

Welcome to our Mayflower 2020 Newsletter.



The plan is a two day event. Friday 4th & Saturday 5th September

On 4th September a specific London event to recognise the importance of the City's contribution in 1620 as well as Rotherhithe's from where she first embarked is progressing, however the fund raising has been rather slowed by the recent uncertainty about Brexit and the election as you may well understand.

The Worshipful Company of Stationers', to mark the occasion, have kindly agreed to provide a scroll to be presented to the US House of Representatives. It was a past Master of the Company in the 1820's who instigated the recording of Parliamentary business in the publication Hansard.

There is to be a ceremonial procession along the Thames from Westminster to Rotherhithe with the scroll. Here it will be put on board "Excelsior" the last of the East Coast Fishing Smacks, now used as a sail training vessel.



The second part of the event will be the Mayflower Great River Race, the marathon rowing race from Docklands to Ham on Saturday 5th September. We now have interest from three crews from Massachusetts, and for the Saturday 5th two from Tasmania who want to take part in the ceremony and the Race the following day, and strangely word has reached Spain too.

A club in Santander, "Navagatio Santander" has applied to join. The irony of this cannot be lost on you as it was the repression by the Spanish in the Netherlands that sent the Pilgrims in Leiden scurrying on board "Speedwell" to join the Mayflower when she arrived in Southampton.

Invitation to Schools from our partners – The Excelsior Trust and Challenger Trust

The Mayflower stand-in “Excelsior” is to be moored at Rotherhithe and the objectives of both, the Excelsior Trust and Challenger Trust is to give young people sailing adventures as a life enhancing experience. A legacy reaching down through schools to give opportunities for the young, disadvantaged and provide experiences to increase self-esteem and confidence.



We hope this will encourage you to be involved in our historic event and contribute to the celebration.

There will be opportunities for sponsors to be directly involved with the Scroll procession and the Mayflower Great River Race. Also support a young person to go on a voyage aboard a traditional sailing vessel.



*Thames Alive was responsible for the Thames leg of the **Olympic Torch Relay** leg, the rowing and paddling section of the **Diamond Jubilee Pageant** and works with Historic Royal Palaces on re-enactments on the River at the Tower and Hampton Court.*

*In 2015 we devised and organised the two day river celebrations for the **Magna Carta** at Runnymede.*

*In 2005 we recreated the Funeral Procession of Admiral Lord Nelson from Greenwich to Whitehall. **The Emirates Thames Nelson Flotilla.***