

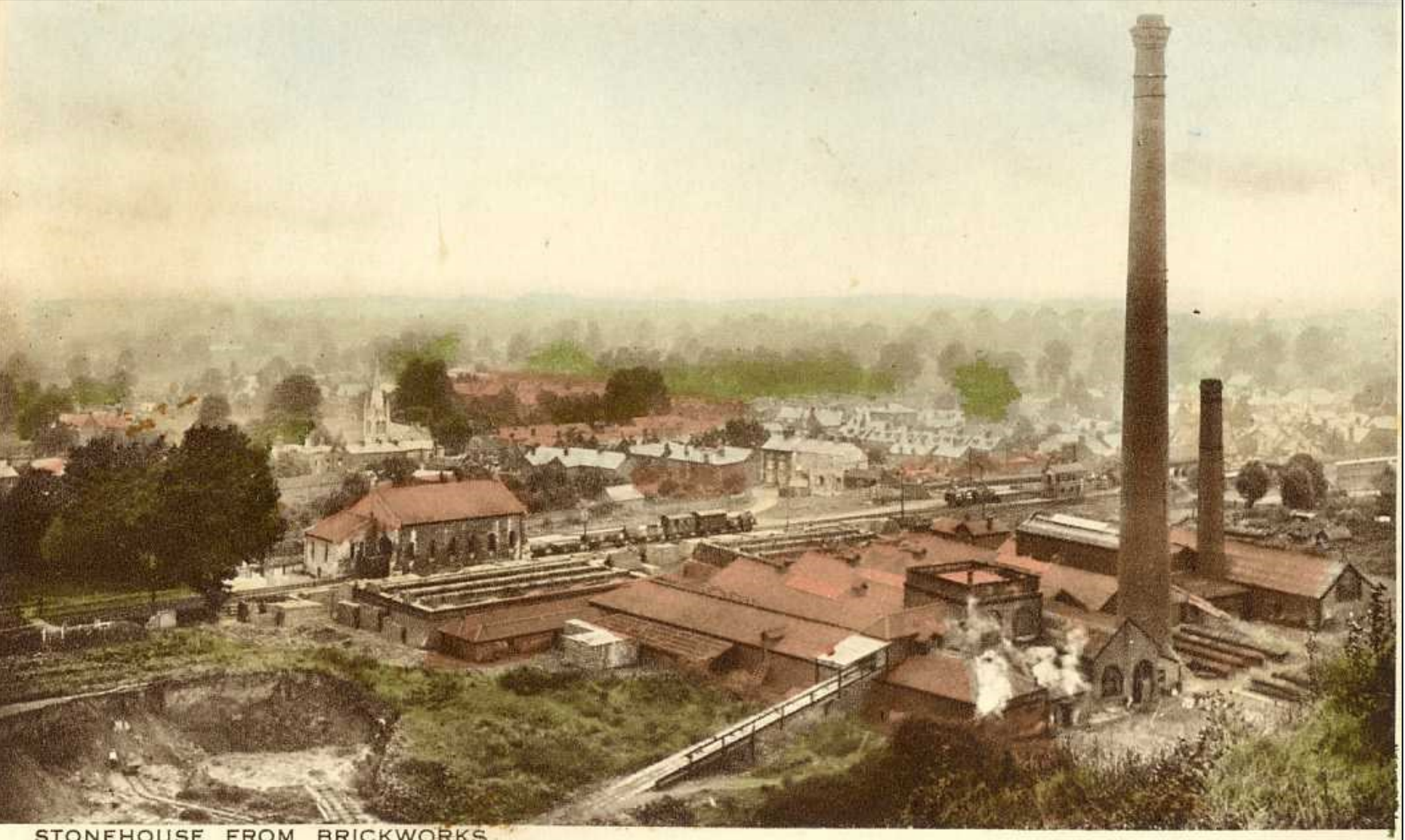
# Celebrating Stonehouse bricks

**The Stonehouse Brick & Tile Company, Limited.**

Manufacturers of Bricks, Tiles, Terra Cotta, &c., &c.

TELEGRAMS—"BRICKS, STONEHOUSE, GLOS."

**The Stonehouse Brick and Tile Company Ltd** was opened in 1891. Founding partner, Edward Jenner Davies, appointed Arthur Anderson as the first manager and he set up the works at the bottom of Doverow Hill, alongside the Great Western Railway line. The site covered 20 acres (8 hectares) of land and could produce more than two million bricks a year. Decorative tiles and ornaments were also produced.



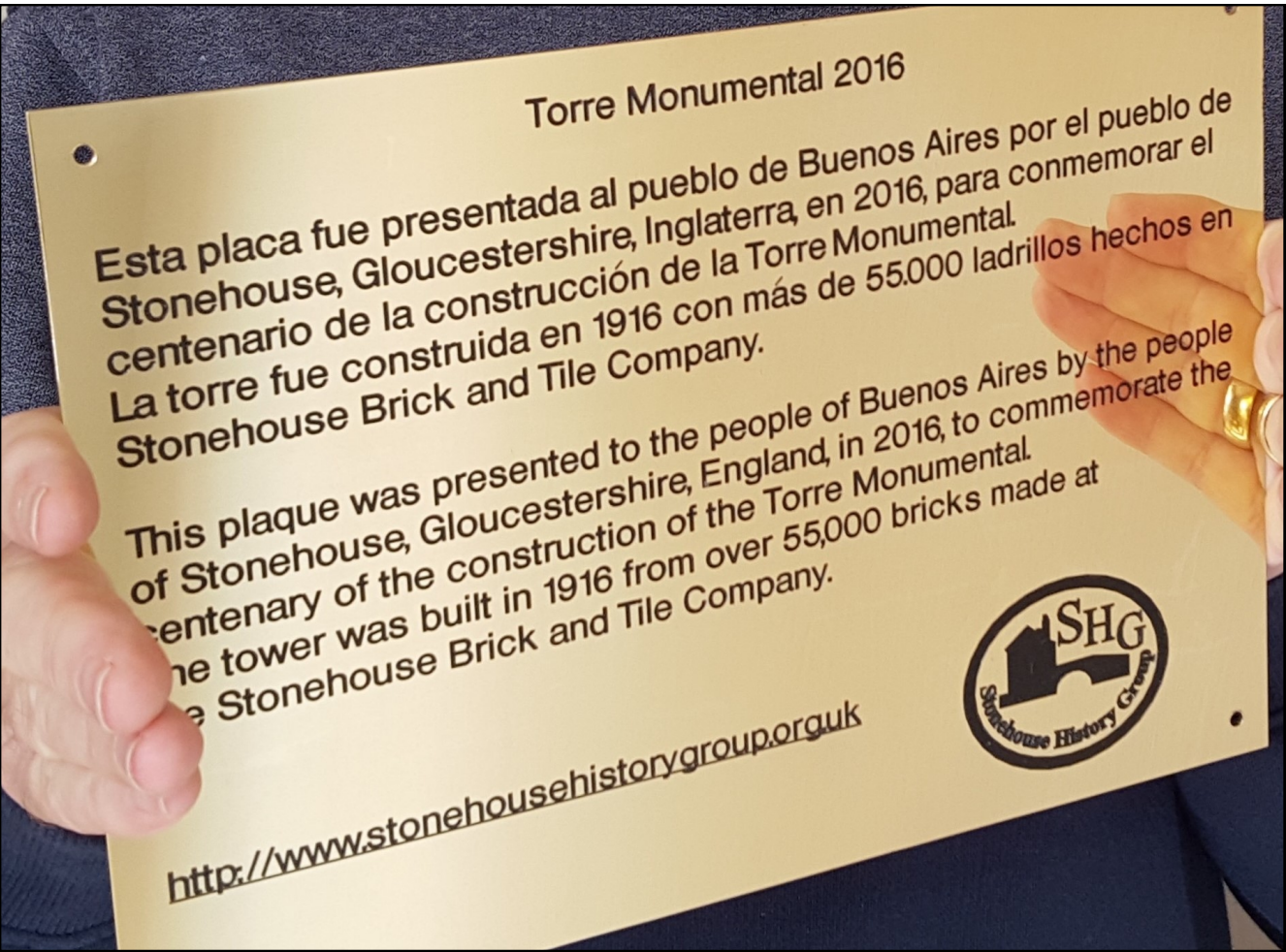
The Brickworks viewed from Doverow Hill c1930s

The bricks were used in the construction of houses, railway stations, churches, schools and public buildings, including Stonehouse Post Office. Bricks were also exported to countries such as Canada, South America and South Africa. The company closed in 1968 and Rosedale Housing Estate was built on the site.

## The English Clock Tower in Buenos Aires



In 1909, there was an offer by the British residents of Buenos Aires to erect a monument to commemorate the centenary of the Argentinian May Revolution of 1810. The clock tower was finished in 1916 with materials shipped from England, including the white Portland stone and the bricks from Stonehouse. As reported in the Gloucester Journal on August 10th 1912, thirteen railway wagons left Stonehouse Brick and Tile works siding, loaded with 55,000 two-inch red sand-faced facing bricks. They were taken to Newport docks where they were loaded onto the steam ship SS Woodford, bound for Buenos Aires. The inauguration of the building took place on May 24, 1916.



The plaque in Spanish and English

In 2016, Stonehouse History Group decided to create a brass plaque to commemorate the tower's centenary and send it to Buenos Aires to fix at the base of the tower - from the people of Stonehouse to the people of Buenos Aires. The plaque was made, complete with inscription and SHG logo.



The plaque inside the Tower

It took three months from posting for the plaque to arrive. In July 2017 the plaque was finally mounted on the inside wall of the Tower, near the information desk.



# Celebrating Stonehouse bricks

## The story continues...

In 2016, Darrell Webb arranged for a commemorative plaque to be made to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the English Tower (*Torre de los Ingleses*) in Buenos Aires. The Tower was built with bricks from the Stonehouse Brick & Tile Co. Ltd.

Darrell contacted John Hunter, the Chairman of the English residents in Buenos Aires, who arranged the receiving and mounting of the plaque.



John Hunter receives the plaque at the Tower.

## A brick returns home



Boris Johnson is presented with the brick.

In July 2018 Linda Webb received a message from John Hunter telling her that Boris Johnson had visited Buenos Aires in May 2018 in his capacity as UK Foreign Secretary. As part of his trip he visited the English Tower and was presented with a Stonehouse Brick & Tile Company brick in a presentation case.

We wondered what would happen to the brick. So we decided to email Boris Johnson and enquire about the

whereabouts of the brick. Mr Johnson and his assistant could not have been more helpful. They arranged for the brick to be transported from Buenos Aires to the Foreign Office in London. All we had to do was collect it.

Darrell's sons, Aaron and Ryan Webb, collected it from the Foreign Office in London. The brick is now displayed in Stonehouse Town Council offices in Queen's Road — not far from where it was made.



Aaron and Ryan Webb collect the brick.

## Visitors from Argentina



Lin Webb, John Hunter, Jim Dickson, Vicki Walker

In 2019, John and his wife decided to visit England and he contacted us to arrange a visit to Stonehouse. Lin Webb met them and brought them to our History Group meeting where they were made very welcome.

On the following day John visited the Town Hall to see the Stonehouse brick on display.

For the full story visit [stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk](http://stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk)



John at the Town Hall