

How did the Chartists try to achieve their aims?

November 1837: Newspaper

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February 1839: National Convention

The Chartist Convention met to discuss the first Petition and Charter. These were exciting times.

May 1839: Meeting

Thousands of Chartists attended an open air meeting at Kersal Moor, addressed by the Chartist leader Feargus O'Connor. The meeting was a great success.

July 1839: The Bull Ring Riot

Clashes between the police and Chartists in Birmingham led to rioting and the troops were called out. The riot was crushed, and Chartist leader William Lovett and John Collins were arrested and imprisoned.

November 1839: Uprising

A crowd of 7,000 Chartists marched into the town of Newport and attacked the Westgate Hotel defended by soldiers. The uprising failed. A number of Chartist leaders, including William Lovett and Feargus O'Connor, were arrested. Many Chartists were deported to Australia.

May 1842: Second Petition

Three and a half million people signed the second Chartist petition. It was rejected by Parliament by 287 to 47 votes.

August 1842: Plug Riots

A number of Chartists became involved in strikes known as the Plug Riots. The strikers pulled the plugs out of steam machines. They also rioted in a number of northern towns including Preston.

April 1845: Land Society

The Chartist movement approved the idea of their leader, Feargus O'Connor, and set up the Chartist Land Society with the aim of encouraging working people to settle on the land.

April 1848: Third Petition

More than 50,000 Chartists met on Kennington Common. The Queen was so frightened that she left London. But the petition was rejected by Parliament and Chartism faded away.

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