrim Woman: Boston - Pilgrim Women is the creation of a new sculpture using the story of families arrested and held in Boston jail in the early 17th century. Supported by Arts Council project grants the project seeks to engage women living in Lincolnshire from both immigrant and non immigrant backgrounds. Working with an ancient method of weaving on a Lucet in a series of workshops both physical and virtual to engage women in semi rural areas. The bronze sculpture of two female figures bound together will be exhibited in a new exhibition at Lincoln's The Collection Museum in November 2021 and will shine a light on the historical bondage of women to a male counterpart and open a dialogue for the role of women today.

Try your hand at Lucet weaving <https://www.rachelcarter.co.uk/workshop>

Limited Edition Pilgrim Woman - Available from www.rachelcarter.co.uk is the limited edition six inch version of the Pilgrim Woman that comes with a signed booklet and it's own edition number. Cast to order using the traditional lost wax technique.



SUMMER DATES for YOUR DIARY

Prepare for a summer exploring local heritage by adding these dates to your diary, and keeping an eye on our website for more event announcements!

- 21st August: **Scrooby Manor Heritage Day**. Come along to the home of the Brewsters for dancing, crafts, music plus explore the grounds and take a selfie in front of this historic backdrop! This event is free, but ticketed to control numbers – tickets will be available to book online, check out our social media for the latest.
- 21st - 22nd August: **Mayflower Quilt Festival**. Visit Austerfield Church, where William Brewster was baptised, and admire local crafted quilts. As well as quilting demonstrations, there will be refreshments and a tombola available.
- 11th & 12th September: **Heritage Open Day – Edible England**. Explore food focussed events, displays and activities at local heritage attractions and organisations.
- 12th - 19th September: **North Notts Lit Fest 'In Good Company'**. The theme of this year's Lit Fest resonates with the 400th anniversary of the 'Thanksgiving' harvest meal shared between pilgrims and Native Americans in 1621. Tune in for a range of workshops, talks and events held throughout the week.
- 20th - 25th September: **Wampanoag Perspective Project** – read more in the newsletter.



Three Sisters Planting Competition 2021



2021 is the **400th anniversary of the harvest feast** that became known as the First Thanksgiving in America; at that feast, pilgrims who came from our area ate the new crops they had been taught to grow by the Native Americans. These were corn (maize), beans and squash.

The **'three sisters' method** is companion planting at its best, with three plants growing symbiotically to deter weeds and pests, enrich the soil, and support each other.

After the success of last year's competition, Pilgrim Roots has expanded the Three Sisters Planting competition with a separate category for schools and organisations. We offered free seeds to the schools who are taking part and we are delighted to announce that over 20 have taken up the opportunity. We cannot wait to see how they have done!

The first prize in both categories is **£200 of garden centre vouchers**, with the runner up in each category getting **£50 of vouchers**.

The competition will be judged via **photographs**, so all you need to do to enter is send pictures of your plants and crops in to us this autumn. We'll be using **#ThreeSistersPlantingComp**. You can also use the **hashtag** if you want to show off your progress!

You can **keep up to date with news** about the three sisters planting competition via our website, pilgrimroots.co.uk/news/ and through our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Contact

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