

No 3: Wonder Women

A linear walk from Nelson to Earby linking two Lancashire titans in the early 20th Century struggle for greater equality – the suffragist Selina Cooper and the mother of the Independent Labour Party, Katharine Bruce Glasier.

Distance: 9.5 miles

Allow: 4 to 5 hours

Level: Moderate – The route follows urban streets, canal towpath, reservoir tracks and field paths. There are numerous stiles and a few steep inclines

Start: Nelson Bus and Rail Interchange (Colne line trains and numerous bus routes)

Finish: Earby Bus Station (some buses direct to Nelson – check timetable)

Map: OS OL 21 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 Start at Nelson Interchange and walk under the railway bridge following the pavement along Railway Street. Cross Netherfield Road and continue straight ahead along the continuation of Railway Street. Pass a row of shops and the side streets of Leonard Street and Hartley Street on the right-hand side to reach Vernon Street on the same side.

2 Turn right along Vernon Street to reach Unity Hall.

Continue the walk along Vernon Street to the t-junction with Thomas Street.

3 Turn left and follow the metal railings on the right-hand side. They end at a paved path on the right alongside houses. Turn right here to view a plaque in honour of Learie Constantine.

At the end of the row cross over and continue straight ahead along terraced Meredith Street to its first crossroads junction. Turn right here along Beaufort Street walking

downhill to a t-junction. Cross the road, turn left and first right at the mini-roundabout to follow Lomeshaye Road. This crosses a bridge over the railway to reach traffic lights.

4 Cross over to the far side of the junction and turn right along Manchester Road but only as far as the first street on the left, next to the church. Turn left down St. Mary's Street and at No 59 you will find the plaque on the former home of Selina Cooper.

Continue down St. Mary's Street and at the first junction of terraced streets turn right and follow Westmoreland Street. Keep going past several junctions of terraced streets until you reach the junction with Victoria Street. Turn left here and follow the street which bears right by a factory and reaches a bridge over the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. Cross the bridge and join the canal towpath on the right.

5 The canal towpath is now followed for approximately 3 ¼ miles. It leads through Nelson to Barrowford Locks where it crosses under the M65. It runs alongside Barrowford Reservoir and eventually reaches the south entrance to Foulridge Tunnel. At the tunnel entrance keep going straight ahead along the path above the tunnel which reaches a gate onto a lane.

6 Turn left along the lane here, cross a stream and take the first path on the right that begins at a stone step stile. Walk diagonally uphill to the corner of Slipper Hill Reservoir dam. Follow the right-hand side of the reservoir to reach Sand Hall and continue straight ahead across the track here going uphill through a tunnel of trees. When the track turns sharp left, leave it by crossing a stile straight ahead and following the right-hand edge of a field to reach a gate. Go through the gate onto the drive and turn left to reach Whitemoor Road.

7 Turn right along the road for only a short distance then turn first left along a lane going through Hey. Continue straight ahead on this lane until a tarmac road is reached coming down from High Lane. Turn right and go down this lane, following it as it turns sharp left, then swings right around a low hill to arrive at a mill. Pass to the right of the mill to cross Mill Hill Bridge over the canal.

8 Go through a field gate on the left immediately after crossing the bridge. Aim for the left-hand field boundary on the opposite side of the field and cross a footbridge. Take the path forking left alongside a drain, which soon turns sharp right then left and heads along a field edge to reach the former Colne-Skipton railway line. Follow the path under the disused line and then take the path forking left which leads to the B6386. Cross this at the roundabout to join the main A56 road and bear left to enter Kelbrook village.

9 Cross the busy road with care using the traffic island. Follow the right-hand side of the road and turn first right along Main Street leading into the village. Keep to the street as it bears left towards the parish church. Turn right before the stream (Harden Beck) to head uphill. At a junction go up Heads Lane. Continue along Heads Lane until a path junction is reached at signs for the Pendle Way and Pennine Bridleway.

10 Turn left here and follow the waymarked Pendle Way for the next 1 ¼ miles to Earby. Keep to the waymarked path that follow the contours of the hill and crosses stiles through several fields. When a lane (Coolham Lane) is eventually reached turn left then first right, still following the Pendle Way that leads to a lane.

11 Turn left to arrive at Earby Hostel on Birch Hall Lane where there is an information board on the history of the building and its associations with Katharine Bruce Glasier and the ILP. To complete the walk continue along the lane to reach the centre of the village and its bus stops.

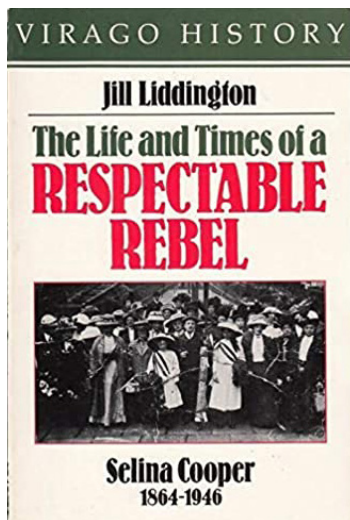
Walking with Radicals

Nº 3: Wonder Women

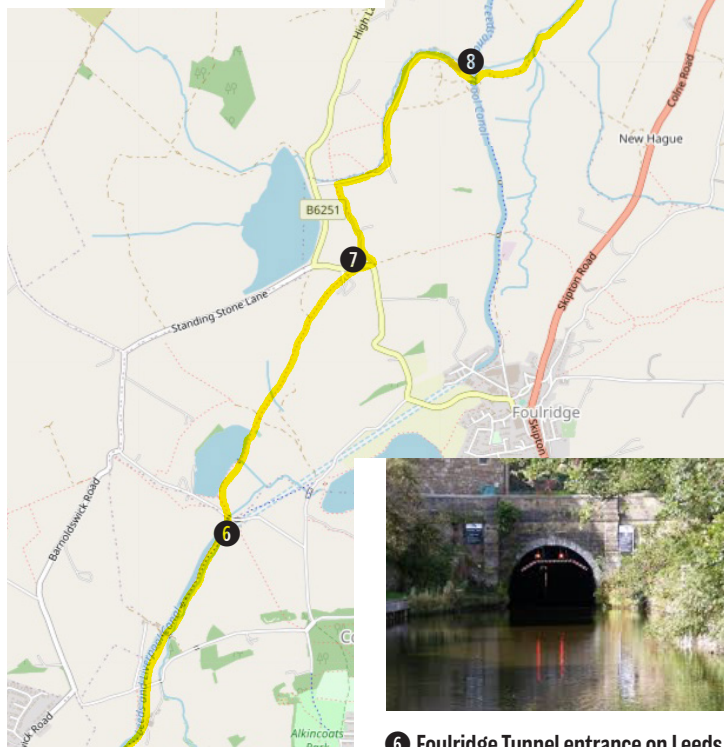
2 Unity Hall is formerly the Nelson Independent Labour Party's Socialist Institute. The foundation stones for the Institute were laid by Selina Cooper and J (Katharine) Bruce Glasier in 1907. If the cafe is open, you can go inside and view the Independent Labour Party (ILP) mosaic in the entrance hall and an extensive new display upstairs, including photos of Selina, Katharine and the people in whose honour the stones were laid.

3 Learie Constantine (1901-1973) was a West Indian cricket legend and anti-racism campaigner. He played for Nelson Cricket Club and lived on Meredith Street from 1930 to 1949. See Pendle Radicals website for more.

4 Selina Cooper (1864-1946) was the first woman to publicly represent the ILP when in 1901 she was elected as a poor law guardian. Despite being a full-time worker from age 13 and with little schooling, she was one of the four women selected to present the case for women's suffrage to Prime Minister Herbert Asquith in 1910 because of her skills at oratory and debate. See Pendle Radicals website for more.



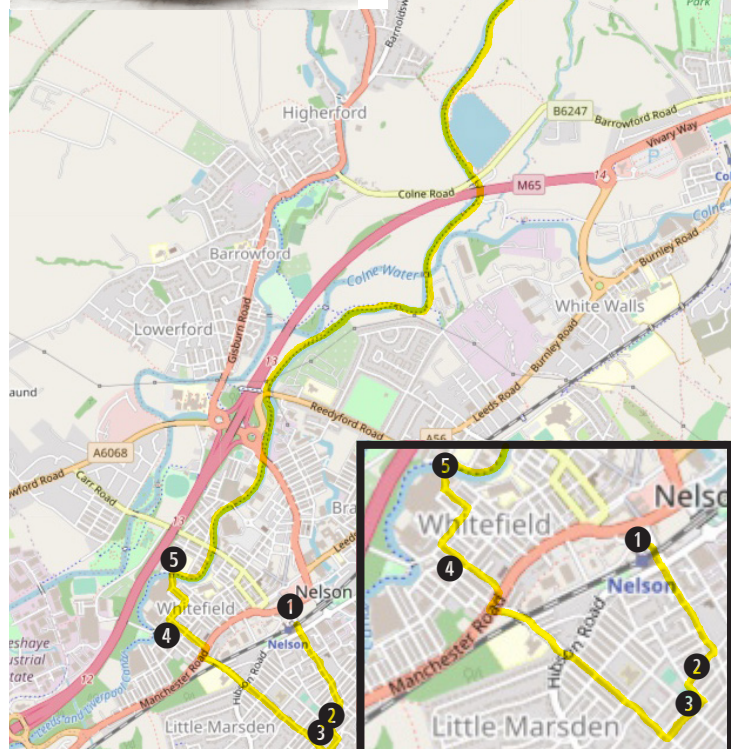
Suggested further reading



6 Foulridge Tunnel entrance on Leeds & Liverpool Canal

11 Katharine Bruce Glasier (1867-1950) lived at Glen Cottage (now the hostel) on Birch Hall Lane from 1922 until her death in 1950. In 1893, on the birth of the I.L.P., Katharine was the only woman on its administrative council. She campaigned for pit head baths, nursery education and school meals and in 1919 was involved in the founding of The Save the Children Fund. Following her death, discussion took place on how Katherine's life could be commemorated. It was decided the house would be renovated to be a Youth Hostel and among the many organizations donating were the National Union of Miners. The Youth Hostel opened in 1958. On the first board of the Youth Hostel Association was Thomas A. Leonard, the Colne church minister who founded the Holiday Fellowship. See Pendle Radicals website for more on both KBG and Leonard.

Glen Cottage



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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