

Southampton's Mayflower 400 Programme



Mayflower 400 in Southampton

“Southampton City Council sees the Mayflower anniversary as an opportunity to work with communities to creatively explore self-identity, migration and transmigration, to celebrate the people of the world, such as the Mayflower passengers, who throughout history have come to, or through, Southampton in search of a new life, helping build our enviable reputation as Gateway to the World.”

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower and her sister ship, The Speedwell, leaving Southampton for the New World. A national compact has been agreed to deliver a year of events to mark the anniversary, with Plymouth appointed the lead for the UK. The programme will link four nations, 12 destinations, and millions of people through a series of arts, heritage, community and sporting events.

Southampton's Mayflower 400 programme is designed to help the City deliver its cultural ambitions through exciting arts projects, creative exploration of the City's heritage, and engagement with communities and young people. Throughout 2020, there will be numerous arts, community, education and heritage projects that aim to support greater understanding of the Mayflower story, and Southampton's role in that. The programme will focus on the City's wider and long history as a place of journeys, migration and sanctuary, with the aim of reconnecting young people and communities to their maritime past, building greater cross-cultural understanding and bringing communities together.

Southampton is a vibrant and diverse city with a strong cultural heritage. National evidence shows that when culture is truly part of the mix it contributes to delivering sustainable economic, social, health and wellbeing outcomes to create a resilient and thriving city. We want to be recognised as the official City of Culture 2025, but our ambition goes far beyond that, to embrace being a city of culture for all time. Our work in the anniversary year will help inform and develop these aspirations.

What's on?

March 2020

Solent Showcase Gallery - Narratives of Displacement

24 January – 21 March

[Narratives of Displacement](#) explores the use of art as a form to help refugee women tell their stories. The pieces in the exhibition were created by Iraqi and Syrian women who have found refuge in Germany, the UK and Jordan. Presented with additional support from the [University of Birmingham](#) and the [British Academy](#).

Sea City Museum - Commemorations

Part of [Southampton Stories](#), 2 February – 5 July

Incorporated within [Southampton Stories](#), this exhibition will explore the nature of commemorations and look at how Southampton has commemorated Mayflower over time, including the Mayflower Memorial (1913), the 1920 pageant and 1970 commemorations.

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Turner Sims Programme

February – June

The theme of the 2019-20 year at [Turner Sims](#) is *A Year of Journeys* and the Mayflower's departure from Southampton to America 400 years ago (in 2020) is one of many inspirations and the programme welcomes performers with influences from across the globe including: Västerås Sinfonietta (Sweden), Flook (Ireland), Kayhan Kalhor and Kiya Tabassian (Iran), Olcay Bayir (Anatolia), Theo Croker (USA) and Dudok Quartet Amsterdam (Holland).

St Michael's Church - 950th Anniversary Programme

A nine-month [concert series](#) running from February to October including Roman Rudnytsky - international concert pianist from New York; Papagenavocal Ensemble's *Nuns & Roses*; and Cantores Michaelis with the international jazz and blues singer Joe Stilgoe.

Southampton Music Hub - A Musical Odyssey

5 - 6 March

Led by [Southampton Music Hub](#), in collaboration with Mayflower Theatre, and hosted by Soweto Kinch. Both evenings will include performers from across the city: including 800 young singers from city schools; 200 talented young musicians from community bands and orchestras; up to 80 young theatre performers; 50 community musicians and many more. These two momentous evenings will celebrate the incredible power of music to take people and their communities on life changing journeys. The shows will include the premiers of two Mayflower 400 inspired projects: [Big Sing: The Journey](#) and [Symphony 400: The Voyage](#) and are the result of 130 hours of workshops, rehearsals and performances over more than six months.

Symphony 400: The Journey, is a new piece of music from award-winning composer James Redwood. The piece of music started life as musical ideas from 100 primary school children, who will now get to see their ideas transformed and performed by the city's most talented young musicians on the Mayflower stage. *Big Sing: The Journey* will see over 600 children performing brand new pieces from two new musical commissioned by Mayflower Theatre, written to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower.

Solent Showcase Gallery - Tools to Empower: New Creative Approaches in Researching Refugees and Migration.

20 March, 6pm - 8pm

Panel Discussion accompanying *Narratives of Displacement* exhibition. An informal conversation panel event sharing the stories of two creative research projects that were collaborations between artists, academics, and research participants. *Narratives of Displacement*, conducted by Dr Yafa Shanneik and artist Dr Rachel Gadsden, currently on display in Solent Showcase Gallery, and *The Fabric of Faith*, part of the Making Suburban Faith project, conducted by Dr Claire Dwyer, Dr Katy Beinart and Dr Nazneen Ahmed, both used artistic collaborations and creative participatory methods to conduct research into refugee and migration studies.

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John Hansard Gallery - Community Takeover: City of Sanctuary

28 March – 18 April

John Hansard Gallery's main gallery will be transformed by a vibrant series of activities, displays and workshops by local groups, artists and partners exploring Southampton's status as a City of Sanctuary.

April 2020

ZoieLogic Dance Theatre - *Ride*

Holyrood, Redbridge and Weston Shore estates, 16 -18 April

[ZoieLogic Dance Theatre](#) brings their outdoor show [RIDE](#), the story of three men whose separate paths coincide for a short time as they discover a most curious thing; a car that seems to have a life of its own. The company will be embarking on a 4 month engagement project showcasing the stories and journeys three Southampton communities.

Solent Showcase Gallery - *Displaced: Salon of Disability*

16 April – 13 June

[Displaced: Salon of Disability](#) will see an exciting transformation of the gallery with disabled artist-in-residence [Rachel Gadsden](#), considering displacement from the perspective of disability.

Winchester College - Treasury Exhibition

April – August

The [Winchester College Treasury](#) is home to several books relating to the history of America at the time of the Mayflower voyage. This display will include a copy of Thomas Hariot's, *A briefe and true report of the new found land of Virginia* (1590), which is illustrated with some of the earliest depictions of native American peoples, and George Sandys version of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (1626), which has a good claim to be the first work of English literature written in North America. The highlight is an example of the second edition (1685) of John Eliot's translation of the Bible into the Algonquian language. The copy at Winchester was given to the College in 1690 by Samuel Sewall, an important figure in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and one of the judges at the Salem witchcraft trials.

May 2020

John Hansard Gallery - *Mariner: A Painted Ship Upon a Painted Ocean*

2 May – 11 July

Inspired by The Rime of The Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the exhibition opens up new perspectives on marine science, postcolonial history, migration, environmental issues, isolation, and belief systems. The exhibition is also the focus of a Big Read project, led by writer and University of Southampton Creative Writing Professor, Philip Hoare.

John Hansard Gallery - *Adam Barker-Mill: Horizon*

2 May – 11 July

Reflecting on the Mayflower voyage in 1620 and Mariner exhibition, Adam Barker-Mill's site-specific immersive light installation will create the illusion of an expansive and infinite horizon.

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The Hampshire Paper - Southampton and the Mayflower

Westquay, 16 May

Drawing on research by Dr Tom Hulme of Queen's University Belfast, the spring 2020 issue of the Hampshire paper will explore the cultural afterlife of the Mayflower voyage in Southampton from the sailing to the present day. The paper looks at the celebrations, re-enactments and pageantry which accompanied the making of the Mayflower memorial and celebrations that occurred in 1913, 1920 and 1970.

Peartree Church - Tea & Sea

23 May, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

The story of Itchen Ferry Village, its unique maritime history, smuggling, cannibalism and fish. Also part of the [Peartree 400](#) anniversary programme.

Peartree Church - The Sad Tale of Richard Parker – Theatre Performance

25 - 27 May, 7.30 pm

The Sarah Siddons Fan Club Theatre present the dramatic story of the local cabin boy Richard Parker whose first voyage ended in tragedy which rocked the legal world and challenged the 'custom of the sea.' Also part of the [Peartree 400](#) anniversary programme.

SS Shieldhall - In the Footsteps of the Mayflower

SS Shieldhall (various dates May - September)

Visit SeaCity Museum and its permanent *Gateway to the World* Gallery; then take a guided walk with a [Southampton Guide](#) through the city's Old Town; finally board the [SS Shieldhall](#) for a cruise along Southampton Water.

June 2020

The Empathy Museum - A Mile in My Shoes

[Westquay](#) on the Esplanade, 13 – 21 June

The award-winning immersive project from the [Empathy Museum](#), [A Mile in My Shoes](#), tours internationally. In a 'shoe shop' based in a shipping container designed to look like a giant shoe box, visitors are fitted with a pair of shoes belonging to a stranger and given an MP3 player and headphones. They then head out to walk a mile in someone else's shoes – literally, whilst listening to that person's story.

Visit from Wampanoag Scholar

18 - 22 June

[Paula Peters](#) is a politically, socially and culturally active member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and owner of SmokeSygnals Communications. She is the executive producer of the 2016 documentary film Mashpee Nine and author of the companion book. As an independent scholar and writer of Native, and particularly Wampanoag history, Paula will be using her expertise to give talks, visit schools, and take part in various events across Southampton in June.

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Talk series

June

To coincide with Refugee Week, a talk series designed to explore wider themes surrounding the Mayflower journey and migration will happen throughout the city. Themes include: the Wampanoag story, escaping economic hardship, and Black British history education.

Tudor House and Garden - *A Thriving Port: Southampton at the time of the Mayflower*

[Tudor House and Garden](#), from 20 June

In the early 17th century, Southampton was a busy maritime port with international links, that provided a home for people of many backgrounds and nationalities. This exhibition will set the scene for the *Mayflower* departure in 1620, revealing the stories of some of Southampton's people and businesses from the time.

NS Theatres - *NOW-HERE: Journeys to My Hometown*

26-27 June

A celebration of where we've come from, to where we are now. NST's annual NOW-HERE festival will showcase the culmination of their large community engagement project *Journeys to My Hometown*, with performances of singing, dance, theatre and spoken word by Southampton's talented communities across the city.

NS Theatres - *The Children are Revolting*

30 June

NST Drama Club, [The Children are Revolting](#): An uplifting performance that challenges us to think about the world we are leaving for future generations.

July 2020

Giving Thanks

Various locations, July – October

Giving Thanks is a flexible join-in programme which enables individuals, communities, schools and businesses to find opportunities to share food, share stories and develop links across the community. This could be inviting in neighbours for supper, hosting a street party, organising a community picnic, hosting an afternoon tea or a school extending their Harvest Festival programme

NS Theatres - Showcase event

1 July

NST Youth Theatre [Showcase](#): Performances / excerpts from scripts about journeys the new world and discovery

Conchord Singers - Community Choirs

St Andrews Church, 4 July

Join 'Come and Sing' workshops with friendly Southampton [Conchord Singers](#), rehearsing a specially commissioned choral work by composer Andrew Wilson. The songs are based on a poem about the voyage by Felicia Hemans and a book of psalms the pilgrims would have sung. Professionally led sessions will be throughout

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June and open to singers of all abilities. Relaxed mini-matinee, 2:30pm, premier performance, 7:30pm.

Peartree Church - *The Religious Landscape of Peartree Green from the 16th – 19th Centuries*

4 July, 10am – 4pm

A series of talks from historians and academics highlighting local stories of Catholics and Puritans in Southampton including: Francis Mylles the builder of Pear Tree House; Lancelot Andrewes author of the service of consecration for the Jesus Chapel; and the evangelistic enterprise of the prestigious Above Bar Independent (later Congregational) Chapel; as well as an opportunity to tour Pear Tree Church. Also part of the [Peartree 400](#) anniversary programme.

Southampton Council of Faiths - Annual Peace Walk

starting at the Peace Fountain East Park, 5 July

Each year, the council of faiths lead a peace walk through the City where participants visit various places of worship: a gurdwara, Mosque, Vedic Temple and Greek Orthodox Church. Refreshments are provided as well as the opportunity to meet new people and share new ideas. We hope to attract 400 people to join the walk in 2020 as peace is a central theme for Mayflower 400 in Southampton.

SeaCity Museum - *Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America*

Part of Southampton Stories, SeaCity Museum, 11 July – 23 August

A touring exhibition led [The Box, Plymouth](#), which unites UK Mayflower 400 partners with Wampanoag artists and educators in the USA. The exhibition is centred on a newly crafted wampum belt made from the sacred shells of quahog clams from the eastern coast of North America. Four historic wampum items from the British Museum's collections will also be included alongside film footage, information and images. During the anniversary weekend, artists from the Wampanoag Nation will be performing traditional dances and running activities in the exhibition.

Art Asia - *Belonging*

[Southampton Mela](#), *Hoglands Park, 11 July*

Migration by choice, or for safety, create tensions both within self and the outside world. Yet the underlying desire is to belong. [Art Asia](#) will work with 200 members of diverse migrant communities to explore these issues through storytelling, dance, singing and visual workshops, culminating in a commissioned stage and pop-up performances, *Belonging*, to appear at the Southampton Mela.

Southampton City Art Gallery - *In Search of a New World, Open Exhibition*

[Southampton City Art Gallery](#), *18 July – 3 October*

All residents of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Wiltshire and Dorset are invited to create artwork for the Southampton City Art Gallery's biennial 'open exhibition'. Responding to the themes of journey, migration and the sea – all subjects that have helped to build Southampton.

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August 2020

God's House Tower Programme

1 – 12 August

Visit God's House Tower and see Southampton in 1620 in the fascinating heritage exhibition, *Stories Behind the Stones*. Enjoy a *Pilgrims' Supper*, theatrical performances and Heritage Live events with a programme of talks from expert historians. Explore this incredible 700-year old building and discover newly commissioned contemporary art, rarely seen works from prestigious collections and *Navigating a New World*, a collaborative exhibition between Southampton-based printmakers Cowprint and Inky Hands Print Studio from Plymouth, MA.

NS Theatres - The Crucible

7 - 8 August

NST's Summer Youth Project brings together young theatre makers with industry professionals to create and perform a new production of Arthur Miller's timeless parable, [The Crucible](#), which captures the terror of a community being torn apart

Visit from the Wampanoag People

Over the August anniversary weekend, traditional heritage teachers and performers from the [Wampanoag](#) people will lead activities for families and young people to learn about Wampanoag history and take part in traditional craft and dance activities. The Wampum Belt exhibition will come to SeaCity as part of a national tour in July 2020 led by The Box, Plymouth.

Southampton City Council - Monument Renovations

After significant repairs and restoration the Mayflower Monument will be revealed in August. The repairs will make the monument more robust for present and future generations. New plaques will acknowledge the broader story of Southampton's role in transmigration and the relationship between the Wampanoag people and the Mayflower settlers.

Mayflower Theatre - *Compass, Hourglass and Drift*

New Mayflower productions, 14 - 15 August

[Mayflower Theatre](#) has commissioned and created two new musicals and a dance production to be performed on the Mayflower Theatre stage in August 2020. The three shows combine historical fact with ingenious storytelling on the themes of migration, hope, friendship and the power of people. **Hourglass** - is a musical combining historical fact with fantastical fiction, filled with mystery and humour, that celebrates the power of courage and hope. It will incorporate a company of both professional and community performers. **Compass** is a contemporary coming-of-age story filled with trepidation, friendship and hope, following the journey of a young adult with a passion for aviation. Performed by Mayflower Theatre's Summer Youth company of 102 young people - the number of passengers on board the Mayflower ship. **Drift** - is a dance production incorporating awe inspiring aerial artists and dynamic contemporary movement in a timeless world, inspired by the Mayflower passenger journey with a company of professional and community dancers.

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Southampton Heritage Federation - Commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Sailing of the Mayflower

Mayflower Monument, 15 August

On the actual 400th Anniversary of the Sailing of the Mayflower (and the Speedwell) destined for America there will be a public commemoration held at, and around, the Mayflower Monument that stands opposite Mayflower Park. The anniversary event will be led by local dignitaries and representative faiths who will share with all attendees our collective pride that Southampton was chosen as the port of departure because it was thought of, both then and now, as the Safe Harbour. This event is being organised by the [Southampton Heritage Federation](#).

Unity 101 Radio - *Hands of Love 4 – The Journey*

Guildhall Square, 22 August

[Hands of Love](#) is the main title of this event, led by [Unity 101 Radio](#), which has a theme every year. This year's theme is "The Journey" which will coincide with Mayflower 400. This event will involve people sharing their stories around a table, followed by community lunch, then poetry, and entertainment – concluding with tea, scones, and biscuits.

September 2020

The Place - *Future Cargo*

St Michaels Square, 11 – 12 and 17 – 18 September (TBC)

In the science fiction of *Future Cargo*, a truck arrives from a distant planet. Within a shipping container, a parallel universe is created where the laws that govern our world do not apply. Wearing headphones, you'll be invited to look and listen in to a world that is both strange and familiar. *Future Cargo* is an outdoor dance show bridging grand visual spectacle and intimate fly-on-the-wall experience. This is [Reguardt & Rosenberg's](#) fourth outdoor show. Together they create performance away from traditional auditoriums, making highly visible, unique events with a distinctive format.

Heritage Open Days

Various Locations, 13 - 20 September

[Heritage Open Days](#) is England's largest festival of history and culture. Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's a chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences.

Talk series

September

To coincide with Heritage Open Days, a talk series designed to explore wider themes surrounding the Mayflower journey and migration will happen throughout the city. Themes include: collective forgetting, Black British history education and the history of commemorations.

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John Hansard Gallery - Community Takeover: Environment and Sustainability

26 September – 17 October

John Hansard Gallery's main gallery will be transformed by a vibrant series of activities, displays and workshops by local groups, artists and partners exploring the theme of Environment and Sustainability.

Education and ESOL Resources

September 2020 - March 2021

Our education programme is delivered to support the [School of Sanctuary](#) scheme and will focus on migration to and transmigration via Southampton. Delivered in two parts, phase one will focus on historical characters and stories including the Mayflower. Phase two will use the oral histories of Southampton's migrant and refugee elders to reveal more recent heritage.

ESOL heritage resources and classes will enable learners from refugee and migrant communities to better know the city they now call home. Additionally, worksheets will be created which can be used on an on-going basis by ESOL providers and by heritage venues around the city.

October 2020

Winchester Poetry Festival

Various Locations, 9 -11 October

The fourth [Winchester Poetry Festival](#) will be a celebration of the very special artistic relationship which exists between British and American poets, whether between Robert Frost and Edward Thomas or Sylvia Plath and Stevie Smith. In addition to the sparkling international line-up in October 2020, the festival will also feature major and innovative writers from America, as well as American poets who have made Britain their home. Performances and events are being held in Southampton as well as Winchester, and will explore the ways in which the two poetry cultures inform and nourish each other, with readings, workshops, a lecture and writers in conversation.

Southampton City Art Gallery - *Shadows and Light*

[Southampton City Art Gallery](#), *23 October 2020 – 30 January 2021*

Coinciding with the culmination of Southampton's Mayflower 400 anniversary programme, this exhibition will bring together works of contemporary art which relate to light as subject matter. Featuring photography, painting, drawing, sculpture and installation, the exhibition will also include works from Southampton's nationally important fine art collection.

Solent Showcase Gallery - *Manifesting the Unseen*

October 2020 – January 2021

[Manifesting the Unseen](#) seeks to remove barriers and reveal hidden truths of Islamic art and its modern cultural expression. Bringing together an international group of established and emerging Muslim women artists, the exhibition invites the viewer to see the unseen, challenging the perceptions of Islam and Muslim Women.

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John Hansard Gallery - Seaside: Photographed

31 October – 16 December

Seaside: Photographed is a major touring exhibition that examines the relationship between photographers, photography and the British seaside from the 1850s to the present.

November 2020

Southampton Film Week

November

Southampton Film Week was launched in 2008 as part of an initiative by community filmmaking charity [City Eye](#) to foster a greater appreciation of film and moving image within Southampton and the wider area. Southampton Film Week includes a wide variety of training, workshops and seminars as well as the [SFW: Shorts competition](#) which is designed to showcase the very best of local and international filmmakers. The 2020 event will include screenings of films created by young people as part of the Mayflower 400 Oral History Programme.

Turner Sims - New music commission

[Turner Sims](#), 21 – 22 November

Turner Sims will work with local artists to produce a new music commission celebrating the lives of Southampton's migrant communities. A composer will create new choral pieces based on pre-existing and new oral histories of BAME and migrant elders. A group of 'hidden' musicians will be selected to make up a team of circa 10 musicians representing different cultures and musical genres.

Audacious CIC - KRYT

Guildhall Square, 26 - 28 November

The light writer [KRYT](#) writes poems on walls, they can be heard at the same time. The texts are written word by word on a projection screen with a clear blue laser. With the passage of time, the written text slowly fades away, giving space for a new sentence. Slowly, light, sound and text merge which allows you to enter the writer's head and start thinking along with him/her. *KRYT* mixes technology, the beauty of poetry and sound, into an exciting live performance. Supported by workshops in schools across the city. Presented with additional support from the Dutch Embassy.

Audacious CIC - Towers of Light

Weston Shore, 26 - 28 November

Light and sound artist [Andy McKeown](#) will lead *Towers of Light*, a co-created commission with the community at Weston Shore. Led by [Audacious](#), Andy and artists from Wild Strawberry Media will work with residents and community groups including schools, [City College](#) students, [Friends of Weston Shore](#) and [Sustrans](#) to create a bespoke illuminated grid consisting of hundreds of flags of colour in the block's 1,300 front-facing windows.

KRYT and *Towers of Light* will be delivered as part of **Illuminate 2020**, the national finale of the Mayflower programme.

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Welsh National Opera – *Migrations*

Mayflower Theatre, November 28

Since the beginning of time nature has migrated effortlessly, but when it comes to the human race it always seems more complicated. Through a series of six stories, by six writers from diverse backgrounds, Welsh National Opera explores migration from multiple angles: from the migration of birds to the sailing of The Mayflower 400 years ago; from the story of an Afro-Caribbean slave in Bristol to the experience of Indian doctors working in the NHS. [Migrations](#) is a hugely ambitious new opera by British composer Will Todd. An expanded WNO Orchestra is joined by a cast of 100 performers, including a gospel choir, Bollywood dancers and a children's chorus. #WNOmigrations

Ongoing Projects

Solent Showcase Gallery - Community Workshop programme

[Solent Showcase Gallery](#), January 2020 – January 2021

2020 exhibitions at Showcase Gallery seek to challenge the perceptions of Islam, Muslim women and disability. Accompanying the year, community collaboration and workshop pieces, will be led by Nazneen Ahmed and Abeer Kayani and focused on local BAME and women's groups.

City Eye - Oral Histories

Community film resource, [City Eye](#) and archivist [Padmini Broomfield](#) will work together to reveal the stories of 12 BAME and migrant elders living in Southampton. The resultant oral histories will inspire a project with 60 young people creating short films, and a large-scale (ACE funded) music commission which will be presented during the city's annual film festival, Southampton Film Week, during November 2020. The recordings will be available for future generations as legacy interpretation, learning and online resources.

Guided walks

See [Southampton](#), [Mayflower Heritage Guides](#) and [Southampton Tourist Guides Association](#) all offer guided walking tours of the city, offering insight into the locations important to the Mayflower story.



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