

# ***Giving Thanks*** **Mayflower 400 Southampton**

Ideas for getting your organisation involved.



**#MyGivingThanks**

## What is Giving Thanks?

*Giving Thanks* is a campaign to create digital memories that bring the people of Southampton together in a shared celebration of our city. In the current climate of longer nights, not being able to socialise indoors, missing friends and family, businesses and organisations are constantly learning to adapt and change.

Let's try to focus on the positives and give thanks for what we do have.



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## What is Giving Thanks?

We want to encourage you, your employees, your customers and clients to share with us what you all give thanks for on a day-to-day basis and how you all give thanks, by sending us a photo, short video, drawing, dedication, story or poem.

We will post up a selection on our website and social media channels. At the end of the project we will create a new online digital artwork that brings all this activity together.

[Watch the \*Giving Thanks\* video](#)



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## About Mayflower 400 Southampton

*Giving Thanks* is part of Southampton's Mayflower 400 programme. The sailing of the Mayflower on its now famous journey to the New World started at Southampton's West Quay, on 15 August 1620.

Around 40 of the ship's 102 passengers were the Puritan Separatists who, through time, have become known as America's Pilgrim Fathers. They settled in what had been the Native American village of Patuxet. The village had been abandoned by the Wampanoag people who lived there after the death of the majority of its inhabitants in a 'great plague' (1616 –1619), brought by English and European invaders.



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In November 1621 these two groups, the settlers and the indigenous people, came together for a great three-day feast which we now know as the first Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is now a national holiday in the US but it does not sit comfortably with the First Nations. However, they do have a culture of giving thanks and have their own giving thanks celebrations throughout the year.

You can watch a film made by the Wampanoag people about Thanksgiving [here](#)



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# Ideas for *Giving Thanks* at work

The ideas in the pack are just to get you started. We are looking forward to seeing all your *Giving Thanks* creations.

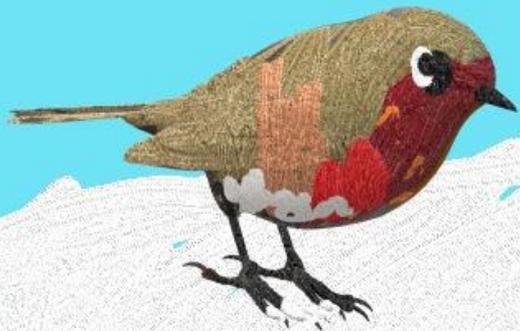
- Get creative, get colleagues to create a piece of artwork which illustrates what they are thankful for, this could be in the form of a painting, poem, sculpture or song. Share these creations in a virtual team meeting.
- If you have a shop window or office window, decorate it with messages of thanks. If you are working from home you could decorate your own window and share photos of this with colleagues.



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# Seasonal Ideas for *Giving Thanks*

***Giving Thanks Secret Santa.*** Instead of a present share with colleagues, share messages of thanks. These could be in the form of a poem, a picture, a video, or just a dedication of thanks on a team zoom meeting. Record or take screenshots of your meeting and share with **#MyGivingThanks**



If you have a Christmas tree at work, or even an office plant, get colleagues to decorate it with messages of thanks. Use luggage labels or cut bauble shapes from coloured paper. Film or photograph participants decorating the tree. Read out messages of gratitude.



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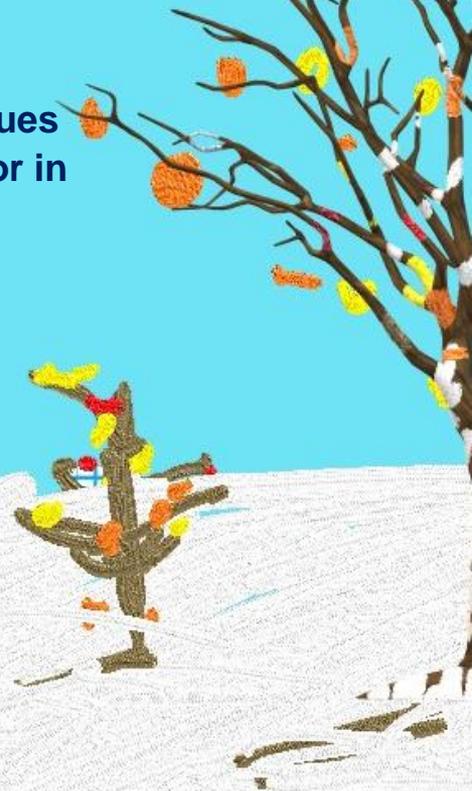
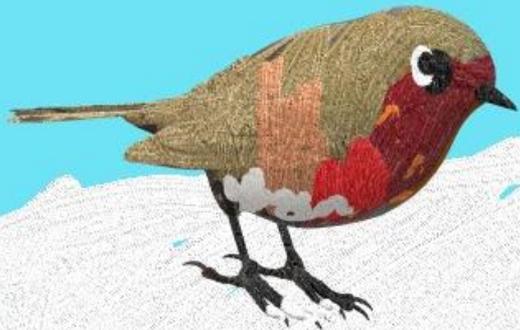
# Seasonal Ideas for *Giving Thanks*

Start the New Year back at work by sharing with your colleagues what you have been thankful for in 2020 and what you wish for in 2021. What better way to start a team meeting?

Instead of bringing in mince pies and chocolates to the office, why not make a donation to a food bank?

Or give a gift to a toy bank rather than the usual Secret Santa?

Or you could donate your Christmas party budget/whip round to a local charity.



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# Share with it with us..... we'd love to hear from you

Share your *Giving Thanks* activities with us. We would love to see you and your team getting creative.

Take photos, videos, gifs of your activities you take part in with your colleagues.

Use the hashtag #MyGivingThanks and share them with us on:

Twitter: [Mayflower400SC](#)

Facebook: [Southampton Mayflower 400](#)

LinkedIn: [Mayflower400SC](#)

Email: [Mayflower400@Southampton.gov.uk](mailto:Mayflower400@Southampton.gov.uk)



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There are more activities for individuals and families to do at home in our [\*Giving Thanks Activity Pack\*](#)

A big thank you from the Mayflower 400 team and all our partners.



[www.mayflower400southampton.co.uk/get-involved/giving-thanks](http://www.mayflower400southampton.co.uk/get-involved/giving-thanks)



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