

# Socialscene

Out and about in Oldham

life in Oldham

# Most picturesque village – but don't trust that clock!

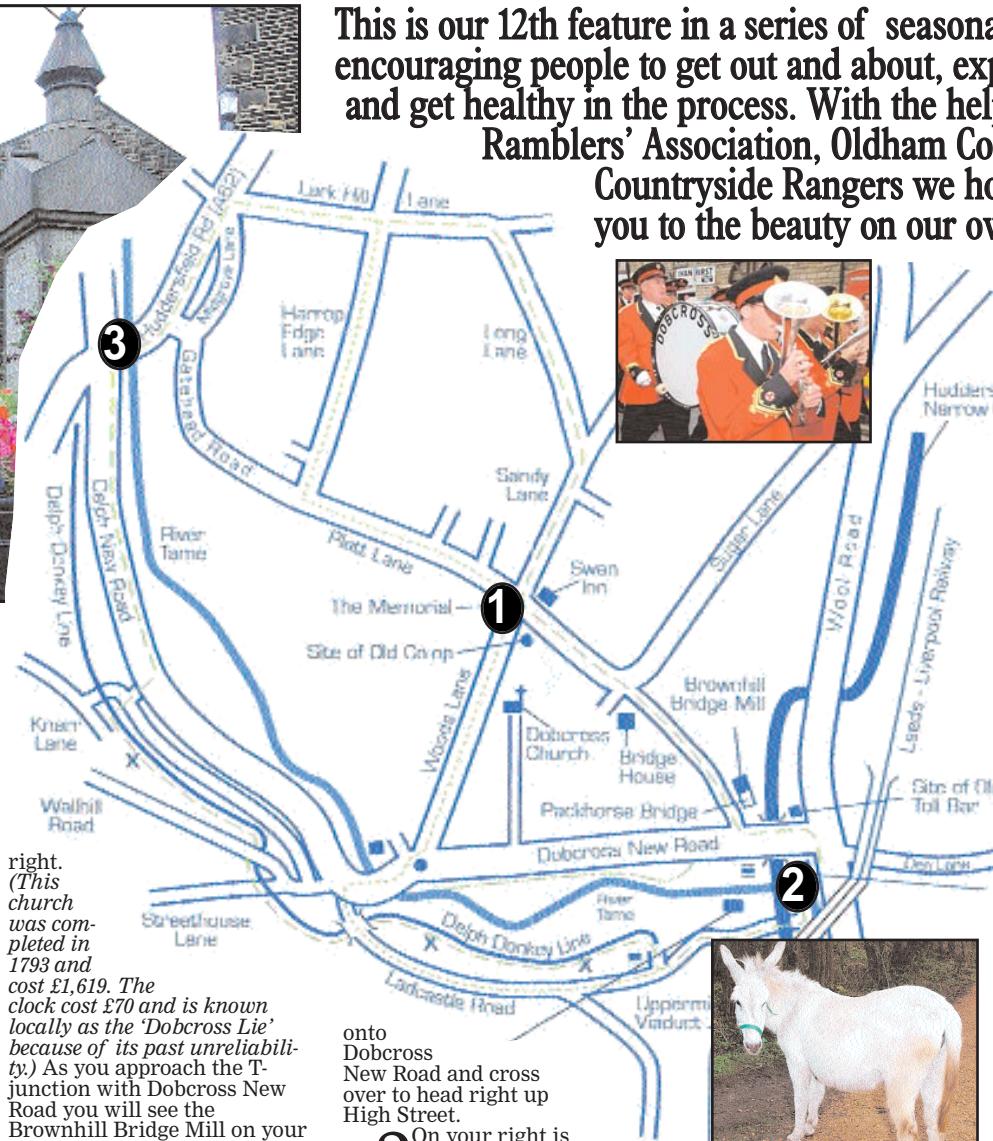
**Walk:** Dobcross Trail  
**Distance:** Two and a half miles.  
**Time:** One and a half hours at a leisurely pace.  
**Calorie burn:** 200+  
**How do I get there?:** The route starts in the centre of Dobcross. Head from Oldham on the A670 to Uppermill and turn left onto the A6052 for Delph. Pick up signs for a right turn into the heart of Dobcross.  
**Public transport:** There are plenty of buses running from the centre of Oldham. Call GMPT on 0161 228 7811 for bus details.  
**Parking:** Plenty of parking places in the village.



**A**FTER sending you over hill and dale in recent weeks, this latest walk really is incredibly easy with no climbs or clambering over stiles.

We are taking you to the attractive Saddleworth village of Dobcross. Many reckon that this village is the prettiest in the area, with much of it unchanged by the passing decades – not least the tiny cobbled square. There are plenty of shops, pleasant sites and opportunities to stop for a pub lunch, pint or a snack. You could even hop on a narrow boat to Uppermill.

**1** The walk begins at the town square and memorial in the centre of the village. Head down Gatehead Road with the Swan Inn on your left. (In the late 18th Century it was kept by the Wrigley family, a branch of which emigrated to America and founded the Wrigley Chewing Gum empire.) Keep walking down and note Dobcross Church on your



right. (This church was completed in 1793 and cost £1,619. The clock cost £70 and is known locally as the 'Dobcross Lie' because of its past unreliability.) As you approach the T-junction with Dobcross New Road you will see the Brownhill Bridge Mill on your left. (This mill was built around 1772 and was used for teasing wool. The rearing of sheep for wool and mutton has always been a big feature of the area and associated industries grew from it.) Turn left

This is our 12th 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 leisurely stroll around a picturesque village.

opened in 1851 and closed in 1955. The first trains were thought to be horse drawn, hence the name.) This is now an attractive rural walk which eventually sees you crossing Ladcastle Road, Streethouse Lane and Wallhill Road. (At the foot of Wallhill Road is a small stream once renowned for its purity. The name Wallhill is derived from the Saxon word for Well Hill. There were several tenterfields around here where cloth was stretched between hooks on tenter frames as part of the weaving process.) Walk on and you can carry on along the Delph Donkey line to Huddersfield Road or, as we have chosen, turn right onto Delph New Road near Knarr Lane. Go along Delph New Road to the junction with Huddersfield Road and turn right onto Huddersfield Road.

**3** You are soon crossing the River Tame. (The Tame is 25 miles long, starts at Denshaw and flows to Stockport where it joins the River Goyt and goes on to become the Mersey.) Carry on up Huddersfield Road and eventually turn right onto Lark Hill Lane. Head along and turn right in to Long Lane. Follow this down to Sandy Lane and head right down to the start point.



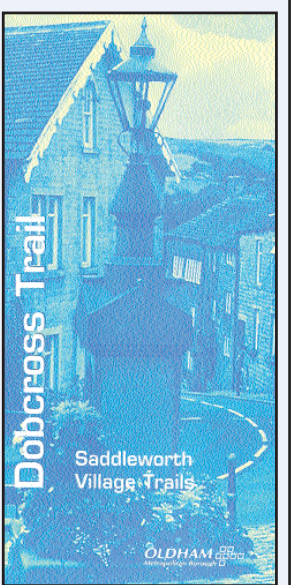
Council.) Turn down by the side of the centre and follow signs for the Delph Donkey. (This old railway line was

onto Dobcross New Road and cross over to head right up High Street.  
**2** On your right is the entrance to the Brownhill Centre. (This was built in 1916 for stabling horses and was used by the transport depot of the old Saddleworth and District



## 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 which of the three pick up points you want collecting from and dropping off at.



This week's walk is available as a leaflet that can be found at most Tourist Information centre and public buildings.

■ YOU CAN ACCESS ALL THE WALKS FEATURED AT WWW.OLDHAMADVERTISER.CO.UK

## The Church Inn



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  - \* Hopsmacker
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