

# Nº 4: Two Toms

## Section 2: Newchurch- In-Pendle to Colne



Thomas A. Leonard

## A linear walk from Whalley to Colne and the Pennine Way.

Celebrating two  
campaigners for access  
to the countryside -  
Tom Stephenson, the  
creator of the Pennine  
Way and Thomas A.  
Leonard, pioneer of  
cheap outdoor holidays  
for the working class.

The walk is in three  
sections. It can be  
completed as one  
long challenge walk  
or in shorter sections  
with public transport  
connections.

**Distance:** 6 miles

**Allow:** 3 hours

**Level:** Moderate - mainly field paths  
and tracks with stiles and some short  
climbs

**Start:** Newchurch-in-Pendle bus stop  
and toilets (Public Transport - Clitheroe  
to Nelson bus - not Sundays)

**Finish:** Colne Library (Public Transport  
- Bus connections to East Lancashire  
and Yorkshire at Colne Interchange.  
Trains to stations on the Accrington-  
Blackburn line at Colne station)

**Map:** Explorer OL21 South Pennines

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!

1 Directly opposite the toilets join the signed footpath to the 'Playing Field' which starts at the access drive between houses. This runs alongside the churchyard (which can be visited by going through a metal gate on the right) then follows the right edge of the playing field to reach a sewage works. Turn left and follow the access road past houses. Near the end of a row of cottages on the left is Nabs Farm, formerly a Clarion House. At the track junction, turn left uphill and follow the access road to Jinny Lane. Turn right to reach the Clarion House on the left-hand side.



2 From the Clarion House turn left along the lane and join the first footpath on the right at a stile. Follow the left field edge to cross gates in the left field corner and cross a footbridge on the right. Go straight ahead through the middle of a field and cross the stile by a gate and climb steps opposite around the right hand side of a woodland. The path runs around the back of the woodland and crosses 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.

3 Turn left along the road but only as far as Noggarth Top cafe at the road bend. Join the path beginning at a gate and steps directly opposite and follow the ridge top path with the wall on the immediate right. The path goes through a gate at the far side of the field and follows an access road straight ahead with a good view right over the urban Calder Valley towards the Pennines. Follow the access road for ½ mile gradually downhill to where it meets a lane.

4 Join the path on the opposite side of the lane. Turn first right at the crossroads of paths and follow the waymarked Pendle Way downhill towards Barrowford. Keep to the Pendle Way and a track leads to Pasture Lane. Continue straight ahead downhill to meet the main road by the White Bear Inn. Cross Gisburn Road via the pedestrian crossing and cross the footbridge to enter Barrowford Memorial Park. Turn left along the tarmac path past the weir. Fork right if you want to visit Pendle Heritage Centre and toilets. To continue the walk go straight on along the cobbled path to reach Colne Road.

5 Turn right here and follow the pavement for ½ mile. Just before the road starts to climb uphill to cross the motorway, join a path on the right starting at a fence gap. The path runs between the road on the left and the motorway on the right. Go up steps on the left

to reach Barrowford Locks. Cross the cobbled bridge to the far side of the canal. Turn right and go under the motorway bridge. Turn left and follow the route signed for Colne and Greenfield Nature Reserve. This runs slightly downhill along a tarmac lane, then swings right passing a row of cottages. When it reaches the embankment at the entrance to a local nature reserve turn left and continue along the lane, Greenfield Road. After ½ mile it meets the A6068 Whitewalls Drive.

6 Cross the dual carriageway with care using the crossings. Continue straight ahead on the far side following the signed cycleway to Colne. Bear left at the t-junction passing the entrance to Greenfield House. Continue straight ahead along the pavement of Greenfield Road passing old mills and terraced rows. At the far end you reach the main A56 road leading into Colne. Turn right here and use the traffic island to cross the road and cross Primet Bridge over Colne Water.

7 Turn immediately left along Knotts Lane. Pass under the railway viaduct then turn left at the t-junction to cross over the river again. On the far side of the bridge join a path on the right leading through a little park with a playground on the left. When a green fence is reached on the right, cross the grass to the opposite side to pick up a path running uphill alongside a wall. The path runs parallel to a lane on the left and soon joins it. Continue straight ahead along the lane, Shaw Street, until it meets a playground on the left and Colne Water on the right.

8 Turn left up Exchange Street on the far side of the playground. Follow the pavement all the way to the top of the hill to reach the main street facing the Town Hall. Turn right and follow Market Street up to the centre of town. After passing the old market cross on the right Colne Library is soon reached on the left. 9



# Walking with Radicals No 4: Two Toms

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### T. A. Leonard (1864–1948)

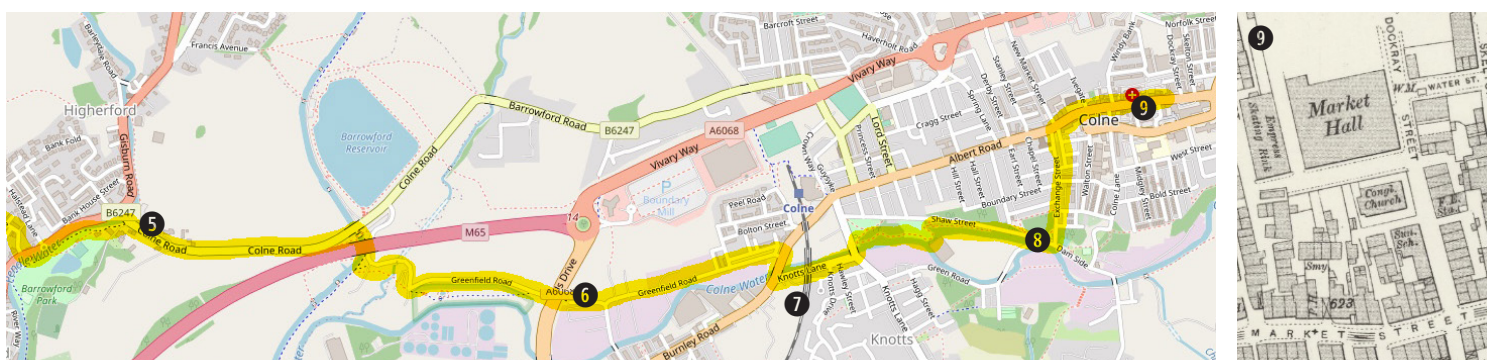
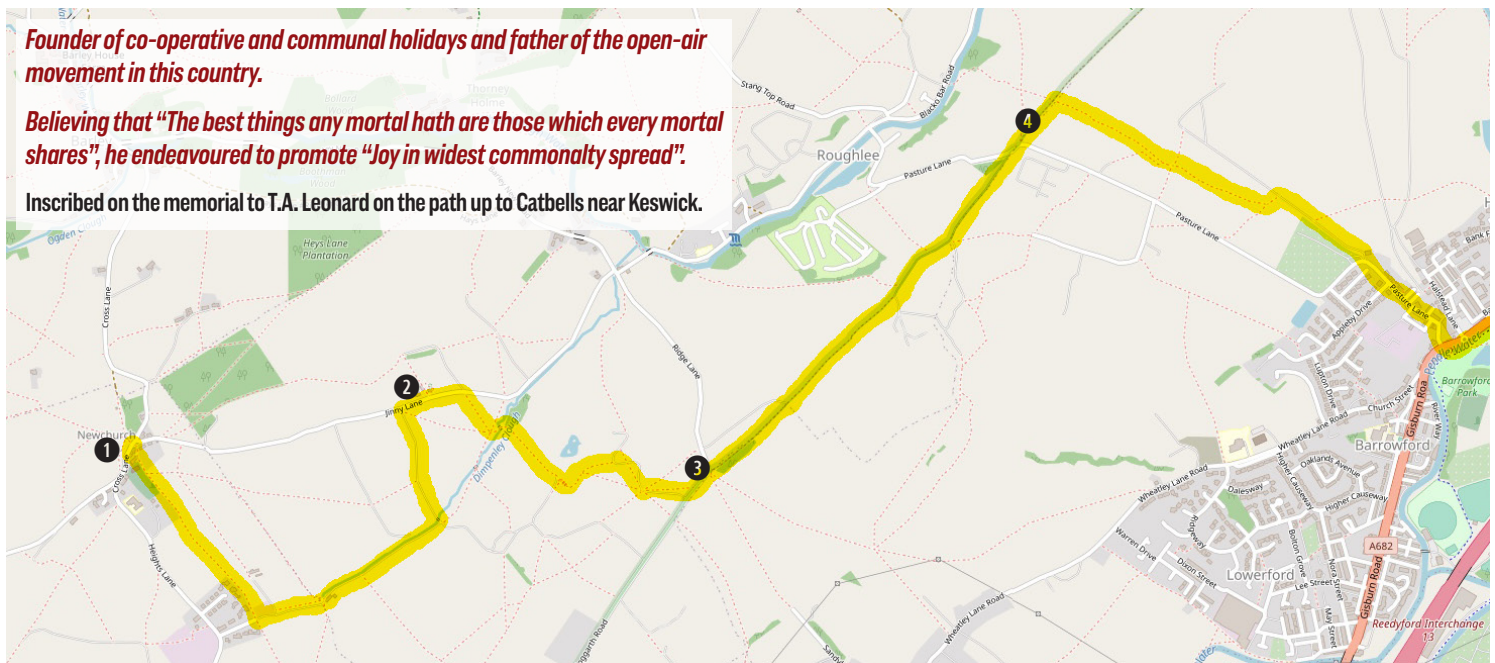
Thomas Arthur Leonard was a social reformer, often regarded as the 'Father' of the British outdoor movement. Working as a pastor in Colne in the 1890's he pioneered cheap outdoor holidays for working class people. This led to the formation of the Co-operative Holidays Association (CHA) in 1893 and the Holiday Fellowship (HF) in 1912. He helped set up the Youth Hostels Association (YHA) in 1930, was a founder member of the Friends of the Lake District in 1934, became first president of the Ramblers Association formed in 1935 and strongly supported Tom Stephenson in creating the Pennine Way.

Tom Leonard was also involved in the Quaker Peace Movement and his pioneering communal holidays inspired the creation of numerous other organisations to offer countryside and walking holidays to disadvantaged groups. Leonard was Chairman of the Grey Court Fellowship, formed in 1935. Grey Court was a property near Morecambe which was leased to allow holidays for the wives of unemployed workers and their families from East Lancashire including Accrington, Blackburn and Darwen. The Grey Court Fellowship set up two more holiday centres in Wennington and Arnside.

1 The Clarion House was established by the Nelson branch of the Independent Labour Party and opened in 1912 as a refreshment room for walkers and cyclists who escaped the local milltowns on Sundays. The Clarion offered good company in the great outdoors. A rambling group known as the Pennine Paths Association, the 'Pen Paths', used to meet at the Clarion and was dedicated to keeping the local public rights of way open.

9 Tom Leonard worked as pastor at the Dockray Square Congregational Church between 1890 and 1894. The church stood on the current Colne Library site and Leonard and his family took up lodgings at 99 Keighley Road. Activities at Dockray Square church were organised through a social guild and included a rambling club set up by Leonard. In June 1891, Leonard organised

the first club walking holiday to Ambleside. He took a group of 32 Colne mill workers to stay at Smallwood House in Ambleside. The cost of the holiday was 21 shillings including the rail fare. Days were spent on rigorous fell walks. Evenings were spent in communal fellowship with scientific lectures and the singing of songs. In 1892 Leonard took a group from Colne on a walking holiday to Snowdonia. The Colne experiment was so successful that Leonard offered his holidays nationally from 1893 with the formation of the Co-operative Holidays Association. The CHA offered walking holidays to both men and women even in Europe to promote international friendship before the Great War broke out in 1914.



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.

**WWW.RADICALSTRAIL.ORG.UK**