



Mayflower 400 London

On 4th September at 4pm the Speakers of the House of Lords and Commons, Lord Fowler and Sir Lyndsay Hoyle will seal a specially commissioned illuminated scroll, destined for the US House of Representatives as a gift. The Ceremony will take place, under strict social distancing guidelines from the Serjeant at Arms, on the Terrace of the House of Commons in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower from Rotherhithe in 1620.

The scroll will be passed by the Rt. Hon John Spellar MP, the joint honorary treasurer of the British American Parliamentary Group, to the passenger boat 'Edwardian' which will then cruise downstream passing through the City of London, who financed the chartering of the ship, and on to Rotherhithe from where 'Mayflower' sailed.

The Scroll is a gift to the Government of the United States from the UK Parliament and sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers and is made on vellum. The presentation will be made in America to their Speaker once travel to and from the USA is once more permitted.



In the meantime a plan for the Return of the Mayflower is being made for early summer of 2021 in the hope that a full River Pageant can be enacted to celebrate the news from the Pilgrims that they have survived the journey and their first winter in the New World.

NOTES on the ceremony and the objectives of the celebration.

1/ The idea for the Scroll as a gift to the USA was conceived by Thames Alive in 2017 to celebrate the links between the UK and USA over the centuries with a river borne pageant.

2/ A regatta on the River Thames at Rotherhithe was planned with the scroll being created for the occasion and carried from the Palace of Westminster along the river as a spectacle for all to enjoy. This will now take place in 2021.

3/The celebration supports the community-led **Rotherhithe Illuminated!** legacy lighting scheme, which will illuminate specific elements of five historic buildings within the Rotherhithe conservation area. The project will deliver a permanent Mayflower legacy for Rotherhithe, and will extend the concept of the recently-launched Illuminated River project. **Rotherhithe Illuminated!** is supported by donations from many local individuals and businesses, including the Mayor of London, Thames Clippers, the Port of London Authority, and the US Embassy. Contact SE16.RI@gmail.com

4/ Thames Alive now propose a pageant of boats with a visiting sail training ship representing **Mayflower** mooring outside the Mayflower Public House for the return in 2021. It is hoped to attract young people to the history and encourage them to look to the sea for adventure.

5/ The Mayflower will be played by the **STS Excelsior**, an East Coast Sailing Smack 75 feet long which takes a dozen young people on character building adventures, sailing in the North Sea, Northern Europe, Scandinavia, and the English Channel, teaching them the skills for sailing a traditional heavy Gaff rigged boat.

6/ Thames Alive specialises in working on the River Thames, creating spectacles to draw attention to historic events on and around the Thames. These include the re-enactment of the funeral flotilla of Admiral Horatio Nelson, Henry VIII's Coronation 500th anniversary and Queen Anne Boleyn's journey to HM the Tower of London for Historic Royal Palaces, the Thames leg of the Olympic Torch Relay, the two day Magna Carta river event at Runnymede and the manpowered squadron of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant.



www.thamesalive.org.uk