

Socialscene Out and about in Oldham

life in Oldham

**Walk:** Uppermill Trail

**Distance:** Four miles.

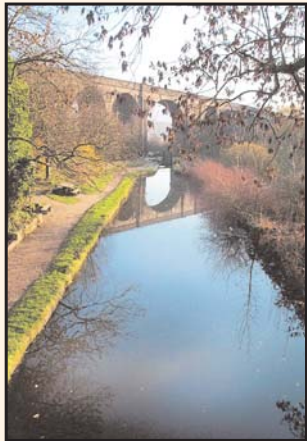
**Time:** Two to two and a half hours at a leisurely pace.

**Calorie burn:** 350+

**How do I get there?:** The route starts from the car park at the Saddleworth Museum which is on the High Street. Follow the Saddleworth signs out of Oldham.

**Public transport:** Call GMPT on 0161 228 7811 for bus details for the area.

**Parking:** Free parking places and plenty of pay and display around the town centre and at the museum.



**W**E'VE had you up hill and down dale; sometimes we have been accused of understating the climbs and number of stiles, but on the whole it appears that our seasonal walks have been a huge success.

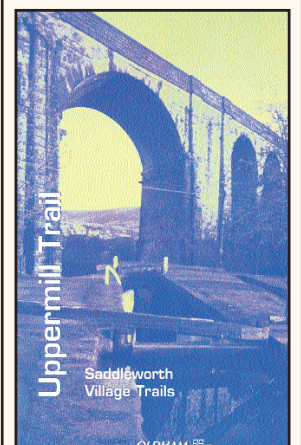
Sadly, like the weather and lighter nights, all good things must come to an end and this is our last walk in the series. So, with many of our rambles and strolls focusing on the Saddleworth area, it only seems right to finish off with a tour of the bustling heart of the district.

Uppermill is a charming locality with plenty of attractive walks, as well as a town centre full of charming shops, pubs and cafes. This walk is very achievable and, we promise, the highs won't have you panting too much for breath.

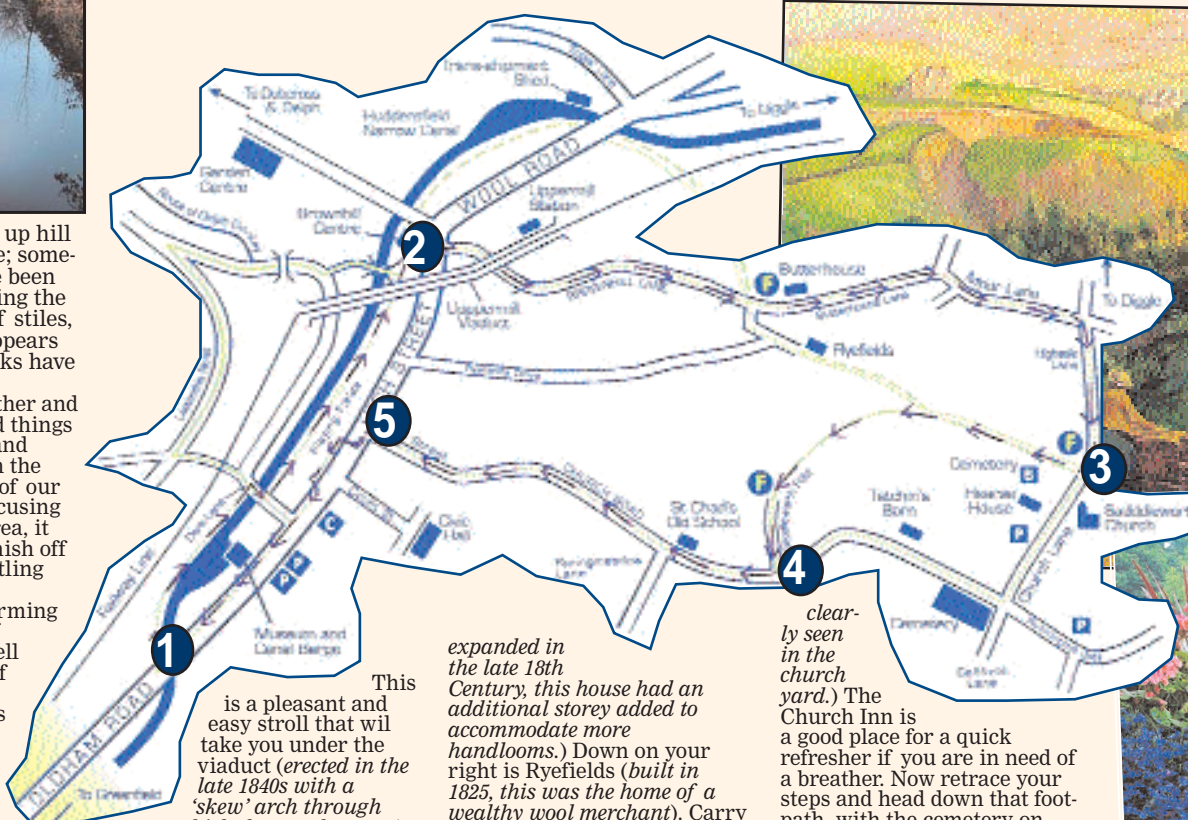
**1** The walk begins by the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, which you can access from the main street near to the Saddleworth Museum. (If you have the time, it is well worth a look around the museum and excellent book shop at the start or end of the walk.) Turn right and head along the canal path in the direction of the viaduct. When the path meets Dark Lane you will be crossing over to walk with the canal on your left and the playing fields on your right.

# Village worthy of exploration

This is the 16th and final feature in our series of seasonal articles aimed at encouraging people to get out and about, explore the borough and get healthy in the process. We would like to thank the Oldham Ramblers' Association, Oldham Council and Countryside Rangers for the part they have played in helping us to reintroduce you to the beauty on our own doorstep. We hope you have enjoyed the series and, don't forget, that you can get copies of all of the walks from our website. Keep walking!



**T**his week's walk is available as a leaflet from most of the borough's Tourist Information Centres and public buildings, such as libraries, as well as from the countryside rangers' officers.



This is a pleasant and easy stroll that will take you under the viaduct (erected in the late 1840s with a 'skew' arch through which the canal passes.) and up towards the Brownhill Countryside Centre.

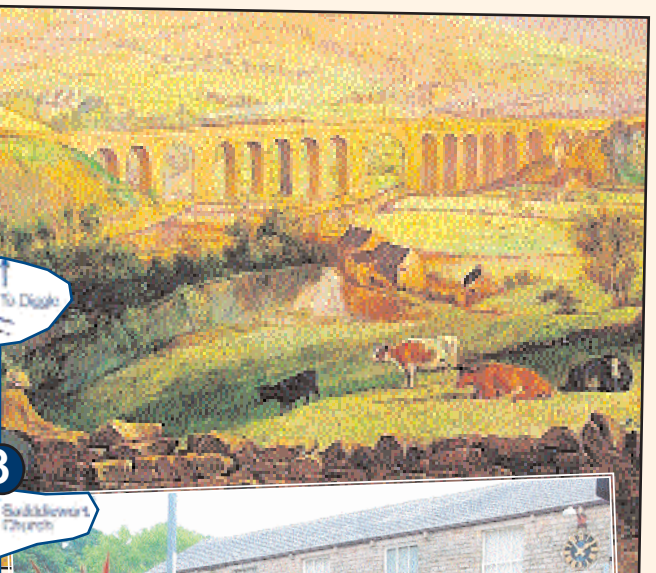
**2** Turn right near the Brownhill Centre, cross the main road and start making your way up Brownhill Lane. (This is a pre-turnpike road that formerly crossed Diggle Brook by an old packhorse bridge.) You will pass back through the viaduct and eventually Brownhill Lane will turn into Butterhouse Lane. The old Butterhouse is passed on your left. (As broadcloth weaving

expanded in the late 18th Century, this house had an additional storey added to accommodate more handlooms.) Down on your right is Ryefields (built in 1825, this was the home of a wealthy wool merchant). Carry on up to a bend to the right. This is Moor Lane and you follow it up until you hit Highstile Lane, at which point you turn right and walk up.

**3** At the top of Highstile Lane you reach Church Lane and, while we will be turning right down a public footpath, it is worth taking a few minutes to look at Saddleworth Church. (The church was built in 1215 in the centre of what was once the most populous area of Saddleworth. The stone posts of the village stocks are still

clearly seen in the church yard.) The Church Inn is a good place for a quick refresher if you are in need of a breather. Now retrace your steps and head down that footpath, with the cemetery on your left. You will be curving left along Saddleworth Fold (probably one of the oldest settlement sites in the area, with 'fold' meaning a group of cottages). As you walk up you should be able to see Tatchin's Barn on your left. (The barn used to have a chain-horse attached to the farm carts, which were used as hearses to pull them up to the church.)

**4** You have now hit the top of Saddleworth Fold and are turning right onto Church Road. This road will now take you all the



way back down to the High Street, turning into New Street as you get nearer to the bottom. Watch out for a group of private residences on your right soon after turning onto Church Road. (These were the site of the original St Chad's School. It was built in 1881 but replaced as the settlement

changed and most families moved nearer to what was now the heart of the village.)

**5** You are back on the main street and can turn left and head back up to the start point. No doubt your eye will be caught by the shops, cafes and pubs. Spoil yourself... you've earned it!

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