

The Stonehouse Rose

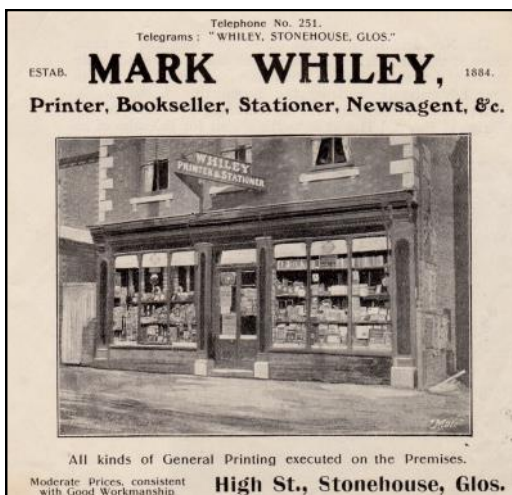
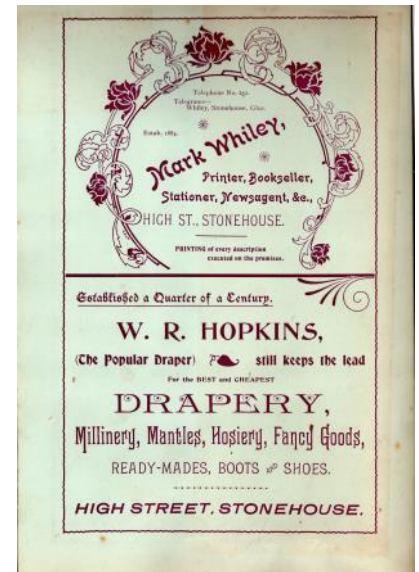
A rose per annum (a rose per year)

In 1348 the Stonehouse manor lands were granted “**by tenure de Marchacia by a rose per annum**” to John Maltravers. The rose was a symbolic payment in exchange for supporting King Edward III. This agreement may have been made with Maurice Berkeley who held the manor previously.

This link with a rose may have influenced the carving of a Tudor rose at Stonehouse Court built in 1601 during the time of Queen Elizabeth.

The Stonehouse Horticultural Society

The next evidence we have of the rose symbol associated with Stonehouse appears in the logo of the Stonehouse Horticultural Society formed in 1867. The first evidence we have of the Society’s logo is on the programme for the Flower Show of 1902 but it may have been designed well before that as they held Shows from 1867 onwards. We don’t have a colour version of this rose but the point is at the top.



Mark Whiley sold souvenir china in his newsagent’s shop from 1884 until 1920. He obtained these from manufacturers such as Arcadian Crested China. He would have provided the design for them to print on the various ornaments such as pots, animals and other objects. He chose a red rose with the point at the top. The red rose was the Lancastrian rose. It became a Tudor rose with the white centre when the two houses of Lancaster and York were joined in 1486.



Mark Whiley printed the Flower Show programme. He was on the Horticultural Society Committee. He probably designed the programme and may have designed the logo both for the Society and for his china.

Stonehouse Parish Council Mayoral Chain

In 1978 Fred Rowbotham offered to donate a mayoral chain for the Stonehouse Parish Council. We have anecdotal evidence that he was influenced by both the Horticultural Society programme and the souvenir china. His design uses a Tudor rose - red with a white centre and the point at the top.

Extract from the press release 22/11/1978

Stroud Building Society. The Clerk to the Council, Mr. J. H. A. Anderson, welcomed the guests and outlined the circumstances surrounding the offer of the gift. He then asked Mr. Rowbotham to formally present the Chain of Office to the Chairman of the Council, consisting of a hallmarked silver gilt chain forty inches long with a silver gilt and enamelled pendant decorated with a red rose and containing the motto 'Floret Floruit Floreat' (It flourished, It flourishes, May it Flourish). The rose was reproduced on a smaller scale on one of the sixteen links which made up the chain and the design of the rose had been copied from old china on which it had appeared as an emblem of the parish of Stonehouse. Mr. Rowbotham, who has had a very long association with Stonehouse, said that he was very proud of the town and always returned with pleasure to his Gloucestershire home from his many visits abroad. He felt that the chief representative of such a parish should be able to be identified easily at the various functions which it was his duty to attend and it was a special pleasure to hand it over to Mr. John Barlow



STONEHOUSE

TOWN COUNCIL

From then on Stonehouse used the rose as a symbol.

Next page some examples

Stonehouse County School were using it on jackets in the 1950s



Park Infant and Junior Schools adopted it again in approx 1990

Maidenhill School From "Rock" to "Rose"

The school's motto was "Founded upon a Rock".



In around 1990 Maidenhill adopted as its logo the Tudor rose which forms the crest of the Stonehouse town arms.

A new uniform was introduced in 1991/1992 featuring a blue jumper with the rose logo.

The rose is the emblem of the town and the use of the rose symbolises Maidenhill's pride in being an important part of the Stonehouse Community.

The new uniform introduced in 2011 features a rose on the blazer pocket



1984 Town sign created on the Green. Sponsored by the Women's Institute. Painted by Rob West

THE STONEHOUSE SIGN

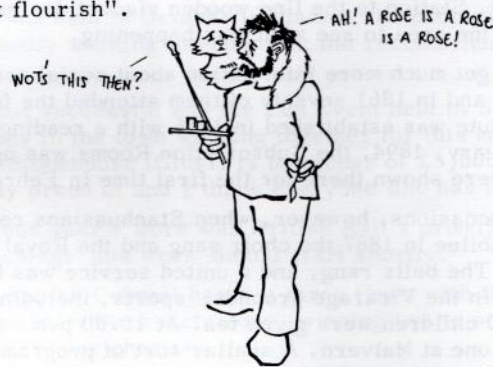
As usual, I was sitting in my office one day the previous year, trying to drum up some enthusiasm for starting a particularly mundane job, an orange cat on my lap - defying me to make a move and disturb her, when the phone rang making us both jump and bringing us sharply back to reality.

I was extremely flattered when I was asked to supply a pictorial sign for the village green on behalf of the local Women's Institute. It's all too rare these days that one is given the chance of an interesting job which requires a certain amount of forethought and research and I should like to thank the W.I. for giving me the commission and such a free hand to carry it out. My fears that insufficient funds would be available for an undertaking like this were relieved, thanks to the conscientious efforts of the Parish Clerk who managed to persuade Whitbread's Brewery to donate the post and ironwork that formerly supported the sign at the Lamb Inn at Leonard Stanley. The cost of these materials can easily be prohibitive!

The lads who work for the Council fixed the post and the metal signboard was bought from the Brewery Artists' Department.

Various designs were duly submitted to the W.I. Committee for approval (a thought more daunting in prospect than actuality, being a lone chap with all those ladies!!) and the town badge was chosen for one side, and view of the church through the Nutshell Bridge on the other (a bit of artistic licence there but the swan can often be seen!!).

I'm often asked what the rose represents. It is, in fact, a motif which appears on several old buildings in the locality, including Stonehouse Court, it was adopted as town badge and features as centrepiece in the Council Chairman's Chain of Office. The motto means "It flourishes, It has flourished, May it flourish".



A thin drizzle didn't prevent a good turnout for the unveiling ceremony on 17th May and several members of the local press marked the occasion with photographs and even a video camera was produced to record the occasion for posterity.

The whole idea behind the exercise was for the W.I. to provide funds to give the village an attractive gift to mark Beautiful Britain Year 1983 and the W.I. Promotion Year 1984. I do hope you all find it so.

Rob West

Stonehouse News. The rose symbol was used on the Parish newsletter in 1985 and since.

2005 Symbol painted on wall at Town Hall. That painting has now gone.

