

The Pentrich Revolution Bicentenary Walk 8 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 | |

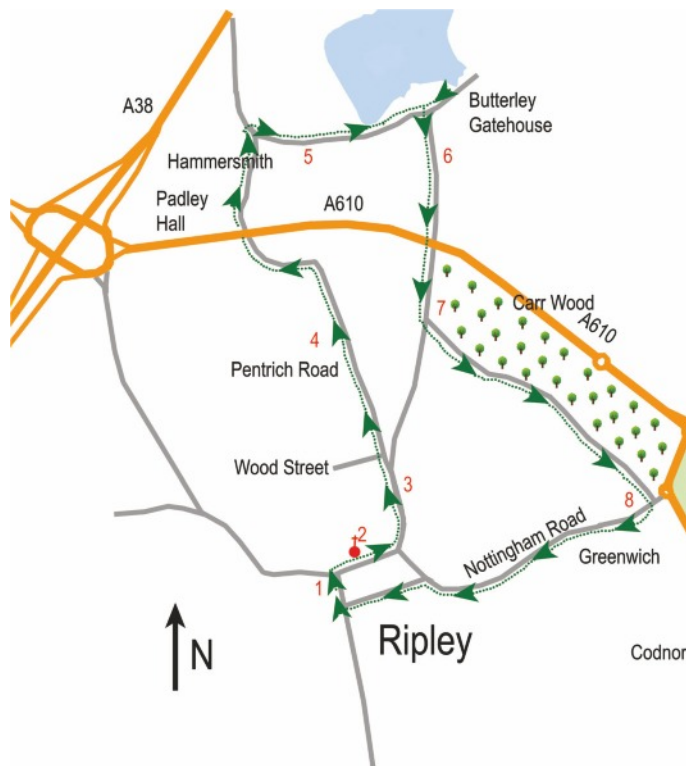


THE PENTRICH
& SOUTH WINGFIELD
REVOLUTION GROUP



The Pentrich & South Wingfield Revolution

Walk 8 of 19
Ripley, England



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& Sylvia Mason
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This walk is produced by:-

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The co-operative membership
Central England Co-operative



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Butterley Reservoir
©Photograph by Emily Gentle

Distance: 4 miles. Care needed when crossing roads.
Difficulty: Urban walk on pavements, unpaved road and footpaths.
Park: Market Place or Derby Road. Easily accessible by bus.
Start: Market Place, Ripley. OS ref. Explorer 269-399 505.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century Ripley was a smaller town than Pentrich, but it played an important part in the Pentrich Revolution. There was much support here for reform and many joined the rebels' march.

1. Start on the Market Place in front of the Town Hall. To the right, across the road, is the White Lion public house. Walk to the right of the Town Hall, cross



Church Street at the zebra crossing. Facing is the J D Wetherspoons public house. In 1817 this was the Red Lion Inn. The Hampden Club met here. Set up in 1816, calling for parliamentary reform and manhood suffrage, these political clubs gained wide support among working people. They presented a petition to Parliament with half a million signatures but were broken up and driven underground by March 1817.

2. Follow the road around to the right to the junction. On the left you will pass Ripley All Saints Church, built in 1821. The vicar of Pentrich, Rev. John Wood of Swanwick Hall, sponsored by the Duke of Devonshire, called for the church to be built in 1820, to eradicate 'the remaining seeds of sedition and disaffection'. On your right is the Old Cock Hotel. The Hampden Club held its first meeting here. Cobbett's "Register" and the radical "Nottingham Review" were read aloud and grievances discussed. The main talk initially was of petitioning parliament; more radical methods were discussed as repression continued. On Church Street was also the former 'dissenters chapel' of the Primitive Methodists.

3. Turn left down Chapel Street (B6179) come to the Lidl store on your left. Facing you across the street is

number 26 Chapel Street, on the corner with Greaves Street. This house was where Charles Booth, the last survivor of the Revolution was living when he died in 1896, almost reaching the grand age of 100. He gave much detail for John Neal's book. The Pentrich Revolution.

4. Before you reach The Talbot, turn left into Pentrich Road. Continue down this road, it becomes Lowes Hill; go under the A610 into Hammersmith. Pass Wood Street on your left where the Wood Street Methodist



Church was attended by Charles Booth and the Walters family who took part in the rebellion. Methodists played an important role in local radical activity-Isaac Ludlam of South Wingfield, executed in Derby, had a significant reputation as a Methodist preacher. John Cope, a fettler at the Butterley Works, who joined the Hampden Club and was introduced to radical politics by a fellow worker Thomas Bacon, came this way to secret meetings to discuss the rising at Asherfields Barn outside Pentrich, during May and early June 1817. To the left, is the entry to Padley Hall. The rebels visited here on their march and Charles Walters, servant of the owner George Argyle, hid in his master's blanket chest, was found and forced to join the insurgents. The housing on both sides was built for workers at Butterley from the 1820s, onwards. Hammersmith House, formerly the Butterley Company manager's house, is on the right as you walk up Butterley Lane.

5. Turn right into Butterley Lane. Follow this unpaved road, Butterley Reservoir to your left. (DO NOT take the left fork but continue ahead) with the Hammersmith Meadows Nature Reserve to the right, go on between the houses until you reach the road. This is the Derby Road, B6179. Turn left and walk along the pavement until you face the Gate House of the Butterley Works across the road on your right. See the plaque on the wall of the Gate House. This is the route taken by the marchers as they came from Pentrich on the night of 9th June 1817. The Butterley Ironworks, founded in 1790 by Benjamin Outram, used local iron



ore, limestone and coal. A major employer in the area in 1817 it was to grow into firm of national importance. While some workers from here joined the Hampden Club, few joined the march to Nottingham in June. Radicals like Thomas Bacon had been dismissed and, as John Cope thought, workers here were too well paid. But the rebels hoped to seize the supply of guns and ammunition from the works, and Bacon talked of whether cannon could be made in the foundry. The marchers stopped here, in the early hours of Tuesday morning. The manager, Mr Goodwin, and a few special constables, refused to hand over guns and ammunition held in the works. Mr Goodwin recognised many of the insurgents as former employees and was an important witness at the Derby trial in October. The rebels marched on towards Codnor.

6. Turn around and walk back up Butterley Hill into Ripley, going under the A610. In 1817 this area was not built up. An 'isolated house' of a Thomas Brassington was used as a meeting place for the Hampden Club, after the government in April 1817 banned them. Here John Cope held meetings of his 'political club' from the Butterley Works, reading Sherwin's pamphlets to the group of workmen.

7. Opposite the Out of Town public house take the footpath, signposted to Carr Wood.



Follow this path, Bridle Lane, with the wood to your left, until you reach the second entry on the left, read the Information Board on this historic woodland. The 1835 map on the board gives a good account of this area at the start of the 19th century.

8. Continue to walk along Bridle Lane until you reach Nottingham Road. Turn right and walk back into the centre of Ripley. Men from Ripley and Heage came down to this as they marched towards Codnor to join the rest of the rebels. As they passed through this area of Greenwich they stopped at farms and houses demanding weapons and pressed men to join the march. George Brassington from Ripley was transported to Australia for life.