STROUD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
www.stroudlocalhistorysociety.org.uk

I Spy Stroud Town History Trail
2013

Stroud Local History Society

Follow the *clues* and look around - you might be surprised at what you have found

👁 means you need to look around

ⓘ means that nearby you will find a history information board (complied by Ian Mackintosh)

→ From the lake, leave Stratford Park, and with help from the *green man*, cross the road. With Stratford Lodge (now called Old ……………) on your **right**, walk up the slope and turn **right** passing St.*Flowers*, walk down & onto the footbridge.

This was Badbrook . In the early 1800s there was a ford and stepping stones to cross the stream. 👁 To your left is the Old Police Station 1858. Badbrook House was located on the corner of Merrywalks and Beeches Green and was demolished to allow for road widening in 1967. Badbrook Mill stood partly on the site of the multi-storey car park in Merrywalks.

→ At the other side of the bridge go down the slope and turn **left.**

👁 find swags & flowers at the old pub. When was it re-built? How many faces are there?

→ Turn **right** and walk up hill, past the *longest serving monarch*. At the *Racing Dog* (rebuilt 1903) 👁 where is the Godsell brewery trademark 'Labore et Honor' malt shovel clasped in hand?   ⓘ by Bank House

→ Turn **left** into Lansdown (previously this was the carriage drive to the vicarage (where the library is now).

→ At the next junction 👁 Which famous Victorian scientists and artists are there? Also find Victoria and an engine.
 The School of Art & Sciences (1890-99) housed the original Stroud Museum. ⓘ by library

→ Return along Lansdown to a local newspaper office and take the steps * opposite, by Lansdown Hall (Temperance Hall, built in 1879, later the Stroud High School for Girls started here), to enter Bank Gardens (the gardens to Bank House). Walk up to St Laurence.

> ***** To avoid steps, go to the end, turn **left** up High St and turn **left** after the red box. Walk to St Laurence. ⓘ

→ At the church porch turn **right** ⓘ.

There was a chapel before 1279. The current church was rebuilt in 1866, but the 14th century tower and spire survive. Richard Whittington acquired the manor of Upper Lypiatt (which included Stroud) in 1395, to settle a debt of £500. A relative of his was buried in the old chapel.

→ Go into The Shambles. 👁 When did John Wesley preach a sermon here?

The Old Town Hall (1590s with additions) was originally freestanding in the centre of the market area, which was known in the 17th century as 'the Pitching'. Later this became 'The Shambles', where the butchers sold their meat on tables that dropped down from the wall.

👁 When was John Canton born? (Look near the Town Hall entrance).   ⓘ by archway

→ Continue through to The High St.

No 57 - then Coley Chemist, now Boots - was the first premises in the town centre to have electricity (from a gas engine).

Walk uphill towards *1931 cleaning*, to the sculpture representing the Stroud area.

👁 on all sides, what can you see?　　　ⓘ is on other side of wall

Here was The Cross, the old centre of town, with the town well (later converted to a drinking fountain) & the stocks.　　　👁 What sort of market was held here?

→ Go back down the High St to Woodruffs. ⓘ Turn **left** here and find the *White Bird*

→Turn **right**👁 ⓘ into the street where sewing machines were used to produce ready-made clothes.

→ Turn **left** at the end. This used to be Kendrick's orchard until 1872.

→ Walk towards the *pretty birds.* 👁 Find 4 faces that tell you what time it is. This was given to the town by Stroud wine merchant William Sims, in 1921. ⓘ

London Rd was built in 1815. Previously the way to Chalford was via Nelson St, Castle St, Lower St, Bowbridge Lane & Thrupp Lane

→ Take Lord John Russell's St. He was a Liberal MP for Stroud, 1835-41 and Prime Minster twice. Pass his pub, which was the General Post Office 1886, and turn **left** to where you can catch a train.　　　ⓘ by ecotricity

👁Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Goods Shed was built in 1845 (the station was rebuilt in 1914).

→ Return, passing the *hostelry*, built 1870, then cross Russell St and turn **left**.
　(It may be safer to cross with help from the *green man* to your right*)* ⓘ.

→ Carefully cross to the *black horse*, 👁 and find George, who stands in front of Stroud House 1894-96.

George Holloway (MP for Stroud 1886-92) was a leading industrialist and politician, who pioneered the manufacture of ready-made clothing and introduced a number of social reforms to Stroud

→ With the *black horse* on your **left**, go straight on until you reach *Coventry*. 👁 up high to find faces. This used to be The Green Dragon pub

→ Back track and go through the *happy* shopping centre (which has its 40th birthday this year). 👁 Near Wilkinsons, find Stroud landmarks – which have you seen today?

→ To return to Stratford Park, go down stairs/lift to Merrywalks, turn **right** and **left** at the roundabout

For more information:

www.stroudlocalhistorysociety.org.uk has links to lots of information

www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/community/local_history.asp

www.digitalstroud.co.uk/landmarks

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