

Aug 94

## THE ORIGINAL HOLLOWAY SOCIETY

On Saturday, 6th August this year, the statue of George Holloway, M.P. celebrates its centenary.

It was officially unveiled by Lady Dorrington, wife of Sir John Dorrington, M.P., who was a close friend of George Holloway.

The statue was sculptured by Mr. T. R. Essex of London, and was financed by the members of the 'Mid Gloucestershire Working Men's Conservative Association Benefit Society' (which George Holloway founded) and other admirers.

George Holloway himself was very much a Stroud man and for nearly forty years he took a major part in every political and social movement for the welfare of the Stroud people.

He was Stroud's M.P. from 1886 until 1892, this being the year in which he died. Apart from his political career his business acumen was second to none. George and his brother were very successful wholesale clothes manufacturers.

In 1875 George Holloway founded the first 'Holloway Society.' It was established at Badbrook Hall, Stroud, calling itself 'The Working Men's Conservative Friendly Society. George Holloway was the first member, Sir John Dorrington, M.P., was the second. After the first day, the membership totalled approximately 40, and in three years the total membership had risen to a thousand – an incredible achievement as the population in the Stroud area was 10,000, these results being unparalleled in the history of Benefit Societies.

On 3rd May, 1876, the Society was re-named to 'The Borough of Stroud Working Men's Conservative Association Benefit Society, but after subsequent mergers became 'The Original Holloway Society' as it is known today.

The reason why George Holloway was so respected in the financial world was that he revolutionised the way in which Friendly Societies functioned. Many Societies, up until 1875 became insolvent and ran out of funds to pay benefits to their members. The 'Holloway Society' not only protected its members in times of incapacity, but also provided a capital sum at age 65 that would be a permanent benefit in the member's retirement.

After the initial success of the first organisation, many 'Holloway Societies' were established, following the same principles of the 'new style' Holloway Benefit Society.

For over 100 years the principles and objectives have stood the test of time and although we live in what is classed a 'modern society,' George Holloway's Victorian ideals are still very much needed today, with the Original Holloway Society still providing sickness and accident cover for the working man or woman, together with a capital sum payable on retirement.

To celebrate the centenary, the Society is displaying some rare photographs and artifacts recently discovered in the cellar at Holloway House, Station Road, Stroud, one in particular, being a large photograph of the unveiling of the statue on the 6th August, 1894.

A 'friendly' Holloway welcome awaits anyone wishing to visit the small exhibition, or wishes to find out more about the Society at Holloway House, Station Road, Stroud. The exhibition will be open from Monday, 8th August until Friday, 12th August from 9.00.a.m. – 5.00.p.m.

*The Original Holloway Society is authorised by the Personal Investment Authority*