

# The Pentrich Revolution Bicentenary Walk 1 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

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 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 |                                 |

**STEPHEN GREEN  
NUTHALL  
NOTTINGHAM**

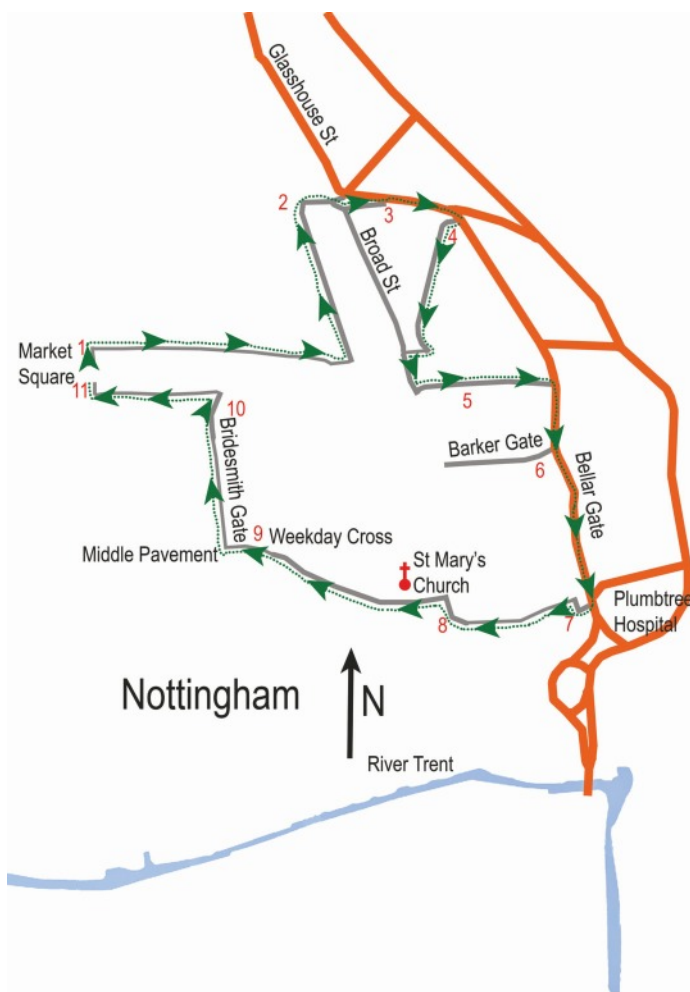
**The co-operative membership**  
Central England Co-operative



THE PENTRICH  
& SOUTH WINGFIELD  
REVOLUTION GROUP



LOTTERY FUNDED



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Walk compiled by  
Roger Tanner



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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 1 of 19  
Nottingham, England



The site of The Blackamoor's Head  
©Photograph by Roger Tanner





**Distance:** 2 miles. Care needed when crossing roads.  
**Difficulty:** Easy, urban walk.  
**Park:** The Forest 'park and ride'. Take the tram to the Market Square.  
**Start:** The Council House, Market Square, Nottingham.

**Formerly the racecourse in 1817, the Forest was where the Pentrich marchers expected to meet thousands of fellow rebels from the Midlands and North. A few hundred gathered at most, as it became clear that the planned rising was a trap by the authorities. The walk visits sites associated with the planning of the rebellion, activities of government agents, preparations by the authorities to suppress the rising and the aftermath.**

**1. Start on the Market Square, facing 'the lions'. Walk up the left side of Exchange Buildings along Long Row to High Street.** Near the existing site of the Tourist Information Office on your right was the Police Station. Here magistrates waited from Sunday 8th June, to give their orders to the special constables, 15th Hussars, 95th Regiment and Yeoman Cavalry. They already knew the insurgents' plans from their spies. County magistrate Lancelot Rolleston rode here from Watnall to report the rebels were at Eastwood. At the corner of High Street and Pelham Street was The Blackmoor's Head, a coaching inn where William Oliver, a government spy and agent provocateur, stayed on 6th and 7th June 1817.

**2. Walk up Pelham Street to Carlton Road, turn left up George Street, walk to the end to Parliament Street.** Ahead is the Victoria Centre, where there were streets of poor working class tenements and pubs. At one, the Three Salmons, the committee who planned the rebellion met on 25th May, including three informers and agent provocateurs - Oliver, Henry Sampson from Bulwell and George Crabtree from Leeds. All were unknown to each other. Sampson, a framework knitter and former Luddite, was paid £2 2s a week for information by Henry Enfield, the Town Clerk.

**3. Turn right down Parliament Street, walk to the corner with Broad Street.** To your left is Glasshouse Street, where the Sir Isaac Newton public house was sited, long associated with framework knitters and their union, and accused of being linked to Luddites.

**4. Walk on along Lower Parliament Street (formerly Coalpit Lane), until you reach Heathcote Street on your right.** On this corner was The Plough public house.

Joseph Weightman rode here from the meeting at the White Horse in Pentrich on 8th June. He was told those in Nottingham and Yorkshire were also ready to rise. Weightman stayed the night at the pub and reported back to Pentrich the next day.

**5. Walk down Heathcote Street, turn right, cross Goose Gate, turn left into Stoney Street. Turn left into Woolpack Lane.**

William Stevens, a needle maker, who played a leading role in the planning of the rebellion, lived in Kings Place, off Woolpack Lane. A neighbour, William Simpson, was a leading member of the Framework Knitters union. Henry Sampson was reporting meetings with Simpson and Gravenor Henson, the leader of the union, to the Town Clerk from 1815. Sampson befriended Jeremiah Brandreth, possibly involving him in Luddite activity and the uprising because of his military experience. At the bottom of the street, on your left, is Hockley Mill, Richard Arkwright's first cotton mill before he moved to Cromford, Derbyshire.

**6. Turn right at the bottom of Woolpack Lane into Belward Street, walk to the next turning on your right, Barker Gate.**

This is given as the site of The Punch Bowl public house in Oliver's report to the Home Office. Here a group met to prepare the uprising on 6th June with Oliver. John Holmes accused Oliver of being a spy but John Stevens led the majority in believing Oliver.

**7. Continue ahead down Bellar Gate, into Hollowstone, stop before the road junction with the eighteenth century Plumtree Hospital across the road.** Bellar Gate was the location of The Rose Inn. A group of woolcombers was arrested here on 9th June, on suspicion of being implicated in the rising. Near here, on the site of former Red Lion Square, lived Jeremiah Brandreth and his family in Butchers Close, now Poplar Street, after they were removed from Sutton in Ashfield in 1816.

Gravenor Henson lived near here and Francis Ward, another leader of the union, lived on Hollowstone. The authorities had accused both Henson and Ward of being 'General Ludd' and were keen to implicate them in plans for rebellion and treason. Both were arrested before the Pentrich Rising and not released from prison until after it was over. This did not stop the government sending police to Nottingham to arrest Francis Ward, with John Holmes, William Cliffe and Samuel Hayes, accusing them of being involved in the rebellion. They were imprisoned with no charges made, since Habeas Corpus was suspended.



Ward was released in November 1817 after protests in Parliament at his unjust imprisonment. He was awarded £600 compensation.

**8. Walk back up Hollowstone, past St Mary's Church, along High Pavement to the National Justice Museum.** Formerly Shire Hall, where twenty eight rebels were imprisoned here after 10th June before being taken to trial in Derby.

**9. Walk on across Weekday Cross, to Middle Pavement.** On your left was former Drury Hill. Here the Golden Fleece public house



was the meeting place of the Hampden Club in May 1816. Thomas Bacon of Pentrich was sent from here as a representative to Manchester, a collection being made to pay his expenses.

Continuing down Low Pavement is Enfield House, home of the town clerk Henry Enfield who helped both plan and suppress the rebellion.



**10. Turn right, walk down Bridlesmith Gate.** At the corner with Bottle Lane, Waterstones book shop, is the former site of The Nottingham Review offices.

This radical newspaper that supported calls for reform was read at Hampden Club meetings at the White Horse in Pentrich.

**11. Walk on to High Street, turn left to return to the Market Square and the end of the walk.** Across the Square, on Angel Row, the army took over Bromley House to garrison troops in 1819, as fears of insurrection continued long after the Pentrich events.