

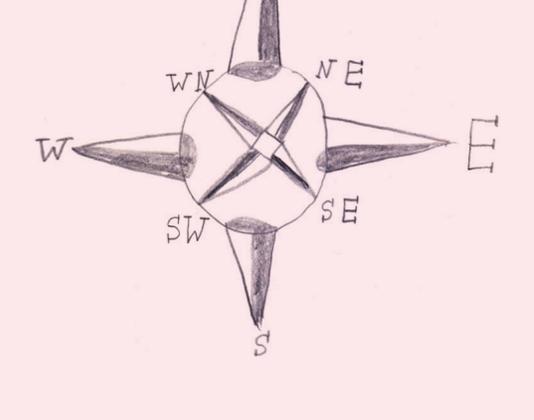
A New Direction
www.aewdirection.org.uk
www.hidden-histories.org.uk
Eastside Community Heritage

This map has been produced as part of 'Stratford Explorers', a partnership between A New Direction and Eastside Community Heritage and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Thanks to Holden Point Community Scheme and Community Road Community Centre.

"There was a fish and chip shop down there. There was a pie and mash shop. You could get all your vegetables. There was a place years ago where you could have nylons mended." Pam remembers the 1960s continue your own explorations of the area.

This map brings to life Stratford's memories, recalled by older residents, and re-imagined through the wonderful artwork of pupils from Maryland and Colegrave Primary Schools. Use the map to explore the heritage of the area - old buildings, businesses and people. There's a suggested walk, with many interesting facts and things to look out for along the way.

STRATFORD EXPLORERS MAP & GUIDE



THE ILLUSTRATED EDITION

1. STRATFORD STATION, RAILWAY WORKS & ROBERT THE ENGINE

Stratford Station was opened in 1839. The main Great Eastern Railway works were built in 1847 and grew into the largest locomotive depot in the country. There was even a print works for printing train tickets.

Robert the Engine is similar to the kinds of trains you would have seen here. He has recently been refurbished and repainted – see if you can see your face reflected in his shiny paint!

"We had the railway works at the end of our road. When it was dinner time or the night time coming, you had to stay inside your door because there were just hundreds and hundreds of men all coming out. It was the yard where they did all the repairs, where the Olympic site is now." Pam, 1950s

2. THE OPERA HOUSE/ BOROUGH THEATRE

371-373 High Street. Built in 1895, this building was a huge theatre with space for 3000 people. The first play shown there was Henry IV part 1, but it later staged operas too. In 1933, the theatre became a cinema, and in 1969 it became a bingo hall. Can you spot Beethoven on the wall? Why is he there? And do you think he would have liked bingo?

3. ALEXANDRA TEMPERANCE HOTEL

383-387 High Street. Today, this is the home of the Discover Children's Story Centre, but it was built in 1901 by the West Ham Club and Restaurant Company as a club for people who didn't drink alcohol. It had dining rooms, a billiards room, a reading room and bedrooms.

4. THE RAILWAY TREE

This public artwork was created by Malcolm Robertson. It is made of steel rails that create a 'fountain of railway tracks', and is inspired by Victorian railway architecture. It reflects Stratford's importance as a place of arrival and departure thanks to the railway. Have a look at the paving around the base of the sculpture – what can you see?



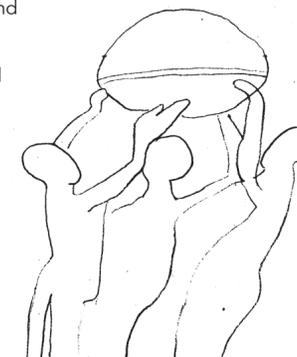
5. THE OLD TOWN HALL

29 The Broadway. Built in 1869, it saw the election of the first ever Labour MP, Keir Hardie, announced here in 1892. Old photos of the Town Hall show figures standing along the roof. They were removed - perhaps for cleaning - and they never returned.

6. THE BROADWAY CINEMA

Tramway Avenue. The Broadway Cinema which used to stand here opened in 1927. It became the Gaumont Cinema in 1948 and closed in 1960.

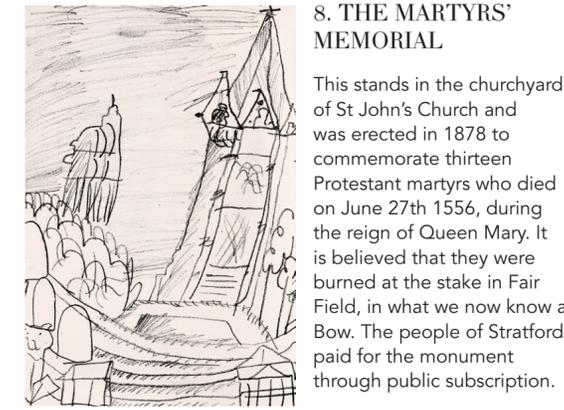
The cinema was later turned into a gym by a local man named Bill Stevens, a bodybuilder and wrestler who competed in Mr Britain, Mr World and Mr Universe competitions in the 1950s and 60s.



7. THE GURNEY MEMORIAL DRINKING FOUNTAIN

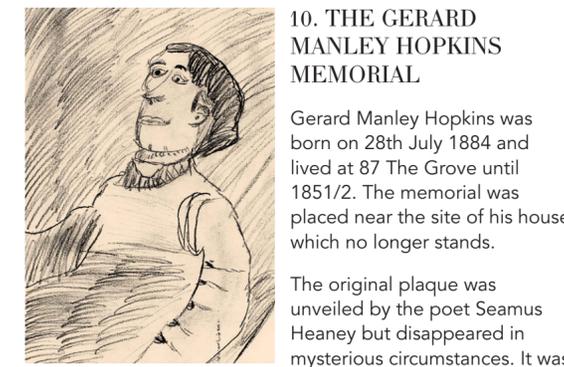
Broadway. This monument was erected by the people of West Ham in 1861 in memory of local resident Samuel Gurney (1786-1856), the brother of Elizabeth Fry (who is on the £5 note). Like his sister, Gurney was a Quaker and a campaigner for prison reform and an end to slavery. He founded the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association (now the Drinking Fountain Association), which provided free clean water for people and animals.

"You could have a drop of water from that when I was a kid... There was a cup there. They used to press a button, or it used to be running all the time, and you used to just get a cupful and away you go." Mary, 1940s



9. ST JOHN'S CHURCH

St John's was designed by Edward Blore who was one of the leading architects of his day. The original designs can be seen in the Victoria & Albert Museum.



10. THE GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS MEMORIAL

Gerard Manley Hopkins was born on 28th July 1884 and lived at 87 The Grove until 1851/2. The memorial was placed near the site of his house which no longer stands.

The original plaque was unveiled by the poet Seamus Heaney but disappeared in mysterious circumstances. It was replaced in the spring of 2012.

11. THE EDITH KERRISON MEMORIAL

This celebrates the first woman to serve on West Ham council. Edith Kerrison spoke out for the welfare for women and children and she was made an honorary freeman in 1936, sadly after her death.

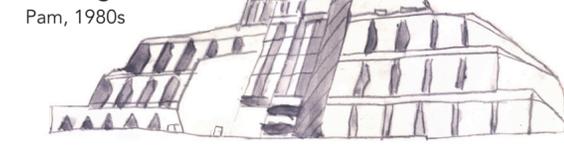
12. THE PEACE SCULPTURE

Now outside Morrisons, this once stood in a garden near the corner of Romford Road. The sculpture was commissioned by the London Borough of Newham to commemorate the international year of peace in 1984. The three figures are said to represent the continents Africa, Asia and Europe. The sculptor was Derrick Richardson-Lee (1924-2001).

13. SITE OF THE ZIGGURAT BUILDING

95 The Grove. Opened on May 7th 1976 and demolished in February 1998, this amazing building stood on the site now occupied by Morrisons and was designed by Ken Lund and Norman White. It was intended to be one of three similar buildings. It was a council building where people could pay their rent and collect their wages.

"It was of its time, it was just like a staggered cake. A lot of people called it the threepenny bit ... because it was ridged."



15. THE THEATRE ROYAL

Built on the site of a wheelwright's shop, the theatre was designed by James George Buckle and opened in 1884. It is known particularly for Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop which took over the theatre in 1953 and staged classics such as 'A Taste of Honey' and 'Oh! What a Lovely War'. Threatened by the building of the Stratford Centre, it was saved by a public campaign and the efforts of manager Gerry Raffles (1923-1975) after whom the theatre square was named.

"...when they modernised it recently, they took all the floorboards up at the top, and they found tons of peanut shells! People used to buy peanuts outside and they would all drop through the floor, and that's what they found when they did it all up." Pam, 1950s

Photo: Theatre Royal c.1950 Courtesy of Newham Local Studies and Archive

16. ANGEL LANE

The main feature of Angel Lane now is the bridge over the railway lines, but there used to be a busy street market in this area. The market was demolished when the Stratford Centre was built. The original street can be seen in the Beatles' Penny Lane film, and in the film Sparrows Can't Sing starring Barbara Windsor. Shops in the market included the pie shop, the fifty-bob tailors and an old-style Sainsbury's.



Photo: Angel Lane c.1964. Courtesy of Newham Local Studies and Archive

"It was a much slower pace of life. You could go out shopping and you went down to Angel Lane and everything was there that you could shop for. You took your time. Nowadays everyone seems to be in a rush."

"You could get all your shopping for the week. Christmas Eve was a good time to go because that's when they'd sell all the stuff off cheap. They'd have turkeys hanging up and all the things you could buy for Christmas."

Pam, Stratford resident 1960s (pictured right)



17. HOLDEN POINT COMMUNITY SCHEME

Holden Point is a supported housing scheme for some of Stratford's older residents. It is named after James Holden, who was locomotive superintendent of the Great Eastern Railway in 1885. He was also the inventor of a ten-coupled locomotive known as the Decapod, which was the most powerful locomotive in the country when it was constructed in 1902.

Residents from Holden Point (and from Community Road Community Centre) have shared their stories to help create this map. You can read some of their words here too.

"You had a pie shop in the High Road called Cookes's but Cookes's used to have live eels outside and then when people used to buy them, you used to see the man take them out, chop the head off and it'd still be wriggling. We used to go there and get hot eels and bring them home." Joyce, 1950s

22 & 23. MARYLAND POINT & THE TIME SPIRAL

The name Maryland Point is first used on a map dating from 1696. It's thought that Richard Lee, a wealthy merchant, returned from the American colony of Maryland and named land he purchased in Stratford after it. It was much more common to find American places named after English towns and cities (eg New York). Can you think of any?

The Time Spiral by Malcolm Robertson was unveiled in Meridian Square (outside Stratford Station) in 1996 and stood close to the Greenwich meridian. It was moved to Maryland Point in 2011.

24. THE CART AND HORSES
The heavy metal band Iron Maiden had some of their earliest performances at The Cart and Horses pub, and had a residency there in the spring of 1976.

25. THE GROVE PICTURE PALACE

121 The Grove. Built in 1910, this was a very early cinema. You can still see where the ticket kiosk would have been – it sticks out from the front of the building. Later on, the building was used as a billiards hall, and it is now a doctors' surgery.

27. YARDLEY'S BUILDING: LAVENDER GIRLS

Wharton House, 150 High Street. Can you spot the flower sellers on the side of this building? This is where Yardley (a company that made soap and perfume) had their box factory and offices. The area used to be quite stinky as there was a glue factory nearby.



All artwork by students of Maryland & Colegrave Primary Schools

check out the blog (right)

www.stratfordexplorers.wordpress.com
www.hlf.org.uk
www.colegrave.newham.sch.uk
www.maryland.newham.sch.uk

