



# THE PENTRICH & SOUTH WINGFIELD REVOLUTION GROUP



10<sup>th</sup> edition

April 2018

Free

## *Presenting... The Pentrich Revolution... film*

**Our latest blockbuster** telling the story of The Pentrich Revolution in 1817.

It is based on the events that stirred in Pentrich, Derbyshire 200 years ago when England saw its last armed rebellion. The story has been virtually neglected by historians (see Page 3) and it is often forgotten by the communities in which it originated.

The rising was borne out of poverty and ended tragically but it also formed an important link in the struggle for democracy in the United Kingdom at a time when ordinary people had few civil rights.

Our thanks to everyone that helped us including the re-enactors who brought the drama to life and the artists who kindly allowed us to feature their paintings.



***The rebels arrive at Mrs. Hepworth's house.***

The film is over nine minutes long and has already had over 400 views on Youtube.

Here is the link -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbP35knxQK8&feature=youtu.be>

In due course a DVD copy will be sent to local schools as a learning resource.

Special thanks to:

James Reader of [Front Row Films](#), Jimmy Richards our scriptwriter and [James Oldrini](#) who composed the bespoke soundtrack.

[Cromford Mills](#) and [National Justice Museum](#) for kindly providing the period locations.

[#Pentrich2017](#)  
[#HLFfunded](#),  
[#loveheritage](#)

**And now the sequel...**

The second Pentrich film is currently in production with a summer release planned.

The intended audience is adults and older students who may already know the basic story of The Pentrich Revolution.

It will feature interviews with experts who will explore the significance of The Pentrich Revolution in more depth. It also has commentaries from descendants and local people who give an insight into what this event means for their families and local communities.

## *Claiming our place in history.*

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 (Part 2)*

### **Slow progress along the English coast...**

In early 1818 ten of the Pentrich rebels were on board the convict ship Tottenham which was reported as 'waiting about' Sheerness, being at the 'Nore' and moving to the 'Downs'. During February the Tottenham attempted to move from Sheerness in the Thames Estuary to the Nore where it joins the North Sea and onto the Downs in the Channel off the coast from Dover. Storms meant the ship went back to Sheerness for repairs after getting to Dover.

A journey of just over an hour by road today but what was it like in cold and foggy weather facing storms and heading back to Sheerness? Conditions on the ship Tottenham were poor for the Derbyshire men in the early weeks on board the ship as it stayed near the Kent coast. Blankets and clothes were often soaking wet, some of the prisoners suffering with illnesses.

**John Bacon** (54) - diarrhoea and frequent mention in the surgeon's log for six months, including chest pains and difficult breathing.

**George Weightman** (26) - 'rigors succeeded by severe pain in his back loins and over all his limbs' in January but improving in February.

**John Mckesswick** (37) and **Joseph 'Manchester' Turner** (19) - diarrhoea.

Convict ships had a surgeon appointed by the government. On the Tottenham, Robert Armstrong, tended the health of all on board the ship. He was kept busy during the rest of the voyage to Australia.

By March 1818 - the Tottenham was back at Dover after returning to Sheerness 'in consequence of her rudder being damaged'. A heavy storm on the 4<sup>th</sup> March broke the ship from her anchor and the ship drifted for a mile at sea. 'A most tremendous Gale of Wind was experienced on Wednesday night' - the Lloyd's list for the day is a catalogue of wrecks and losses. By 10<sup>th</sup> March, the ship Isabella was also at Dover with the four Derby prisoners too ill to move from prison in December 1817. The two ships waited and prepared to be 'outward bound' on the next leg of the voyage down the English Channel.

By the 15<sup>th</sup> March, both the Tottenham and the Isabella were moored at Spithead in the important port of Portsmouth. The Tottenham left first on 27<sup>th</sup> March but ran into more trouble that needed further repairs to the rudder that had also been the cause of the return to Sheerness in January. By 31<sup>st</sup> March, the Tottenham was in Plymouth to repair the rudder - critical for steering and control, it was fortunate that the damage was spotted before leaving the relative safety of the English southern coast. The Isabella was a new ship, but after leaving on 3<sup>rd</sup> April had more trouble connected with discipline on the voyage.

### ***Forthcoming exhibitions***

#### **The Genealogy Exhibitions are coming...**

This summer we hope to mount exhibitions focusing on the family trees of the 400 men who took part in The Pentrich Revolution. These will be held at local libraries; council offices and community events and we hope to see many of you there. We are particularly interested in meeting new people who think that they may have a Pentrich Revolutionary in their family tree. Sylvia Mason is our resident genealogist and has amassed a lot of information about the rebels... but she is always looking for more!

Look out for the flyer and keep an eye on the website.

#### ***Transported for treason.***

As we move into the autumn our exhibitions will focus on the fourteen men who were transported to Australia. What became of them – and the families that they left behind?

Two of our books take up the story in more detail;

**England's Last Revolution** by John Stevens and **Transported for Treason** by Ralph Hawkins. (See Page 4 for more details.)

The finale for this exhibition will be in Sydney Australia in mid-October so that the Australian descendants can learn more about the story of their ancestors.

**Featured books and publications.**

**Simon Schama – A History of Britain Volume 3 1776 – 2000**

Only two paragraphs on Page 132 ( and the author thinks that ‘Pentridge’ is in Nottinghamshire ) but there are important links with the Reform movement and The Peterloo Massacre of 1819.

**Edward Valance - A Radical History of Britain**

More space is given to The Pentrich Revolution in Chapter 13 on Peterloo ( Pages 319 – 325 with further references on Pages 341 and 346 ). Once again Pentrich is seen in the context of protests by the Blanketeers and others during the Regency period leading up to Peterloo.

**Ra Page (Editor ) – Protest: stories of resistance**

There are two short chapters under the title ‘The Pentrich Rising’ **Trying Lydia by Andy Hedgecock** is a fictional piece ( Pages 71 – 76 ) which refers obliquely to the planning of the Pentrich Revolution towards the end. In contrast **Afterword: The Luddites 1817 by Dr. Katrina Navickas** ( Pages 77 – 81 ) covers the familiar factual story focusing on the repression and use of spies by the government. Throughout the piece the author poses thought provoking questions with modern day resonance, e.g. ‘Who has the right to protest and in what ways?’ and finishes with a portrayal of Oliver the Spy as a ‘Judas figure in radical legend’ posing the question ‘Who is the modern day Oliver?’

**Julian Atkinson – Bravery and Deception: The Pentrich Revolt of 1817**

This short booklet was published by the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Labour History Society. It is a quick read ( only 36 pages ) and is an excellent introduction to the story of The Pentrich Revolution. Several sources are quoted including contemporary news papers which provide scope for further reading.

**Magazine articles**

All of these magazines featured articles on The Pentrich Revolution in June 2017;

**Country Images The Pentrich Rising** (Pages 40 - 41) a two page article with illustrations.

**Derbyshire Life – The Pentrich Revolutionaries** (Pages 56 – 60)

**BBC History – The workers’ revolution by Stephen Bates** (Pages 28 – 31)

**Michael Parkin** is the author of several books about The Pentrich Revolution (see Page 4). He has spent many years crawling around second hand books shops and other dubious places. He has even paid full price for several of the books!

In actual fact, the number of books dealing with the period that do not mention Pentrich (Pentridge) Rising is the real surprise. Even classics like Asa Briggs and Eric Hobsbawn make no mention whilst dealing with period in some detail. Other than the books those published or reprinted by ourselves Michael recommends the following books as wider reading:

- Passages in the Life of a Radical - Samuel Bamford (1884)
- The Skilled Labourer 1769 to 1821) J and B Hammond (1911)
- The Making of the English Working Class - E.P. Thompson (1963)
- Waterloo to Peterloo - R.J. White (1957)
- Regency Spies - Sue Wilkes (2015)
- Popular Radicalism The Working Class Experience 1780-1880 - D.G. Wright (1988)

## *Pentrich books*

Here is a selection of the books we have published or re-printed\* and can offer for sale.

### Books:

Author	Title	Price
John Stevens	<b>England's Last Revolution*</b> This seminal book has been re-printed by the PSWRG	<b>£10.00</b>
John Neal	<b>Pentrich Revolution*</b> Written at towards the end of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century.	<b>£10.00</b>
Michael Parkin  All available from Amazon.	<b>1817 A Recipe for Revolution</b> Reflections on the Pentrich rising of 1817 <b>The Making of a Radical</b> The life and times of Thomas Bacon... <b>Oliver the Spy</b>	<b>All at £5.00</b>
W.B. Gurney	<b>The Transcripts of the trials of Jeremiah Brandreth, William Turner, Isaac Ludlam the Elder and George Weightman.*</b>	<b>£10.00</b>
Ralph Hawkins	<b>Transported for Treason</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
Gwyneth Francis	<b>Rebel's Way Pentrich 2017 - A tale of hope, hunger and heroism.</b> A short novel for younger readers.	<b>£3.00</b>
John Dring	<b>The Life of Jeremiah Brandreth</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
Alan Brooke & Lesley Kipling	<b>Liberty or Death - the Huddersfield Connection</b> Taken from an original book telling about the role of Huddersfield in the Pentrich Revolution.	<b>£2.50</b>
Sylvia Mason (ed.)	<b>The Pentrich Revolution in art by various artists.</b>  The full collection of 46 paintings created for the Bicentenary by local artists. It is beautifully presented with information about the artists and what their painting says about the story of the Pentrich Rising.	<b>£20.00</b>

See our website for further information or contact Sylvia Mason on 01773 748299  
P & P charges will be applied to posted items

**Stop Press: There is a new Interpretation Board at The Sun Inn in for Eastwood.**

***Please note that the next newsletter will be out in July 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 Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group please contact Valerie Herbert - [valerie.mherbert@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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 )