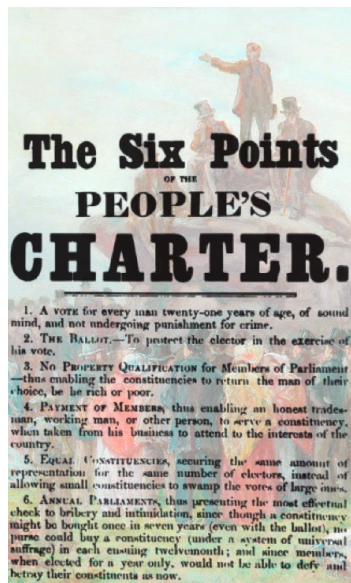


Nº 2: Sabden Chartists



Distance: 4.25 miles

Allow: 3 hours

Level: Moderate – the route follows access roads, bridleway tracks and grassy footpaths across open access moorland. The route is stile free but includes both gradual climbs and some short, steep inclines

Start and Finish: Sabden village pay and display car park. The village is on the bus route between Burnley, Padiham and Clitheroe

Map: OS Explorer 287 West Pennine Moors

Please respect the Countryside Code and be aware how quickly the weather can change on Pendle Hill. This walk follows paths through upland pasture and open access moorland which may be boggy after wet weather so walking boots are essential!



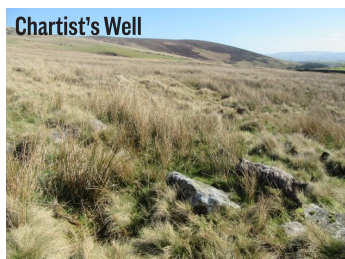
A circular walk to a moorland well on a spur of Pendle Hill, still marked by Ordnance Survey as 'Chartist's Well'. In the summers of 1841/42, thousands of villagers from Sabden and nearby mill towns assembled here to support the Chartist cause.

Chartism was a national working-class political movement, whose aims still resonate today. Popular in industrial towns across the North, it took its name from the six-point 'People's Charter' presented to parliament.

- 1 From the car park entrance turn left and follow the pavement up to the crossroads at the War Memorial.
- 2 Turn right along Wesley Street which leads to the entrance to the church.
- 3 Turn left along the lane signed as Badger Wells Cottages. When the lane forks go straight ahead to the t-junction at Cockshotts Farm. Turn right along the farm lane. It climbs gradually uphill and passes New York Farm on the left. It swings right after the farm, crosses a cattle grid and continues uphill to reach a second cattle grid by a small woodland copse.
- 4 Cross the cattle grid and immediately turn sharp left following a grass track along the left field edge. Pass through

gates and swing right at the end of the field to reach Churn Clough House. Go straight ahead with the house on the left to join the reservoir track. Follow this track straight ahead and it turns left around the north side of the reservoir. Keep following this all the way to the gates leading to the reservoir outlet.

- 5 Cross the drain and gates to leave the reservoir. Go straight ahead through pasture to cross a gate/wall stile. Continue straight ahead through rough pasture over the side of a low hill then drop down to pass through another gate and reach a waymarker post at a junction of paths on a moorland shelf.
- 6 Turn sharp right at the waymarker post to follow a grass path that climbs uphill with the little ravine of Badger Wells Clough over to the right. After a steep climb the path levels out and meets a junction of faint paths on a shelf below a low hill.
- 7 Do not go to the top of the ridge but follow the path that swings right around the bottom of the hill with a boggy area of rushes on the right. Walk a short distance along this path to view the Chartist's Well, marked by stones, with a view of Sabden village directly below.



- 8 Retrace the route from the well back to the junction of faint paths. Instead of swinging left downhill back to the waymarker post continue straight ahead along a faint path following the contour line. This soon climbs to

a cairn and ring of stones on the right upon Lower Apronfull Hill. From here there is a 360 degrees view looking north to Clitheroe and the Bowland Fells and the Calder Valley and the Pennines to the south.



- 9 From the cairn facing the ring of stones turn left then right to re-join the main grassy path which quickly descends the hillside. Follow this wide grassy path in the direction of the Sabden Valley below. Look out for when this path forks into two by grass tussocks. Keep to the left fork which aims more directly towards Sabden village below. Keep to the main path which meets a bridleway track lower down by a wall corner close to a small parking area and cattle grid on Clitheroe Road. Turn left along the bridleway track and follow it back to the waymarker post reached earlier in the walk.
- 10 Turn right at the waymarker post following the path signed for Sabden. The stony track leads downhill through gates and a grass field. When a field gate is reached leading to a walled path ignore this but instead go through the metal kissing gate in the wall on the right. Follow the right field edge towards houses. Do not go through the field gate but continue with the wooden fence on the right to pass through a small gate and straight ahead along the terrace of Top Row.
- 11 Opposite house number 28 Top Row turn left and follow the paved path down to the old Baptist Church graveyard. After exploring, simply continue along the paved path downhill to reach Clitheroe Road, Take care crossing this to join the pavement downhill all the way back to the village car park.



Walking with Radicals

Nº 2: Sabden Chartists

1 Sabden was a thriving village of cotton weaving mills and calico print works by 1840 with a population of approximately 1,300. The village was dominated by the large Little Moor Print Works on Stubbins Lane and many workers drank in the Black Bull, also known as the Printer's Arms. The pub was used for the earliest Chartist meetings. The Black Bull is now a private residence on the right beyond the road bridge over Sabden Brook. The Sabden branch of the Chartists had Enoch Foster as chairman and John Pollard as secretary. 50 copies of the weekly Chartist newspaper, the 'Northern Star', printed in Leeds, were circulated around the village.

2 Step Row is the long terrace of cottages running uphill on the right of Clitheroe Road. It was built in the 1790's to house cotton mill workers. One of the cottages was a beer house run by Frederic Ainsworth and weekly Chartist meetings took place here with visiting speakers. The Sabden Chartists had a membership of approximately 300

people – almost a quarter of the village's total population. With few meeting places other than the cramped cottage on Step Row it is likely many of the lectures took place outside.

3 The residential estate built alongside Stubbins Lane occupies the site of the former Little Moor Print Works originally established by James Bury in the 1790's. This was one of the village's manufactories acquired by Richard Cobden (1804-1865) around 1830. Cobden was a radical industrialist based in Manchester who was a founder member of the Anti-Corn Law League in 1838. The League campaigned for the full and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws, which had kept bread prices high and caused great economic distress to the urban poor.



Richard Cobden

7 The 'Chartist's Well' sits in a hollow by the path below the spur of Apronfull Hill. Two large Chartist demonstrations took place at this site in the early 1840's at a time when the movement was at its popular height. A platform of turf and stone was built by Sabden villagers on the hillside above the well for use as a speakers' hustings. The first meeting took place on a Sunday in June 1841 when an estimated 2-3,000 people attended, including families, together with newspaper reporters, police officers from Burnley and vendors selling gingerbread and nuts. The second meeting took place on Sunday 12th June 1842 and the 'Northern Star' stated that there were 5-6,000 people present who had walked to the Sabden side of the hill from surrounding towns including Blackburn, Accrington, Colne, Clitheroe and Bacup. Despite newspaper reports of seditious and violent talk both meetings passed off peaceably.

8 The prominent cairn on Apronful Hill is thought to stand on the hustings constructed for the 1840's Chartist demonstrations. The historian John Dixon notes that the ringed embankment of stones here is also the remains of a huge 15-foot stone tower erected by

unemployed labourers from Sabden in 1926. The 'People's Tower' was a way of advertising their drystone walling skills.

11 The walled graveyard and its footpath linking Top Row to the village are all that remain of the original Baptist chapel which stood beside the graveyard from 1792 to 1910. A new chapel was built slightly nearer the village. Henry Wood was a prominent Chartist and also the deacon of the Sabden Baptist chapel. He chaired both the 1840's outdoor demonstrations on Pendle Hill. The graveyard is worth exploring but please show respect. There are several Commonwealth War Graves here.

"Every Sabbath-day, for the last few weeks, encampments of Chartists have been held upon the hills and other parts of the manufacturing districts, at which a great deal of sedition and treason has been spouted by the agitators, who have not hesitated to recommend physical force to the unthinking mob".

The Times 1842

Further information on the Sabden Chartists can be found in Clifford Moorhouses's book 'Sabden: The Birth of a Lancashire Village' (1975)



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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