MEDIA FACT SHEET

Steering our future, inspired by the past.

Mayflower400UK.org
2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the historic voyage of the Mayflower ship from the UK to the ‘New World’ of America. The anniversary will commemorate the legacy of the passengers and crew who undertook the epic journey inspired by an unquenchable desire for freedom; and for who the voyage promised new found liberty. The international Mayflower Compact partnership has been created to align 11 core UK destinations across England, alongside the United States of America, the Native American community and the Netherlands. Partners are united in their passion to commemorate the anniversary and to celebrate shared values of freedom, democracy, humanity and the future.

Working together for the first time, the UK Compact partnership is creating a national “Mayflower Trail” reflecting each destination’s unique connection to the Mayflower story. In the build up to and during 2020 destinations will stage a world class cultural and events programme to commemorate the journey of the Mayflower Pilgrims.

The cultural programme will unite communities, inspire creativity, drive economic growth, enhance the visitor experience and promote understanding and education of this pivotal moment in history. The commemorations will recognise the impact of the Mayflower’s journey on Native American communities and address themes of migration, tolerance, freedom and democracy that have such contemporary relevance, as well as the long-standing relationship between the UK and the US and the history of Thanksgiving, ensuring the Mayflower’s legacy lives on.

There are over 35 million descendants of the passengers and crew who sailed on the Mayflower. The Mayflower 400 UK national visitor project aims to reach out to these descendants and other ancestral tourists to invite them to visit England and be a part of the anniversary year.
The Mayflower Voyage Timeline

Dates are based on the Gregorian calendar.

1533
King Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn in a secret ceremony following his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, breaking away from the Catholic Church and beginning The English Reformation.

Spring 1608
The Scooby Separatists finally manage to escape from Immingham Creek, Immingham, Lincolnshire.

Autumn 1607
Unhappy with the English church, a group of religious separatists plan to defy the authority of the church and escape from Boston, Lincolnshire, for Holland but are caught in the attempt and held and tried at Boston Guildhall.

August 1608
The group arrive in Leiden, Holland where they live for 12 years.

August 1620
The Separatists who remained in England board the Mayflower ship in Southwark, London including Captain Christopher Jones and his crew.

August 1620
The Mayflower arrives in Southampton, later joined by the Speedwell. It is thought this is where John Alden, a merchant, and William Brewster boarded the ship.

1st August 1620
After making an agreement with the Virginia Company to travel to the New World and create a new community, the Leiden Separatists set sail in the Speedwell for England to meet the Mayflower.

August 1620
The Mayflower continues to take on water so both ships turn back to Plymouth.

23rd August 1620
The two ships arrive in Dartmouth after the Speedwell begins to take on water.

16th September 1620
The Mayflower departs Plymouth alone, after the Speedwell is deemed unfit for travel, with up to 38 crew and 102 passengers on board.

19th November 1620
The Pilgrims sight the tip of Cape Cod.

26th December 1620
After 66 days at sea, the Mayflower finally arrives in what is today, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

21st November 1620
Mayflower Compact is signed upon arrival in Provincetown or ‘Cape Harbour’.

October 1621
The new colonists celebrate their first successful harvest.

What’s the date?

In 1620 the Mayflower set sail from the New World. The official anniversary date used by the Mayflower 400 partners to mark the 400th anniversary is 16th September 2020.

Some celebrate the anniversary on the 6th September which was the date in the Julian calendar used by the Pilgrims. The Julian calendar is around 10 days behind the Gregorian calendar that we use today.
THE MAYFLOWER TRAIL
The story of the Mayflower can be told through the histories of 11 key locations in the UK, the USA and the Netherlands. There are many more towns, villages and cities across England with connections to the passengers on board the ship.

Mayflower Compact partner destinations
UK
Austerfield and Doncaster
Boston, Lincolnshire
Dartmouth, Devon
Gainsborough, Lincolnshire
Harwich, Essex
Immingham, North East Lincolnshire
North Nottinghamshire
– Scrooby and Babworth
Plymouth
Rotherhithe, London
Southampton, Hampshire
Worcestershire

USA
Plymouth
Provincetown
Boston

Netherlands
Leiden
Rotterdam

Steering our future, inspired by the past.
One night in the autumn of 1607, a determined group of men, women and children secretly met a boat on the edge of ‘The Wash’ at Scotia Creek, Fishtoft, near Boston. They planned to defy the authority of the English church and escape across the Wash at Scotia Creek, Fishtoft, near Boston. They planned to clandestinely at Gainsborough Old Hall with the permission of its owner, merchant William Hickman; they later escaped to Holland from the town’s riverside. The Hall is regarded as one of the best-preserved medieval manor houses in Britain. Their preacher, John Smyth, was a strong influence on the Mayflower Pilgrims and is considered to have been a founder of the Baptist denomination. The John Robinson Memorial Church was built in the town to honour the memory of the local Separatist and Pilgrim leader in Holland, himself the founder of the Congregational denomination.

Gainsborough, Lincolnshire

The Pilgrims left Leiden and made their way to Delfshaven in Rotterdam. After spending a night at the port, they waved goodbye to the Netherlands and the Speedwell weighed anchor and headed out for the open sea, towards England. The Old Church or the Pilgrim Fathers Church can be found at the Voorhaven in Delfshaven. A window with stained glass, depicting the difficult crossing, shows the historic moment at which the Pilgrim Fathers set off.

Rotterdam, Holland

Austerfield was the hometown of William Bradford, the second elected Governor of the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621. Bradford was baptised at St Helena’s church where the original font can be seen today. After travelling to America, Bradford was a signatory of the historic Mayflower Compact, and bequeathed much of our knowledge today on their momentous journey and early years of the Colony in his journal, ‘Of Pлимoth Plantation’.

Austerfield, Doncaster

The leading religious Separatists (who later became known as ‘Pilgrims’) were originally from the Bassetlaw area of Nottinghamshire, where their beliefs were shaped. The group were seen as dangerous religious outlaws and so they were forced to worship in secret. Among them was William Brewster who was brought up in Scooby and later became senior elder and the leader of the colonists’ community. Inspired by the radical words of Richard Clifton, the rector of nearby All Saints’ Church in Babworth, Brewster is believed to have founded a Separatist Church in his family home, the privately owned Scooby Manor House.

Scooby & Babworth, Nottinghamshire

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Immingham, Lincolnshire

The year following the trial of the Scrooby congregation at Boston Guildhall, they made another attempt to escape, this time successfully. The Separatists secured the services of a Dutch boat and its captain to take them to Holland. The Dutch captain set sail from Immingham Creek with only the men at first. The women and children who took refuge in St Andrew’s Church were later baptised in the Pieterskerk (St Peter’s Church) and offered services at his home. After living in Holland for nearly 12 years, they decided they would all travel together to America to start a new community.

Leicester, Lincolnshire

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Rotterdam, Holland

The story of the Mayflower is intricately linked with the historic port of Harwich and plays a special part in the iconic ship’s history.

The ship was originally designated as “of Harwich” and is believed to have been built in the Essex coastal town and was commanded and part-owned by Captain Christopher Jones, whose house stands on Kings Head Street today.

Jones was twice married in St. Nicholas Church, Harwich, and his first wife Sara Twint lived opposite the ship’s Captain in a house, which is now home to a popular local hostelry – the Alma Inn.

Visit Jones historic house and experience the foundations of the Mayflower’s journey in a town, which retains the same look and charm as it did in the 17th century. Marvel at a largely untold story of the Captain’s life and see the Great Charter, which names Jones as one of the capital burgesses by James I in 1604.

Harwich, Essex

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Southwark, London
The London Borough of Southwark, which includes the former docklands of Rotherhithe was the home port of the Mayflower. Captain Christopher Jones and his crew lived here. The Separatists boarded the Mayflower in Rotherhithe close to the present-day Mayflower Inn and set sail for Southampton to the Speedwell. Today, people can visit the Mayflower pub (formerly The Spread Eagle) in Rotherhithe and view the original 1620 mooring point of the original Mayflower ship. Today, those who can prove a family connection to the original Pilgrims can also sign the Mayflower Descendants Book, which is available upon request. The Mayflower Pub is also the only pub licenced to sell US and UK postage stamps, a service, which dates back to the 1800s when seafarers docking at Rotherhithe with little time to spare were able to order a pint and a stamp!

Southwark is now a hotel, are still recognisable. It took around a week publishing material that had angered King James. On 15th August 1620 the two ships weighed anchor and set sail.

Plymouth, Massachusetts, US
After a perilous journey and 66 days at sea, the Mayflower finally landed in America. However due to bad weather, instead of arriving in the Colony of Virginia, where they had initially received permission to land, the Mayflower anchored much further south at what is present-day Provincetown. In search of clean water and fertile land, the pilgrims then decided to depart Provincetown and on 26th December 1620 they arrived in what they named Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts.

The Mayflower Compact was signed aboard the ship and was the first agreement for self-government to be created and enforced in America. The harsh New England winter claimed many lives and, by the end of the first winter, just under half of the crew and passengers had survived. The Pilgrims then began to form an alliance with the Native Americans of the local Wampanoag community who taught them how to hunt and grow their own food. At the end of the following summer, the Plymouth colonists celebrated their first successful harvest with a three-day festival of Thanksgiving, which became the annual holiday Americans celebrate today.

Provincetown, US
Provincetown had a key role in the landing of the Mayflower Pilgrims, Mayflower Compact and exploration of the outer Cape, as well as the culture and history of the Wampanoag peoples. In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage, the Provincetown Board of Select men, members of the press, town government and community have unveiled plans for a 2020 celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims in Provincetown, signing of the Mayflower Compact and educating the Wampanoag story to the public. The Executive Director of non-profit organisation, Lisa Guiffre, outlined a programme designed to honour the scope of Provincetown’s 400 years of history, while educating the public through informative and entertaining events and activities. Of particular importance to the plan is highlighting Provincetown’s role in the landing of the Mayflower and the subsequent settlement of the Pilgrims. “In the spirit of the Mayflower Compact and the signers’ commitment to a ‘civic body politic in the ‘New World’”, shares Guiffre, “Provincetown’s 400 utilises its programmes to reflect, discuss and grow to a deeper understanding of those different from oneself, helping to make us stronger and more capable of tackling the complex social issues of our time.”

Plymouth, Devon, England
The Mayflower and Speedwell were 300 miles clear of Land’s End when the smaller ship once more began leaking badly and couldn’t risk continuing. They turned back towards Plymouth and the Speedwell was finally declared unfit for the journey.

Some of the Pilgrims decided against the voyage altogether and the remaining members crowded onto the Mayflower. The ship finally departed British soil on 16th September 1620 with up to 30 crew and 102 passengers on board. Just under half of them were Separatists, the rest were ‘economic migrants’ who were skilled tradespeople sent by the investors to help build the new colony. Today, visitors to the city of Plymouth can find the Mayflower Steps memorial in the city’s Barbican area, which commemorates the passengers final departure point.
MAYFLOWER 400 LATEST NEWS

**Heritage Lottery Fund helps tell the Pilgrim Roots story**

More than 400 years after the Pilgrim Leaders, William Bradford and William Brewster, escaped religious persecution in Bassetlaw and began their arduous journey to the New World, the origins of their story will be retold, thanks to a National Lottery grant, awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

HLF East Midlands approved the Pilgrim Roots project, which will see £76,000 worth of investment into the Roots area (North Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and West Lindsey). HLF have committed almost £450,000 to the total sum.

This will really enable North Nottinghamshire to shout about their famous Pilgrim ancestors and position Bassetlaw at the forefront of commemorative plans for 2020, which is the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower reaching America.

[Link to PilgrimRoots.org]

**Captain Christopher Jones’s home set to become a tourist attraction**

The former home of the captain of The Mayflower is to be opened as a tourist attraction in 2020. Captain Christopher Jones, from Harwich, led the voyage to the New World in 1620, which carried the Mayflower Pilgrims.

Tendring District Council (TDC) has now agreed a lease of his former house in King’s Head Street, which will allow it to be opened to visitors in 2020 to mark the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower’s historic voyage.

A significant part of the house has already been restored to expose its original features, and TDC will carry out work to make it accessible to visitors.

The authority says it will also look at developing the house further with exhibits, while the Harwich Society will manage the attraction.

There is much interest in the USA and elsewhere in The Mayflower story, and already travel operators are marketing tours of Harwich and other relevant destinations for the year 2020 and beyond.

[Link to historicharwich.co.uk]

**Alex Graeme, Owner of Unique Devon Tours shortlisted for Wanderlust World Guide of the Year**

Alex Graeme, owner of and tour guide for Unique Devon Tours was shortlisted for the Wanderlust World Guide of the Year Awards, which took place at the Royal Geographical Society in London in October 2018.

Ten tour guides were chosen as finalists, narrowed down from over 4,000 nominated from around the world. Alex Graeme comments, “I was absolutely delighted to make it into this extremely distinguished top ten and although I didn’t make it into the top three – we won the special ‘Top UK Guide’ award – which is just fantastic!”

Unique Devon Tours organises tailor made exclusive, bespoke holidays itineraries for groups of up to six people. Each experience is carefully crafted around the individual interests of the guests, showcasing the best that Devon and Cornwall have to offer, for a length of time that suits each party.

On his return home Alex also discovered that he has made it through to the final of the Visit Devon Tourism Awards 2018, in the category of ‘Guided Tour of the Year.’

Unique Devon tours provide specialist driver guided tours across Cornwall and Devon and can help Mayflower descendants follow in the footsteps of their Pilgrim ancestors.

[Link to UniqueDevonTours.com]

**Government announces additional funding towards Mayflower 400 commemorations**

The Government announced an additional £250,000 grant in support of the Mayflower 400 commemorations.

The funding will be used to promote and encourage American visitors to join the anniversary in England and to develop a ‘digital Mayflower trail’ which will bring to life the individual stories, heritage and culture of each location involved in the commemorations and is expected to launch in November 2019.

Plymouth is leading a national partnership of 11 destinations within England, which are currently developing a year-long programme of cultural events and activities as part of the anniversary.

**New dance and heritage project commemorating the Mayflower 400 anniversary is set to tour Mayflower definations.**

Multi award-winning choreographer Katie Green will bring her newest project ‘Imagination Museum: Mayflower 400’ to Plymouth, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Hampshire in the lead up to the 2020 anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. The project will see 5,500 people get involved in innovative dance and heritage events within their local communities.

From 2019-2020, the project will tour to 19 venues across the Midlands and South West of England, including museums, heritage sites, schools, community centres and churches.

Each performance will be different, drawing on workshops with the local community at each venue to develop the core dance piece and providing opportunities for community groups to perform alongside professional dancers.

**The Box Set to showcase Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy**

The Box; a multi-million pound attraction, gallery and museum complex and flagship capital project for Plymouth’s Mayflower 400 commemorations will be showcasing the ‘Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy’ exhibition as well as a range of artist-led heritage events, dance and heritage events within their local communities. The Box is leading a national partnership of 11 destinations. But business leaders are gathering to explore how business might further work with the anniversary for transatlantic opportunities.

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**A Mayflower 400 Business Networking Event, supported by transatlantic law firm Womble Bond Dickinson and the City of London Corporation welcomed a host of key business leaders to Guildhall on the 18th of October, who gathered to discuss the commercial impact of the anniversary and the business opportunities that it presents for the City of London and beyond.**

The Mayflower 400 commemoration programme in 2020 will comprise over 400 events that will span four Nations – Britain, US, Netherlands and the Native American Community and is anticipated to yield a significant £440m impact on the business turnover across the UK Mayflower Compact destinations. But business leaders are gathering to explore how business might further work with the anniversary for transatlantic opportunities.

Charles Hackett, CEO Mayflower 400 comments, “2020 is the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage, one of the most influential journeys in global history and a defining moment in the shared history of Britain, the US and the Netherlands. The city of London and business is central to this history, so we are encouraging businesses to consider how they can work with the anniversary, the international connections that it highlights, and the programme of heritage and culture that is being created.”

**The Box, Plymouth, UK.**
PLANS FOR 2020 – THE COMMEMORATION YEAR

As well as an ambitious new national heritage trail between the national partnership towns and cities with historic links to the Mayflower story. Here are some of the plans in place to commemorate the 400th anniversary.

**Plymouth, Devon**
The unveiled Plymouth projects for 2020 include:
- Mayflower Muster in September, incorporating a 4 nations civic ceremony and major military displays;
- new historic trails, taking visitors on a journey back to the 16th Century and exploring the town’s wider heritage;
- renovations to the historic Elizabeth House, a “world class” Mayflower monument;
- major theatrical events and public art commissions;
- an ‘illuminate’ community and art festival of light;
- the opening of ‘The Box’ – the multi-million pound attraction, gallery and museum complex which will become the city’s flagship cultural and heritage centre.
- the £48m Drake Circus leisure development will open in November 2019, bringing a new entertainment hub to city with top class restaurants and bars.

**Scrooby & Babworth, Nottinghamshire**
Existing plans for a twelve month calendar of events are in place in Retford and the surrounding villages. Starting off with the signature illuminate event in November 2019, confirmed activities include a national Conference on Religious Tolerance, a series of lectures across venues in Bassetlaw exploring different aspects of the Pilgrim roots history, a Pilgrim Walking Festival along the Chesterfield Canal and September 2020 Heritage Open Day will focus on the Separatist Story.

A new Pilgrim Roots gallery will open in Retford, enhanced interpretation will be installed at the Mayflower sites, new visitor tours and a new exhibition at Gainsborough Old Hall. Illuminate 2020 will bring commemorations to a close with a sound and light finale event.

**Worcestershire**
In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage, Worcester Cathedral will be hosting a Mayflower Conference in April 2020. The Cathedral will also be offering Mayflower 400 tour packages.

**Southwark, London**
As an internationally-recognised cultural destination, renowned for its vibrant performing and visual arts, history and heritage, Southwark Council is working with businesses, cultural and heritage partners to introduce a programme of events and activities building up to and through 2020.

This will include a specially written performance charting the history of the Mayflower journey, a talks programme and heritage trail taking in significant city landmarks and attractions. From Captain Christopher Jones Statue in St Mary’s, which represents Jones looking back at England, while the child is looking towards the New World to world-famous Shakespeare's Globe, Borough Market, Tate Modern and The Shard alongside the heritage of Charles Dickens, John Harvard and the Mayflower.

**Dartmouth, Devon**
The volunteer led Mayflower 400 Dartmouth programme reflects the strong community spirit of the town. Among the highlights of the heritage, education, arts and culture, music and maritime programme are:
- a new touring play
- heritage trails
- Son et Lumiere at the Britannia Naval College
- River Pageant with visiting warships and Tall Ships

Within the year round programme, the focal point for events in Dartmouth will be 31 August - 6 September.

**Harwich, Essex**
The Mayflower ship was originally designated as ‘of Harwich’ and is believed to have been built in the Essex coastal town.
The ship was commanded and part owned by Christopher Jones, whose house will for the first time be open to visitors as a visitor attraction in 2020.

Visitors will enjoy an immersive experience of the town that retains its 17th century look and charm. In addition to visiting the Captains House, the Guildhall also is open for tours and to see the Great Charter (1604). A Mayflower themed events programme will be taking place in and around Harwich.

**Immingham, Lincolnshire**
The town is developing a programme of events to commemorate its role along with a new heritage trail and a revitalised Pilgrim exhibition in the museum.

**Boston, Lincolnshire**
Boston has been delivering progressively ambitious Illuminate events and lantern parades. It is planned to deliver even more ambitious events in both 2019 and 2020 and build on the vibrancy that has enthralled participants and audiences. Alongside these community and artist driven showcases an engaging calendar of events is planned throughout the year. Boston Guildhall showcases the cells where Brewster, Bradford and others were held while being tried.

**Southampton**
With a new Mayflower Trail the redevelopment of the Mayflower Memorial and medieval city walls Southampton will create a world-class heritage attraction alongside the existing Tudor House and Sea City Museum.

The cultural programme includes a Festival of Light in November 2019 and 2020 and both cultural and heritage events during the Mayflower Maritime Festival in August 2020, highlighting Southampton’s long standing history as a maritime city.

**Leiden, Netherlands**
Leiden has launched a new Pilgrim Walking Tour of the city taking in the Pilgrim sites. Premiering in Leiden, ‘Intellectual Baggage’, is a touring museum exhibition of the city’s wider heritage.

Enfego Leiden en Omstreken is creating an education programme for students from 8 -11 years old on the theme of ‘economic migration’. Another of their projects will work with Leiden University to digitally recreate lost heritage sites – including Rembrandt’s House and the Lady’s Church.

National and International Cultural Projects

- The Mayflower 400 Trail: A connected heritage trail programme across the Mayflower 400 UK destinations with walking and digital elements and connected community outreach and education activities
- Illuminate: A growing international cultural festival of light across the UK, US and Netherlands, which will open and close the commemoration year. Through illuminate each destination will commemorate their role
- Intellectual Baggage: A touring exhibition of contemporary commissioned work connected to a collection of ‘Pilgrim Books’, initiated by The Leiden American Pilgrim Museum and Museum de Lakenhal in partnership with The Box Plymouth UK, The John Hansard Gallery Southwark UK and partners in the US
- Wampum Belt Project: Native American communities traditionally recorded their history on special belts, many of which were destroyed or lost as a result of colonisation. Working with Wampanoag artists, this project will see the creation of a new belt, which will tour the UK before being gifted to the Wampanoag in a major civic ceremony

Mayflower 400 Definiton Projects & Events

- Festivals
  2020 will see a connected series of festivals across the country as each destination commemorates their role in the Mayflower’s journey including:
  - Southamptom’s Mayflower Maritime Festival
  - Dartmouth’s Mayflower Festival, linking with their famous Regatta
  - the Pilgrimage Festival, covering communities across the East Midlands and North-East
  - Plymouth’s Mayflower Muster will provide the culmination of festival programme, commemorating the departure of the Mayflower from the UK with an international four nations civic event.
- Performances
  - The performance and presentation of major new programmes, musical arrangements, compositions and street theatre led by multiple partners including De Veenfabriek & the Dutch National Theatre, Mayflower Theatre Southamptont and Theatre Royal Plymouth (in collaboration with Seth Lakeman).
- Public Art
  - A series of exciting new public art commemorating the Mayflower’s legacy, including work at the Mayflower Steps in Plymouth and in Dartmouth. These will augment existing installations, including Southamptom’s Mayflower Monument and the Pilgrim Fathers Memorial at Scotia Creek, Boston.
- Exhibitions
  - Our Story: A touring exhibition focusing on the story of The Wampanoag produced by the Indian Spiritual and Cultural Training Council

Further Mayflower 400 Programme Highlights

- Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy: An international commemorative exhibition at The Box, Plymouth. Created in partnership with the Wampanoag Advisory Committee, and with the help of over 100 museums, libraries and archives across the UK, US and The Netherlands, this exhibition will present an epic journey of survival, imagination and over 400 years of America
- Southwark ‘Ship of Stories’: a physical touring exhibition using a combination of historic objects, 3D interpretation, community involvement and digital content
- The Harwich Mayflower Exhibition: a bespoke production based in the community, which will transform the town into a living Mayflower exhibition

Signature Civic Events

- VIP and Royal visits are anticipated at key signature events across the UK destinations through 2020
- Embarkation Day & Mayflower Muster (16 September 2020): an international commemoration in Plymouth UK, through the communities of the combined armed forces
- Embarkation Festival, Plymouth US: an international festival of thousands of people from around the world to experience America’s story of immigration and exploration through cultural presentations, historical exhibitions and live entertainment
- Wampanoag Days: a two day 2020 Turtle Island Powwow celebrating the longevity and continuity of the Indigenous Nations of America

Sports Tourism

A dedicated series of sports activities across the partnership. Including Mayflower themed half-marathons, sailing experiences and professional sports events – for example Southampton FC’s Mayflower Cup.

Food and Drink

Experience the best of British food and drink across a range of festivals. Enjoy exceptional seafood at Plymouth’s Seafood Festival, a selection of great beers at Tending’s Beer Festival and try some of the world’s best salt, and associated products, at Droitwich Salt Festival. Events will all have a Mayflower twist in 2020.