



THE PENTRICH & SOUTH WINGFIELD REVOLUTION GROUP



9th edition

January 2018

Free

Pentrich 2017

Commemorating the forgotten revolution.

We held our main commemorative event on June 10th 2017. Despite difficulties with other local events on the same day and inclement weather we persisted with around 500 people attending the event and coverage in the local and national media.

Other notable achievements during 2017 included;

- putting on a series of local exhibitions of community art projects including paintings by children from a local school and over 40 professional and amateur artists. These were complemented by a historical exhibition culminating in a joint exhibition at The National Justice Museum in Nottingham,
- installing information boards along the route taken by the revolutionaries in their march on Nottingham,
- devising 15 walks along the route of this march, producing trail guides and engaging over 300 people in taking part in these walks,
- making the first of a series of short films about The Pentrich Revolution,
- devising a scheme of learning based on The Pentrich Revolution for Key Stage 2 pupils,
- producing regular newsletters and a series of books and pamphlets about The Pentrich Revolution,
- increasing our Facebook followers to over 600 people and establishing a website.
www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk

Pentrich 2018

Securing the legacy of Pentrich 1817

We intend to claim a place in history for The Pentrich Revolution by securing the legacy of Pentrich 2017.

Key aims include increasing awareness of The Pentrich Revolution locally and nationally by;

- seeking a venue for a permanent exhibition,
- extending the outreach work with schools and colleges,
- continuing to tell the story of those who were imprisoned or transported to penal colonies in Australia,
- extending research into The Pentrich Revolution including the genealogy of those involved,
- producing a second Pentrich film.

In October 2018 the commemoration shifts to Sydney Australia to mark the arrival of the transported men. There will be three commemorative walks to complement those in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and other events.



The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group 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.

Transported for Treason

The arduous journey to the penal colonies in Australia.

Transportation was the practice of sending convicted criminals overseas to serve their sentences - as an answer to overcrowded jails in England and as an alternative to the death penalty. After the loss of the American colonies Australia was the main destination for transported criminals

George Weightman, whose sentence had been commuted to transportation and nine of the other Pentrich revolutionaries were sent to London and were put on board The Retribution. It was one of the ships moored to hold prisoners before they joined the ships to sail to Australia. Four men were considered too ill to travel.

The week before Christmas 1817 they were taken on board the Tottenham where 200 prisoners were gathered from the prison ships ready to sail to Australia. Each prisoner was given a suit of clothes, a change of linen, a flock bed, a pillow and a blanket. The flock beds were either filled with coarse wool or finely cut-up pieces of cloth. All week the weather was cold and squally. The ship's surgeon-superintendent, Robert Armstrong, reported that the prison quarters were wet and uncomfortable, and fires were lit to dry out the flooded areas. The mattresses, pillows and blankets were probably damp if not soaked and not much help to keep warm or dry. The Tottenham stayed moored at Sheerness, on the northern Kent coast until early 1818.

Joseph 'Manchester' Turner wrote a letter to the Derby Mercury on 11th December 1817. The Derby prisoners were still held in irons, sent to work, provided with food and attended church.

"We have barley and oatmeal night and morning and beef for dinner four days a week and the other days bread and cheese...By our good behaviour we hope to get a mitigation of our sentence and enjoy our liberty once more. A ship is expected here to proceed to Botany Bay in 15 days, and having made no provision for our journey, you will be so kind to tell the other prisoners to bring all clothes, shoes, stockings, knives, razors, needles and other sewing cotton, looking glasses and combs which are very expensive here".

Who was Joseph Turner writing this letter to the newspaper for? The list of things he suggested the prisoners needed to bring with them is in contrast to the poor state of the men in prison in Derby during the summer. Where would the men have got these things - their families were struggling and suffering. Joseph continued to think that good behaviour on the voyage would mean freedom on arrival in Australia - but this was not the case.



Those left behind

The Prison sentences

Several of the Pentrich Revolutionaries were given prison sentences with hard labour. These ranged from six to twelve months. Although these sentences were relatively short the prison conditions were so poor and the work so hard that often men did not survive.

Twelve of the younger men were released without further punishment but the judge left them in no doubt about the consequences about any further thoughts of rebellion.

The demise of Pentrich

Pentrich was part of the The Duke of Devonshire's estate and soon after the trials and executions his agent began demolishing The White Horse Inn, Thomas Bacon's House and the houses of the other rebels who lived in Pentrich. Their land was redistributed to loyal tenants.

A school was built on the site of Bacon's House and a new church, All Saints, was built in Ripley. The population of Pentrich declined rapidly and Ripley rose to become the administrative centre of the area.

Images from the official opening of our exhibition at The National Justice Museum, Nottingham.

21st October 2017 - January 7th 2018



Paddy Tipping (Police Commissioner) and guests



The invited guests gather in the foyer



Bev Baker (NJM) and the Lord Mayor of Nottingham Michael Edwards.



Guests viewing the exhibition



Roger Tanner addresses the guests



Ola Wilson (Textile Artist) and The Anarchy Applique



County Councillor John Handley (Greasley) addresses guests



Beki Howey (Project Co-ordinator) and the Pentrich Quilt



The Execution Block from Derby Museum.



Our Chairman, John Hardwick, addresses the guests

The Pentrich Revolution Bicentenary

England's Last Armed Rebellion

1817 - 2017



Interpretation boards along the route of the march.

We aim to have eighteen interpretation boards erected along the route of the revolutionaries by the end of 2018 – so far ten have been installed in the following locations;

Alfreton – opposite The Watchorn Church (Walk 6)

Swanwick – outside the Council Meeting room on Derby Road (Walk 7)

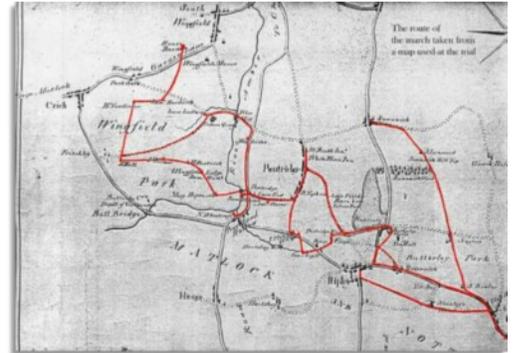
South Wingfield – [1] outside The Primary School and [2] The Yew Tree Public House (Walk 2)

Fritchley/Crich - nr. The Gangway Information Board (Walk 3)

Ripley – [1] outside The Old Cock Inn,
- [2] At Sainsburys,
- [3] At The Midland Railway Centre Butterley.
(All on Walk 8)

Codnor – On the Clock Tower in the Market Place (Walk 9)

Aldercar and Langley Mill - opposite The Navigation Inn (Walk 11)



The unveiling of the Interpretation Board at Langley Mill

On November 25th 2017 members of the Penrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group Executive Committee joined representatives of Aldercar and Langley Mill Parish Council to unveil their Information Board. The picture shows our Chairman John Hardwick addressing the guests before we all enjoyed a buffet lunch provided at The Navigation Inn across the road from the Information Board. Our thanks to all concerned.



Please note that from January 2018 there will be quarterly newsletters. The next edition will be in April 2018.

Do you want to become a revolutionary?

We need more volunteers and helpers for the many events, walks and exhibitions that we have planned. Attendance at training sessions may be required for certain activities. For further information or to become a friend of the Penrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group please contact Valerie Herbert - valerie.mherbert@yahoo.co.uk You can become a Friend for as little as £5 per year. You will receive our Newsletter giving updates on all events. As a charity we depend on donations to carry on the work both now and after the bicentenary commemoration in 2017. If you would like to become a friend or make a donation it will be eligible for gift aid as we are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Number 1166940)