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 works in the country. There was even a print works for printing train tickets.

Robert The Engine is similar to the kinds of teams 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 1965, this building was a huge theatre with space for 3000 people. The first play shown there was Henry IV part 1, but it later stayed open too. In 1993, the theatre became a cinema, and in 1998 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 1961 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 bathrooms.

4. THE RAILWAY TREE
This public artwork was created by Malcolm Robertson. It is made of steel rails that create a ‘fountain of railway lines’, 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 1664, it was 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 Gamma Cinema in 1948 and closed in 1960. The cinema was later turned into a gym by a local man named Bill Stevver, a bodybuilder and wrestler who competed in Mr Britain, Mr World and 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.

“I could have a drop of water from that when I was a kid… We'd buy peanuts outside and they would all drop through the floor, and that's what they found they'd all it up.”
— Pam, 1950s

8. THE MARTYRS’ MEMORIAL
This stands in the churchyard of St John’s Church and was erected in 1878 to commemorate thirteen Protestant martyrs who died on June 27th 1555, during the reign of Queen Mary. It is believed that they were burned at the stake in Fair Field, in what we now know as Bow. The people of Stratford paid for the monument through public subscription.

9. ST JOHN’S CHURCH
St John’s was designed by Edward Blond 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 1844 and lived at 87 The Grove until he died in 1889. 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 1984. Can you think of any?

11. THE EDWIN 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 Morrison’s, this once stood in a garden near the corner of High Road and Broadway. It 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 Derek Richardson-Lee (1924-2001).

13. THE 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 Morrison’s 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. Lots of people called it the threepenny bit … because it was ridged.”
— Pam, 1950s

14. THE THEATRE ROYAL
Built on the site of a wheeler’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 was named.

“...when modernisation it recently, they took all the floorscrapers up at the top, and they found tens of peanut shells! People used to buy peanuts outside and they would all drop through the floor, and that’s what they found they’d all it up.”
— Pam, 1950s

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— Pam, 1950s

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. Shoppers in the market included the pie shop, the fifty-bob tailors and an old ale house called Samburys.

“I was a kid… There was a lot of people called it the threepenny bit … because it was just a staggered cake. A lot of people called it the threepenny bit 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
Heldon 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. It 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:

“You had a pie shop in the High road called Cooke’s but Cooke’s used to have live eels outside and then when people used to buy them, you used to see the man then chop it, put 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 SPIRAL TERRACE
The name Maryland Point is first used on a map dating from 1696. It’s thought that Richard Lee, a wealthy merchant, returned from his travels and purchased 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 Robertston 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 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 striny as there was a glue factory nearby.

All artwork by students of Maryland & Colegrave Primary Schools

www.stratfordexplorers.wordpress.com
check out the blog (right)

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