

## The Pentrich Revolution Bicentenary Walk 15 of 19

- 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, the Government 'agent provocateur', William J Oliver 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. They were to be hanged then beheaded. Fourteen were transported to penal colonies in Australia, others imprisoned. Their families were evicted and homes destroyed.

The other walks in this series

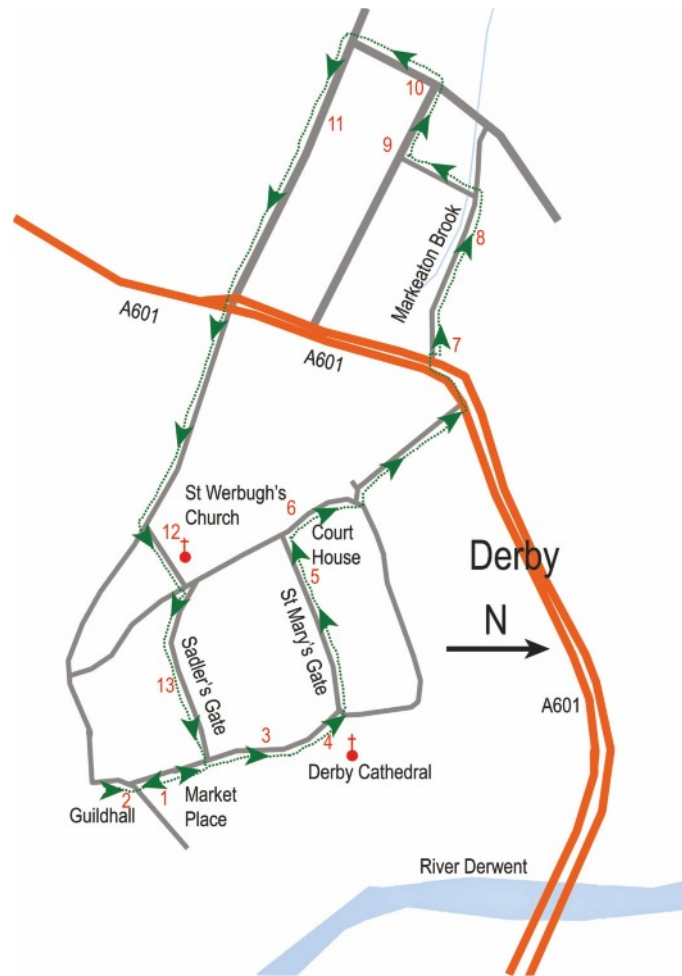
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|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Nottingham, England                   | 10. Heanor, England             |
| 2. South Wingfield, England              | 11. Langley Mill, England       |
| 3. Fritchley, England                    | 12. Eastwood, England           |
| 4. Heage, England                        | 13. Giltbrook, England          |
| 5. Pentrich, England                     | 14. Sutton in Ashfield, England |
| 6. Alfreton, England                     | 15. Derby, England              |
| 7. Swanwick, England                     | 16. Sydney, Australia           |
| 8. Ripley, England                       | 17. Parramatta, Australia       |
| 9. Codnor, England                       | 18. Kiama, Australia            |
| 19. The full route of the march, England |                                 |



THE PENTRICH  
& SOUTH WINGFIELD  
REVOLUTION GROUP



LOTTERY FUNDED



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Roger Tanner &  
Sylvia Mason  
2017



Walk 15

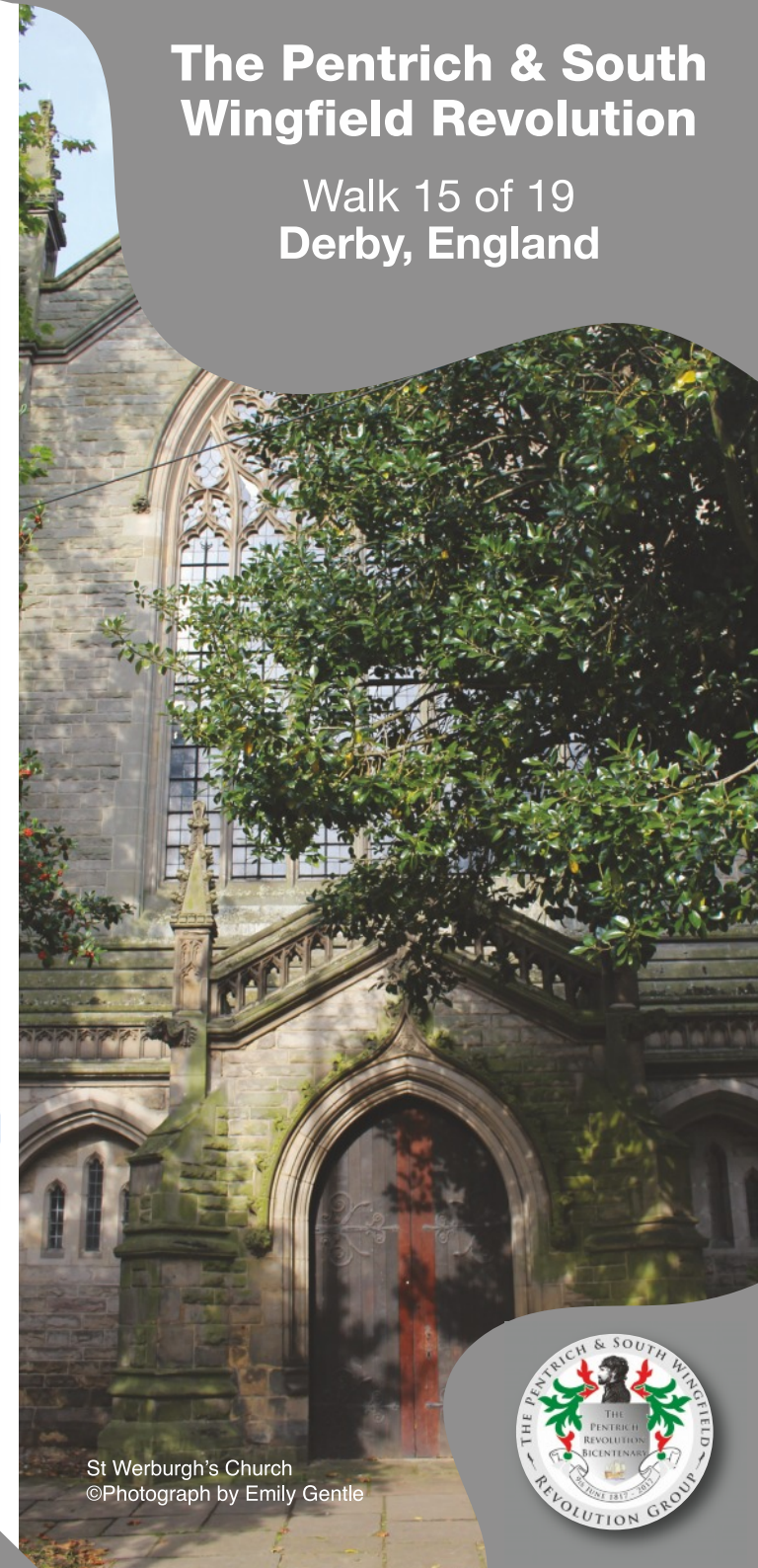
Walk compiled by  
Roger Tanner

This walk is produced by:-

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Website: [www.pentrichrevolution.org](http://www.pentrichrevolution.org)  
Charity Incorporated Organisation Number 1166940  
Printed by George & Gagg, Nottingham, England

## The Pentrich & South Wingfield Revolution

Walk 15 of 19  
Derby, England



St Werburgh's Church  
©Photograph by Emily Gentle



**Distance:** 2 miles. Easy, city walk. Take care when crossing all roads.  
**Difficulty:** Easy, city walk.  
**Park:** Assembly Rooms car park  
**Start:** Outside the Guildhall, Market Place, Derby.

**The walk visits sites in Derby associated with the planning of the rebellion, and the trial and execution of the Pentrich rebels.**

**1. Start the walk on the Market Place, close to Derby Tourist Information Office and the Assembly Rooms. Your back to the Guildhall.**

**2. Walk a few yards to your left and you will find Lock-up Yard.** When the prisoners were brought to Derby for the trial in October 1817 there was not enough room in the Derby Gaol and many were kept in lock-ups around the town.

**3. Retrace your steps and then walk ahead up Iron Gate, towards the cathedral.** On your left you will pass 'Jorrocks' public house, formally 'The George Inn' where Oliver stayed before the trial in October 1817. With growing concern that his high profile presence at the trial would cause political embarrassment after his role as a spy and agent provocateur had been exposed at a trial in Huddersfield where the jury refused to convict, he quickly left the town.

Then come to the Wetherspoons pub, formerly 'The Talbot' public house where Oliver had come in April 1817 to meet the landlord, Robert Shaw. Well known as 'the advocate of patriots', and local leader of the Hampden Club calling for electoral reform. Oliver claimed that he was the 'London delegate', 'a good friend of reform', in contact with national political leaders ready to lead an uprising. Oliver reported that Shaw had told him 'they are waiting for the signal'. He also met James Birkin, a 26 year old Derby stocking frame knitter, who Oliver encouraged to join the rebellion.

**4. Walk on up Iron Gate.** On your left, is a plaque, showing where the well as scientific, across the Midlands and North, that had met here twenty years previously.

**5. Continue up Iron Gate and then turn left down St**



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**Mary's Gate.** On your right is the former County Hall, where the rebels were tried and sentenced in October 1817. The jury was carefully chosen. All were rich farmers from the county, the trial was delayed so that the harvest could be brought in and they would be in 'good humour'. The Derby solicitor, William Lockett, acting for the prosecution, wrote: 'I have intelligence on which I can depend as to every Juror - the list throughout is most respectable - There will be but few challenges on the part of the Crown.'

Some said the influence of local powerful dignitaries like the Duke of Devonshire and Richard Arkwright also played a part. 300 jurymen were held ready in the town, as well as 268 witnesses. Of those convicted three were to be executed, 14 transported and others imprisoned.

**6. Continue to the end of St Mary's Gate and turn right, going up Bold Lane and Jury Road. At the pedestrian lights, cross the road as it turns to the right and continue walking up Willow Row until you reach the main road, the A601.**

**7. Cross the A601 at the pedestrian crossing, and turn left on the other side walk about 30 yards until you see a path between two car parks which takes you to Markeaton Brook.**

**8. Walk up the footpath on the right of Markeaton Brook. You will soon reach a footbridge over the brook.**

**9. Cross here and walk over to the row of houses facing you.**

You are now at the back of Friar Gate, and face the yard of the former Derby Gaol. (This is open at set times and can be contacted on Tel: 0800 277928.) Here the Pentrich men were imprisoned before the trial, and three awaited their execution. Kept for a long period on bread and water and unable to see their solicitors. This decision of the prosecutor Lockett was successfully challenged by Thomas Wragg, the Crich solicitor. Behind the wall facing you, is the former exercise yard of the gaol, to your left in a building where the former prison chapel was housed. Here the condemned took their final



©Photograph by Roger Tanner



©Photograph by Emily Gentle

communion. Four men from South Wingfield, known to them, had already been executed outside the gaol on 15th August for burning Colonel Hatton's ricks. The families visited the men. Ann Brandreth, Jeremiah's wife, walked the 20 miles from Sutton in Ashfield to visit her husband after sentencing, despite being 6 months pregnant.

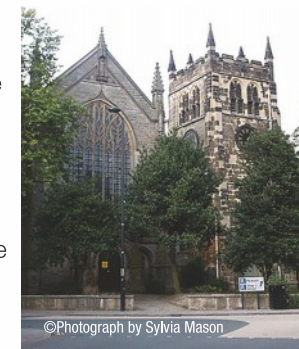
**10. Go to the front of the building by walking to your right, up to Bridge Street. Turn left, walking up to Friar Gate, and then turn left again into Friar Gate.**

**11. 50-51 Friar Gate is the front of the former Derby Gaol.** Condemned to be hanged, beheaded and quartered, they were given a reprieve by the Prince Regent, for fear of the reaction of the crowd, commuted to leave the quartering. (The wooden block on which they were beheaded remains today in Derby Museum.) The scaffold was erected at front of the building on Nun's Green. The prisoners were brought by the passage to the left hand side of the building. A large crowd had come to witness the executions, with several hundred soldiers present for fear of unrest in the crowd. When William Turner, the stonemason from South Wingfield, was on the scaffold he turned to the crowd and said 'This is the work of the Government and Oliver'.

**12. Continue walking down Friar Gate, re-crossing the A601 at the corner of Ford Street, and continue to St.**

**Werburgh's Church.** The bodies and heads of the three men were thrown in coffins with their names chalked on the side and taken here, to the church graveyard, where the three were buried in one deep pit. When the graveyard was reduced to allow for new buildings the bones from the mass grave were reburied at the cemetery on Nottingham Road.

**13. To return to the start, Immediately past the church turn left into Cheapside then second right, after about 50 yards into Sadler gate (pedestrianized until meeting Iron Gate. Turn right here to return to the Guildhall on the Market Place.**



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