

Communications

There had been a Post Office in different buildings in Stonehouse since the 1840s, which came to serve fourteen surrounding sub-offices.



It included the postal telegraph, and later a small telephone exchange. The exchange moved in 1932 to a building owned by Stonehouse builder Leo Blick. The first public telephone box,

made of cream concrete, was put into the High Street. It was replaced by a red box after 1935, and others were added to expand the service.



*Post Office opening
2nd November
1933.
Leo Blick
left of door.*

The General Post Office asked Leo to have a purpose-built Post Office on his land. He designed and funded the building himself, using local bricks, materials and workmen. He wanted Stonehouse to be proud of it.

The Post Office (left of entrance)



The new Post Office reflected the growing prosperity of Stonehouse and its district. It still looks much the same. Outside it had an automatic stamp machine, and a post box in the wall, sending letters straight into the sorting office.

The interior had high quality fittings, rooms for the Post Master and the Telegraph Boy, and a public telephone.

In a year, about 900,000 letters were coming in, and about 600,000 were going out.



The Sorting Office (right of entrance)

This well-equipped room improved efficiency. There was a labelled frame to hold the mail bags for the sub-offices.



The new Post Office was near the Stonehouse GWR station. Using the Cheltenham Flyer mail train, letters posted by 2.15pm could be delivered in London on the same day.

In 1933, people felt that the new Post Office opened a door to a growing range of worldwide services, and they were optimistic about the future.

