



# THE PENTRICH & SOUTH WINGFIELD REVOLUTION GROUP



Final edition

December 2018

Free

## *Commemorating the arrival of transported men in Australia*

On October 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 a small but intrepid band of travelers from Derbyshire arrived in Australia to commemorate the arrival of the Pentrich transportees in September and October 1818.

Any discomfort and jet lag from our long flight paled into insignificance compared with the tribulations and distress experienced by the fourteen men arriving at Sydney Head 200 years earlier. Most of them had never been at sea before but all of them survived the perilous ten-month voyage.



With our gracious Australian hosts we completed three commemorative walks in and around Sydney. Around 20 people took part in each of the



walks. The first was an eight mile urban walk in Sydney visiting sites that would have been known to the Pentrich men. We began in The First Fleet Park and stood outside of the old Commissariat Building on The Kings Wharf where the new arrivals were issued with fresh clothes and assigned to their duties. One of the transportees John McKesswick from Heanor worked there in later years.

We also visited the former site of Fort Macquarie near the Sydney Opera House. Other memorable sites include the remains of the first Government House, the Kent Street Quarry and the Hyde Park Barracks

which accommodated transportees arriving from 1819.

The second Walk involved a trip by ferry up the Parramatta. Now a modern city Parramatta was a small settlement in 1818. Thomas and John Bacon passed through to work on the Reverend Marsden's House north of the town. Samuel Hunt had a pub named The Green Gate there and Hunt's Creek is also named after him. John Onions was the Sexton at St. John's Anglican Church where Samuel Hunt was married. Some of his descendants joined us for part of the walk.



**The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group was formed in 2014 as a single purpose community organisation dedicated to increasing and retaining awareness of the 1817 Pentrich Revolution. It is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its objectives are:**

- to commemorate the 1817 Pentrich Rising;
- to educate and increase awareness about the rising;
- to establish a legacy which preserves and entrenches the heritage of the Revolution.



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# From Pentrich to Peterloo:

## Legacies of Protest for Political Change, 1817-1819



**Saturday 9 March 2019**

**10am-4pm (registration: 9:30am)**

**Swanwick Hall School, Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1AE**

### **Keynote speakers:**

Professor Malcom Chase, Leeds University

Professor Robert Poole, University of Central Lancashire

and Dr Matthew Roberts, Sheffield Hallam University

**With local historian speakers from the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group**

**Tickets:** £5 including refreshments. To register, go to:

Pay now: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/PentrichNow>

Pay on the day: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/PentrichDay>

**More details: [Richard.Gaunt@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Richard.Gaunt@nottingham.ac.uk)**



## William Turner'Tale - as told by John Young

On Saturday 17 November 2018 we held a social evening at South Wingfield Social Club. The main event was John Young's one man show telling the life story of William Turner in song, narration and images from the period. This was John's last ever performance and it was appropriate that it was performed in South Wingfield – the home of the Turner family. The performance was filmed for our archive and will be put on YouTube.

As well as a Pie and Peas supper the second Pentrich film was shown ( also soon to be released on YouTube ). The evening concluded with a very entertaining Derbyshire Quiz hosted by our Chairman John Hardwick.

## Exhibition at 28 Café, Belper



On 31st October, an exhibition was held at Number 28, Belper as part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Discovery Days festival to explore less well known events and places around the Derwent Valley. A talk was well attended and turned into an approachable question and answer session with interesting and knowledgeable debate. The location in Belper brought questions about the involvement of millowners in Richard Arkwright and the Strutt family. Richard Arkwright was a member of the Grand Jury overseeing the trials in Derby. Joseph Douglas Strutt watched the executions and wrote to his cousin about 'the dreadful sight and suffering in our once free and happy land'. We also had the Anarchy Applique with a drop-in session to try show how the applique was made. The questions covered impacts on small scale framework knitting brought about by the development of the cotton spinning mills, even though the Derwent Valley Mills provided comparatively good working conditions and housing.

## Unveiling the Interpretation Board at Sutton in Ashfield



The Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, Cllr. Sue Saddington and Ashfield District Councillor Samantha Deakin attended the unveiling of the Pentrich Revolution information board at St Mary's Memorial Gardens on Wednesday November 7th. The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group has worked with Nottinghamshire County Council and Ashfield District Council to create this panel to promote the significance of the Pentrich Revolution in 1817 to visitors to the gardens. The panel is in a quiet garden for people to discover. The date marks 201 years since three men, Jeremiah Brandreth, Isaac Ludlum and William Turner, were executed in Derby for their part in the Pentrich Revolution after being convicted of treason.

## Exhibition at Ripley Town Council Office

Throughout October and November local Ripley residents were able to view an exhibition at the new Town Council Office. The focus was very much on the part that Ripley played in The Pentrich Revolution. It will be followed by a small permanent exhibition at the same venue.

**The Pentrich Quilt made by The Second Revolution Quilters is now permanently displayed at St Matthew's Church in Pentrich.**

# Gone but not forgotten

## Transportation in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century – the story of Australia's Convict Colonisers.

- Over 200 Capital offences in the UK in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- The transportation of 56,000 convicts to the American colonies from 1614 ceased in 1776 when the American Revolution began.
- The 'discovery' and acquisition of Australia in 1770 by Captain Cook provided a convenient alternative – it seems that distance was no object.
- The transportation of British felons to Australia began with the arrival of the first fleet in Sidney in 1788.
- Between 1787 and 1868 162,000 British felons were transported to Australia.
- However, the use of transportation as a punishment gradually declined for more minor offences.
- New and larger prisons were built in the UK ( e.g. Pentonville in 1842 ) offering a more cost effective option.
- Transportation was abolished in New South Wales in 1840 and in Van Diemen's Land ( Tasmania ) from 1853.
- It faced a total ban in Australia from 1868.

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

For further information or to become a friend of the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group please contact Valerie Herbert - [valerie.mherbert@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:valerie.mherbert@yahoo.co.uk) You can become a Friend for as little as £5 per year. As a charity we depend on donations to carry on the work both now and after the bicentenary commemoration of 2017. If you would like to become a friend or make a donation it will be eligible for gift aid as we are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ( Number 1166940 )

Go to our website [www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk](http://www.pentrichrevolution.org.uk) and follow us on Facebook - [facebook.com/pentrichrevolution/](https://facebook.com/pentrichrevolution/)

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This was a much shorter walk focused on sites frequented by George Weightman including his memorial plaque. We were fortunate to meet two of his descendants and visit the Kiama Family History Centre.



Full details of these walks are in Walk Leaflets 16,17 and 18 available from our website.

## Sydney Exhibition and Talk

Following on from the walks we held a talk to accompany the exhibition at the Sydney Genealogical Society. Sylvia Mason gave an overview of The Pentrich Revolution. Patrick Cook gave a short talk on transportation and Ralph Hawkins talked about his family history and how, as an Aussie, he became aware of The Pentrich Revolution and wrote the book **Transported for Treason**.

## New books

