

PRESS RELEASE

18th November 2019

Immediate use

Pilgrims Festival 2019 – Babworth Arts Weekend

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th November 2019

This year's Pilgrims Festival Art Exhibition will be on Saturday 23rd (10am-4pm) and Sunday 24th (12noon-4pm) November. This will be the fourth year that Babworth Church has held the Pilgrims Art Exhibition, which is part of the Pilgrims Festival commemorating the Mayflower Pilgrim Families' journey to the New World, as part of the countdown to 2020, the 400th anniversary. This year's events mark the opening of the commemorative year.

All work on display in Babworth Church will have been inspired by the Separatist and Mayflower Pilgrims story. Any artists may provide their work which should be delivered to Babworth Church on Thursday 21st November between 12.00noon and 5.00pm with a short identifying summary. The Art Exhibition will be open to the public from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday 23rd November and between 12.00noon and 4.00pm on Sunday 24th November. Entry to the event is free, refreshments are available for a small charge, and donations to the Church are always welcome. The Pilgrim Embroiderers will be there, so you can see how it is done!

Here is the programme of events for the weekend:

Saturday 23rd November:

- 11.00am: A talk on buttons by local crafter, Diane Hemsley
- 12.00noon: A talk on Worksop Priory by Priory tour guide, David Caseldine
- 2.00pm: Three Piece Suite play baroque music

Sunday 24th November

- 3.00pm: A talk by local author and historian, Adrian Gray on themes from his new book arriving in 2020

On Friday 22nd November, Retford holds its fifth Pilgrims Festival Illuminate event meeting at 5.00pm for 5.30pm start outside Wilko's on Carolgate. The parade will then proceed to St Swithun's to be seated by about 6pm. There will be an all age event led by Rev Mark Cantrill with Rhubarb Theatre and the Songbirds followed by the 400 photograph and a fantastic light projection on the outside of St Swithun's.

On Wednesday 27th November, Worksop joins the "Illuminate club" with its first Pilgrims Festival Illuminate event starting at 5.00pm for 5.30pm start at The Crossing on

Newcastle Avenue with Rhubarb Theatre and the Songbirds followed by the 400 photograph and a fantastic light projection on the outside of Worksop Priory.

There will be a Thanksgiving Dinner, with entertainment, at Spencer's on the Square, in Retford, at 7pm on Thursday 28th November (Thanksgiving Day). If you are looking for an excuse for a good night out or a location for a work Christmas 'Do', contact 01777 800230, or call in to book (£30 each).

Bassetlaw Christian Heritage (BCH) is delighted to have received funding from Arts Council England, with support from the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham, and District Councillors Carolyn Troop, Helen Richards and Joan Sanger via their community grants.

Visitor numbers to the area are already increasing, and are forecast to increase further, as 2020 grows closer. The story of the Mayflower Pilgrim families and their roots in the area in and around Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire, is becoming better known.

To find out more about the story, please see www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com, the Pilgrims Gallery in Bassetlaw Museum, Retford, the Pilgrims Museum at The Hub in Churchgate, Retford, and the Pilgrims Room at the United Reformed Church in Gainsborough.

Information is also available at www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com.

Notes to editors

Bassetlaw Christian Heritage (BCH)

BCH is all about the people and their stories, based on faith heritage, in the region with a radius of around 30 miles around Retford, including Bassetlaw, North Nottinghamshire, and parts of Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire.

BCH works collaboratively with groups and individuals, and if anyone would like to help in any way, please contact them at contact@bassetlawchristianheritage.com.

Website at: www.bassetlawchristianheritage.com.

Photographs of previous years' events are provided/available

BCH is grateful to Arts Council England, the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham, Bassetlaw District Councillors, St Swithun's Parish Church, Worksop Priory, the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church, Scouts, Guides and schools in Bassetlaw for their continuing support.

For further information please contact Rick Brand at rickbrand@hotmail.com or 01427 891376.

Mayflower 400 Editors Notes:

1. Mayflower 400 is the four hundred year commemoration of the voyage of this historic ship, passengers and crew, to America in 1620.
2. Over 30 million people are able to trace their ancestry to the people on the ship. Mayflower 400 year is a four-nation commemoration, Netherlands, UK, USA and the Wampanoag nation that invites Mayflower descendants, local communities and visitors to explore, learn and be involved with the commemoration.
3. Prior to the Mayflower's departure from Plymouth, England, Mayflower history was written in many towns and cities - each of them detailed in the Mayflower trail. The trail includes Austerfield, Scrooby & Babworth, Gainsborough, Boston, Immingham, Worcestershire, Chorley, Dorking, Leiden in the Netherlands, Harwich, Rotherhithe, City of London, Southampton, Dartmouth, Plymouth England and Provincetown and Plymouth, USA. All of these locations play a part in the story of the Mayflower and the people involved.
4. Starting with the Illuminate Festivals in November 2019, a year of Mayflower 400 activities will include community events, major exhibitions, performances and plays with the majority being free for people to attend and enjoy- culminating with Illuminate in November 2020.
5. A major public four-nation commemoration event will be staged in Plymouth on September 16, 2020 marking the official departure date of the ship as part of Mayflower Week.
6. Go to www.mayflower400uk.org for the latest information on events and stories around this landmark year for England.

For further information about Mayflower 400 please contact -:

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