

Why is the Mayflower Pilgrim story important?

This is an international story, but they were an ordinary group of people from our area who fled for their lives from their homes, and later from Holland, to become the first permanent immigrants to America: they were 'religious refugees'. People from here started the uprising, led it in Holland and were elected leaders in America. So they played a major part in global democracy. We lay claim to be the origin of nearly every English-speaking, non-conformist Christian religion, making this area one of the most important religious centres in the world! The story is more important than that of Shakespeare or Brunel. The story is the 'special connection' with America that we hear politicians mention as they argue about Brexit. It is the start of modern-day America.

The 400th Anniversary of the sailing of *The Mayflower* gives Retford the opportunity to become a major tourist destination. If we get it right, we could attract tens of thousands of visitors a year, providing a massive boost to our local economy. That is why it is so important.

If you wish to know more, or to find out what happened, visit us at the Mayflower Pilgrim Visitor Centre, 11 Churchgate, Retford (at the Retford Hub by St Swithun's Church). We need everyone to help and get involved.

Contact chris@retfordhub.org