It was thought that the sound of church bells would ward off evil spirits. The Witch's hat was an exaggeration of 17th century beliefs that certain people were turned into animals, such as goats, with the horns of the devil.

Newly convicted witches, who confessed to using the image to cause the death of Anne Hargreaves to Malkin Tower. There are accusations that they were all rounded up and imprisoned in Lancaster Castle. On April 3rd 1612 Demdike, Chattox, Device, and Redfearn are committed for trial for witchcraft at Lancaster. King James was obsessed with witchcraft and his book "Wonders of the World" was published in 1597. The Pendle Witches DVD £16.20. Wonderful Discoveries of Witches in the North Country 1605 was not clear cut in the 17th century. Protestants often considered their prayers as charms. The case of the Pendle Witches was one of the best documented in England. There is an interactive audio-visual of the area, as well as information on the trial. Parking is limited in Newchurch so please park sensibly when visiting. The pub is also a way to park and share your experience with others. As you make your way towards Colne, its famous son Wallace Hartley, as well as the Brontës "Ferndean Manor" story of the Pendle Witches. When the road bends to the left, take your first right. The multi-viaduct on the left. And look out for the sculpture of 'Millie' the Miller Girl. The White Bear Pub. Make the most of the experience by taking a walking trail exploring the Pendle Scenic Road Trails. For copies of the other trails call (01282) 856186.
The Story of the Pendle Witches

18th March 1612 - Alizon Device, granddaughter of Demdike is begging on the road to Colne.

A pedlar refuses her some pins, she appears to paralyse him with a curse.

30th March 1612 - Alizon Device confesses to witchcraft. At the same time she incriminates her grandmother, Demdike, and another elderly woman, Chattox. She tells how the aie at the Inn at Higham was turned sour and how the landlord’s son was bewitched to death using a clay image.

2nd April 1612 - Demdike, Chattox and her daughter, Anne Redfearn are interrogated at Ashlar House. Demdike confesses to evil deeds, claiming that the devil came to her and sucked her blood leaving her stark mad.

3rd April 1612 - Demdike, Chattox and Anne Redfearn, Chattox’s daughter are sent to Lancaster Castle to stand trial for witchcraft.

Good Friday 1612 - A party of people gather at Malkin Tower, Demdike’s home. They plot to kill the Keeper at Lancaster Castle, blow up the Castle and free the imprisoned women.

Late April - Investigations take place around Malkin Tower. Incriminating evidence found includes human bones stolen from graves at Newchurch and a clay image used by James Duckworth, is buried in the church’s graveyard.

Three more of the Device family along with Alice Nutter, a gentlewoman from Roughlee, are taken away, questioned and imprisoned at Lancaster Castle to await trial.

Demdike dies in prison before the trial begins.

17th August 1612 - The ‘Witches Trial’ begins at Lancaster Castle.

20th August 1612 - After being found guilty, nine Pendle people are hanged at Lancaster in front of huge crowds.

Pendle Witches

Points of Interest

The views are spectacular and you will notice a tower in the distance, Blacko Tower which you will also see on the final leg. (Blacko Tower is situated on private property.)

Blacko Old Hall is often referred to as “Witches Hall” as this was said to have been the home of Alice Nutter one of the Pendle Witches who was hanged at Lancaster. Please respect this is a private residence.

Dominating the skyline is the wonderful Pendle Hill. George Fox, founder of the Quaker Movement climbed this hill in 1652 and wrote “I was moved of the lord to go up to the top of this hill… I saw the sea bordering upon Lancashire; and from the top of this hill the lord let me see in what places he had a great people to be gathered”. This inspirational vision lead to him founding the Quaker Movement.

The comedian Billy Connolly used to play music at the Pendle Inn before his comic fame.

For those able to climb the hill, it takes approximately one hour of steady climbing but is well worth the slog for the breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside, the Lake District and, on a clear day, the Isle of Man. Access to the footpath is along Ings Farm Road with plenty of parking opportunities along the road. For routes visit the balcony or www.vispendle.com

St Leonard’s Church was built in 1309 except for the 15th Century tower. Queen Mary is said to have remarked that the view from the porch is the “most beautiful in all the land”. Behind the church is Downham Hall. The village, home to the Assheton family since 1558, is also home to the BBC series Born and Bred and was the location for the film Whistle Down The Wind.

The composer Francis Duckworth lived in Rimington and attended the chapel at Stopper Lane. He is best known for the tune Rimington. The chapel is now a private house with a commemorative plaque.

Gisburn’s Jennet Preston was arrested for being at the Good Friday gathering of the Pendle Witches at Malkin Tower and causing the death by charms and sorcery of Thomas Lester of Westby Hall. She was found guilty and hanged on 29th July 1612 at York (3 weeks before the Lancaster hangings).

Blacko Tower, sometimes called Stanstead Tower or Jonathor’s Folly, was built in 1680 by Jonathor Stanstead in enter into to Yorkshire.

The statue of Alice Nutter was unveiled in 2012 for the 400th anniversary of the Pendle Witches Trail of 1612. It’s a sensible portrayal of the woman from Roughlee who was executed as a witch. Created by Pendle man David Palmer.

Has this trail whetted your appetite about the Pendle Witches? You can find out more in the many books on sale from the Pendle Heritage Centre Tel: 01282 661701 or from the Discover Pendle Centre, Tel: 01282 866186.

Pendle Scenic Road Trails No 1

Directions

Turn right down Jenny Lane to Roughlee (5).
At the junction turn right then immediately left signposted Blacko and Barrowford (the road you want is nearly straight up and slightly to the right from the junction you are all pasting the statue of Alice Nutter, one of the so called Pendle Witches. Continue along the road to the Bay Horse pub (currently closed) on the left, and park in the pub car park for the short walk to Roughlee Old Hall. With your back to the pub turn left, until you come to your next road on the left. Facing down this road, go down the passage which can be seen on your right, past the cottages and Roughlee Old Hall is on your left.

Return to your car, turn right out of the car park and go back along the road that you came in on. Turn right towards Barley (3/4 mile). Entering into Barley (6) there is ample parking at Barley picnic site with toilets, cafe and an information point. Turn right out of Barley Car Park and right at the junction. On the left is the Pendle Inn.

Further on the right is the Bay Horse restaurant where traditional food may be tasted and a little further on are the Bay Barley Tearooms for a well deserved cream tea. Leaving Barley follow the road around the imposing yet wonderful Foot of Pendle and turn left at the signpost towards Downham.

Next we visit the lovely village of Downham (7). As you enter the village turn right over the bridge, then left up the hill with the church of St. Leonards on the left and the Asheton Arms on the right.

Dining past the Asheton Arms, take the left hand road out of the village, and take the right turn towards Rimington (do not take the Stopper Lane turn). Rimington (8) is a small, pretty village.

Drive on for about a mile past Rimington and then turn left towards Gisburn (9) a charming village but alas peaceful it is not, as it is situated along the busy A59. However, there is an ancient century tower. Queen Mary is said to have remarked that the view from the porch is the “most beautiful in all the land”. Behind the church is Gisburn Higham. The village, home to the Assheton family since 1558, is also home to the BBC series Born and Bred and was the location for the film Whistle Down The Wind.

Return your route towards Nelson on the A682. Our next stop is Blaice (10) and its famous tower, earlier viewed en route to Roughlee. Once again lovely views of Pendle Hill can be seen to the right. You will see the Moorcok Inn on your left which is a good place to stop and admire the view (but be careful of the bend!). Continue down this road and you will see Blaico Tower on the left. Leaving Blaico continue along this road, dropping down into Barrowford and then turning left at the old toll house signposted for Pendle Heritage Centre and then turn left into the Heritage Centre car park, completing your journey.

Directions Points of Interest

St Mary’s, Newchurch

18th March 1612 - Alizon Device, granddaughter of Demdike is begging on the road to Colne.

A pedlar refuses her some pins, she appears to paralyse him with a curse.

30th March 1612 - Alizon Device confesses to witchcraft. At the same time she incriminates her grandmother, Demdike, and another elderly woman, Chattox. She tells how the aie at the Inn at Higham was turned sour and how the landlord’s son was bewitched to death using a clay image.

2nd April 1612 - Demdike, Chattox and her daughter, Anne Redfearn are interrogated at Ashlar House. Demdike confesses to evil deeds, claiming that the devil came to her and sucked her blood leaving her stark mad.

3rd April 1612 - Demdike, Chattox and Anne Redfearn, Chattox’s daughter are sent to Lancaster Castle to stand trial for witchcraft.

Good Friday 1612 - A party of people gather at Malkin Tower, Demdike’s home. They plot to kill the Keeper at Lancaster Castle, blow up the Castle and free the imprisoned women.

Late April - Investigations take place around Malkin Tower. Incriminating evidence found includes human bones stolen from graves at Newchurch and a clay image used by James Device to cause the death of a neighbour.

Three more of the Device family along with Alice Nutter, a gentlewoman from Roughlee, are taken away, questioned and imprisoned at Lancaster Castle to await trial.

Demdike dies in prison before the trial begins.

17th August 1612 - The ‘Witches Trial’ begins at Lancaster Castle.

20th August 1612 - After being found guilty, nine Pendle people are hanged at Lancaster in front of huge crowds.