**A RICH AND RADICAL HISTORY**

**Pendle has a rich history that has inspired a succession of visionary and radical thinkers to change the world around them**

From the witches to the radicals, our hill has a long history of inspiring independent thought and seeing the world from different perspectives.

In 1652, the view from the summit of Pendle Hill inspired George Fox to establish a radical new religion: The Religious Society of Friends ­– better known as The Quakers.

Jonas Moore, a 17th century mathematician and surveyor who became known as the ‘Father of Time’ for his work establishing the Greenwich observatory, was born on a farm outside Higham.

In 1842, more than 2,500 Chartists gathered on the hill to agitate for extending voting rights to working men to improve the lives the working people of the industrial north. Chartists traditionally chose the moors above the mill towns to stage their political rallies – well away from government spies.

Less than a century later, the Labour movement first made its presence felt in the mills and established a movement that would spawn the Labour Party.

The mill towns beneath Pendle Hill became a stronghold for suffragists like Selina Cooper and activists including Katharine Bruce Glasier and Ethel Carnie Holdsworth.

**WHO WERE THE PENDLE WITCHES?**

The Pendle Witches were all members of two extended families: the Devices and the Whittles. The eccentric matriarchs of these two families, Elizabeth Southerns – known as Demdike, and Anne Whittle – known as Chattox, claimed supernatural powers.

King James I was obsessed with witchcraft and published a treatise called *Daemonologie* in 1597. This whipped the country into a feverish hysteria in which any unusual or unfortunate occurrences was seen as the devil’s work.

When Alizon Device allegedly cursed a travelling pedlar, making him lame, upon her arrest, she confessed to the crime then implicated neighbours and other members of her family.

Local magistrate Roger Nowell rounded up various members of both clans and in total, 19 men and women were sent for trial at Lancaster. Demdike died in the castle dungeons before the trial date.

Her grand-daughter, nine-year-old Jennet Device’s testimony led to the conviction of 10 witches, including her sister Alizon and her mother Elizabeth. All were hanged.

Find out more about the story of the witches and their legacy here: <http://www.lancastercastle.com/history-heritage/further-articles/the-pendle-witches/>