



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
North Nottinghamshire

PRESS RELEASE

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Exploring Pilgrim Roots

Historic sites across three different counties will be opening specially on Saturday 10th September to officially launch the Pilgrim Trail, celebrating the extraordinary courage and determination of people who sailed on the Mayflower in 1620.

The project will be launched at All Saints' Church in Babworth by Cllr Gill Freeman, Deputy Chairman of Bassetlaw District Council, on Saturday at 10am, followed by a talk by local historian and author, Adrian Gray entitled **Retford, Worksop and the Origins of the Pilgrims and Separatists**.



As part of the Pilgrim Roots project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England, Interpretation boards are in now place across the region at Babworth, Scrooby, Retford and Sturton-le-Steeple in North Nottinghamshire, Austerfield in South Yorkshire and Gainsborough in Lincolnshire.

In addition to the trail and church openings, the event will also mark the official completion of the installation of the Pilgrims Embroideries which will be in place at All

Saints', Babworth, St Helena's, Austerfield; St Wilfrid's, Scrooby; St Peter & St Paul, Sturton-le-Steeple; and St Swithun's, Retford.

Many of the sites are historic churches and not usually possible to visit. Each church is opening at slightly different times. Please check www.pilgrimroots.co.uk or www.bassetlawmuseum.org.uk for more details.

Pilgrim Roots tells a story of defiance, danger and death before finding a haven in a New World. It details the lives of William and Mary Brewster from Scrooby, William Bradford from Austerfield and John Robinson from Sturton-le-Steeple. The project also focuses on the devastating impact the settlers had on the native American nations and in 2021, members of the Wampanoag Nation visited Retford to tell their story.

Cllr Jo White, Deputy Leader at Bassetlaw District Council said: "Pilgrim Roots and the Wampanoag Perspective have been fantastic projects to delve into our hidden histories relating to migration, freedom and tolerance.

"As well as events and exhibitions, the Wampanoag nation from America visited and built a traditional house, called a Wetu, in Bassetlaw Museum Garden. But it isn't over! The Pilgrims Trail will enable people to explore the story in their own time at their own pace and education resources are available from Bassetlaw Museum.

"There is also a permanent gallery at the museum and the Wampanoag Wetu will remain in the garden for the coming year. Thank you to all who play the National Lottery. You made this possible."

The Pilgrims Trail includes a group of local churches which were instrumental in the formation of the movement which led to the journey of the Mayflower to America of the Pilgrims in 1620, as well as to the beginnings of the Baptist and Congregational religions. William Bradford and William Brewster were important figures in the formation of the Plimoth Colony and the origins of their involvement can be traced to the services they attended at Babworth Church, which were led by Richard Clifton and supported by John Robinson.