

Nº 1: Clarion Calling



Clarion House, Jinny Lane & Burnley Clarion



A circular walk through the Forest of Pendle visiting the sites of three Clarion Houses established by the Nelson branch of the Independent Labour Party (ILP).

These were places where mill workers arriving by cycle or on foot could meet, to enjoy comradeship and fresh air in the great outdoors, away from their long hours of work in the smoky East Lancashire textile towns.

1 Join the stream side footpath at the rear corner of the heritage centre car park. The narrow path leads to the old road bridge at Higherford. Turn left over the bridge then immediately right into Foreside leading to Barleydale Road. Bear right at the end of the houses to join the Pendle Way alongside the stream. Follow this until the footbridge is reached on the right by Water Meetings Farm.

2 Do not cross the bridge but turn left then right at the white gatepost. Cross a field to enter woodland. Climb uphill to enter the open hillside by bothies. The path soon crosses a stile and follows a wall boundary on the left through fields. It reaches a crossroads of paths on the hilltop by a stile and Pendle Way signpost.

3 At the stile turn sharp right down the hillside to cross stepping-stones over Pendle Water and meet the lane, Blacko Bar Road. Turn left and the lane is followed into Roughlee village. Go straight ahead pass the Bay Horse Inn and the roadside sculpture of Alice Nutter.

4 Keep to the lane straight ahead for nearly ½ mile to reach the crossroads at 'Happy Valley' by the hamlet of Thorneyholme. Turn right along the lane signed for Barley and at the cluster of cottages on the right you can glimpse the small cottage, 1 Thorneyholme Square, rented by the Nelson I.L.P. as their first Clarion House.

5 Follow the pavement gradually uphill. By the bus stop turn left along an unsigned stony track, Hays Lane. This stony track, climbs quite steeply and swings right around the spur of a hill. It then swings left and is followed for nearly ½ mile. Do not follow it all the way into Barley but leave it on the left where it meets waymarked paths to the left and right. The path on the left begins at a field gate and stile.

6 The path follows a right field edge uphill to join an access track between houses. Turn right along the track and a lane is soon reached. Turn left along the lane (no pavement) which leads downhill into Newchurch past the Witches Galore gift shop to reach toilets on the same side.

7 Turn left opposite the toilets along the signed footpath to the 'Playing Field' that begins at the access drive between the houses. This runs behind the churchyard (which can be visited by going through a metal gate on the right)

and follows the right-hand edge of the playing field to reach a sewage works. Turn left and follow the access road past numerous cottages. Along the row of cottages on the left is Nabs Farm, formerly the second Clarion House of Nelson ILP.

8 Continue to a track junction and turn left uphill across a cattle grid. This is followed across another cattle grid to reach Jinny Lane. Turn right to reach the Clarion House on the left-hand side.

9 From the Clarion turn left along the lane and join the first footpath on the right at a stile. Follow the left field edge then further stiles on the left to cross a footbridge. Follow the waymarked path straight ahead through the middle of a field to reach a drive to the right of a house entrance. Climb steps on the opposite side and the path turns left around the back of a woodland to cross a stile to join a farm drive winding uphill through a field. By the top of the hill the path leaves the drive on the left to cross a stile in the left field corner.

10 Turn left along the road but only as far as the Noggarth Top refreshment shop. Join the path starting at a gate opposite Noggarth Top and follow the ridge top path with the wall on the immediate right. Continue straight ahead when it joins an access road. Follow the access road for ½ mile gradually downhill to where it meets a lane.

11 Join the waymarked path on the opposite side of the lane on the bend to reach the crossroads of paths met earlier in the walk. Turn right here downhill following the waymarked Pendle Way. Keep to this and eventually a track leads to Pasture Lane. Continue downhill to meet the main road by the White Bear Inn. Cross via the pedestrian crossing and footbridge to enter Barrowford Memorial Park. Turn left to reach the Pendle Heritage Centre.

Distance: 7.5 miles

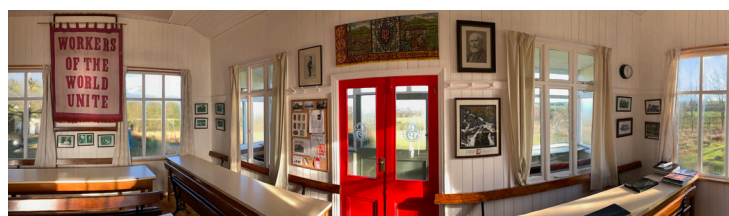
Allow: 3 to 4 hours (may take longer if you call in at the Clarion House)

Level: Moderate – the route follows mainly field paths, farm tracks and lanes. There are numerous stiles and a few steep inclines

Start and Finish: Pendle Heritage Centre, Barrowford, BB9 6JQ. There is a pay and display car park here and it is close to numerous bus routes linking Barrowford with surrounding towns. There is also a café and toilets

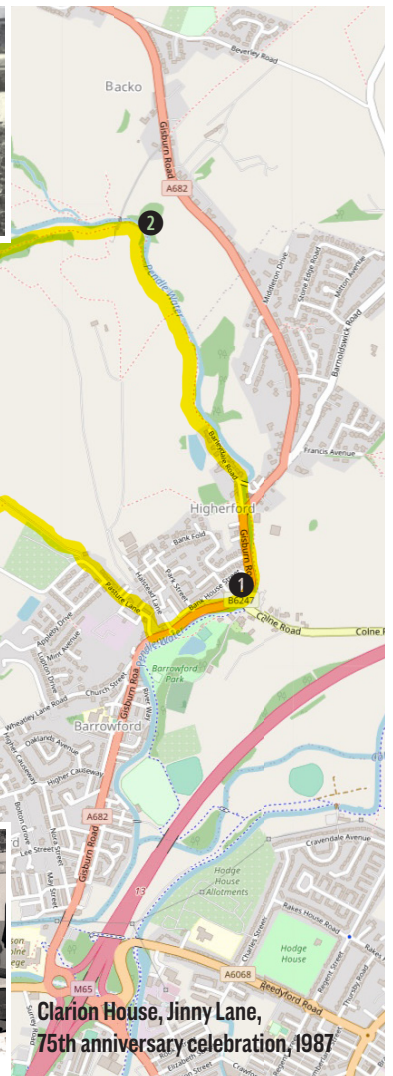
Map: OS OL41 Forest of Bowland & Ribblesdale

Please respect the Countryside Code and be aware how quickly the weather can change in the Pennines. Field path sections may be boggy after wet weather so walking boots are essential!



Clarion House interior, Jinny Lane





1 Thorneyholme Square

Nabs Farm, c.1911



Clarion House, Jinny Lane, 75th anniversary celebration, 1987

Walking with Radicals

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4 Alice Nutter was hanged at Lancaster in 1612 following the infamous trials of the 'Pendle Witches'. 400 years after this event, in 2012, her poignant roadside statue was unveiled in the village where she lived at Roughlee Hall, the wife of a prosperous yeoman farmer.

5 The Independent Labour Party (ILP) was formed in Nelson in 1893. At the same time, the national Clarion movement was beginning to flourish, developing a network of clubs advocating socialism through a programme of recreational and cultural activities such as rambling, cycling and choirs. In 1899 members of the Nelson ILP branch rented a tiny cottage, 1 Thorneyholme Square, in the hamlet between Barley and Roughlee. This was their first 'Clarion House', which encouraged workers to get out into the fresh air and began selling cheap drinks of tea and basic refreshments. The house was an integral part of the ILP movement and its popularity was so great that after only a few years larger premises were needed.

6 Hays Lane was the original road running from Roughlee to Barley before Nelson Borough Council constructed the current road linking the two villages slightly further to the north. The new road was built to make easier access for the construction of the Ogden Reservoirs before the Great War.

7 St. Mary's Church in Newchurch was completed in 1740 but has a tower that dates back to the time of the Pendle Witches. You can explore the church and graveyard by going through the side gate to the rear of the church. Look out for the unique 'Eye of God' set in the front wall of the tower to ward off evil spirits. The churchyard also contains a late 17th Century grave which is the resting place of members of the Nutter family.

8 Nabs Farm was Nelson ILP's second Clarion House and can be viewed from the access road before the left turn to Dimpenley Farm. Nabs Farm is the large house at the end of a row of cottages facing a stream. Nabs Farm was rented from the Nutter family and used as the Clarion House, providing cheap refreshments, from around 1903 to 1912. This period saw the rapid growth in membership of the ILP with Nelson

having the second largest branch in the country. In 1902, Nelson, then part of the larger Clitheroe parliamentary constituency, also returned the second Labour M.P. in the country to Westminster – namely, David Shackleton.

"Come and be made welcome, the walk will do you good, bring your food with you, liquid refreshments such as tea etc, provided at reasonable charge."

Nelson Workers Guide
January 1903 Edition

9 The current Clarion House, the last of its kind in the country, opened in the summer of 1912 and was purpose built

following the creation of the Nelson ILP Land Society Ltd in 1910, formed with the specific purpose of erecting a new Clarion House with its own adjoining land and water rights. The links with the Nutter family continued as the plot of land on which it was built was bought from them. The Clarion House was built at a cost of £350 with a loan from the Nelson Weavers Association. Over the years the Clarion became a meeting place not just for ramblers and cyclists but many groups such as conscientious objectors, wartime refugees, CND protestors and striking miners. It has played an important role in the often 'hidden' history of working-class people. The Clarion House is still open on Sundays for refreshments throughout the year thanks to volunteers.

Walking with Radicals is presented by Pendle Radicals, and created to complement the Radicals Trail. Find out more at the web address below, where you can also download the full series of walks for mobile phone or to print.

Pendle Radicals is a Mid Pennine Arts project. Part of the Pendle Hill programme, it is supported by National Lottery players through the Heritage Fund. The Radicals Trail is part funded by the Rural Development Programme for England, through LEADER funding from Lancashire County Council.

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