BABCNE’s Fall meet-up was an educational and thoroughly jolly evening. A tour of Sam Adams Brewery was followed by presentations about the myriad events that are planned for next year, to celebrate 400 years of the arrival of the Mayflower in New England.

After enjoying one of the range of beers available at the tap room, and getting a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones, the group gathered around our entertaining tour guide. We rolled malt and hops in our fingers, smelled that familiar odour and heard about the “mash” and “infusion” processes. Then, gathered in the private Pickwick bar, we had the chance to taste some of the results and nibble at some snacks.

Next, presenters gave us a heads up of some of the many events planned for the 400-year anniversary of the arrival of the first Brits in the area, on board the Mayflower. Michelle Pecoraro of the “Plymouth 400” organization told us that this anniversary is an opportunity to tell many stories. The commemoration includes, as well as a conference of Mayflower descendants, a walk looking at the Wampanoag perspectives. We also heard that the restored replica of the original ship, Mayflower 2, will take to the seas, along with the USS Constitution.

Michelle presented BABCNE’s indefatigable executive director Urszula Wojciechowska with a special Mayflower medal to thank her for her support and interest.

Executive Director of the Pilgrimhall Museum, one of the oldest museums in the USA, Donna Curtin, then spoke about a major community arts project. Volunteers, co-ordinated by museum staff, are currently stitching a huge tapestry which tells the story of 1620 in a similar way to the Bayeux Tapestry. Executive Director of the museum Donna Curtin said that if the work is properly curated, it could last until the 800 year anniversary - and beyond.
(Photos below by Claire Vail of the New England Historical Genealogical Society)