

THE PENTRICH & SOUTH WINGFIELD REVOLUTION GROUP



8th edition

November 2017

Free

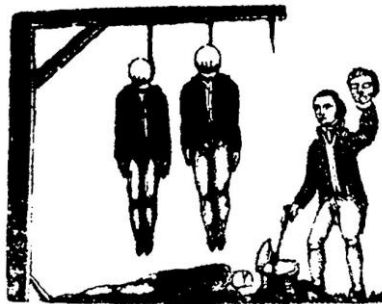
PENTRICH 1817 - The executions.

On 7th November 1817 Jeremiah Brandreth, William Turner and Isaac Ludlam were drawn on a hurdle to the scaffold in front of the County Gaol in Derby. They were hanged by the neck for half an hour before being beheaded. It is thought that Isaac Ludlam was still alive when he was beheaded.

The three revolutionaries had originally been sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered but the Prince regent 'showed mercy' by remitting the last part of the sentence. George Weightman, who had originally received the same sentence, was not executed on the same day and two days later his sentence was commuted to transportation for life.

A crowd of 6,000 people had assembled to watch the executions in Derby with a detachment of Enniskillen Guards at the ready in case of trouble. That moment came when Turner called out to the crowd as the noose was put around his neck.

'This is all the work of the Government and Oliver'



This caused a stir in the crowd as Oliver's name had deliberately been kept out of the trial by the Crown Solicitor William Jeffrey Lockett. However, there was no serious disturbance beyond that.

Public reaction followed now that the press was free to report on the trial and the sentences passed.

Better late than never several prominent figures commented on the executions including the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley who made an oblique and ironic comparison between the public reaction to the sad death of Princess Charlotte on 6th November 1817 and the fate of the three executed men.

'We pity the plumage but forget the dying bird.'

The bodies of Brandreth, Turner and Ludlam were buried in St Werburgh's churchyard in Derby. They were amongst the last men to be publicly beheaded by the axe in Britain.

The execution block



After the executions fourteen revolutionaries were transported to Australia and nineteen received prison sentences. Twelve others were released without further punishment but with a stern warning from the judge. The demolition of The White Horse Inn, Thomas Bacon's house and other properties in Pentrich soon followed leaving the families of the rebels destitute in some cases.

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.

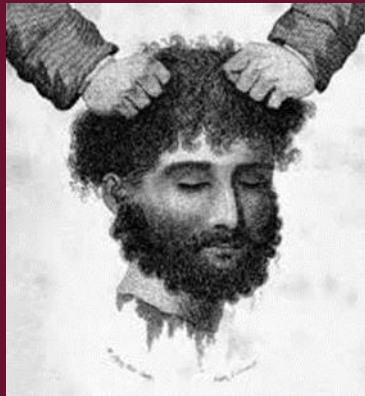
The execution of Jeremiah Brandreth

THE EXECUTION OF JEREMIAH BRANDRETH

The proceedings of the trial and executions published in 1817 described the scene.

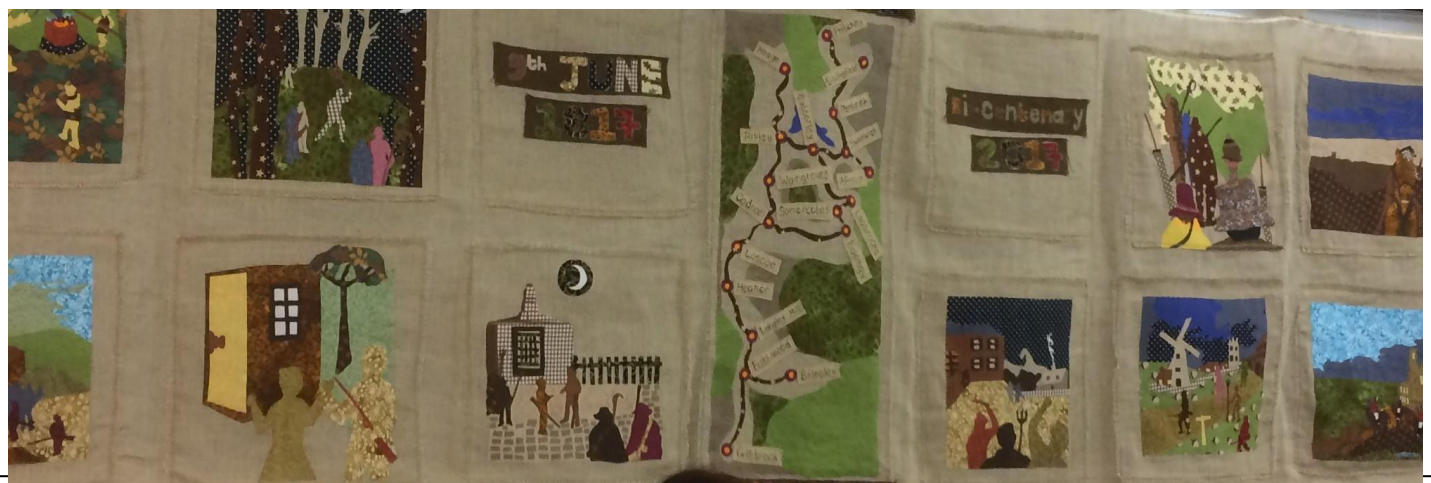
The body of Brandreth was then cut down, the cap removed from the head, and in laying the corpse on the bench or block, which was fixed with the head towards the multitude, the chin caught on the cog, which turned up his face and made it appear as though his eyes, which were wide open, were fixed upon the people. The impression made on the minds of those just before the body, was such as will never be obliterated. – His aspect was horribly terrific. The body however, was soon fixed, and the neck, having been pressed close to the block, at twenty-five minutes after one the executioner struck the blow. The head was not at once detached from the body, and the blow appeared feebler to the populace than it really was, and a groan of disapprobation was the consequence. The assistant, however, with one of the knives, instantly completed what had not been done by the axe. The hangman seizing it by the hair, held up the ghastly countenance of the Nottingham Captain... He proceeded with it to the left, to the right, and to the front of the scaffold... exclaiming at each place,

'BEHOLD THE HEAD OF THE TRAITOR JEREMIAH BRANDRETH'



A full account of the trial was published in book form before the year was out and this gruesome image of Brandreth's severed head was reproduced as prints and even on porcelain. The Brandreth toilet bowl and the execution block are on display at the exhibition in the National Justice Museum in Nottingham. [See P.3]

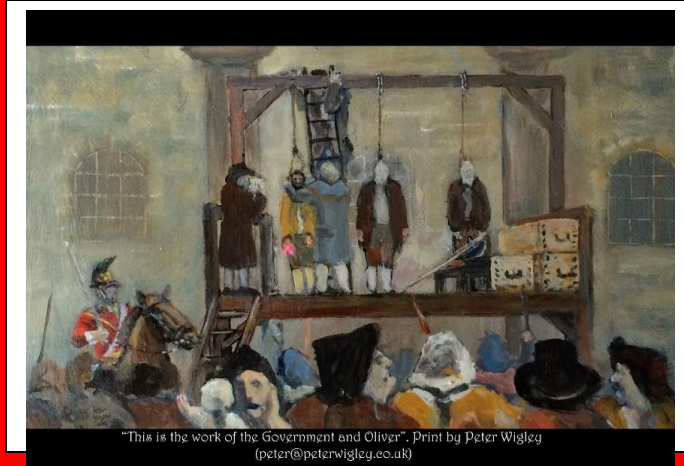
A section of The Anarchy Applique – currently at The National Justice Museum in Nottingham.



The Pentrich Revolution - England's Last Armed Rebellion

*The National Justice Museum, High Pavement,
Nottingham.*

21st October 2017 - January 2018



"This is the work of the Government and Oliver", Print by Peter Wigley
(peter@peterwigley.co.uk)

Historical panels, the first Pentrich film, original paintings, community textile projects and much more including the execution block from Derby Museum.

*The National Justice Museum
(formerly The Galleries of Justice) is
situated in Old Shire Hall. The rebels
who were captured on 10th June 1817
were taken and imprisoned here to
await trial in Derby. Admission to our
exhibition is free but there is a charge
if you want to visit the other galleries.*



Making the first Pentrich film at Cromford Mills and The National Justice Museum.



Our Autumn / Winter exhibitions

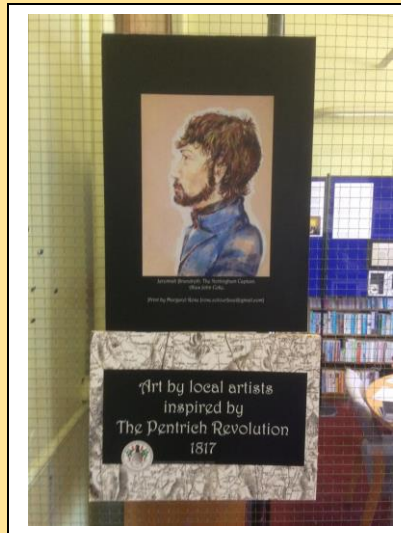
Still running:

- Amber Valley Borough Council Foyer, Market Place, Ripley. - a new historical exhibition telling the story of the Pentrich Revolution.
- **The National Justice Museum in Nottingham 21st October 2017 > January 2018: a major bespoke exhibition**

New exhibitions

- **The Angel Row Gallery, Central Library, Nottingham 7th – 30th November** – Prints and paintings
- Heanor Library 1st - 30th November - Prints of the Pentrich paintings
- Sutton in Ashfield Library 1st November – 6th December - Historical interpretation panels
- Eastwood Library 20th November - 18th December - Historical interpretation panels
- 7th November at The Village Inn Marehay – small exhibition and Fireworks Display

Images from our recent exhibition at the Belper CAMRA Festival



Please note this will be the last newsletter of 2017. From January 2018 there will be quarterly newsletters.

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 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)