

Socialscene

Out and about in Oldham

life in Oldham

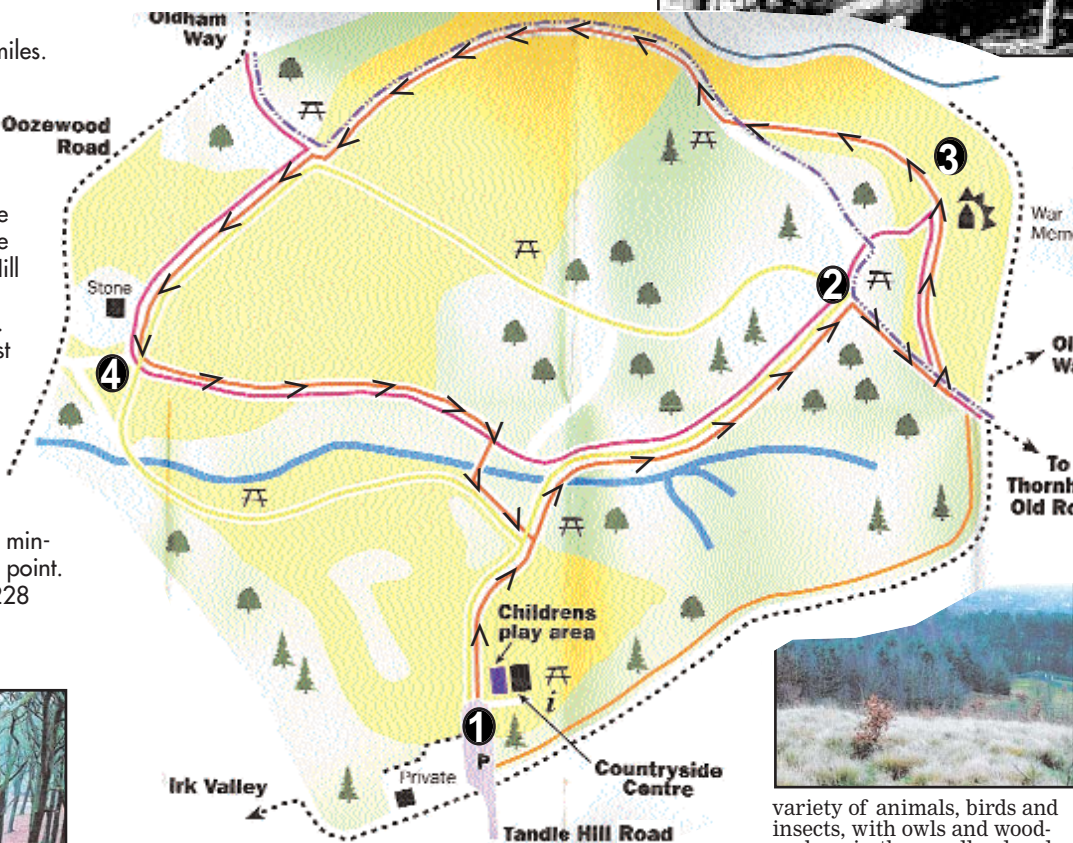
Peterloo radicals on park parade

This is our fifth 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. The walks are suitable for all age groups. Points of interest, and places to stop for refreshment are highlighted. 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.

SCENES from the Peterloo massacre



Walk: Tandle Hill
Distance: Around 2.5 miles.
Time: One and a half hours at leisurely pace
Calorie burn: 350+
How do I get there?: This walk starts from the car park at the entrance to the park on Tandle Hill Road, which is off the Rochdale Road (A671). This is one of the busiest link roads in the borough and can easily be found on any map.
Public transport: The nearest bus stop is on Rochdale Road and 10 minutes walk from the start point. Call GMPTE on 0161 228 7811 for bus details.
Parking: Free parking.



WALKING, cycling, bird watching, dog walking, orienteering – you name it and the 110-acre Tandle Hill Country Park, Royton, can meet most requirements. There are two marked trails in the park, and the one that we are featuring this week (the red trail) is perfect for all age groups and encompasses many of the attractions. The beauty of Tandle Hill is that it has much to offer all year round. For nature watch-

ers, in particular, there is always something to focus upon. In the spring it may be the carpets of daffodils while, in autumn, it could be the russet and red hues of the many mature beech trees or rich display of fungi. (The name Tandle Hill means 'Fire Hill', which is apt as the hill was home to many fiery political meetings in the run up to the Peterloo Massacre in August 1819. More than 50,000 workers converged on



Manchester for a peaceful demonstration to listen to the radical speaker Henry Hunt, who was pushing for parliamentary reform to help the poor. The authorities were rattled and sent the cavalry into the crowd with sabers drawn – 11 people were killed and around 400 injured in the melee. The beech trees were actually planted at Tandle Hill to stop the local radicals from using the land to practise marching and drill there.) The park is home to a wide

variety of animals, birds and insects, with owls and woodpeckers in the woodland and small mammals living in the grassland.

(The park was actually used as a hunting ground as part of the old Thornham Estate.)

1 Our walk starts at the car park at the top of Tandle Hill Road and sets off past the children's play area. We then head down the hill, crossing the stream, to the woodland.

2 After a short and enjoyable stroll through the woods, the route turns right and climbs up towards Thornham Old Road. There is a clearly marked turn to the left which will ultimately wind round to the war memorial.

(Tandle Hill was donated to

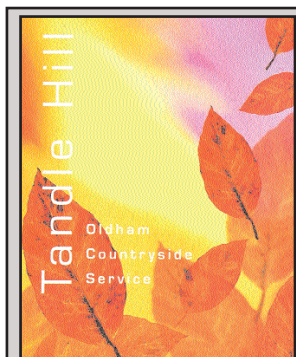


the people of Royton after the Great War of 1914-1918. It was officially opened to the public in September 1919. It wasn't until July 1971 that it became one of the first designated country parks in the UK.)

3 After enjoying the views from the monument, keep following the trail along the top of the hill and it will eventually, after the site of the large stone, drop back down towards woodland.

(The largest granite stone block is sited near to the original entrance to the park near Oozewood Road.)

4 You now follow this route on a clearly marked and scenic loop that will ultimately cross back over the stream and rejoin the original path back up past the play area and to the start point at the car park.



This week's walk is available as a leaflet from any tourist information point in Oldham, including libraries.

The Ramblers



Special price for ramblers

THE Oldham Advertiser has teamed up with the Ramblers' Association to offer readers the chance of saving 20 per cent on their first year's membership. For over 70 years, the association has been working on behalf of walkers everywhere, safeguarding the beauty of the countryside, maintaining paths and increasing access to Britain's landscapes. As a registered charity, the group's work is funded almost entirely by subscriptions and donations... and members get a terrific range of benefits:

- 'Walk Britain' – a year-book and accommodation guide.
 - Discretionary discounts in many outdoor stores.
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 - Access to Ordnance Survey map library.
 - Free information service.
 - Optional membership of a local group, with walks and social activities.
- To join, simply complete the coupon below or call 020 7339 8500 quoting "GRM" to pay by credit/debit card. In addition, if you pay by Direct Debit you will receive 13 months membership for the price of 12. Return this coupon to: The Ramblers' Association, Freepost SW15, London SE1 7BR
- I/we would like to join at the special reduced price (tick box) of:
 - Single annual membership of £19.20 (normally £24)
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 - I/we enclose a cheque made payable to the Ramblers' Association for

£.....

● Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss (delete as appropriate)

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(Offer ends June 30, 2005. Offer is not open to existing members)

Next week: Don't miss our guide to a great circular and scenic Oldham

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