



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.

Thames Alive proposed holding a regatta and flotilla on the River Thames to commemorate Mayflower 400 with an illuminated scroll as the focal point of the event. It would be sealed by the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament and then carried downstream from Westminster with due pomp to be delivered to a tall ship and thence to be transported to the United States, the pandemic put paid to the plans.

After much discussion and planning the scroll **was** sealed at Westminster and put on board, with assistance from youngsters from The Ahoy Centre, the passenger boat 'Edwardian' and carried downstream to Rotherhithe, before starting its journey to the House of Representatives.

The Ceremony

On the Terrace of the House of Commons on 4th September 2020 a small group of invited guests witnessed the signing of the Scroll by The Speaker of the House of Commons and Admiral Lord West representing the Lord's Speaker.

The US Ambassador Robert "Woody" Johnson added his signature to an original copy to be retained by the Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle.



The guests on the Terrace were - from the City of London, Sheriff Christopher Hayward who made a speech on behalf of The Rt.Hon. The Lord Mayor, (Alderman William Russell was having to self-isolate); the British-American Parliamentary Group's Joint Honorary Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. John Spellar MP who had established contact with the US Congress on behalf of Thames Alive and William Alden MBE DL Clerk of the Worshipful Company Stationers who produced the scroll and Mark Wheatley Common Councillor of the City of London. Also present was the Chaplain to the House of Commons, Rev. Canon Hillas, the Serjeant At Arms and his deputy with Roger Mutton the organiser from Thames Alive.

Witnessing the ceremony from 'Edwardian' were – The Mayor of Rotherhithe, Cllr. Sandra Rhule who was presented with a copy of the scroll, Cllrs. Wingfield and Lauder from Southwark Council, Master and Clerk of the Watermen & Lightermen Company, HM Barge Master Chris Livett (owner/operator of 'Edwardian'), President of the Rotherhithe History Society, Ms. Maisie Ronald designer of the scroll, the organisers and supporters of 'Illuminate Rotherhithe'. They were joined by members of the American Society in London and other friends, supporters and guests of Thames Alive.

Also in attendance on the river was the City of London, Port Health launch 'Lady Aileen' with representatives from the City of London.

This Thames Alive event was conceived to be in support of the local Rotherhithe Community plan to illuminate their local waterfront, a legacy project entitled '***Illuminate Rotherhithe!***'

This scheme has received support from the Mayor of London and the American Embassy together with many local donations from businesses and individuals in appreciation of its value as a legacy project for the River Thames.

Since the difficulties created by the Covid-19 pandemic the pageant proposed by Thames Alive has been postponed till 2021 when 'The Return of The Mayflower' will be celebrated on 11th June.



Next year a sail training ship '*Excelsior*' representing '*The Mayflower*' will be moored outside the Mayflower Public House in Rotherhithe for the return on 11th June 2021.



She is a 75 feet long East Coast Sailing Smack which takes a dozen young people on character building adventures, sailing in the North Sea and the English Channel, teaching them the skills for sailing a traditional heavy Gaff rigged boat. This was another reason why the Mayflower 400 - London celebration is so important.



The organisers Thames Alive specialise in working on the River Thames creating spectacles to draw attention to historic events on and around the River and London. For Historic Royal Palaces Thames Alive created events for Henry VIII's Honeymoon at Hampton Court and Anne Boleyn's journey to the HM Tower of London. Other events include in 2012 the rowed and paddled section of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant, the Thames leg of the Olympic Torch Relay and in 2015 the two day Magna Carta river relay along the Thames from Hurley to Runnymede for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Runnymede Borough Councils.

www.thamesalive.org.uk



Sherriff Christopher Hayward, Reverend Canon Patricia Hillas, Rt. Hon John Spellar MP with the Speaker of the House of Commons.

William Alden MBE DL, the Clerk of the Stationers' Company who is a direct descendant of the cooper on board "*The Mayflower*" meeting the Speaker on the Terrace with Roger Mutton of Thames Alive.



- Credit: ©UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

“Edwardian” waiting for the Scroll with the Mayor of Southwark and members of the American Society in London on board.



We would like to thank all our supporters and sponsors, in particular –



Chris Livett who provided the 'Edwardian', the Port of London Authority, The Ahoy Centre, Jon Aaverns from The City of London Port Health and the Company of Watermen & Lightermen, who supported the launch event in the Watermen's Hall in 2019