



## Pilgrim Fathers UK Origins Association

### Review of the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007

From the original desire of Bassetlaw District Council to recognise its unique Separatist history, an approach was made to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council to establish a working partnership to build upon and promote this heritage. A consultation meeting was held in November 2006 to agree a way forward.

Arising from the 2006 meeting, The Pilgrim Fathers UK Origins Association was constituted, as a not for profit organisation, on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007 with the following objectives:

- a. to draw together and promote information on the original Pilgrim Fathers that is of interest to descendants, the local community and visitors to the area.
- b. to work with others to develop a co-ordinated infrastructure on the origins of local Pilgrim Fathers, including visitor information points;
- c. to work with others to stimulate events which highlight historical points of interest to visitors;
- d. to work with others to engage the community in the heritage of the Pilgrim Fathers;
- e. to work with others, in a co-ordinated way, to increase tourism to the area.

To further these objectives the Association formed a Management Group with representatives of all interested organisations which has met monthly. During the year this Group has stimulated and co-ordinated the development a number of initiatives.

The Association website was designed to provide information on the heritage of the Separatists from the area who became the leaders of the Pilgrim Fathers and to provide information for visitors. This website is regarded by Dr. Jeremy Bangs as one of the most comprehensive websites on the Pilgrim Fathers and is attracting 1500 visits (30,000 hits) a month. Half of these are from the UK and half from overseas. This website is playing an important role in promoting the heritage and in providing information for both visitors to the area and the community.

During the past year the Association has worked with Sherwood Forest Trust to produce a Pilgrim Fathers heritage pack for schools which dovetails with the curriculum. The Association is grateful to the Trust for funding the development of these materials which have been well received by schools in the area. They will be made available to all schools, either locally or internationally, free of charge in the coming year. There are plans to modify this pack for community use.

The Association initiated a Pilgrim Fathers Festival Weekend in November 2006 and stimulated local partner organisations to plan for numerous events in 2007/ 2008. The Association will manage a more extensive Festival Weekend in November 2007 to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Separatists leaving the area for Holland.

I believe the Association has made significant progress in its first year in achieving its objectives and I am grateful to all the organisations who have provided their financial, or in kind, support in our first year. Our financial statement for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 records the extent of this support and demonstrates that the Association has made arrangements to be financially self-sufficient in the coming year.

I am particularly grateful to Sandra Withington, as Secretary, and Linda Merryweather, as Treasurer, and to all members of the Management Group for their time and support in stimulating and establishing the initiatives that demonstrate our progress.

Anthony Darbyshire  
Chair