

Thames Alive Newsletter 2: March 23rd 2020

Mayflower 400 in London has already seen several initiatives by way of celebration.

The Christmas Nativity play by the children of Albion Primary School, Rotherhithe, was a departure from the normal Christmas production.

It was a retelling of the Mayflower Pilgrim's story, with every member of the school taking a part. Pilgrims, City financiers, sailors of the Mayflower crew, indigenous people that they encountered on landing in the New World were all represented in music, dance and dramatic scenes. It played to full houses of proud parents, who learnt a lot of history that day.

The Bubble Theatre, also Rotherhithe based, produced a peripatetic play in the City of London in which the story was told on a walking journey between the Dutch Church in Gresham Street and All Hallows by the Tower. The Dutch Church is located on the site of the 13th-century Augustinian Friary, the original building granted to Protestant refugees for their church services in 1550

www.vimeo.com/350468887 (Password: thedeal)

The ***Rotherhithe Illuminated!*** legacy lighting project has recently had a boost with major contributions to their fund raising from the PLA and Thames Clippers, but it still needs some more to reach the target to enable it to progress further. The project team is now working towards organising the launch of the lighting scheme in summer 2021, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the return of the 'Mayflower' to Rotherhithe in May 1621. They continue to work closely with Thames Alive on their joint and evolving plans. The ***Rotherhithe Illuminated!*** JustGiving site is open for smaller donations of any size:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Rotherhithe-illuminated

Contact SE16.RI@gmail.com for more details.

The Mayflower Thames Celebration

The project based around an illuminated vellum scroll, designed by Maisie Ronald, is being prepared for the Speaker of the House of Commons Sir Lindsey Hoyle to view. Thames Alive has made overtures to the American Embassy, which has responded favourably to the plan for the scroll to be presented to the House of Representatives.

As the plan has evolved the current Viral clamp down of normal every day activity has exercised the Thames Alive's team ingenuity and imagination.

At present we believe that the London celebration should be able to go ahead on 4th September.

To complete the cycle, in 1621 the 'Mayflower' Captained once again by Christopher Jones returned to Rotherhithe after a very hard winter. The passage home was a much less difficult experience with the westly wind and North Atlantic Drift powering her homewards in just a month.

Thames Alive proposes to celebrate this return with "*news from the settlers*" and present this to the Speaker on a return journey up the Thames from Rotherhithe to Westminster in summer 2021.

24th March 2020