

**Socialscene** Out and about in Oldham

life in Oldham

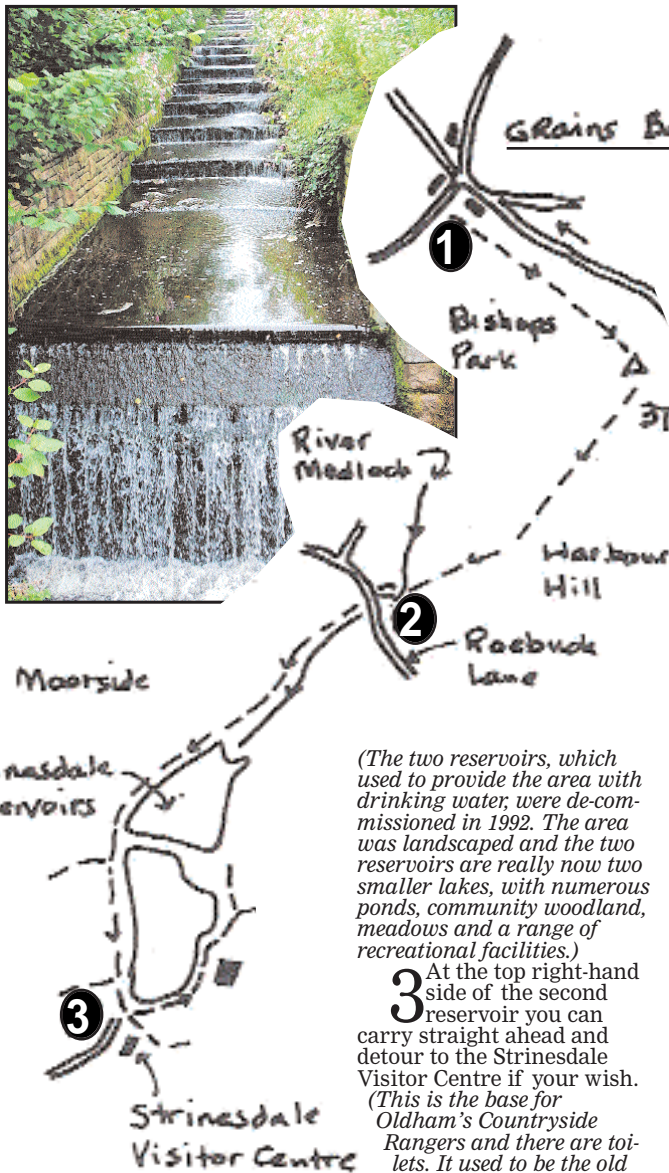
**Walk:** Grains Bar Circular  
**Distance:** Four miles.  
**Time:** Two hours when taken at a leisurely pace.  
**Calorie burn:** 300+  
**How do I get there?:** The route starts at Grains Bar, which is on the right off Ripponden Road (A627). From the centre of Oldham take Huddersfield Road from Mumps and Ripponden Road is off on the left.  
**Public transport:** There are plenty of buses running past the entrance to Grains Bar. Call GMPT on 0161 228 7811 for bus details.  
**Parking:** Free parking at Grains Bar.

**T**HIS week we have chosen a walk that is not too demanding, with just a few gentle climbs. This is a peaceful walk that also presents a great opportunity to get back to nature with beautiful flora, fauna and wildlife.

**1** The walk begins at Grains Bar car park and heads up past the pitch and putt greens on the left. Follow the Medlock Valley Way signs up to the Bishops Park Monument (marking the 50 acres of land left to the people of Oldham for leisure purposes by the Leidlam family) and the trig point at 375 metres. Take in the view and then face right and head down the hill through the trees and across several duck boards. Turn right over the stile and climb up to Harbour Hill and down, passing over three styles. As you come down Harbour Hill you are looking to exit a gate at the bottom field on your right, which comes out by the road - Turf Pit Lane.

**2** Turn left at the gate and walk a few yards down over the bridge. Cross the lane carefully and follow the signs down to Strinesdale Reservoirs. (Strinesdale gets its name from the Old English word 'strine' or boundary, as the old Lancashire/Yorkshire boundary runs through the middle of the site. Upper Strinesdale Reservoir was the first to be built in Oldham in 1826, followed by the construction of the lower Strinesdale in 1853.) Follow the route down to the first reservoir. (In the late summer you will see pink Soapwort flowers. The fleshy green parts of the plant produce a lathery liquid when bruised and boiled which was once widely used in the textile industry.) Take the path that leads you to the right hand side of the reservoirs and follow it round.

# Route round the reservoirs for relaxed walkers



(The two reservoirs, which used to provide the area with drinking water, were de-commissioned in 1992. The area was landscaped and the two reservoirs are really now two smaller lakes, with numerous ponds, community woodland, meadows and a range of recreational facilities.)

**3** At the top right-hand side of the second reservoir you can carry straight ahead and detour to the Strinesdale Visitor Centre if your wish. (This is the base for Oldham's Countryside Rangers and there are toilets. It used to be the old waterworks.) Otherwise, just follow the walk around

This is our 11th feature in a series of seasonal articles aimed at encouraging people to get out and about, explore the borough and get healthy in the process. With the help of the Oldham Ramblers' Association, Oldham Council and Countryside Rangers we hope to reintroduce you to the beauty on our own doorstep. This week we focus on a walk that shouldn't prove too demanding for beginners.



the other side of the reservoirs. You may want to take a relaxed and leisurely detour at this point and have a wander around the wood. (The woodlands vary in age with garden birds in the young trees and woodpeckers hammering on dead trees in the more mature wood. The grasslands support small mammals such as field mice and voles and are favourite hunting grounds of kestrels and foxes.

The fenced wildlife area provides sanctuary for ground nesting birds to feed, lay their eggs and raise their chicks. Satisfied that you have seen enough? Well, pick up the route back around the reservoirs, heading anti-clockwise, and follow the original route to the start point at Grains Bar. Who knows, you may even fancy a game of pitch and putt!

## The Ramblers



### Join a great day out with the ramblers

THE Oldham branch of The Ramblers' Association is planning a special day out next month and a warm welcome is being extended to Advertiser readers.

A coach is being laid on to Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, on Sunday, August 7. There will be three walks for those who want to get active (at 9 miles, 12 miles and 14 miles), although you can simply go on the trip and spend the day pottering around the attractive spa town and pass on the rambling if you want. The coach will be leaving from B&Q at Mumps at 8am and will also pick up at the Pennine Way Hotel and Chadderton Park. It will arrive back in Oldham at around 8pm.

If you would like to join the party, the price is £6.50 or £5.50 if accompanied by a child. Call Shirley on 01706 841506 or John on 0161 652 7718. Please make sure to let them know at which of the three pick up points you want collecting from and dropping off at.

## Rambles Around Oldham



This week's walk is an abridged version of a longer walk by Alan Forster that is featured in the book 'Rambles Around Oldham'. This book includes many local walks put together by the local branch of the Ramblers' Association.

■ YOU CAN ACCESS ALL THE WALKS FEATURED AT [WWW.OLDHAMADVERTISER.CO.UK](http://WWW.OLDHAMADVERTISER.CO.UK)

**The Church Inn**



Church Lane, Uppermill, Oldham OL3 6LW  
**Tel: 01457 820902**

**ENJOY OUR**

**Traditional Foyre  
 LUNCHTIMES & EVENINGS  
 EXCELLENT QUALITY FOOD**

**OPEN ALL BANK HOLIDAYS**

**Selection of Home Brews**

\* Saddleworth more

\* Hopsmacker

\* Shaftbender

To name but a few

