



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



THE PENTRICH & SOUTH WINGFIELD REVOLUTION GROUP

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1166940

Embargoed until 2.30 p.m. on Friday 3rd March 2017

Pentrich 2017 – Commemorating the forgotten revolution wins National Lottery support

Today, the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group has received a grant of £66,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project to commemorate the bi-centenary of the last and little known 'revolution' in the United Kingdom.

This ambitious project, which will run from April 2017 to December 2018, is centred in the Amber Valley and adjacent areas in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and will provide a lasting legacy for this momentous but largely forgotten historical event.

At a time of high unemployment and extreme poverty amongst the labouring classes, the Pentrich Revolution in June 1817 was one of the last popular risings against a repressive government fearful of an English version of the French Revolution. Although it failed, it was representative of a rising tide of radicalism in the 19th Century which eventually resulted in universal male emancipation, the rise of the trade union movement and fairer employment laws.

The planned activities include a guided walk through South Wingfield on Friday 9th June to commemorate the start of the rising. This will be followed by a commemorative event on Saturday 10th June at South Wingfield Social Club including excerpts from a play by the Big Adventures Theatre Company which tell the story of the rising. There will also be the opportunity to visit Wingfield Manor on this day.

A series of 15 local walks and permanent information boards have been devised to follow the route taken by the revolutionaries across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

On June 4th there will be a walk in period dress following the full length of the revolutionaries' march towards Nottingham.

There will also be a series of exhibitions themed around the Pentrich Revolution, including local fixed exhibitions at Amber Valley Borough Council and Ripley Fish & Chips. There will also be smaller travelling exhibitions at libraries in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and in local communities connected with the rising. A summer exhibition of contemporary artefacts at Pickford House in Derby is being organised by Derby Museum, followed by an exhibition at The Galleries of Justice in Nottingham during the autumn.

There will also be two International Conferences focusing on the Pentrich Revolution at Derby University on June 9th and over the weekend of 21 – 23 July 2017.

Local craft groups are currently working to produce a banner and a quilt commemorating the Pentrich Revolution. When completed these will be permanently displayed in the local area.

In the autumn we aim to work with local schools on a living history project incorporating video and other interactive media. There will also be a series of Study Days open to members of the public at local libraries and at the Derbyshire Records Office where they will be able to access contemporary material.

Many of the above activities will provide opportunities for volunteers to assist the project and learn new skills such as research, interpretation and presentation.

Commenting on the award, John Hardwick, Chair of the Organising Committee said; *"We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and are confident the project will engage local communities and raise awareness of the Pentrich Revolution establishing a legacy for future generations. This is an endorsement of the efforts of our group, all of our partners and local councils who have planned Pentrich 2017 over the last two years."*

Jonathan Platt, Head of HLF East Midlands, said: "We're delighted that National Lottery players' money can support the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group to shine a light on this important, but little-known, piece of our heritage."

A potted history...

On 9th June 1817, over 300 men set out for Nottingham from villages on the Derbyshire-Nottinghamshire border. They thought they were part of a 'general rising' to bring down an unjust and oppressive government. Motivated by poverty and hunger, all efforts to gain a hearing suppressed, and having no vote, many saw an armed revolt as the only alternative.

Unbeknown to them, Oliver the spy' a government agent provocateur had encouraged the armed revolt. Rebel leaders had already been arrested and only a

handful would take up arms in Huddersfield and Nottingham. The Derbyshire men were to be used as an 'example' to others.

Ambushed by troops, the marchers fled and many were arrested. At their trials in Derby, three - Brandreth, Ludlam and Turner - were sentenced to death, to be hanged then beheaded. Fourteen were transported to penal colonies in Australia, others imprisoned. Their families were evicted and homes destroyed.

Notes to editors

About the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group

The organisation was formed in 2014 as a single purpose community organisation dedicated to increasing and retaining awareness of the 1817 Pentrich Revolution. It is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its objectives are:

- to commemorate the 1817 Pentrich Rising;
- to educate and increase awareness about the rising;
- to establish a legacy which preserves and entrenches the heritage of the Revolution.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #HLFsupported.

Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Michael Parkin on 07960060363 or by e mail: mparkin109@googlemail.com

WEBSITE: www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk <http://www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk/>

FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/pentrichrevolution
<http://www.facebook.com/pentrichrevolution>