

Stroud Town Council Local Heritage Asset List

Rowcroft, George Holloway statue, GL5 3AP	
Sculpture	Stroud Town Centre NDP area
Statue	List entry number SLHA0029



Description

The stone statue of George Holloway was sculpted by T. R. Essex. It was erected in 1893-4 (George Holloway was born in 1825 and died in 1892) and stands on a stone plinth, which reads: 'George Holloway. He was the founder of the Mid-Gloucester Working Men's Conservative Association Benefit Society and represented this division in Parliament from 1886 to 1892. For nearly forty years he took a leading part in every political and social movement for the welfare of Stroud. This statue was erected by the members of the above society and other admirers. MDCCCXCIV.'

George Holloway was a pioneer of the ready-made clothing industry. Holloway & Co was established by George and his brother Henry in Stroud in 1849 and became a worldwide company. In the 1890s they employed 1,500 people at factories in Threadneedle St and Brickrow, and made uniforms in the First World War. The company claimed to be the first in the world to use steam power for sewing machines. It was taken over in the sixties, and finally closed in 1975.

George Holloway created the Stroud and Mid Gloucester Working Man's Conservative Association's Sick Benefit Society in 1875, and it still flourishes today as the Holloway Friendly Society. He was MP for Stroud for six years (1886-1892). He built houses for his workers (e.g. Horns Rd), and was a great benefactor to Stroud, giving generously to the hospital, School of Art, the church and the library.

Sources:

Stroud by Joan Tucker (1991)

Stroud Local History Society, <http://www.stroudlocalhistorysociety.org.uk/people-places/companies/holloway/>

Holloway Friendly, <http://www.holloway.co.uk/about-us/history>

Selection Criteria	
Rarity	The only statue in Stroud

Historic association	George Holloway was a highly regarded man of great influence and importance in Stroud, a philanthropist and factory owner who was Stroud's largest employer
Landmark status	In a prominent position on Rowcroft as cars/pedestrians enter Stroud town centre
Degree of completeness	Original statue, in good repair
Date of inclusion	June 2017

With thanks to Stroud Preservation Trust – www.stroudpreservationtrust.org.uk

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