



# THE PENTRICH & SOUTH WINGFIELD REVOLUTION GROUP

3rd edition

April 2017

Free



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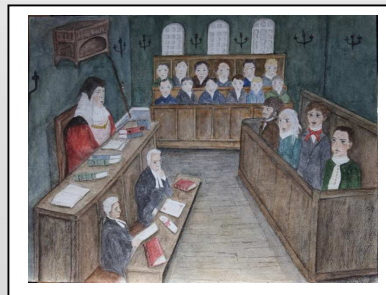
## *LAUNCH OF THE PENTRICH 2017 ART EXHIBITION*

The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group is proud to launch our Art exhibition featuring 46 paintings by local people which draw inspiration from the Pentrich Revolution.

The exhibition will be touring the areas connected with the revolution in various forms, but this will be the first time that the whole of the collection is being presented together in one place.



The exhibition will be at 28 café Belper from the 8<sup>th</sup> April until the 27<sup>th</sup> April. The Mayor of Belper, Gary Spendlove, will open the event. Please come along and meet some of the artists.



The launch will take place at 10.30 a.m. and the exhibition will continue until 1.00 p.m.

If you cannot come on the day the exhibition continues until the 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Please see our website for further details.

[www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk](http://www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk)

***The most useful role in any society is the dissident. The person prepared to place themselves outside the consensus and articulate the case against conventional wisdom, is the true hero of history. Because it is only when authority is challenged that progress is secured.***

Michael Gove, writing in The Times, March 2017.

## 'Oliver the Spy' – an agent provocateur!

After Waterloo, it became increasingly clear that England was suffering from great social, economic and political upheavals compounded by extreme poverty in some communities. Increased mechanisation arising from the Industrial Revolution led to enormous changes and the discontent caused by these developments were manifested in a series of events in the period 1811-19 including frame breaking by Luddites.

There were few means of maintaining law and order at the disposal of the government. There was no police force on the mainland until 1829 so troops and the local militias had to be used. Likewise, means of communication were slow: news travelled only as fast as the fastest horse. To gather information, the governments of the time had to rely on Lords Lieutenant, local magistrates and Justices of the Peace - and spies whom they employed. Unfortunately, these men were paid by results and ultimately became *agent provocateurs*. One of the most notorious of these spies was WJ Richards, *alias* Oliver the Spy.

Oliver was at first active in London infiltrating reform groups such as the Hampden Clubs and befriending well known radicals such as Samuel Bamford and Charles Pendrill. The latter had helped Oliver to get out of the debtors' gaol. Soon afterwards Oliver 'began to make very vehement professions of patriotism, and expressed uncommon anxiety to know whether there were any Political Associations into which he might obtain admittance'.

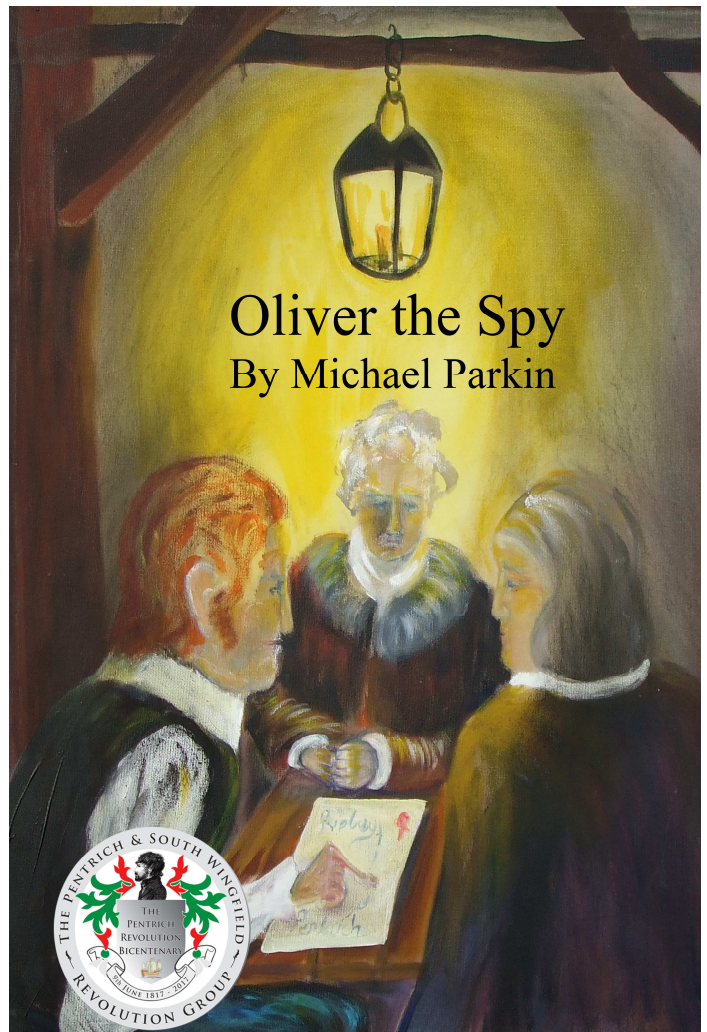
On 28<sup>th</sup> March he requested an interview with Lord Sidmouth. It is thought that this was where the plot to foil the Pentrich Revolution was discussed. In April he was introduced by Pendrill to Joseph Mitchell. Oliver told Mitchell that 'it was the desire of the London friends to form a connection with the country friends' but when Mitchell requested a meeting with the London committee, Oliver said it was too dangerous a time to call them together. Mitchell was persuaded to allow Oliver to accompany him on his next tour in the provinces and the two men set off on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, on a tour that was to obtain, for Oliver, introductions to leading reformers in the main centres of the midlands and the north. Mitchell was arrested on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1817 and this gave Oliver a free hand to pursue his intrigue. He visited Derby, Nottingham and local villages from May 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 1817.

Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June Oliver moved rapidly from

town to town in Yorkshire, in preparation for a delegate meeting at Thornhill Lees, near Dewsbury, on 6<sup>th</sup> June. On 4<sup>th</sup> June he had a private interview with Major-General John Byng, commanding the troops in the north. The Thornhill Lees meeting was surrounded and the delegates seized by troops under General Byng's personal command. Oliver was allowed to 'escape', but was seen a few hours later by a reformer in a Wakefield hotel, to be in conversation with a servant of General Byng's, and so the truth leaked out shortly before his departure for Nottingham.

When Oliver reached Nottingham he was subjected to a severe cross examination by delegates that he was lucky to survive. Unfortunately, Jeremiah Brandreth was not at the Nottingham meeting and the Pentrich Revolution went ahead as planned. Oliver the Spy's intrigue cost the lives of Jeremiah Brandreth, Isaac Ludlam and William Turner with 20 others either transported or jailed for their part in the rising.

Lord Castlereagh and the 1st Viscount Sidmouth meet their spy Oliver. The cover painting is by Jane Thynne. Please see our website for her details. You can also order a copy of this book on the website.





## Who do you think you are?

Do you have an ancestor who was involved in The Pentrich Revolution? If you have one of the surnames listed below you may be directly related to a revolutionary!

Abel	Brandreth	Gaunt	Marriott	Steer
Adams	Brassington	Godber	Martin	Storer
Alkin	Breedon	Goose	Masland	Sutton
Allen	Briddon	Gregory	Massey	Swaine
Alton	Briggs	Hall	Mather	Taylor
Anthony	Brown	Hardwick	M <sup>c</sup> Kesswick	Topham
Argill	Bryan	Hardy	Moore	Turner
Bacon	Burrows	Harris	Onion	Turton
Bailey	Buxton	Haslem	Peach	Waine
Barker	Carter	Hill	Rawson	Walker
Barnes	Clee	Holmes	Robinson	Walters
Barrett	Cocker	Hopkinson	Rogers	Weightman
Bestwick	Cope	Howitt	Saint	White
Bettison	Coupe	Hunt	Savage	Wigley
Birkhamshaw	Daykin	James	Sellars	Wild
Blount	Dexter	Jennings	Shipman	Wilkinson
Boler	Elliott	Jepson	Simpson	Williams
Booth	Endsor	Johnson	Smith	Wright
Bradley	Fantom	Ludlam	Stanley	
Bramley	Fletcher	Mantle	Stapleton	

### *Do you want to become a revolutionary?*

As we get further into 2017 we will 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 member or 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 member or make a donation it will be eligible for gift aid as we are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ( Number 1166940 )

**In the next Issue... meet Thomas Bacon - the real Revolutionary!**

## Meet more of the organisers ...



**Patrick Cook**  
Exhibitions, website,  
newsletter, liaison with HLF.  
A retired Secondary  
headteacher with an interest in  
local history.



**Roger Tanner**  
Walks and liaison in  
Nottingham  
A retired headteacher from  
Nottingham and keen walker  
with a long time interest in  
local labour history.



**Geoff Johnston**  
Exhibitions, liaison with  
Parish Councils  
Local parish councillor and  
social worker who has  
developed an interest in  
heritage issues.



**Mark Spencer**  
Exhibitions, liaison with  
Derbyshire County Council  
Retired Junior School  
headteacher and UNITE  
member.



**John Dring**  
Author of *The Life of  
Jeremiah Brandreth*.  
A retired senior trade union  
officer with the GMB.



**John Hopkinson**  
Descendant of George  
Brassington and  
Committee member.  
Retired Head of IT with a  
Local Authority.

### Forthcoming events

#### **South Wingfield walk. 1pm - April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Distance: 5 miles. Care needed when crossing roads. Difficulty: Moderate, country, undulating, stiles.  
Park: The Old Yew Tree and surrounding streets. Start: Old Yew Tree Inn, South Wingfield, (OS ref. 374 551)

#### **Fritchley walk. 10am - April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Distance: 5 miles. Care needed when crossing roads. Difficulty: Undulating, footpaths, tracks, roads, 'squeeze stiles' and stiles. Park: On street, limited parking at Bobbin Mill Lane. Start: The Congregational Church, O.S. Ref. 358 529

#### **Pentrich walk. 10am - April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Distance: 5 miles (shorter alternative) Care needed when crossing roads. Difficulty: Undulating, roads, footpaths, stiles, steep steps. Park: Pentrich Village Hall on street. Start: Pentrich Village Hall

#### **Heage walk. 10am - April 30<sup>th</sup>**

Distance: 4 miles, with 6 mile option. Care needed when crossing roads. Difficulty: Moderate, hillside and valley footpaths, using stiles and gates. Park: Heage Windmill. Start: Heage Windmill. (O.S. Ref. 367508).

***n.b. change of times for the walks in Nottingham 10.00 a.m. on May 14<sup>th</sup> and in Giltbrook – 2.00 p.m. on May 29<sup>th</sup>***

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.