The leaders of the Chartists were an odd group. There were the head strong like Feargus O'Connor and John Frost who wanted to use force to get Parliament to accept the Charter. Others like William Lovett wanted to use more peaceful methods to persuade Parliament to accept change.

This mixture of persuasion and the use of force did not make for strong leadership in the Chartists. No one knew for sure which direction to take.

One of the methods used by the Chartists to persuade Parliament was the collection of petitions. The theory was that Parliament would be impressed with the number of people who supported the Chartists and would push through popular change.

Petitions were collected in 1839, 1842 and 1848. The last petition had 5 million signatures on it but it was a farce. Many of the signatures were faked...........Queen Victoria's signature was on the last petition!! The Chartists movement collapsed.

Although the Chartist movement was not successful, Parliament did eventually adopt five of the six demands from the charter. Many historians believe that it was the initial pressure from the Chartist movement which led to the British electoral system becoming fairer.

Chartists were people who wanted the 'People's Charter' to be adopted. The Peoples Charter was a document that set out reforms that ordinary working class and middle class people wanted the government to make.

The introduction of these reforms would provide equality and give the ordinary man a say in the way the nation was run. The Charter was widely supported, with a petition of six million being sent to Parliament on one occasion.

The protest movement can be split into two distinct groups, the Moral Force chartists and the Physical Force chartists. These groups attempted to force reform in distinctively different ways. The Moral Force chartists intended peaceful protest, the Physical force chartists, as the name suggests, intended to force change through use of physical force and violence.