



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

DAY

25 AUGUST

#NottsDay

*A county to
be proud of*

IMPORTANT FIGURES PACK

THOSE WHO BROUGHT OTHERS TOGETHER

This pack includes:

- **Profile on Jeremiah Brandreth**
- **Profile on Helen Watts**
- **Profile on Eric Irons OBE**
- **Profile on Richard Whitehead MBE**
- **Activities and resources**

Key terms:

Rising
Luddite
Suffragette
Magistrate
Paralympian

National Curriculum History Objectives:

Changes within living memory. Where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life

Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally

The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements.

Significant historical events, people, and places in their own locality.

Jeremiah Brandreth

Jeremiah Brandreth, also known as 'The Nottingham Captain', was a stocking maker who became part of the Luddite movement and plotted to overthrow the government in 'The Pentrich rising' in 1817.

By 1817, lots of people in Britain had lost their jobs due to industrialisation in the country, and prices of food and supplies were getting higher and higher because Britain had just fought in wars against Napoleon, and so had lots of debt. In 1817 there was also very cold, wet, weather and England therefore had a poor harvest. All of these factors led to a depression in the country.

Tensions had been growing in Britain between the working class and the ruling class. The Luddites were a group of textile workers who were scared of being replaced by new technology and destroyed textile machines. Amongst them, was Jeremiah Brandreth, a stocking maker from Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Jeremiah Brandreth led a group of conspirators to march on Nottingham and end poverty. They were armed with pikes and scythes and were intent on wiping out national debt and abolishing taxes. The march set out on the 9th June 1817, heading towards Nottingham with the plan to take over the city barracks, and proceed by boat down the River Trent and attack Newark. The group however were betrayed by William J. Oliver, also known as 'Oliver the Spy', who was a government spy and had planted himself in the rebellion group. The group were met by troops in Giltbrook and arrested.

Brandreth was captured on 22 July and the government was determined to make an example of them to serve as a warning for other would-be revolutionaries- Jeremiah was to be hung, drawn and quartered.



The luddite movement had a big impact on Nottinghamshire and is commemorated by the Ned Ludd pub, named after the inspiration of their name

Helen Watts

Helen Watts was born in 1881 and lived in Lenton, Nottingham. In 1909 she attended the 'Women's Parliament' and was inspired to join a protest for 'Votes for Women' in London. The protest was not successful as Helen was second to be arrested outside the House of Commons. She was charged with obstruction and passionately refused to improve her behaviour. She was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.



On release she was greeted at Nottingham station by many local suffragettes and a celebration supper was held at Morley's cafe on Wheeler Gate. She later attended another meeting in Leicester where Winston Churchill was speaking. This time Helen was charged with 'disorderly conduct' and in Leicester jail she went on hunger strike for 90 hours. She also smashed 2 windowpanes in her cell to let in fresh air and was released after 5 days. Helen was awarded the Holloway prison medal and the Hunger strike medal. After these experiences, Helen was in demand as a speaker and there are notes for a number of her speeches in the Nottinghamshire archives.

The Women's Social and Political Union (the suffragettes) decided to take more violent actions to try and get the vote, which Helen did not agree with. Helen left to join the Women's Freedom League.

Women in England, Scotland and Wales were finally granted the right to vote on the same terms as men in 1928 and a Juniper tree has been planted at Nottingham Arboretum Park, to honour Helen Watts.



In one of Helen's speeches she encourages women to 'be impatient and very noisy!'

what do you think she meant by this?

Eric Irons OBE

Eric Irons OBE was born in Jamaica in 1921 and settled in Nottingham following his RAF service in World War Two. Eric was passionate about equality and worked to introduce measures to prevent the discrimination of ethnic minorities in Nottinghamshire and provide them with more opportunities as a community.



Image courtesy of
visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk

In his memoirs, Eric states 'Growing up and living amongst people originating from the Indian sub-continent had imbued in me a healthy respect for other people's way of life and their beliefs and traditions', and Eric worked with Chinese, Indian, and Pakistani community leaders to establish an English language and current affairs class for Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh women, and helped gain a grant for a Chinese community centre. These classes brought different communities together and provided them with more opportunities, but also attracted attention from across the country to engage with Asian women.

Eric also set up a community and women's groups which went on to form part of the Consultative Committee for the welfare of black people in 1955, and the Nottingham standing conference for Commonwealth citizens. The group discussed local issues and prejudice and Eric successfully campaigned for equality with many services including the City Council and Nottingham transport services.

He made history in 1962 when he was appointed Justice of the Peace to Nottingham bench of Magistrates, becoming the country's first black magistrate. Since then, Eric has been awarded the Badge of Honour from the Government of Jamaica for his community work and was made an OBE in 1977.



This plaque dedicated to Eric Irons can be seen at the National Justice Museum in Nottingham and was unveiled by his family in October 2019.

Richard Whitehead MBE

Richard Whitehead MBE was born in Nottingham in 1976 and has a double through-knee congenital amputation. Having a passion in sport from an early age, Richard was a swimming and dance teacher at Clifton Leisure Centre in Nottingham and ran his first marathon in 2004. Richard was running on his knees using sports cups, which was extremely gruelling and painful, but was fitted with running blades before the marathon.

Whitehead was unable to compete in the marathon at the London 2012 Paralympics as there was no category for leg amputees. He was refused permission by the IPC to compete against upper-body amputees and had to turn to sprinting to compete at the 2012 Paralympics, where he won the gold medal in the 200m T42 Athletics event with a world record time of 24.38 seconds. Following the 2012 games he completed 40 Marathons in 40 Days challenge from John O'Groats to Lands End.

Richard describes his core values as the belief that sport can unite people, the use of sport to support positive mental health, giving back to the community, encouraging disabled and able bodied people to have greater belief in themselves, and to continue the legacy of disabled athletes by working to create an equal playing field for disabled people in sport.

He was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2013 New Year's Honours List.



In 2021, Richard launched The Richard Whitehead Foundation to work with disabled people who may be facing physical and emotional challenges in being able to reach their potential. The Foundation aims to provide access to life-changing support, information, advice, equipment and opportunities that will spark a sustained lifetime intervention enabling disabled people to believe and achieve life goals through sport and movement.

Activities/ resources for teachers:

Choose a historical figure and research them to create a poster about their life and/or their involvement in Nottinghamshire

Try to think about:

- What you would like to know from them
- What experiences they might have been through
- What they can tell you about Nottinghamshire
- What struggles they might have faced
- Choose a historical figure and research them to create a poster about their life and/or their involvement in Nottinghamshire
- Plan an event to celebrate your chosen historical figure

Resources:

[What was the Pentrich Uprising? | Government Spies and Seditious in the early Nineteenth Century - YouTube](#)

[Ferocious Dog - Pentrich Rising \(Official Video\) - YouTube](#) **WARNING: This video contains strobing lights**

[Women's struggle for the right to vote - The fight for female suffrage - KS3 History - homework help for year 7, 8 and 9. - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Watch Black Magistrate online - BFI Player](#)

[Irons/Magistrate \(1/10/2019\) -- BBC East Midlands Today - YouTube](#)

[Richard Whitehead takes T42 200m gold at London 2012 - YouTube](#)

[RichardWhiteheadMBE - Athlete, Motivational Speaker](#)

Displays and competitions: Please involve yourself and your class in Nottinghamshire day by joining the displays and competition linked with this pack.

Display/ Competition: Please submit your designs to [**Notts.day@nottsc.gov.uk**](mailto:Notts.day@nottsc.gov.uk) before the 15th July with the child's name, age, school and permission to use your design online to enter our competition and have the chance to be displayed at Nottinghamshire Day and much more!