

On Oldham's Front Door by Donna Smith

*Have you heard about Oldham's Northern Roots?
No? Well the best thing to do is don your boots!
Then take in a walk round the 160-acre site,
There's lots to experience that you might just like.
It's only 5 minutes from the centre of town,
And you can download the route so you know the way around.*

*A hidden gem is this urban farm and new eco-park,
A wilderness of wonder on which to embark.
So put your dog on the lead,
Get the kids on their bikes,
Packed lunch in your rucksack,
And head off for a hike.*

*There are many delights right on Oldham's front door,
Maybe choose the Circular Walk? So much to explore!
Wildflowers in abundance, their scents catching the breeze,
Small mammals in the bushes, birds singing in the trees.
As you cut through the woodlands,
Taking in the sights and sounds,
A heron pond and much galore,
In this haven can be found.
You might just catch a glimpse of a fox,
And if you gaze towards the sky,
African Willow Warblers and Sparrowhawks,
May flit before your eyes.*

*Whether you're a Birder or a Twitcher,
Take along a good guide book,*

On Oldham's Front Door by Donna Smith, WINNER, Adult Category, Northern Roots Creative Writing Competition 2020

*You may glimpse native and migratory birds,
Pack your binoculars for a closer look.*

*Sit still for a while admiring the views,
Savouring the tranquillity of the place.
Appreciating the hours with the ones you love,
Spending a bit of time at a much slower pace.
You can connect back with nature,
Ambling through the moorlands and meadow.
Spotting different tree and plant varieties,
Bugs and insects scuttling in the shadow.
New terrain for all the bikers,
Trails for riders with their horse,
Fresh air, exercise in an open space,
Healthy lifestyle it will re-enforce.*

*The Park Bridge Heritage Centre,
You will stumble across soon,
There's plenty to keep you occupied,
To continue into the afternoon.
You can join in all the activities,
Events run all year round,
Craft days, many guided walks,
And a tearoom in the ground.
Learn the fascinating facts of the old iron works,
Picnicking on the landscaped ruins is definitely another perk.*

*As you start your journey back don't let your enjoyment deflate,
There are more delights to be seen as you pass through kissing gate.
And if the kids have energy to spare and want to continue their play,
Alexandra Park is nearby to finish off their day.*

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*But please dispose of all your litter so the area is kept clean,
And don't light any camp fires so the parks remain lush and green.*

Why not learn more about this project?

As it continues to bloom and expand,

See the vision come to life in our area,

Developed within the right hands.

Creating jobs and opportunities,

As it continues to grow

Including showcasing 'Oldham garden',

In the RHS festival show.

So, open up the internet,

And type the following link,

northern-roots-uk/discover

New experiences just on the brink.