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### Background information for Applicants

Pentrich 2017 aims to commemorate the bi-centenary of a little known 'revolution' in the United Kingdom.

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 19<sup>th</sup> Century which eventually resulted in universal emancipation, the rise of the trade union movement and fairer employment laws.

In 2017 we will be celebrating the bi-centenary of this momentous local event with a guided commemorative walk through South Wingfield on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June. This will be followed by a celebration event held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

We have devised a series of local walks following the route taken by the revolutionaries across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and a series of interpretive information boards will be placed along the route. There will also be a series of Awareness raising exhibitions and art exhibitions themed around the Pentrich Revolution. There will be local fixed exhibitions at Ripley Town Hall and Ripley Fish & Chips. There will also be smaller travelling exhibitions at libraries in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire in local communities connected with the rising. A summer exhibition of contemporary artefacts at Pickford House in Derby is being organised by Derby Museum. This will be followed by an Exhibition at The Galleries of Justice in Nottingham during the autumn.

There will also be two International Conferences at Derby University. In the autumn we hope to work with local schools on a living history project incorporating video and other media. There is a website;

[www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk](http://www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk) and a Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/pentrichrevolution](https://www.facebook.com/pentrichrevolution)

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 trial 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.

For more information see our website: [www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk](http://www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk)



# THE PENTRICH & SOUTH WINGFIELD REVOLUTION GROUP