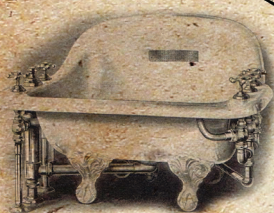
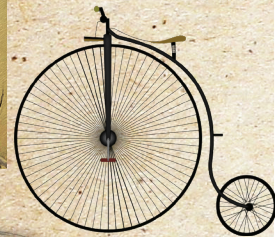
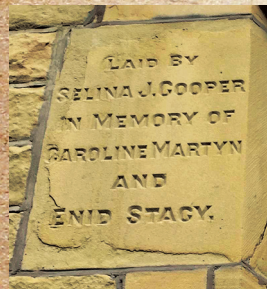




The Nelson Clarion Bandstand, Brierfield since 1928. The bandstand was built by the ILP in 1928.

1907

1907 foundation stones were laid by Selina Cooper and Katherine Bruce Glasier, honouring men and women who had worked for people's rights.



1906

The Independent Labour Party bought land in Vernon Street to build a Socialist Institute for working people. "A place for us, books, entertainment, baths, lectures and meetings". Money was raised at an International Bazaar, **Cost £3000.**



Billiards, concerts and lectures, it was packed every night of the week.



1912

Ownership of Institute transfers to ILP Land Society. ILP Land society buys 3 fields and builds the Clarion House near Newchurch-in-Pendle for people to get into the fresh air, away from the mills. The Clarion House remains open to this day for tea and fellowship.

1912 Labour Suffrage Alliance formed.

1908

Opening day. 500 people marched led by Brierfield brass band. Mr and Mrs Philip Snowden opened the building. Around 600 people came to celebrate.

Nelson ILP was the second largest in the country with 700 men and women wanting to achieve representation for working people, and to get workers rights. The Socialist Institute they created is still standing.

The Socialist Commandments.

1. Love your school-fellows, who will be your fellow-workmen in life.
2. Love learning, which is the food of the mind; be as grateful to your teacher as to your parents.
3. Make every day holy by good and useful deeds and kindly actions.
4. Honour good men, be courteous to all men, bow down to none.
5. Do not hate or speak evil of anyone; do not be revengeful, but stand up for your rights, and resist oppression.
6. Do not be cowardly, be a friend to the weak, and love justice.
7. Remember that all the good things of the earth are produced by labour, whoever enjoys them without working for them is stealing the bread of the workers.
8. Observe and think in order to discover the truth; do not believe what is contrary to reason, and never deceive yourself or others.
9. Do not think that he who loves his own country must hate other nations, or wish for war, which is a remnant of barbarism.
10. Look forward to the day when all men will be free citizens of one fatherland, and live together as brothers in peace and righteousness.

Nelson had the highest number of Conscientious Objectors per head in the country. They were imprisoned in Dartmoor and Wakefield camps. Many of the Conscientious Objectors were members of the ILP.



1918

Women over 30 get the vote.

1928

Women over 21 get the vote.



1920s

The Socialist Sunday School continues to run with drama, games, outings, and lessons.



1946

Health room opens for the blind.



Socialist Sunday School Maypole



2018

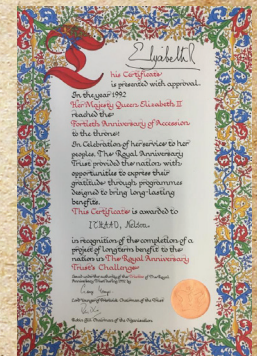
Institute bought for £1 by Nelson Council. Renovated.



1988-2020

ITHAAD means Unity. This mutual help group was formed to respond to the needs of the Asian Community and to build understanding with the Nelson community. ITHAAD took over the building in 1988, cleaned and renovated with the aid of a grant, then ran advisory services, translation services, education classes and courses for children and adults.

Princess Diana visited the project in 1989 and the work of ITHAAD was honoured by Queen Elizabeth II in 1992. ITHAAD continues to work in the building, providing benefits, advice and support.



2019

Hall available for Weddings and parties. Meetings and celebrations fill the hall.



2020

Volunteers Kevin and Gary Webb raised a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to create replicas of the original stained glass windows. These were made by Gary Loftus of Brierfield. The grant was also used to install permanent exhibitions and to run a series of workshops for schools and colleges.



1936

"Electric Heels" Outstanding cricketer and first black peer, Lord Learie Constantine played cricket for Nelson, helped black service men settle in England after WW2, made a speech in this building in 1936 and worked against racism all his life.



1936

Nelson and Colne Labour party take over the Institute paying £2000. Labour party have constituency rooms and hold meetings.

1936-2020

ILP keeps Clarion House. Still open to this day on Sundays for tea and fellowship.



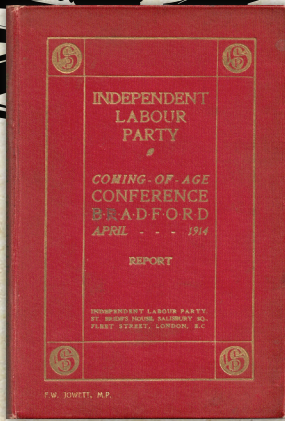
1934

ILP split with labour but maintained links.



1917

"Let there be Peace" Women's Peace Crusade spreads like wildfire across the country. Selina Cooper and Gertrude Ingham lead 2000 women through Nelson protesting against the war. "A large contingent of girls following were attired in white and wore wreaths of smilax, with green shoulder sashes bearing the word Peace". They continued to campaign against war throughout the 1920s and 1930s.



1940s & 50s

Dance band, disco, Bop club, jive dancing.



2018

Revive - healthy cafe opens and provides good food. Offering takeaways during the 2020 pandemic, feeding the homeless.



Welcome to
Unity Wellbeing Centre,
 formerly known as the
ILP Socialist Institute.
 79 Vernon Street, Nelson BB9 9DE



Unity Wellbeing Centre, formerly known as the ILP Socialist Institute.

This building was raised by working people at the turn of the last century to provide a space for meetings, lectures, entertainment and education. It was home to the Independent Labour Party, and was the place to be for half a century. This building saw women get the vote, the first Labour Government, the establishment of the NHS and the welfare state. All things that the founders of this building fought for.

Activists, suffragists, vegetarians, free thinkers, conscientious objectors and socialists, congregated here to swap ideas of how society could be run in a better way.

This building nurtured the growth of the Labour movement, the Suffrage movement and the Clarion movement, empowering working people through education, fellowship and representation.

Changing hands to the Labour Party in the 1930s, activist



meetings were held here. Sydney Silverman, Labour MP for 33 years, held his

constituency rooms here.

In 1941, the ILP held its 49th annual national conference here.

Selina Cooper



Always a place for fun as well as politics, there was the the drama hall and lecture theatre, dance band and later the Bop club. It was full every night of the week.



Unity/Ithaad. The building was renamed “Unity” from the Urdu word: Ithaad.

ITHAAD was formed in 1988 to respond to the needs of the Asian Community and to build understanding with the Nelson community. ITHAAD took over the building in 1988, cleaned and renovated with the aid of a grant, then ran advisory services, translation services, education classes and courses for children and adults.

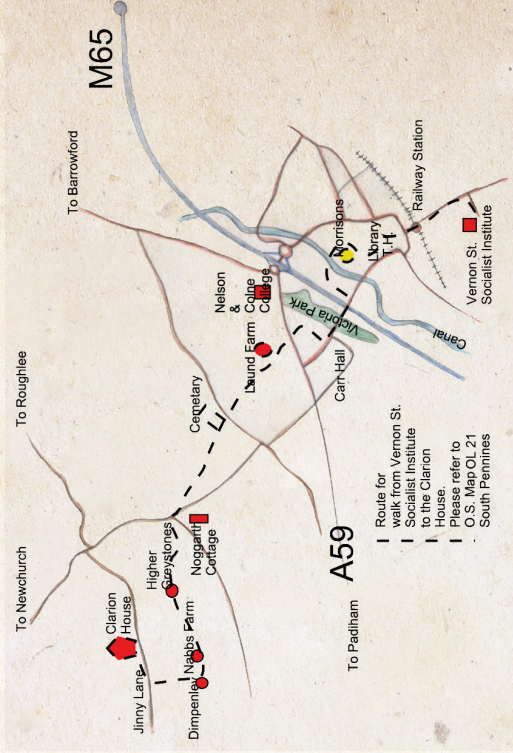
The women’s section organised trips to Blackpool, the House of Commons and the Lake District.

Princess Diana visited the project in 1989 and the work of ITHAAD was honoured by Queen Elizabeth in 1992 . ITHAAD continues to work in the building, providing benefits, advice and support.

The building was reclaimed for £1 by Nelson Town Council in 2017 and renovated, with the intention of making it what it was in its prime, a real centre for the community.

Thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the history of the building is ready to be told. We are collecting memories of the building from friends and neighbours, creating displays to commemorate Nelson’s activists, and welcoming school groups and visitors.

Clarion House open every Sunday 10.30am -4pm



Unity Wellbeing Centre rooms are available for hire:

Phone number - 07735 350735 / 01282 697079


Email address - info@nelsontowncouncil.gov.

Payment is to be made at the Nelson Town Council office - Town Hall, Market Street, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 7LG

Contact : SelinaCooperUnityHall@gmail.com
 for more information.

Revive cafe is open for delicious snacks,
 free wifi, and the Reading Room/Archive
 is open via the Friends Group.



 [revive-cafe](https://www.facebook.com/revive-cafe)

Opening hours - Monday to Friday 9am - 2pm

the bank to fill your tank!

Here at Revive we specialise in good quality,
 healthy food with a great emphasis
 on sustainability and affordability for the
 local community. You don’t have to break

