


STROUD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2023

I Spy Stroud Town History Trail

www.stroudlocalhistorysociety.org.uk




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


→ Start at Tesco, where there used to be a flour mill with a mill pond.

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 is Badbrook. The Slad Brook is mainly hidden now, but in the early 1800s there was a ford and stepping stones to cross the stream. On the right - the road between the bridge you are standing on and the multi-storey car park was once a mill pond for Badbrook Corn Mill. Left of the bridge was the Police Station from 1858 to 1973.


→ At the other side of the bridge go down the slope to Bath Street - there used to be swimming baths here - 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, in High St - the bank manager lived here when the bank was next door.

→ Turn into Lansdown - before it became a street in the 1860s, this was the carriage drive to the vicarage (where the library is now).

→ At the next junction - The School of Art & Sciences (built 1890-99) housed the original Stroud Museum.  by library

 How many faces of famous Victorian scientists and artists can you see? Also find a Severn Trow, Queen Victoria and an engine.

→ Return along Lansdown. Opposite a local newspaper office take the steps by Lansdown Hall (Temperance Hall built in 1879), to enter Bank Gardens - the gardens to Bank House.


Walk up to St Laurence Church.

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



There was a chapel here before 1279. The current church was rebuilt in 1866, but they kept the tower and spire built in the 1300s.

Richard "Dick" Whittington became the owner of 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.

→ At the church porch turn right .

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

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

When the Old Town Hall was built about 1590, it was a market hall on stilts in the centre of the market area. This is called "The Shambles" and was where the butchers once sold their meat. 👁️ Find two old butchers' tables that are attached to the wall.

→ Continue through to The High St. Walk uphill to the Ram. 👁️ on all sides, what can you see that represents the Stroud mills?

The 1931 building behind the wall was built as a Coop. ⓘ is on other side of the wall.

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

→ Go back down the High St. The gabled buildings were built in the 1600s.

→ At Woodruffs ⓘ Turn left here and find the *White Bird*

→ Turn right 👁️ ⓘ into Street, where there used to be a factory with sewing machines to make clothes.

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

→ Walk to the forecourt of the Sub Rooms. 👁️ Find a tower with four faces that tell you what time it is. This was given to the town by Stroud wine merchant William Sims, in 1921.

👁️ Find the Bedford Street Church. Stroud Hospital was next door from 1835 to 1875.

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

→ Go to Lord John Russell's Street. He was a Liberal MP for Stroud, 1835-41 and later Prime Minister twice. Pass his pub, which was the General Post Office in 1886, and turn left to where you can catch a train. 👁️ The red brick house by the station was built for the station master. Next door to it, there used to be stables for the hotel opposite ⓘ

👁️ Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Goods Shed was built in 1845 (the station was rebuilt in 1914). On the other side of the railway line is the tall Hill Paul building - another factory where they used to make clothes.

→ Return, passing the hotel built in 1863, then cross Russell Street with help from the *green man* to your right. Turn left. ⓘ.

→ Carefully cross to the bank with the *black horse*, 👁️ and find George, who stands in front of Stroud House, built 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 past the GP surgery and turn left into the shopping centre. 👁️ Find the mosaic of Stroud landmarks – which have you seen today?

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