



THE PENTRICH REVOLUTION

KS3 Education Resource Pack



THE PENTRICH
& SOUTH WINGFIELD
REVOLUTION GROUP

Commemorating the forgotten revolution for the next generation.

November 7 2018

This education pack is a commemorative resource to mark the 200th anniversary of the 1817 Pentrich Revolution. It was created on behalf of the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group. Their objectives are to educate and increase awareness about the revolution and its consequences, and to establish a legacy which preserves and entrenches the heritage of the revolution. This has been made possible with Heritage Lottery Funding.



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Contact

For further information about the 1817 Pentrich Revolution, please contact The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group: valerie.herbert@pentrichrevolution.org.uk

You can also find out more at: pentrichrevolution.org.uk

... or go to our Facebook page: facebook.com/pentrichrevolution

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Resource Aims

This resource aims to develop students' understanding of the 1817 Pentrich Revolution and the part it played in shaping British history. Students will be introduced to the causes of the revolution, investigate the key events and explore its impact on the local area and further afield. The information, sources and activities within the pack are linked to the Key Stage 3 History Curriculum and support the learning of key concepts and the development of knowledge, skills and understanding.

How to use this resource

This resource is intended for use with students in Key Stage 3 and contains a range of materials to support their learning about the 1817 Pentrich Revolution. The resource can be used in number of ways and we encourage you to adapt it to meet the needs of the students you are working with. It is organised into nine sections.

- **Section 1 introduces the 1817 Pentrich Revolution**
- **Section 2 explores the causes of the 1817 Pentrich Revolution**
- **Section 3 investigates what happened on the night of 9th June 1817**
- **Section 4 reveals the trial and the fate of those involved in the revolution**
- **Section 5 reveals the fate of those left behind**
- **Section 6 presents time lines of the period being studied**
- **Section 7 reveals more about some of the main characters involved.**
- **Section 8 offers some primary sources of evidence**
- **Section 9 defines key words that pupils will need to understand**

Sections 1-5 contains background information for students to read, questions and discussion points to encourage a deeper understanding of the topic and homework investigations to consolidate knowledge. The supporting materials in each section includes historical sources and images of art created by local artists and inspired by the 1817 Pentrich Revolution.

Several key themes emerge, including:

- Working and living conditions
- Political and social reform
- Protest and rebellion
- Crime and punishment
- Significant events and people
- Commemoration and remembrance

Use this pack to:

- Understand why the 1817 Pentrich Revolution happened and the effect the event had on the local community and further afield.
- Investigate what happened on the night of 9th June 1817 and sequence the main events.
- Explore the ways people lived and worked in the early 19th century and describe the difficulties they faced.
- Gain an insight into the political changes that took place in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and understand the role the Pentrich Revolution played in wider calls for political reform.
- Understand the moral dilemma faced by many of the men involved in the revolution and consider their points of view.
- Find out more about crime and punishment in the early 19th century.
- Explore the aftermath of the revolution, the changes that took place as a result and the way in which those involved were treated.
- Build knowledge of the local area and examine what has changed and stayed the same.
- Make connection between the events that took place then, and how they relate to events that take place today.

Key Stage 3 History Curriculum

The 1817 Pentrich Revolution topic presents an opportunity to engage in a meaningful depth study and supports the Key Stage 3 History Curriculum. The material in this package can support a fully immersive or shorter study, or it can enrich other topics providing ideas for you to 'pick and choose' from.

How does studying the 1817 Pentrich Revolution link to the History National Curriculum?

Pupils will:

- Extend and deepen their chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, so that it provides a well-informed context for wider learning.
- Identify significant events, make connections, draw contrasts, and analyse trends within periods and over long arcs of time.
- Use historical terms and concepts in increasingly sophisticated ways. They should.
- Pursue historically valid enquiries including some they have framed themselves, and create relevant, structured and evidentially supported accounts in response.
- Understand how different types of historical sources are used rigorously to make historical claims and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed.

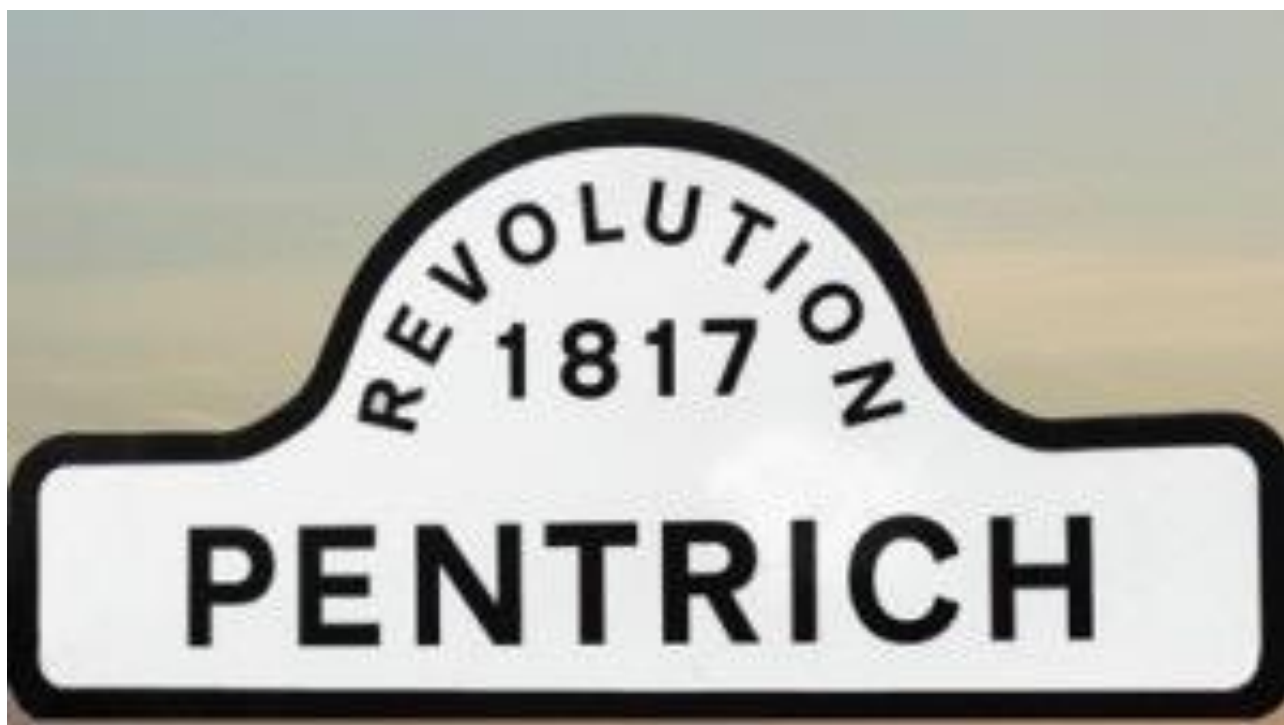
Pupils will be taught about:

- Ideas, political power, industry and empire: Britain, 1745-1901.
- A local history study - a depth study linked to the above.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Studying the Pentrich Revolution can also provide opportunities to promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development by enabling them to:

- Show an awareness of the moral implications of the actions of historical figures.
- Appreciate and reflect upon the achievements of past societies.
- Address concepts of choice, blame and responsibility.
- Deal with the intended and unintended consequences of historical decisions.
- Reflect on issues such as democracy, oppression, equality and poverty.
- Offer views on why something happened and appreciate that others may have a different viewpoint.
- Draw links between a historical period and current events.
- Address the position of various groups in historical societies including the working classes, women and children.
- Look at the evolution of British society.
- Visit historic sites to engage with the past and learn about British heritage and identity.



Section 1

Introducing the 1817 Pentrich Revolution - what happened?

In June 1817, a group of almost 400 lightly armed men from the Derbyshire villages of Pentrich and South Wingfield marched towards Nottingham. They believed they would join a larger group of **revolutionaries** marching from the North toward London in an attempt to **overthrow** the government. Within 24 hours one man had been shot dead and the **uprising** had been put down by government troops.

It soon became clear that the story of a large group of revolutionaries moving south had been exaggerated by a government spy. Many of the **radical** leaders in Yorkshire had been arrested and those in Nottinghamshire were reluctant to take action because they suspected government spies were among them. Following the **trial** of those involved in the uprising three men were executed, twenty jailed and a further fourteen **transported** to Australia.

The Pentrich Revolution, and the reaction of the authorities, was far from being an isolated incident. It was part of a wider wave of **radicalism** and discontent which swept through Britain and the rest of Europe following the end of the *Napoleonic Wars* and the upheavals caused by the *Industrial Revolution*. Many of the demands made by those involved in the Pentrich Revolution and other **protests** at the time were for rights that we now take for granted but which for many people in the early 19th century was far out of reach.

Activities

1. In the above text underline the key words relating to protest, rebellion, crime and punishment and the 1817 Pentrich Revolution. Write a definition for each. It may be helpful to refer to the Key Vocabulary section on page 52 to provide starting points for weaker learners.
2. Watch and then discuss 'The Pentrich Revolution' film. It gives you a brief but dramatic insight into the events as they unfolded.
3. Is it possible to prove a historic event took place? How can you find out about a historic event when you weren't even there? Did the Pentrich Revolution really happen? In pairs create and deliver a 2 minute presentation that proves it did. Refer to the primary sources on pages 47 to 51
4. Create a 'graffiti board' where you can write and record your thoughts and ideas on this

topic. Feel free to contribute to your graffiti board at any time. Include what you think you know, what you want to know, what you have learned and any questions you have.

5. Research influential protests and revolutions throughout history and from around the world. Explore their causes and consequences and create a 'Turbulent Timeline' of revolutions, rebellions, protests and uprisings that shaped the world (See Section 6 for reference).

Discussion Points

What is a revolution? In pairs brainstorm the meaning, context, examples and ideas surrounding the word 'revolution'. It may help to refer to the template on page 54.

Homework Investigation

Read through Section 2 which deals with the main causes of The Pentrich Revolution. Research the social and economic conditions in early 19th century Britain and write a summary of the context in which the 1817 Pentrich Revolution took place. What was it really like for people living and working in 1817?

Section 2

The Ripple Effect: Exploring the causes of the 1817 Pentrich Revolution

The reasons why popular discontent turned into armed revolt in 1817 were complex but centred on the harsh economic conditions following the end of the Napoleonic Wars, the increasing demand for political reform, the upheavals caused by the industrial revolution and perhaps more surprisingly a volcanic eruption two years earlier over 7,000 miles away.

Following the end of the Napoleonic Wars much of Britain experienced an economic depression. Government restrictions on imported grain favoured British landowners but caused food prices to rise, a situation which was made worse by the wet and cold summer of 1816 (caused by the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia) and the failure of the harvest in many areas of the country. Unemployment also rose as demands for wartime goods such as weapons and iron fell and thousands of men released from the armed forces returned home to look for work.

Many of those who took part in the Pentrich Revolution were the framework knitters, miners and labourers whose lives had been greatly affected by the upheavals of the preceding decades. Framework knitting had been particularly hard hit as the textile industry moved away from small scale domestic production to large scale manufacture in factories during the industrial revolution. The rural villages of Pentrich and South Wingfield had seen firsthand industrial development in the nearby Derwent Valley of the first factory systems using large scale water power.

Demand for social and political change had been growing for decades and many in authority feared the examples that the American and French Revolutions had set. At the end of the Napoleonic Wars reactionary governments were in power across Europe and Britain was no exception. By the beginning of 1817 tensions were high in the north of England. In March a group of Lancashire textile workers, known as Blanketeers, began a march to London to petition for unemployment relief and political reform, before they were stopped by government troops.

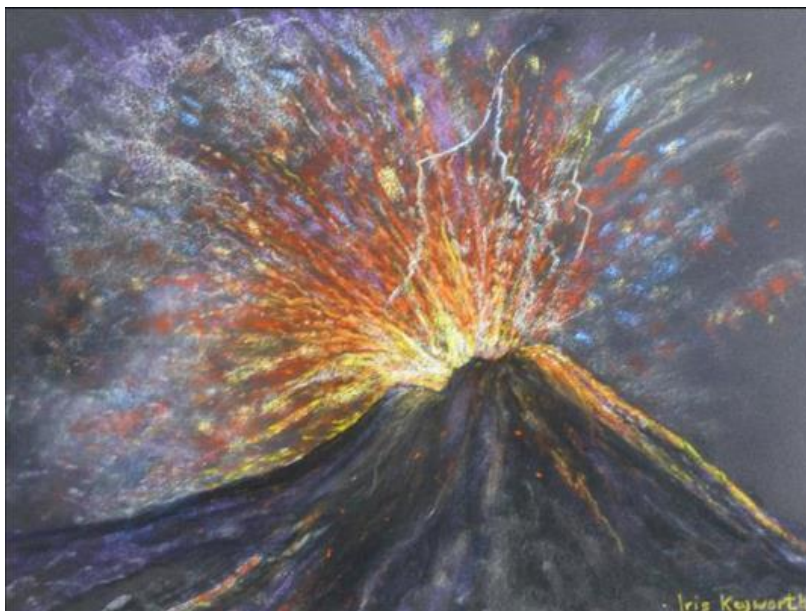
One way that the government tried to crack down on dissent was through a network of spies and informers. One of these spies, a man going by the name of William Oliver, played an important role in the Pentrich Revolution.

Activities

1. Read A, B, C and D below, they summarise possible causes of the 1817 Pentrich Revolution. Note down whether you agree that these causes could lead to a revolution? Is that even possible? Do we have any evidence to prove it?

A. Explosive stuff - The Tambora Volcanic Eruption 1815

On the 5th April 1815, Mount Tambora in Indonesia began to erupt. It intensified over the next five days and would eventually spew 200 million tons of sulphur dioxide into the stratosphere. This created disruption across the globe. Ash spread, world temperatures decreased and crops failed. 1816 became known as the 'year without summer'. People across the world saw long, cold spells of weather. This added to rising poverty and feelings of desperation and discontent.



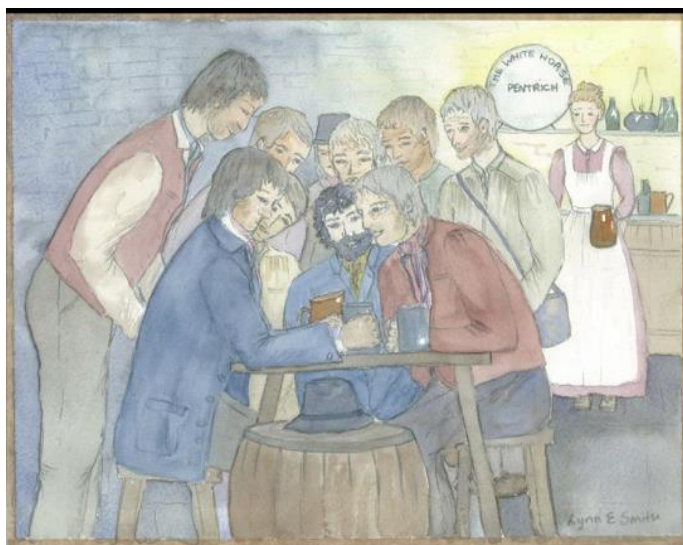
B. War is over - The Napoleonic Wars 1793-1815

War broke out between Britain and France in 1793. It carried on until Britain won the battle of Waterloo in 1815. During the war years, 250,000 soldiers needed to be armed and clothed. Britain made and supplied the weapons and uniform they needed. This meant that the iron industry thrived and jobs were secure. But hopes for a better life after the war were dampened. When the war ended Britain suffered an economic depression. Soldiers came home from war to high unemployment and extreme poverty. They felt more and more frustrated and desperate.



C. Mood of the masses - Political Reform

People began to express their growing anger at their living and working conditions by joining organised political groups or societies. At that time, most people didn't have the right to vote. The government was led by a small group of wealthy and privileged men. Revolutions around the world began to inspire reformers in Britain



who were looking for a more equal society. The government responded with alarm. They put a stop to all protest with force and suspended 'habeas corpus' which meant that people could be imprisoned without a trial.

D. Times are changing - The Industrial Revolution

The industrial revolution was a time of great change. It changed where people lived. There was a quick growth in the size and movement of the population from the countryside to the town. It changed how people worked. They moved from agriculture to industry, from domestic industry to factory work. It changed how people lived. There was a sharp rise in poverty, and political unhappiness grew as living conditions got worse. Anger often sparked rebellious events between 1811-19 including frame breaking by Luddites in the East Midlands.

2. Can you think of another reason why the revolution may have happened? In 100 words write a summary of another possible cause.

3. Now describe how each cause impacted on the living conditions of local people. Identify which cause had the greatest impact. Why do you think that? Number the causes in order of significance.

4. Write a formal letter to an MP or Councillor calling for better working and living

conditions for the people living in the area. Date the letter '9th June 1817' and write from the perspective of a person living at that time. You may wish to choose from one of the profiles in Section 7 or do extra research to find out more about conditions of local people.

5. Could anyone or anything have stopped the Pentrich Revolution from taking place? Create a list of possible solutions that could have prevented the revolution.

Discussion Points

The only way of trying to stop the government at the time was by violent protest. Discuss.

Sometimes it is justifiable to use violence. Discuss;

What is social mobility and why does it matter?

As radical ideas took hold, could changes to the voting system have tackled the problem?

Homework Investigation

Research one of the following and present your findings as a written report, PowerPoint presentation, story, poster, song, speech, newspaper report, drama or piece of art.

- Who were the 'Luddites'? Find out what they did and why.
- What happened when the Tambora Volcano erupted? Research what happened before and after the event.
- Trace the story of voting in Britain and present how it has evolved.
- What was it like to be a soldier during the battle of Waterloo?
- In 1817 Britain was not a democracy as we understand it. Who was entitled to vote? How was the government organised?
- How did the industrial revolution change living conditions in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire?

Section 3

On the March: Investigating what happened on the night of 9th June 1817

William Oliver presented himself as an enthusiastic revolutionary as he travelled the country. One of the men he encountered was Thomas Bacon, a veteran radical and member of the Pentrich Hampden Club, one of a network of underground societies dedicated to political and social reform. Radical meetings in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire were being held with increasing frequency in early 1817 and Oliver's story of an imminent national uprising was easily accepted by Bacon. Another radical who believed that revolution was about to begin was a former soldier and unemployed stocking maker from Sutton-in-Ashfield named Jeremiah Brandreth, the 'Nottingham Captain'.

On 8th June Brandreth addressed a meeting at the White Horse Inn at Pentrich urging men to march on Nottingham, where they would join with others and move along the River Trent to Newark. The demands of the group were vague, including wiping out the national debt, but it was promised that a provisional government would be established and send relief to the families of those who took part.

The route of the Revolutionaries march on June 9th 1817.



The above map was used at the trial of the Pentrich revolutionaries.

The marchers set out from Hunt's barn in South Wingfield on 9th June and began their journey towards Nottingham, calling at farms and houses along the way to gather men and weapons. At one point the group split into two, one led by Brandreth, Isaac Ludlam and William Turner and the other led by George Weightman and Edward Turner. When Brandreth's group were refused entry into Mary Hepworth's home a warning shot was fired killing Robert Walters, a servant in the house. Although it is not known who fired the shot, Brandreth was widely blamed.

The group headed towards Butterley Iron Works, intending to seize cannons and other weapons, but were thwarted by the factory agent George Goodwin and a few local constables. At Giltbrook the revolutionaries were met by a small mounted force from the 15th Regiment of Light Dragoons and promptly fled. The Pentrich Revolution was over and in the coming weeks many of the marchers were arrested. In total 46 men faced trial in the autumn of 1817.

Activities

1. How did Brandreth and others persuade men to join the revolution? Think about what they wanted from it, what were their demands? Create a flyer or poster appealing to people living in villages across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to join the march.
2. There was resistance to the revolution from some villagers and some men were forced to join the armed uprising, threatened with being shot if they did not. It was during an argument with Mary Hepworth in Wingfield Park that her servant Robert Walters was fatally shot - he was the only man to die that night. The villagers knew that the consequences of taking part would be severe. They were torn between the chance of improving their desperate living conditions and the fear of what would happen if they were caught.
 - Imagine there is a knock on the door and you have to make a decision, in that moment about whether to join the revolution or not. Do you stay or do they go? Where do you stand? Position yourself along a line depending on your views. Stand at the start of the line if you "Strongly Agree" and at the end of the line if you "Strongly Disagree". Position yourself at any point in between to show where you stand on the issue.
 - Take the 'hot seat' and in the voice of one of the men involved answer questions from the class explaining your reasons to stay or go.
 - Create a conscience alley or thought tunnel activity. One student walks between two lines of students who whisper reasons why he/she should/should not go.

- Develop and act out a conversation between one character and a neighbour about their thoughts on joining the revolution.



3. In pairs, discuss and note down the reasons why you think men were prepared to march. Create a 'for' and 'against' list.

4. During the march the weather was terrible and Brandreth led the men in song to raise their spirits. Read the verse and create a new one in the same style.

"Every man his skill must try
He must turn out and not deny;
No bloody soldier must he dread,
He must turn out and fight for bread.
The time is come you plainly see
The government opposed must be."

5. What is the truth about William Oliver?

William Oliver or 'Oliver the Spy' was in a debtors prison and was removed to work for the government. Oliver was active in London infiltrating reform groups and befriending well known radicals. On the 28th March William Oliver requested an interview with the Home Secretary Lord Sidmouth. It is thought that this was where the plot to foil the Pentrich Revolution was discussed. He visited Derby, Nottingham and local villages from May 25th – 28th 1817. Unknown to local people Oliver, was reporting back to the government all that

went on. By May 1817 meetings in the North were being broken up and ringleaders imprisoned, but Oliver persuaded local Derbyshire men that the rising was to go ahead and incited them to rise. By doing so, his role as an 'agent provocateur' working on behalf of the government came into play.



This cartoon image of William Oliver was published in 1817 and a description of Oliver was printed in an article in the Leeds Mercury on the 14 June 1817.

“A person of genteel appearance and good address, nearly six feet high, of erect figure, light hair, red and rather large whiskers, and a full face, a little pitted with the small-pox. His usual dress was a light fashionable coloured brown coat, black waistcoat, dark-blue mixture pantaloons, and Wellington boots.”

- a. Find out what an 'agent provocateur' is.
- b. Sketch your own artistic impression of William Oliver based on the description.
- b. Was William Oliver really a government spy? Talk with a partner for two minutes without pausing, hesitation or repetition about your viewpoint.
- c. Plan a speech that puts forward William Oliver's point of view. Make notes, rehearse and deliver your speech to the class as Oliver.

Discussion Points

How justified do you think the men were to take action?

What choices did they have to make?

What would make you join the revolution?

Fake news - where does the truth lie?

Homework Investigation

The National Archive has a selection of sources and documents relating to the Pentrich Revolution itself. Explore the site and find out 5 new facts about the revolution and Oliver the Spy. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/protest-and-democracy-1816-to-1818/>

Section 4

On trial: Discover the fate of those involved in the revolution

The Grand Jury assembled to decide what charges the accused would face and was made up of some of Derbyshire's wealthiest and most influential people, including members of the Cavendish, Arkwright, Hurt, Mundy, Fitzherbert and Gell families, many of whom were hostile to reform. The charges faced by the forty-six defendants were High Treason on three counts:

- Levying war against the King in order to subvert and destroy the constitution and the kingdom.
- Conspiring and compassing with an intent to deprive and depose the king.
- Compassing and devising to levy war against the King.

The trial itself was conducted in front of four judges and a jury composed mainly of farmers from around South Derbyshire and Ashbourne. The crown solicitor, William Lockett, ensured that the jurors were from a region where there would be little sympathy for the rebels. The trial also was delayed until October to ensure that the harvest was out of the way and a jury sympathetic to the Crown could be put in place.

One notable absence from the trial was Oliver, the government spy whose actions had encouraged the rising. At the time of the trial he was staying at the George Inn on Irongate in Derby under another name in case his testimony was needed, but was forced to leave when his identity was discovered. The authorities were keen to keep Oliver's name out of the proceedings in case it led to a mistrial for perverting the course of justice.

Jeremiah Brandreth, Isaac Ludlam, William Turner and George Weightman were found guilty and sentenced to death, although Weightman's sentence was later commuted to transportation to Australia.

On 7th November 1817 Brandreth, Ludlam and Turner were taken from Derby Gaol to Nun's Green where they were executed by being hanged and then beheaded. Turner's last words before his execution were 'This is the work of the Government and Oliver'.

Activities

1. Prepare a 10-minute speech on behalf of either Jeremiah Brandreth, Isaac Ludlam, William Turner or George Weightman explaining the reasons why they should be found not guilty. Deliver the speech as the revolutionary himself (Refer to their profiles in Section 7).

2. Dramatise the emotional tension in the courtroom as the revolutionaries are sentenced. In groups enact a scene or create a tableau or freeze frame. Talk about why you decided to depict the scene in the way you did, and why other groups depicted the event in a different way.

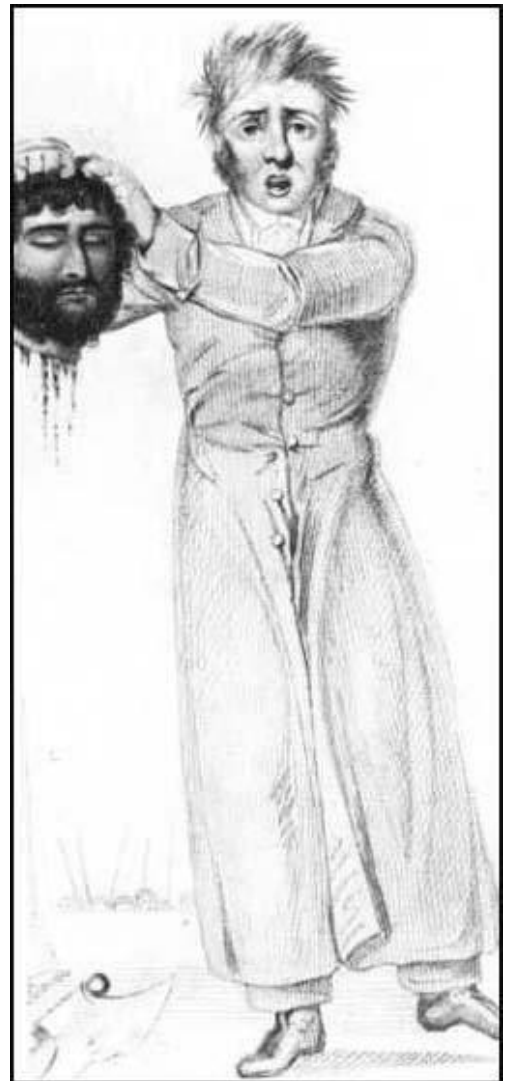
3. Who was Jeremiah Brandreth? We have a lot of images of the infamous Jeremiah Brandreth. This was unusual for a working class man at the time. He was described as a leader who was determined, courageous, firm and capable of great things, and he conducted himself extremely well during his trial. Jeremiah Brandreth made the difficult decision to lead the revolution despite knowing what the consequences would be. But in the 19th century he was considered to be a traitor and his family lived with the shame of what he had done. Now his story is commemorated and remembered with pride. Look carefully at the images of Brandreth. Write a detailed description of his appearance for them.



- a. Briefly profile Jeremiah Brandreth and the role he played in the revolution. Under the title 'Who Am I?' write a list of the actions, achievements, attitudes, character and impressions of Brandreth. See the profile on page 39 for a comparison.
 - b. After looking carefully at the above images and reading descriptions of Jeremiah Brandreth sketch a portrait of him as *you* imagine him to look.
 - c. Write a short diary entry from him on the evening of his trial. Use what you know about him and people's attitudes towards him to express how he may have felt.
4. Read the following gruesome description of Jeremiah Brandreth's execution from an eyewitness and look at the image (published in 1821) showing the head of Brandreth, held aloft towards the crowds who had watched his execution in Derby. Say how it makes you feel?

'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. Do you think it is an accurate portrayal of the facts? Explain your answer.
- b. How useful are the sources for showing what happened? Is the value of this source dependent on reliability?
- c. How can you tell the difference between accurate content and sensationalised content?
- d. What can you infer from the sources that is not directly stated? List emotions, tone, attitudes and significance of the situation.

5. The death penalty is not legal in Britain. Talk with a partner about how you feel about it, expressing and explaining your own personal view. Consider other viewpoints and state an opinion different to yours. Make a list of the arguments for and against capital punishment.

Discussion Points

Are you surprised by what happened to the revolutionaries?

Consider the sentences on page 21. Do you think that the sentences were fair? Discuss.

What is a crime? Why do we punish crime? Why do people commit crimes? Have attitudes to crime changed over the years?

Homework Investigation

[1] Over 200 crimes that were punishable by death in the early 19th century. Select five crimes to research and present information about them. Go on to research other punishments given during this period including transportation and hard labour.

[2] Brandreth, Turner and Ludlam were sentenced to be *hung, drawn and quartered* as the sentence for *high treason*. This was *commuted* to hanging and beheading by *The Prince Regent* who wanted to show 'mercy' to the condemned men.

Research what *these* phrases meant in 1817.

The sentences imposed on the revolutionaries.

TO BE EXECUTED

Jeremiah Brandreth, 31 - **To be hanged and beheaded**

Isaac Ludlam, 52 - **To be hanged and beheaded**

William Turner, 46 - **To be hanged and beheaded**

TO BE TRANSPORTED FOR LIFE

Thomas Bacon, 64, FWK, Pentrich.

John Bacon, 54, FWK, Pentrich.

George Brassington, 33, Miner, Pentrich.

German Buxton, 31, Miner, Alfreton.

John Hill, 29, FWK, South Wingfield.

Samuel Hunt, 24, Farmer, South Wingfield.

John Mackesswick, 37, FWK, Heanor.

John Onions, 49, Iron Worker, Pentrich.

Edward Turner, 34, Stonemason, South Wingfield.

Joseph "Manchester" Turner, 19, Clerk, South Wingfield.

George Weightman, 26, Sawyer, Pentrich.

TRANSPORTED FOR 14 YEARS

Thomas Bettison, Miner, Alfreton.

Josiah Godber, 54, Labourer, Pentrich.

Joseph Rawson, 31, FWK, Alfreton.

TO BE JAILED – 2 YEARS HARD LABOUR

John Moore, 49, Shoemaker, Pentrich

TO BE JAILED – 1 YEAR HARD LABOUR

Edward Moore, 27, Shoemaker, Pentrich

William Weightman, 27, Labourer, Pentrich

TO BE JAILED – 6 MONTHS HARD LABOUR

Francis Grooby, 23,

Joseph Hall, 24,

William Hardwick, 24, Collier, Pentrich

Joseph Harris, 23,

Daniel Hunt, 28, Farm Labourer, South Wingfield

Nathaniel Jennings, 22, FWK, South Wingfield

George Jepson, 24,

Alexander Johnson, 24, Labourer, Pentrich

Isaac Moore, 40,

Robert Moore, 22,

Benjamin Onions, 30, Iron Worker, Butterley

Francis Rawson, 24,

George Rhodes,

Edward Robinson, 21,

James Robinson, 34,

Charles Swaine, 33, FWK, South Wingfield

Thomas Turner, 22, FWK, South Wingfield

FWK = Framework Knitter

Section 5

The Aftermath: Discover that fate of those left behind

The harsh sentences handed down to the Pentrich Revolutionaries had the effect the government wanted. William Lockett, the Crown solicitor, was able to claim that the trial verdicts and the sentences that followed 'were to have a salutary effect on the lower orders in Pentrich and elsewhere.'

The call for reform was temporarily silenced and it was to be 15 more years before reform was achieved in The Great Reform Act of 1832.

The first group of prisoners sentenced to transportation left Derby in November 1817 but didn't arrive in Australia until October 1818. The convicts that were still alive were pardoned in 1835 but none returned to Britain. Many of their descendants still live in Australia. The last survivor of those transported was George Weightman, who died in 1865. A memorial to Weightman near where he lived in Kiama, New South Wales, commemorates his role in the rising and the 'exercise in entrapment by the British Government.'

The village of Pentrich itself was partially demolished following the rising and many of those whose relatives had taken part in the uprising were evicted. Brandreth's widow eventually remarried and two of his children later left Britain to live in America.

The overall significance of the Pentrich Revolution has to be seen as part of the wider discontent within areas of Britain following the Napoleonic Wars as economic depression and the upheavals of industrialisation took their toll, but it also coincided with changes in the way the radical movement was perceived. The harsh punishment meted out to the Pentrich Revolutionaries did not have the public support that it might have done twenty years earlier, and the well-known use of spies under the direction of the Home Secretary Viscount Sidmouth aroused the hostility of both reformers and radicals.

Throughout the following decades there continued to be conflict between government and those who wanted parliamentary reform, a free press, the legalisation of trade unions and better wages. Sometimes matters ended in violence, as they did at the Peterloo Massacre in 1819, when cavalry charged a crowd of peaceful demonstrators in Manchester. Long after the events of 1817 the Pentrich Revolutionaries and the actions of Oliver the Spy were remembered by those campaigning for reform.

Activities

1. In 150 words explain the following – ‘1817 was a bad time to be poor’. Now write a short summary describing attitudes to being poor today. Have attitudes changed? Explain your answer.

a. The men had marched on Nottingham for an end to poverty, and nothing had changed. In fact, for many of the women and children left behind, things got desperately worse. They did not take part in the revolution but suffered alongside the men. Many were left destitute, with large families to feed, no job and no home. The picture below is entitled, ‘**Alone without their menfolk**’ by **Karolyne Stephens** and was inspired by the families left behind. Look at the picture carefully and describe what you can see. Describe the mood and emotion. You could make a note of this on a photocopied image of the artwork. Identify the characters and think about questions you would ask them? What might they say in response?



2. In groups of four take on the role of one of the following characters and undertake quick fire research into your character.

- A frame knitter with a wife and five children, from a small village in Derbyshire

- A local landowner and member of parliament
- A widow with three sons from an industrial town in Derbyshire
- A fourteen year old boy who lost his father in the Napoleonic War

Now think about the following scenarios and how your character would react to them.

What would they say? How would they feel? What would they do?

- The crops have failed and the villagers have no food.
- The landlord has just increased your rent without warning.
- There is a rumour that a revolution will take place and all the men from the village are expected to join.

3. None of the men who were transported ever returned and their wives and children never saw them again. But letters were written to their families, the authorities and also to the press whilst on board the transportation ship and in Australia. Below are transcriptions of six original letters. Four are written by Josiah Godber, one is written by Godber's friend George Brassington informing Mrs Godber of her husband's death and the final letter is to Mrs Godber from her landlord requiring her to quit her home or pay a yearly rent of twelve pounds. Read each of the letters carefully or choose two to read.

Letter 1.

On Board the Retribution Prison Hulk Sheerness

December 4, 1817.

Dear Wife,

I hope that these few lines will find you in a good state of health as can be expected at this unfortunate crisis as it leaves me at the time thanks be to God for it, and I hope and pray that he will give me fortitude to bear all my misfortunes and I hope dear wife you will take it as patient as possible for I trust we shall meet again, perhaps not in our country but in a foreign. The chaplain of the ship informs us that there are favours of this kind held out to those whose former good character and future conduct deserves approbation, and I trust that myself and my fellow sufferers will merit this favour which takes place in the course 12 months or so, at which time, if it should happen, I am persuaded you will cross the ocean and follow me. If I can attain this I shall be the happiest man in the world. You will, if you can, come at the expense of the government.

We expect to sail in the course of 15 days for Botany Bay and I hope dear wife you will delay no time in furnishing me with my clothes or a little money, my razors, scissors, a jacket knife and needles. My brother should see to Mary Huntley and Mary Knighton for a little money. I hope I shall be able to recompence them in time, for I hope to live once more, if not in my own country. You will apply to the wives of Brassington, Wightman, McKisswick, Buston and Pittison and arrange matters to send all our clothes off together. Take them to Derby as Mr. Eaton promised he would bring any thing we had to send where he brought up the other men, but if they should not come in time for our sailing away you will send them by coach as with all the others.

Apply to old Mr. Fletcher Loscar and my friends about to send my character, as I hope it will be of great service to me in another country. Give my best respects to my brother and sisters and their husbands and family. Also to all relations and friends. I would have you persevere in the work of shortening my time with Mr. Goodwin and other gentlemen. I hope if you don't follow me into a strange country you will conduct yourself in a religious manner and if fortune should not favour us to meet together in this world, we shall meet never to part again. I should like my Brother Robt. to bring up his children to a little schooling for it is a portion which no man can deprive them of. Send me a good pair of strong shoes, also at same time send my two hones for razors. I Remembered my love to you all. Farewell and the Lord be with you all.

*I am dear wife, your affectionate
husband*

Josiah Godber

*Inform Brassington's wife to get his
character from his old employers. There
will come to Ripley Post Office a letter
for John McKisswick which you will
forward immediately to his wife at
Heanor. Send me a little tobacco.*



Mrs. Rebecca Godber

Ripley

Near Alfreton

Derbyshire

Letter 2.

Sheerness, January 25th 1818

Dear Wife,

I now take the offered opportunity of sending to you once more in the hopes that these lines will find you in good health as this leaves me thanks be to God for that inestimable blessing. We sailed from here on Sunday the 11th and went as far as Deal and returned here yesterday in consequence of a misfortune befalling ship. We expect to sail again in about 10 days so that there is time for you to write immediately, which I hope you will do and I beg you will not delay as our time here is uncertain, and inform me how all relations and friends are and how and where John Moore's son is and what the sentence of the other prisoners is. We are all in tolerable health and spirits in the hopes of doing well in another country. Had I been twenty years younger I should not have been so much troubled at the quitting my native country. But the parting with relations and friends almost rends my heart asunder.

Should any of my friends be disposed to send me a few pairs of cotton stockings they would be acceptable and might be of service to me at New South Wales. Likewise should you send me a small parcel, a little looking glass would be serviceable. The breeches and waistcoats I wish you to mention what quality, the leather ones I have seen. Should my sister Melisent send a neck handkerchief a little more thread would be useful as I understand it is very dear. But I don't wish you send me any thing to injure yourself. Although you don't send a small parcel, don't neglect writing dear wife. My love I send you. Give respects to Brother Robert and family, Brother Saml. & wife, Isaac Millington & Jacob & Elizabeth. To Mr. Stafford & Mrs. & family and Mr. Danah, Mr. Edward Fletcher & wife, Mr. Thos. Moore & Wife and to enquiring friends. When you send don't pay the postage as it will come sooner. Send by coach and the postage you might enclose.

I will conclude for the present.

I remain your ever affectionate husband

Josiah Godber

P.S. Let me know how trade is and how my familiar friends are situated. Respects to John Turton & Harrie Butcher and to all who put their signature to my character

Direct for me on Board the Tottenham Transport Ship Sheerness for New South Wales.

For Rebecca Godber

Ripley near Derby

Derbyshire

Letter 3.

August 21st 1820

My Dearest Wife

I once more sit me down to write a few lines to you hoping they will find you my dearest wife in good health as they leave me at present. I thank God for it. I begin with very bad heart as I have written two letters and have received no answer, one by the ship Shipley one by the ship Surrey. I hardly know how to begin to write as I should like you to know how we are situated. I wrote in my former letters how we were fixed but if you have not received them, I must give you a little of the country we live in but I shall be more brief this time. As I have said before, my dear wife, what would I give to hear from you. They say that absence and length of time will wear the thoughts of one another from our minds, but my dear wife, if I could but once more enjoy your company, all the powers on earth should not part us. Oh my dear, to think that we have lived together so many years and then torn asunder at last. It almost distracts me when I think of it my dear.

I must let you know a little of how I am situated. I am very well off for a prisoner, a government man to one Master Dickson a merchant and miller who hath a large mill which goes by a steam engine. I dress flour for him and have done ever since I came. My allowance is seven pounds of flour and seven pounds of beef or pork and seven shillings that is my weeks allowance and a very good one for a prisoner. I have my lodgings and clothes to find out of it, but I have, I think, as good lodgings as any in the town. These are with a man and wife who both came out here with master Dickson. He is his head carpenter. They take my mess and I live with them and they charge me nothing for my lodgings. I am as comfortable as possible in my situation but my dear I could like to have you with me and I should be happy.

My dear I must give you a little of the country we live in. The "Town" I should say for Sydney is a very large town concerning the length of time since it was first inhabited by the English. It stands very pleasantly situated about seven miles from the main ocean up the river with two branches of the river. The river branches run each side the town, so deep that ships of the largest burden can sail right up to the town side. The town is formed of streets and squares. The Governors house and Park, his Secretary, the Judge, some merchant's houses and the Sydney bank form one square Called Macquare Square. There is Sharlot Square. There a Church stands in it called "Saint Philip Church" market Square. The Streets are all very open and run in a direct line from north to south, the cross streets from east to west. They run in a direct line both ways.

We have races at Sydney. They begin about the Prince Regent's birthday they are at Hyde Park which lies close to the town side. There are several good institutions in Sydney. There is the Male Orphans School and the Female Orphans School. There is the Benevolent Society and Bible Society. There is a very large house building for the reception of old men and cripples. There is a very large house building for a free school all of cut stone. There are two very large churches, one in King Street and one in George Street. There is very large General Hospital in Macquare Street and a very fine Methodist Chapel in the same street. There is another in Prince Street. There is a very large soldier's barracks square a mile round which will contain two thousand soldiers. The soldier's hospital is a very large fine building. I shall leave off with the town until I hope to see you here.

You must try to get a passage. If you cannot, I must try, as George Weightman has just got a grant for his to come by applying to the Principal Superintendent and they will send for her as a free passenger. So my dear I do not quite despair of having you with me here. If I cannot get you, I must resign myself up to him who is able to do all things and pray for your health and happiness 'till my time is up, and then if it please God to spare my life, I will return to you. So my dearest wife I hope you will arm yourself with fortitude and resignation. Pray to Him who is able to see all things and I hope will at last restore us to one another. Oh that we may live the remainder of our days in comfort and happiness to one another. So my dear wife I must conclude. Give my love To my sister Milley and her husband and to their little children, brother Robert and his wife and children, to my sister Mary and her husband. Give best respects to my old master Fletcher and young master, to Thomas Moore and his wife, to old Jacob Millington, Thomas Brassington and Dolley George. Brassington sends his love to you and to all my brothers and sisters and desire you will remember him to his old masters Fletcher and to all inquiring friends. My Dear, I desire you will write to me immediately and direct for Josiah Godber.

So no more at present

From your ever loving husband

Josiah Godber

I have seen my Relation John Wigley. He lives about fourteen miles up the country. We have heard that Robert Cresswell is in the country but have not seen him. John Reight of Shottle lives in Sydney and is as yours truly.

1821 Sent my Letter February the 26 for Rebecca Godber

Ripley near Derby Derbyshire

England

Letter 4.

Sydney, March 11th 1821

Dear Wife

Your letter came duly to hand and I am very happy to hear you are all very well as this leaves me at this time thanks be to Almighty God for it. It gives me the greatest of comfort to hear that you are so situated under the present distressful times that you are not in want of the necessaries of life. I still remain with Mr. Dickson at his mill and am pretty comfortable.



There are great expectations amongst prisoners here that something will be done for them at the Coronation of George the 4th. The news of that event hath not reached us yet whether it hath taken place in England but the country as we hear by English papers being in such a confused state I hardly know what I think of it. [Again I much wish I could get a few Bottles of your good strong Beer J.G.] If it were only obligation of sentence it would be a happy thing for those who are for 14 years & life. You mention of coming. If you knew how to procure your passage, think of this. I can inform you nothing as it rests with the Minister at home. Be assured dear wife, if it could be so ordered that we could meet again the enjoyment of you would be to me the greatest of all earthly blessings. With respect to what you say about getting our pardon, I am afraid that can never be effected, but if the Ministry of England knew the sincerity of our attachment to our sovereign we might be represented as thorough converted subjects and worthy the notice of an offended country. We now too plainly see our madness in attempting or engaging in that affair which entailed such misery upon ourselves wives & families. A man must be born again as it were when he comes to this country before he is able to live here, for in depth of villainy the generality of the country exceed all description. Drunkenness, lewdness and all manner of vice is so grafted in the mind of the greater part of prisoners that in spite of all the means that are taken to reform them, it is all of no service. We unfortunat men from Derby have no more communication with the others than we can help.

Inform Jock Lawsons friends that he died about months ago. Inform Robt. Creswell's wife that I have heard he is doing very well at Derwent about 400 or 500 miles from Sydney. I

hear that Jno. Wigley is doing very well. He lives about 14 miles from me. Inform Turners of Wingfield that Edwd. is now just on the recovery from sickness of which he hath been confined to bed about a fortnight. Josh Turner is well. All the rest of my unfortunate sufferers are well and all desire to be remembered to their friends. My respects to Mr. & Mrs. Fletcher hoping the enjoy good health, also Jno White & my cousin Jackson to whose goodness I am greatly indebted, also my dear brother Robert whose goodness I hope the Almighty will reward. My respect to all relations and friends.

I am dear wife your sincere husband

Josiah Godber

Direct at Mr. Dickson's Mill, Sydney.

P.S. D. wife You say in your letter if you knew where to take those few articles you would send them, therefore I have got Mr. Dickson's brother's address viz Mr. Jonothan Dickson Engineer Holland Street Bank Side London. In addition to those I have already mentioned for be so kind, tell my Brother Robert to send me a few pairs of plain cotton stockings. You told me to inform you what part of England Mr. Dickson came from. He came from London here, but is a native of Scotland.

P.S. I trust you will write as soon as you receive this informing me all particulars of the country. German Buxton desires you to enquire of his brother whether they have received none of his letters as he hath had no answer. He particularly desires his brother John to write to him.

To Rebecca Godber

Ripley

Derbyshire

Britain

Letter 5.

His Majesty's Hospital

Sydney, New South Wales.

July 6th 1823

To Rebecka Godber

Dear Friend

I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you hoping they will find you in good health as they leave me at present. Thank God for it but the news that I have to impart is of such a nature that I feel grieved for you my dear friend, but you must keep up your spirits and pray to God to keep you in this world so that you may be happy with Him in the next world, where I hope your husband is gone before. Josiah Godber died in my arms in the hospital at half past three o'clock in the morning on the nineteenth day of November 1822.

I have had the misfortune to have my leg broken in the stone quarry, but it is got well and I am acting as potter at the hospital gates, Josiah came to the gate to me and he says "My lad I have got the dysentery very bad dost thou think I had not better come in to the hospital." To be sure I said to him but he was very bad, for he did not live above eight days. The last night he called me to his bed side and said to me my Lad I shall not Live till morning thou wilt send my beck and my Brothers and Sisters word that "I am dead, and tell them that I should like to have seen my wife and all my relations once more but it is not the will of the Almighty, that I should tell my brother Robert and my sister to comfort my wife but I know they will, so God almighty bless them all together. What things I had on when I came in do thee keep them and what things I have at mistress Hobkins tell her to give them to little Betty that is a little child of theirs because they have been so very good to me. Give my love to all my companions both here and at home." The day before he died he said to me " I should like a bit of English cheese if thou can get me a bit". " I will anything thou canst eat" I said. So I sent for two pounds and he was very much pleased. English cheese is very dear in this country. Half a Crown a pound at the shops, and some three shillings.

The Government buries all that die in the hospital without they have any friends that wish to bury them. We removed him to his lodgings me and German Buxton and John Mackeswick and Master Bobkins. We got him a good leaden coffin and the pall and we invited all of our friends there. There were no more of our companions left in the town and we made a very fine burying of him. There was plenty of biscuit, wine, rum and brandy for or all that was there. We are going to put a headstone over him. I did not know his age exactly but we put upon his coffin plate 55 years of age.

Now my dear friend I must close this sorrowful narrative with my best respects to you, Milly and her husband, to Mary and her husband, to Robert and his family. Give my best respects to master Fletcher and his family, John Tint and his family, to Thomas Moors, Robert Article, Samuel Knowles and their families and to all my rioter friends and acquaintances. I Desire you will send me a letter how you all are in Ripley and whether you think there is any likely of us getting a pardon or our sentences mitigated. Oh what would I give to be once more at Ripley. Give my love to my dear father and mother and to my brothers and sisters and tell them I have written a letter for them by the same ship, with one enclosed for Mistress Hares. Tell them there will another ship to sail in a months time and I shall write again. If you will be so good as to write me a letter directed for His Majesty General Hospital, Sydney New South Wales. I desire you will tell my parents to tell my brother-in-law James to write me a letter. I should take it as a very great favour if he would so do. I must conclude. God Almighty bless you all in Ripley both rich and poor.

So I remain your sincere well-wisher

George Brassington.

To Mrs. Rebecca Godber

Ripley

Derbyshire

Letter 6.

Thursday morning

25th March 1824

Rebecca Godber

I hereby inform you, that if you do not quit the house, shop, garden and premises you now hold under me in Ripley this twenty fifth day of March one thousand eight hundred and twenty four, having received legal notice for the same, I hereby inform you and give you notice that your yearly rent for the house shop garden & promises you now hold under me in Ripley, will from this time or date be Twelve Pounds a year.

William Kirkland.



- a. Place each letter at the centre of a blank piece of paper. Annotate, highlight and note anything you think is important. What do they tell you about transportation? What are the key facts? How reliable are they? What do they not tell you?

- b. What are you able to infer from the sources that is not directly stated? Look at the above print **The Aftermath** by Mike Pollicott Think about emotions, tone and attitudes.

- c. What do you think happened to Rebecca Goober? How do you feel about it? Where possible, make direct references to the letters as sources of evidence to support your answer.

4. List the ways in which people protest today and give a real example of each. Create a mind map of your findings.

5. Hold a debate on a topical issue, one that affects or interests you. This could be the abolition of exams or cars. Your aim is to persuade others that your point of view is the right one. Include facts and figures to support your views and prepare for opposing arguments. Make a note of the comments raised for and against and following the debate take a class vote.

Discussion Points

The 1817 Pentrich Revolution was a success. Discuss.

How did the Pentrich Revolution contribute to the growth of freedom and democracy in Britain? Did it work?

Do we have the right to protest?

What is free speech and how does it impact us?

Homework Investigation

Are you related to a 'revolutionary'? Look at the surnames of the men involved in the revolution on the following pages. Do you share the same name? If so you could be directly related to a revolutionary. Research the meaning of your surname and create a coat of arms to represent you and your family.

All men know to have taken part in The Pentrich Revolution.

James Adams	A Bromley (Bramley)	Sampson Fletcher	John Lomas
Henry Alkin (Atkins)	R Bromley (Bramley)	Samuel Fletcher	Thomas Lomas
John Alkin (Atkins)	Henry Brown	Daniel Flint	Isaac Ludlam
Joseph Alkin (Atkins)	John Brown	William Flint	Isaac Ludlam jnr
George Alton	Samuel Brown	Amos French	Samuel Ludlam
Thomas Alton	Thomas Brown	George Frost	William Ludlam
William Alton	William Brown	Thomas Gaunt	John MacKesswick
George Anthony	George Bryan	Josiah Godber	Timothy Mantle
James Anthony	William Bryan	Robert Godber	William Marriott
William Anthony	W Bryan	Thomas Goose	Anthony Martin
George Argyle	George Burrows	John Graham	Thomas Masland
John Atkins	George Burton	Isaac Gregory	Benjamin Massey
George Bacon	German Buxton	Francis Grooby	Daniel Massey
George Bacon	James Cartledge	Joseph Hale	Joseph Massey
Jeremiah Bacon	Isaac Cartledge	Edward Hall	Joseph Massey
John Bacon	John Carter	Edward Hall Jnr	Edward Moore
Miles Bacon	J Clarke	Elijah Hall	Isaac Moore
Nancy Bacon	Henry Clarke	Elijah Hall Jnr	John Moore
Thomas Bacon	Thomas Clark	John Hall	John Moore
Amos Ball	Thomas Clark	Joseph Hall	Robert Moore
William Barker	Edmund Cocker	Thomas Hall	Thomas Moore
James Barnes	James Collier	William Hall	Nelson
Samuel Barratt	John Cope	John Handford	Olive
Henry Bestwick	William Cope	James Hardwick	Benjamin Onions
Robert Bestwick	Peter Coupe	Samuel Hardwick	John Onions snr
Samuel Bestwick	Coupe	William Hardwick	John Onions jnr
Francis Bettison	George Crabtree	Thomas Hardy	Joseph Onions
Thomas Bettison	J Cresswell	William Hardy	Michael Onions
Jesse Birkamshaw	Thomas Cresswell	Joseph Harris	Thomas Onions
Samuel Blount	James Daykin	Edward Haslam	Andrew Palmer
William Blount	John Dexter	William Haslam	John Peach
William Blount	Thomas Drake	W Hepworth	Thomas Peach
John Boler (Bowler)	Anthony Elliott	James Hill	William Peach
John Bonsall	David Elliott	John Hill	William Price
Armand Booth	George Elliott	Henry Hole	William Radford
Charles Booth	Henry Elliott	John Holmes	Francis Rawson
George Booth	John Elliott	James Hopkinson	George Rawson
James Booth	Jonathan Elliott	John Horsley	Joseph Rawson
John Booth	Thomas Elliott	John Howitt	Samuel Rawson
Richard Booth	William Elliott	Daniel Hunt	Thomas Rawson
William Booth	John Ellis	Samuel Hunt	William Rawson
Richard Bowes	Anthony Else	John Hughes	John Raynor
John Bradley	Gilbert Endsor	Abraham James	John Revill
George Bramley	John Endsor	Joseph James	George Rhodes
James Bramley	Joseph Endsor	Samuel James	Edward Richards
Richard Bramley	Matthew Endsor	Nathaniel Jennings	Joseph Richards
William Bramley	Thomas Endsor	Thomas Jennings	Edward Robinson
Jeremiah Brandreth	Thomas Endsor	William Jennings	James Robinson
George Brassington	William Endsor	George Jepson	Joseph Robinson
Thomas Brassington	T Erswell	Alexander Johnson	James Saint
George Breedon	Thomas Fidler	Thomas Kirkham	Henry Sampson
Samuel Briddon	Edward Fletcher	Samuel Levers	Joseph Savage
Thomas Briddon	Edward Fletcher	William Lilley	Richard Sawyer
Edward Briggs	Jesse Fletcher	Lister	John Sellers
Robert Briggs	John Fletcher	I Lomas	Samuel Sellers

William Sharpe	Jeremiah Walters		
James Shill	Job Walters		
James Shipman	Robert Walters		
Luke Shipman	Nathaniel Walters		
William Shipman	Samuel Walters		
Joseph Slack	Samuel Walters		
William Smith	Tristram Walters		
William Smith	William Walters		
John Spencer	Charles Waters		
D W Stafford	Joel Waters		
Anthony Stanley	John Waters		
John Stanley	William Waters		
Thomas Stapleton	George Weightman		
Thomas Steer	James Weightman		
William Stevens	Joseph Weightman		
John Stone	Joseph Weightman		
Samuel Sutton	Nancy Weightman		
Charles Swaine	Thomas Weightman		
Joseph Swaine	William Weightman		
Benjamin Taylor	William Wheatcroft		
Henry Taylor	Wheatcroft		
James Taylor	F White		
John Taylor	Edward White		
Joseph Taylor	Obediah Wigley		
Laban Taylor	John Wild		
Samuel Taylor	John Wildgoose		
Job Thompson	I Wilkinson		
Benjamin Topham	Joseph Wilkinson		
Joseph Thorpe	Josiah Wilkinson		
Stephen Tissington	William Wilkinson		
Benjamin Topham	William Williams		
John Topham	John Wilson		
Joseph Topham	J Wood		
William Topham	Roger Wragg		
Edward Turner	John Wright		
James Turner	Thomas Wright		
Joseph Turner	John Wyld		
Joseph Turner	William Young		
Robert Turner			
Robert Turner			
Samuel Turner			
Thomas Turner			
William Turner			
William Turner			
Joseph Turton			
Benjamin Unwin			
John Unwin			
William Waine			
George Walker			
Isaac Walker			
Jeremiah Walker			
John Walker			
William Walker			
Charles Walters			
Charles Walters			
Enoch Walters			

Timeline of key events in relation to the Pentrich Revolution

1793 - France declares war on Britain.

1815 - Mount Tambora in Indonesia erupts leading to changes in weather around the world.

1815 - France surrendered in July 1815, after the battle of Waterloo in June.

1816 - Snow falls in June in what becomes known as 'the year without summer'.

1817 - By 1817 Britain had slumped into an economic crisis.

8th June 1817 - Jeremiah Brandreth addresses a meeting at the White Horse Inn at Pentrich urging men to march on Nottingham.

9th June 1817 - The march on Nottingham begins.

10th June 1817 - Some forty men are arrested by the Dragoons.

20th July 1817 - Jeremiah Brandreth is arrested.

16th Oct 1817 - The trial begins at Derby Assizes.

7th Nov 1817 - Brandreth, Ludlam and Turner are taken from Derby Gaol to Nun's Green where they are executed.

28th Nov 1817 - The first group of prisoners sentenced to transportation leave Derby.

Oct 1818 - The first group of prisoners sentenced to transportation arrive in Australia.

1818 - One third of the village of Pentrich is demolished and families are evicted under the Duke of Devonshire's orders.

1820 - King George III dies and his son the Prince Regent becomes King George IV

1835 - Convicts still alive are pardoned.

Turbulent Timeline

1771 - The 'Factory Age' begins with the opening of Britain's first cotton mill

1775 - American War of Independence

1787 - First fleet of convicts sails to Australia

1789 – The French Revolution

1799 -1800 - Trade Unions are outlawed

1803 - 1815 - The Napoleonic Wars

1807 - Britain abolishes the slave trade

1811-1812 - Luddite protesters attack industrial machinery

1812 – UK at war with America

1815 - Corn Laws introduced

1817 - Blanketeers march to London

1817 – The Pentrich Revolution

1819 – The Peterloo Massacre

1829 - Robert Peel sets up the Metropolitan Police

1832 – The Great Reform Act

1833 - The Factory Act

1834 – The Tolpuddle Martyrs

1838 - 1857 The Chartist movement

Profile Page

Name: Jeremiah Brandreth

Also known as: The Nottingham Captain

Born: London 1784.

Baptised: The Church of St Andrews, Holborn, 26th June 1784.

Lived: Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

Died: 7th November 1817. Executed for High Treason at Nun's Green in Derby. Hung and beheaded.

Family: He married Ann Bridget on the 29th September 1811. They had three children; Elizabeth, Timothy and Mary.

Before the revolution: When Brandreth was a baby his family moved to Barnstaple in Devon. At the age of 13 they moved to Exeter and set up a framework knitting business on Maudlin Street. In 1803 when he was 18 he joined the British Army as a reservist in the 28th Regiment of Foot in Wellington's Army. He deserted five years later. In 1809 his mother died and in 1811 his father died. It is believed that Brandreth was involved in a Luddite raid in 1811 when a fellow Luddite was shot dead.

Job: Framework Knitter.

Physical description: Strong features. Short, with a yellowish complexion.

Character: A leader who was determined, courageous, firm and capable of great things. He conducted himself extremely well during his trial.

Role in the revolution

Brandreth led the march. He held a final meeting at The White Horse in Pentrich, where he



Jeremiah Brandreth as he looked at his trial. 16th October 1817.

told his fellow conspirators "they would receive 100 guineas, bread, meat and ale" and would overthrow the government and put an end to "poverty forever".

During the march to Nottingham it is believed that Brandreth accidentally shot a servant when trying to gain entry to Mary Hepworth's house. He was not tried for this crime. He was ambushed alongside the other revolutionaries by soldiers at Giltbrook in Nottinghamshire. He escaped and tried twice to stow away on ships to the United States. He was eventually captured and arrested on 20th July 1817 and was sent to Derby to face trial.

In his own words: During the march Brandreth led the men in song.

*"Every man his skill must try
He must turn out and not deny;
No bloody soldier must he dread,
He must turn out and fight for bread.
The time is come you plainly see
The government opposed must be."*

Profile Page

Name: Isaac Ludlam

Also known as: The Elder

Born: 1765

Lived: South Wingfield

Died: 7th November 1817. Executed for high treason at Nun's Green in Derby. Hung and beheaded.

Family: He married Fanny Wheatcroft in 1793. They had 12 children.

Before the revolution: He had been a farmer but had found it hard to make a living. In the churchyard of All Saints in South Wingfield the grave of six of Isaac Ludlum's children can be found. They all died young.

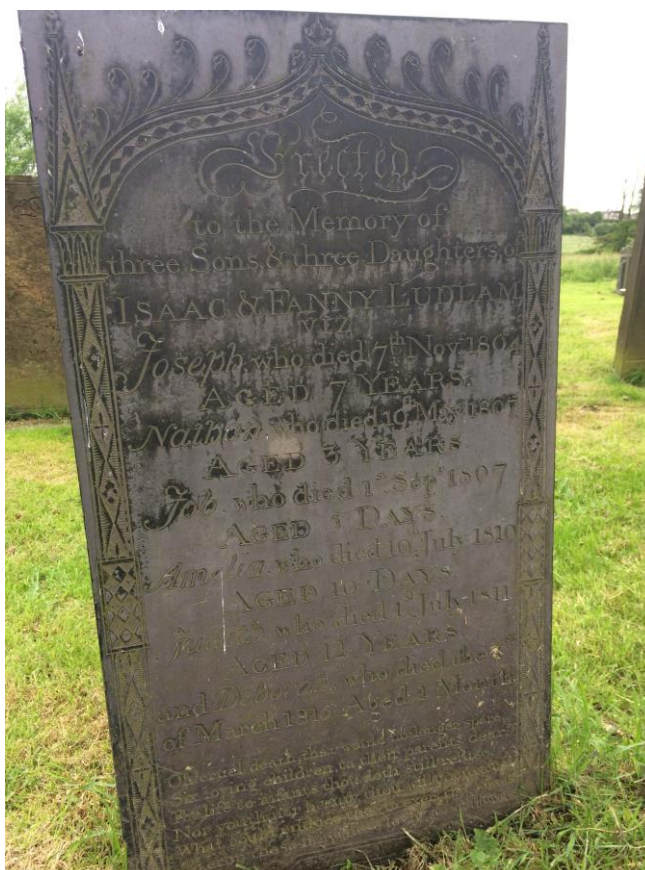
Job: Stonegetter and Methodist Lay Preacher.

Physical description: A large and dominating size.

Role in the revolution: He was given the role of 'back marker' because of his size. He had to make sure all the revolutionaries stayed together and did not desert. His sons and others were responsible for making up to forty pikes and hiding them in his quarry near Hunt's Barn in Wingfield Park before the revolution.

In his own words: Mrs Godber, the landlady at the Sun Inn in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire begged Ludlum to leave the march and hide in her cellar. He replied:

"No. Many of these starving men are out because I am here. It is too late to return. I must and will go on."



Profile Page

Name: Thomas Bacon

Also known as: Old Tommy

Lived: Pentrich

Died: 1831

Before the revolution: He had been a political activist for many years in the early 19th century and was also a delegate for both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. He travelled to London for meetings in the push for political reform.

Job: Framework Knitter

Physical description: He was silver-haired of middle height. He had a yellow-complexioned face pitted with pock marks.

Character: He expressed radical views even after he was imprisoned and transported. He was able to read and would read news to others in Pentrich.

Role in the revolution: He was a central figure in planning the Pentrich Revolution. But at the age of 64 he was thought to be too old to lead it. At the time of the Pentrich Revolution he was an unemployed framework knitter. He was suspected of breaking machinery so it is believed that there was a warrant for his arrest. He went into hiding on June 7th or 8th 1817. Later he was arrested, imprisoned and brought to trial in Derby with the others. He pleaded guilty and was one of the fourteen men transported to Australia for life.

In his own words: After the verdicts Thomas said:

“It was never known in England before that labouring men were tried for High treason yea men who can scarce tell a letter in the alphabet”

Profile Page

Name: William Turner

Born: 1771

Died: 7th November 1817. Executed for High Treason at Nun's Green in Derby. Hung and beheaded.

Before the revolution: Turner was an ex-soldier who had served in Holland and Egypt in the Napoleonic wars. He built a house in South Wingfield where he cared for his elderly parents. The house still stands in the village today.



Job: Stonemason

Role in the revolution: He was appointed as second in command to Brandreth and led one of the groups on the march. He was captured with his brother Edward on 10th June 1817.

In his own words: His last words before his execution.

"This is the work of the government and Oliver!"

Profile Page

Name: George Weightman

Born: 1791 in Pentrich.

Lived: Pentrich

Died: 1865. He was the last survivor of those transported. There is a memorial to him, near where he lived in Kiama, New South Wales, Australia. It commemorates his role in the rising.



A plaque in Australia to commemorate George Weightman, described as a 'prisoner of conscience'

Family: He was the son of Nancy Weightman and the nephew of Thomas Bacon. He married Rebecca around 1812 and had three children.

Job: Sawyer

Role in the revolution: George was 26 at the time of the revolution. He was given the important role of leading one of the groups during the march. He also rode ahead towards Nottingham to bring back news of whether men were ready to join the revolt. His message that Nottingham had risen and that 'soldiers would not stir from their barracks' was not true and it led to the revolutionaries meeting their end at Giltbrook.

When the marchers arrived at The Sun Inn in Eastwood he was given the task of fetching a surgeon to Charles Walters who had been shot in the leg accidentally by one of the other revolutionaries. At this point Weightman wanted to leave the march but carried on through the rain. He evaded capture for five weeks before being arrested.

He was found guilty of high treason and he was sentenced to be hanged and beheaded. However, two days after the executions of Brandreth, Turner and Ludlam his sentence was changed to transportation. He was transported to Australia arriving there in October 1818. He was pardoned in 1835 but did not return to Britain.

Profile Page

Name : William J. Oliver

Also known as: Oliver the Spy

Born: Shropshire

Died: 2nd February 1827

Family: He married Harriet Dear and they had one son.

Job: A police informer, spy and supposed 'agent provocateur'.

Description: "A person of genteel appearance and good address, nearly six feet high, of erect figure, light hair, red and rather large whiskers, and a full face, a little pitted with the small-pox. His usual dress was a light fashionable coloured brown coat,

black waistcoat, dark-blue mixture pantaloons, and Wellington boots." A description printed in an article in the Leeds Mercury, 14 June 1817.

Before the revolution: Oliver was active in London infiltrating reform groups and befriending well known radicals. On the 28th March William Oliver requested an interview with Lord Sidmouth. It is thought that this was where the plot to foil the Pentrich Revolution was discussed. He visited Derby, Nottingham and local villages from May 25th – 28th 1817.

Role in the revolution: Unknown to local people Oliver, was a government spy and was reporting back to the government all that went on. By May 1817 meetings in the North were being broken up and ringleaders imprisoned, but Oliver persuaded local Derbyshire men that the rising was to go ahead and incited them to rise. By doing so, his role as an 'agent provocateur' working on behalf of the government came into play.



Profile Page

Name: Nanny Weightman

Also known as: Nancy Weightman

Born: She was born Nanny Bacon in Pentrich in 1762. **Baptised:** 18th April 1762.

Lived: Pentrich.

Family: She was the sister of Thomas Bacon, one of the revolutionaries. She married William Weightman on the 21st April 1783 in Pentrich. It is thought she had eight children including George Weightman.

Job: Owner and landlady of The White Horse Inn in Pentrich.

Role in the revolution: On Sunday 8th June Nanny Weightman's Inn was the location a meeting when Jeremiah Brandreth called upon local men to join the revolution.

Following the revolution she was convicted of allowing meetings to take place at the Inn. She lost her licence to sell ale and her pub was demolished immediately after.

Profile Page

Name: Mary Hepworth **Also known as:** Widow Hepworth

Born: She was born Mary Cooke on the 9th February 1760.

Died: Aged 68 in 1828 and is buried in South Wingfield alongside her parents Frances and Hannah Cooke.

Family: She married Joseph Hepworth and they had eight children; Anne, Francis, Hannah, Elizabeth, William, Maria, Frederick and Amath.

Role in the revolution: The revolutionaries arrived at her home shortly after midnight on the night of the revolution. They banged on her door but she refused to open it.

Sources of historical evidence

Source 1 - by kind permission of Derby Museum

A porcelain 'toilet pot' decorated with the gruesome image of the severed head of Jeremiah Brandreth.



Source 2 - by kind permission of Derby Museum

The execution block

The wooden execution block used to behead the revolutionary ringleaders following their hanging at Derby Gaol.



Source 3

Who was Jeremiah Brandreth?

Excerpt from Sir Henry Fitzherbert's notebook. A juror at the trial.

'A general insurrection was to have burst forth in June, but several of the delegates were secured near Sheffield, and the others escaping warned their towns, and neighbourhoods from breaking out at that time; no notice however was given to the disaffected part of our County, namely the Hundred of Scarsdale, and that part of the County from Alfreton to Butterley, and Nottingham; they alone were bravely faithful to their oaths, and wicked purposes; for they commenced the rebellion precisely at the time appointed, headed by the noted Jeremiah Brandreth. They took the way to Nottingham, but before they reached it, they were opposed by the troops, who took several of them, and dispersed the rest, though twice attempted to be rallied in front of the dragoons by their brave leader J. Brandreth, who was taken at Nottingham some time afterwards. A special commission was issued to try the rebels at Derby in October, and four of the judges attended. Jerry Brandreth, & three others were hanged & beheaded at Derby; several others were convicted, & several pleaded guilty, who were transported. J. Brandreth was a man of the most undaunted courage and firmness, and possessed every talent and qualification for high enterprise. He had been a framework knitter, & latterly a sailor. He was 28 years old, of short stature, & very dark, with a very strong expression of countenance. He conducted himself extremely well upon his trial. The other prisoners were common characters. Thus closed this most interesting year.'

Source 4 - A letter from Jeremiah Brandreth to his wife Ann. Published in a newspaper.

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Copy of a Letter,

WRITTEN BY

JEREMIAH BRANDRETH,

(Recently Tried and Convicted at Derby for High Treason,)

To his WIFE, at Sutton-in-Ashfield.

DERBY GAOL, Oct. 18, 1817.

My dearly beloved Wife,


AT last I thought it my duty to write a few lines to you, which I am sure will affect you very much, to inform you of my dreadful situation; but I hope God will be your friend---and if you will by prayer and supplication appeal to God, you will undoubtedly find great consolation and relief for your distress, and as a husband and father let me intreat you, that you will act a motherly part to the poor fatherless children, and bring them up in the fear of God, which is my most sincere desire, and likewise conduct yourself in an undeniable manner, as an example to the children to the love and fear of God, in the faith of Jesus Christ so that you may never depart from that faith in Christ; and I wish for the convincing of all the souls in the house, that they may be present at the arrival of this, and that we may all meet in heaven, where trouble ceases, and all is joy and glory!---And I pray to God may this fatal stroke be joy to all that belong to me instead of sorrow. Oh! that I may be the cause of their holy salvation---may I penetrate each wounded heart, so as to be their sole conversion to God. My dear you may suppose my feelings are not easily to be described. At this time the sentence is not passed; but I am found guilty by the Jury this day. My dear Wife it would give me great consolation if I could see you before I depart from this life but my dear, if you are pregnant, I would have you advise with our poor distressed mother-in-law, whether it would be proper or not; and if she thinks it would not be of serious consequence, I should be very glad; but let it be well considered before you come to me, and if you do not come, let your father (if he thinks it would not be more than he can bear, as I know he is of a very timorous turn;) but if neither comes, I shall write again, if God permit me.----So, my beloved wife, hope you will excuse my short letter at this time. You may inform all Friends that God gave me great fortitude to bear up my spirits on trial.---So I hope the blessings of God will be with you all, and most especially with you and our poor little babes.---So I conclude,

Your most affectionate Husband,

Jeremiah Brandreth

For Ann Brandreth, George Bridget's,
Bedlam-court, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Hodson, Printer, Nottingham.



An excerpt from Jeremiah Brandreth's letter to his wife

My dearly beloved Wife

At last I thought it my duty to write a few lines to you, which I am sure will affect you very much, to inform you of my dreadful situation; but I hope God will be your friend ... and if you will prayer to God, you will undoubtedly find great consolation and relief for your distress, and as a husband and father let me intreat you, that you will act a motherly part to the poor fatherless children, and bring them up in the fear of God, which is my most sincere desire. I prayer that we will all meet in heaven, where trouble ceases and all is joy and glory!

My dear you may suppose my feelings are not easily to be described. At this time the sentence is not passed; but I am found guilty by the jury this day.

My dear wife it would give me great consolation if I could see you before I depart from this life, but my dear if you are pregnant, I would have you advise with our poor distressed mother-in-law, whether it would be proper or not; and if she thinks it would not be of serious consequence, I should be very glad; but let it be well considered before you come to me, and if you do not come, let your father (if he thinks it would not be more than he could bear). But if neither comes I shall write again if God permit me...So my beloved wife I hope you will excuse my short letter at this time. You may inform all friends that God gave me great fortitude to bear up my spirits on trial...So I hope the blessings of God will be with you all, and most especially with you and our poor little babes...So I conclude,

Your most affectionate husband

Jeremiah Brandreth

Key Vocabulary and Concepts

The words below could be used in a variety of ways. You could find the definitions, find a different meaning or sort the words into categories. You could cut them out, mix them up and match the word to the definition. (Definitions are from the Oxford Dictionary)

Agent Provocateur (*noun*)
(*from French*) A person who is employed by a government to encourage people in political groups to do something illegal so that they can be arrested.

Commemoration (*noun*) To commemorate is to remember a past event or person through an action or a sign.

Convicted (*verb*) Declared guilty of a criminal offence by the verdict of a jury or the decision of a judge in a court of law.

Capital Punishment (*noun*)
The legally authorised killing of someone as punishment for a crime.

Democracy (*Noun*) A system of government for the people, by the people.

Dragoon (*noun*) A member a cavalry regiment in the British army.

Executed (*verb*) A sentence of death on a legally condemned person.

Habeas Corpus (*noun from Latin*) A law requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a judge or into court.

Imprisoned (*adjective*) To be kept in prison.

Insurgent (*noun*) A person fighting against a government or invading force; a rebel or revolutionary.

Insurrection (*noun*) A violent uprising against an authority or government.

Jury (*noun*) A group of 12 people who have listened to the evidence at a trial and then declare whether the accused person is guilty or not.

Luddite (*noun*) An English worker who destroyed machinery, especially in cotton and wool mills, which they believed was threatening their jobs (1811–16).

Mob (*noun*) An unruly and dangerous crowd.

Pardon (*noun*) A cancellation of the legal consequences of an offence or conviction.

Protest (*noun*) An objection, something you do or say to show that you do not approve.

Radical (*noun*) A person who advocates thorough or complete political or social change, or a member of a political party or section of a party pursuing such aims.

Rebel (*noun*) A person who rises in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Rebellion (*noun*) An act of armed resistance to an established government or leader.

Reform (*verb*) Make changes to a system so as to improve it.

Revolution (*noun*) A rebellion which overthrows the government.

Sentence (*noun*) The punishment given to a person found guilty by a court for a particular offence.

Spy (*noun*) A person who tries to discover secret information.

Trade Union (*noun*) An organisation formed to protect and further the rights and interests of workers.

Transported (*verb*) To send a convict abroad to a penal colony.

Treason (*noun*) The crime of betraying your country, especially by attempting to kill or overthrow the Queen/King or government.

Trial (*noun*) A examination of evidence by a judge, before a jury, in order to decide guilt.

Uprising (*noun*) An act of resistance or rebellion; a revolt.

Verdict (*noun*) A decision on an issue of fact in a civil or criminal case or an inquest.

WHAT IS A REVOLUTION?

A **revolution** (from the Latin *revolutio*, "a turn around") is a fundamental change in political power or organizational structures that takes place in a relatively short period of time when the population rises up in revolt against the current authorities.

Perhaps most often, the word "revolution" is employed to denote a change in social and political institutions.

Jeff Goodwin gives a broad definition of a revolution as;

'any and all instances in which a state or a political regime is overthrown and thereby transformed by a popular movement in an irregular, extra-constitutional and/or violent fashion.'

**Rebel
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V
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**Luddite
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N**
Treason

Can you think of any other words that are relevant to The Pentrich Revolution?

List of publications

This is a short list for further reading, there is a fuller list on our website.

All publications are available from the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group (see website for prices) and copies are also held in some Derbyshire libraries.

England's Last Revolution – John Stevens

Oliver the Spy – Michael Parkin

Transported for Treason – Ralph Hawkins

Rebel's Way – Gwyneth Francis (a story for young people)

Nottingham and the Pentrich Revolution of 1817 - Roger Tanner

Bravery and Deception: The Pentrich Revolt of 1817 – Julian Atkinson

The Pentrich Revolution Bicentenary walks

See 'The Black Spider letters' on our website.