

# CNHSS Bulletin

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## **Gilbert A R Tomes, 1914-2008**

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### *Founder of New Addington firm Twentieth Century Electronics*

The history of Croydon's industries is marked by a series of remarkable men who, as individuals, combined technological expertise with entrepreneurial skills. Among these is William Stanley whose company developed, manufactured, and sold at home and abroad optical drawing and measuring instruments; Frederick George Creed whose invention of the teleprinter gave his firm in Croydon world-wide renown; and the family firm of Gowland who devised and manufactured optical and medical instruments. I suggest the addition of a further name to that list: Gilbert Tomes the founder of the firm of Twentieth Century Electronics at New Addington. The white building of that firm now called Centronic with its tower stands out in King Henry's Drive. The firm employed at its peak more than 350 people.

Gilbert Tomes died on 18 June 2008 at the age of 94. He was one of the last surviving electronic pioneers to have known personally John Logie Baird during the decade 1935 to 1945.

Born on March 26, 1914 in Dulwich, London, Gilbert Arthur Richard Tomes, as a baby was lovingly nicknamed 'Jumbo', and this would follow him to the end of his days. Interested in all things scientific, Tomes attended a technical course from 1933 to 1935 at the London Polytechnic, sponsored and organised by the British film industry. As part of the final year exam, students had to produce a documentary film. Having specialised in studio lighting he produced a film entitled 'Wheels' recording the work of a skilled wheelwright, making careful use of available light. When his documentary received a 'special mention', Captain Arthur G D West, the Technical Director of Baird Television and also a member of the Board of the College, congratulated him and invited him to attend an interview at Baird at Crystal Palace where they were looking for a studio lighting person for work with a new electronic television camera. However, when it came to the interview there was no mention of 'lighting' or for that matter the camera, but instead, he started work at Baird on 15 July 1935 in Dr Szegho's cathode ray tube research laboratory.

Quick to learn, Tomes became Szegho's assistant in 1936 and together they developed the first large screen television projector cathode ray

tubes. This was so successful that a subsidiary company, 'Cinema Television', was created.

Over the next three years, three incidents damaged the interests of the Baird Company.

The devastating Crystal Palace fire of November 1936 destroyed the Baird studios and laboratories. Gilbert Tomes was on night shift. As he approached the laboratories at the South end of the Crystal Palace site he saw smoke coming from the centre of the building, but as it was so far away he went straight to his bench and got on with his work. Suddenly it seemed that the whole building was alight. He and his colleagues removed potentially explosive items such as gas cylinders and salvaged their technical notes. Tomes retrieved the latest cathode-ray projection tube and also the office cat, which he handed over to a member of the ground staff. Despite the losses and serious damage to its premises the Baird Company issued a reassuring statement to the press saying that receiver production would be unaffected and the losses were covered by insurance. However, staff morale and research and development received a severe setback.

The second incident was the success in 1937 of the Marconi-Emi 405 line all-electronic system, after a competitive trial against the Baird system, in gaining the BBC contract for high definition transmissions from Alexandra Palace, but Baird Television was resilient and focused on producing high quality electronic television receivers.

The third and final blow came at the outbreak of war in 1939 when the cessation of television transmissions and consequent ending of sales of TV receiving sets forced the company into liquidation. Fortunately, the assets of the Baird Company were absorbed by the new subsidiary, Cinema Television with Captain West firmly at the helm. Although the Staff reduced from 400 to about 40, Szegho and Tomes remained in employment.

During the war years, Tomes applied, but was turned down, for military service due to his position in a reserved occupation. He was placed in charge of top-secret military projects at Cinema Television, including the design of a special photocell. This was the forerunner of the highly successful radar fuse, designed to detonate rocket projectiles within close proximity of enemy aircraft. When the photocell contract for the proximity fuse was completed, the firm received further contracts to produce cathode-ray tubes for radar.

Another phase of Tomes' life began in 1942 from his interest in beekeeping. While still working for Cinema Television, Tomes and associate Alex Tidmarsh privately formed the basis of a small business to market the 'Tomes Queen Bee Detector.' A tiny spot of luminous paint placed on the back of a queen bee activated a mechanism when she began to move, diverting her into a newly prepared hive. After a demonstration at London Zoo in 1944, it was hailed as a breakthrough and Press headlines read: 'Scientist finds the Lady' and 'Queen Detector and Divining Rod Spots the Queen', but at this stage it was only a hobby.

Three months after VE Day the nuclear age arrived with the staggering news that an atomic bomb had fallen on Hiroshima followed by another on Nagasaki with equally devastating results. Responding to the sudden and growing demand for Geiger-Muller tubes for the detection and measurement of ionizing radiation, Tomes resigned from Cinema Television and formed '20th Century Electronics'. At this point, John Logie Baird, no longer active in the main company, offered him a position, but he declined the offer. Baird, helpfully, had earlier advised Tomes to file as many patents as possible to "Dress the Shop Window" if he wished to set up on his own, a precept he certainly followed himself.

Tomes became sole owner of 20th Century Electronics when it became a limited company in 1949. Initially located at Sydenham, the company moved to a purpose-built factory in King Henry's Drive, New Addington in 1953. The company grew rapidly largely through its work for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) at Harwell and began to export products and knowledge around the world. By the late Sixties the workforce had grown to around 350. The original work of the company based primarily on its expertise in high vacuum technology, was strongly supplemented by the production of isotopes of boron used in neutron shields and detectors for which purpose a tower was built to house the isotope separation columns. In the Seventies the company was manufacturing neutron detectors for nuclear power stations worldwide and also for defence. A further development was the formation of Centronic Optical Systems Limited to satisfy the increasing demand for light measurement systems.

In 1968 the company received the coveted Queens Award for Industry in recognition of its outstanding contribution to technology. In 1978 the company began trading under the new name Centronic, derived from the original name of the company.

In 1982 a small public limited company, 'First Castle' wanted to expand, using Centronic as the flagship of its operation and this saw the end of Gilbert Tomes' business links with the company that he had created. The subsequent history of the firm is outside the scope of this article, but I would just say that in 1986 First Castle and its subsidiaries were taken over by Morgan Crucible and in 2000 Centronic was the subject of a management buyout and continues to flourish. Gilbert Tomes's official connections had come to an end by then but he attended the Golden Jubilee of Centronic in 1995.

Throughout his life, Gilbert fought for good causes and had been an active member of the Toc-h and Rotary since the Nineteen Fifties. He established an open-air theatre at Hill Barn at Sanderstead which was his home from 1955 to 1961. From the Fifties until the late Nineties he made good use of his talent for portrait painting and undeterred by limited sight was still making and editing films a few months before he died. His recent documentaries include the Swans of Broadwater, Squirrels and London Parakeets. Despite requiring to sit within about a foot of his new Plasma screen, he was impressed by the improvement in definition gained with the HDTV broadcast standard. He was a keen cook and often prepared the main meal for himself and his wife Mary. Over the last ten years or so, the deterioration of his eyesight accelerated due to macular degeneration. However, it seemed that nothing could stop his amazing energy.

Gilbert Tomes is survived by his wife Mary Tomes, whom he married in 1939 and their son and daughter Richard and Barbara and their families.

Gilbert Tomes was outstanding among the individual entrepreneurs who have made Croydon a centre of technological excellence and contributed greatly to its economic and industrial life.

**Geoffrey Myers**

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## **Mrs Yvonne Cheetham's memories of Croydon**

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Mrs Cheetham is one of our oldest members. She has recently moved to Cardiff to be near her son and to live in sheltered accommodation. Maureen O'Sullivan and I interviewed her in her house in Chatsworth Road one afternoon in November 2008 a month or two before she moved.

Although she was born in Fulham, Mrs Cheetham has lived most of her life in Croydon. She went to school at Davidson's and then Old Palace. The 'wonderful' alteration at Old Palace since she attended it is that the great hall has been cleared. When she attended the school it was used as a gym.

She has lived at various addresses in Croydon. At Northway Road off Morland Road she was close to Davidson school as was her next address nearby in Lindfield Road where her parents moved because of the attraction of the house having a garage, a 'brand new thing' in those days. (Maureen O'Sullivan added that the O'Sullivan family had a refrigerator before the war, a most unusual possession then.) There were also tennis courts nearby. Neither road has much altered. The next move was to Walpole Road off Wellesley Road, where they lived during the war. There were four storey houses on one side and smaller three storey houses opposite, probably, she believes, dating from the 1850s. Now there are no houses. On both sides of Wellesley Road, then, were schools: Whitgift, which her son attended, and the girls' school on the opposite side.

There were still mansions in the vicinity, one on the site of Jury's Inn Hotel, which she remembers as being occupied by a Polish gentlemen who later moved to a house near Heathfield.

Mrs Cheetham left school at sixteen in 1938 and her first job was at Marshall and Snelgrove's department store by Oxford Street where she worked in the millenary department, not the one with the ordinary hats but the one selling expensive hats. From there she explored the neighbourhood, particularly along Wigmore Street where she attended concerts at the Wigmore Hall.

She did not lack entertainments as there were many cinemas in Croydon and she remembers in particular the Hippodrome in Crown Hill as this was the first cinema in Croydon to show talkies. She would go to the cinema with her mother and they were often had a drink in a pub or tea in one of the restaurants. Towards the rear of the present Marks and Spencer's, where there is now a multi-storey car park, was the Croydon Repertory Theatre. Mrs Cheetham learnt to dance and at some time to play the guitar at Coulsdon. There were also the shops. Grants department store was 'the special shop'.

When war broke out there came war work. Mrs Cheetham had to walk to Payne's, the chocolate factory, where she spent her time filling in forms.

Work began at 7.30am, and pay was docked if you arrived late, as she did once when she arrived a quarter of an hour late and threepence was deducted. During the air raids the family took deck chairs and sheltered in the basement of an unfinished house at the corner of Wellesley Road just north of the present HSBC bank. Sandbags were everywhere and because of the blackout you had to be careful where you stepped. She remembers one gentleman who carried a torch when he went out. It was surprising, she says, that there were not more accidents.

Her father came from Cheltenham and her mother from Great Malvern. She did not live in the town itself but north of the town in Great North Hill in a four-storey cottage, each storey consisting of only one room. Mrs Cheetham stayed there on occasions with her mother and saw a way of life different from her own. They had to carry lighted candles to go upstairs to the bedroom.

She met her future husband, John, through friends with Welsh connections. They married in Croydon during the war 'accidentally' as he, now a soldier, took the opportunity of three days' leave to name Friday as the date of the wedding. She married him on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in 1943 and celebrated the marriage underground in Zeeta's tea rooms where Wetherspoon's pub now is in George Street. They had to take their own food – nothing special: sandwiches, cake and such like – and wear ordinary clothes.

Since her marriage Mrs Cheetham has lived in Shirley and, for fifty years, in Chatsworth Road overlooking Park Hill. The garden once sloped down to the railway itself until safety regulations foreshortened the garden. The house had been built at the far end of the garden of a former mansion. Her husband became a senior civil servant in the National Audit Office and his job took him around the world. Mrs Cheetham has therefore travelled widely, with many trips to Australia and some to South Africa.

**Brian Lancaster**

**News and Notices** are at the end of Bulletin 134, sent out with this issue.

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## Obituaries

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### **Stella Madeline DAVIES [1927 – 2008]**

Stella Davies, a member since 1949, died on 9th February 2008 aged 81. She was the daughter of the late George Macdonald Davies [1885 - 1973], who had himself been a member of our Society from 1906 to the year of his death. G.M. Davies was a University Lecturer and Head of Department, and a noted author especially on the geology of the Dorset coast and on other geological topics. He served as our President for the years 1923 – 24, served as our Treasurer from 1932 to 1961; and was elected an Honorary Member in 1955.

Stella was less active as a member than her father as, although we catered well for those with geological interests, her own speciality, slugs and snails, was evidently a less popular one. However, she usually attended, at least, our Annual General Meetings, and our 'Best of the Year' inter-sectional meetings in November or December.

The following biographical details are based on notes supplied by her nephew Richard Davies:

Stella was born in Croydon on 9 January 1927, the daughter of George Macdonald Davies and his second wife Agnes Davies, née Grant-Ives. G.M. Davies' first wife had died, leaving a daughter Margaret, who survives. Stella's brother, the late John Grant Davies, Professor of Radio-Astronomy at Jodrell Bank, predeceased her. J.G. Davies' children Susan, Katherine and Richard survive. The family moved into 63 Beechwood Road, Sanderstead, in or about 1932, and Margaret and Stella remained there until 2005 when they both moved into the Sunrise Retirement Home at Purley.

She was educated at Croydon High School for Girls, at that time in its buildings at Wellesley Road, but during the war was evacuated to Bradden, Northamptonshire. She then studied natural sciences at Girton College, Cambridge, graduating MA. After a period working at the Natural History Museum, where she was Head of a Department specialising in worms, and appears to have worked also, before or after this, as a teacher. Later, and for many years, she worked at St. Margaret's School for children with cerebral palsy, at that time accommodated at Coombe House (now Geoffrey Harris House), being especially concerned with the pupils' physical needs. She also worked as a volunteer with the Winged

Fellowship Trust (now renamed Vitalise) which provides holidays for the disabled.

She had a strong interest in her family history, leaving amongst her papers a number of trees for different branches of the family. At one time she rode a motorcycle, but never drove a car. Her interests in natural history, and particularly her detailed and meticulous study of slugs, are well known. Her views on ecology were ahead of her time. She was, in the view of her family, 'unique and somewhat eccentric'. We are all the poorer for her passing.

The following is based on the tribute spoken at Stella's funeral at All Saints', Sanderstead, on 19<sup>th</sup> February:

Stella was a longstanding member of the two British societies devoted to the study of molluscs, the Malacological Society of London, and the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

She was an internationally renowned specialist in the biology of slugs. Her generally quiet demeanour would become animated and forthright when discussing her favourite animals, which she regularly brought to meetings to show the extent of variation that occurred in siblings. From meticulous observations of the slugs in her garden in Sanderstead, supported by long-term breeding experiments, she was able to demonstrate that one of our most common horticultural pests was actually an aggregate of three species, one of which she described as new to science, a conclusion recently supported by DNA techniques.

The results of this research were published as follows:

DAVIES, S.M., 1977, The *Arion hortensis* complex, with notes on *A. intermedius* Normand (Pulmonata: Arionidae.) *Journal of Conchology London* 29, 173 – 187.

DAVIES, S.M., 1979, Segregates of the *Arion hortensis* complex (Pulmonata: Arionidae) with the description of a new species *Arion owenii*. *Journal of Conchology London* 30, 123 – 128.

DAVIES, S.M., 1987, *Arion flagellus* Collinge and *A. lusitanicus* Mabilie in the British Isles: a morphological, biological and taxonomic investigation. *Journal of Conchology London* 32, 339 - 354.

The Society benefits under Stella's Will.

**Paul W Sowan**

## **Geoffrey Bernard [George] COLLINS [1920 - 2007]**

George Collins, born Geoffrey Bernard Collins in Chiswick on 21 February 1920, died on 8 December 2007. At the time of his death he held the record, amongst surviving members, for the longest continuous period of membership, having joined the Society in 1942. He attended Whitgift Middle School, then where the Whitgift Centre now stands but now renamed the Trinity School of John Whitgift and re-located to Shirley. He graduated BSc Honours in the general examination in 1940, having studied at Battersea Polytechnic (now the University of Surrey at Guildford.) His studies having been interrupted by World War II, he later sat and obtained a second BSc in chemistry in 1948.

By profession he was a chemist (Chartered Chemist, and Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry.) He worked at the Laboratory of the Government Chemist until offered early retirement. His interests within the Society were in its natural history sections, especially Entomology. He had a special interest in and knowledge of the Orthoptera (grasshoppers and crickets) and their development and the genetics of their colour forms. Some of the ideas for his recent papers started to take shape as far back as the 1940s, since when he reared annually British species of grasshopper, making meticulous notes and retaining material for future study. He was still rearing grasshoppers the summer before he died. He was also interested in beetles, bees, and wasps. He was an active member of the Botanical, Entomological and Ornithological Sections, often venturing out with his wife on ornithological excursions.

He served as a Director (Member of our Council) from 23 April 1980 to 27 April 1988, acted as a Library Assistant, and kept the Society's register of keyholders. His wife Pamela Frances Collins [1923 - 2006], an Honorary Member and former officer predeceased him. He is survived by his son Graham Collins, our Entomology Section Secretary, and a daughter Diana, and two grand-children, Florence and Henry.

His published research was as follows:

COLLINS, G.B., 1945, Some observations on macropterism in *Chorthippus parallelus* (Zett.) (Orthoptera: Acrididae.) *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 81, 179–182.

COLLINS, G.B., 1988, Cast skins of insects as subjects for microscopic study: a simple procedure for making slides. *Bulletin Amateur Entomologists' Society* 47, 173–174.

COLLINS, G.B., 1989, *Arhopalus rusticus* (L.) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) in South Croydon. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 125, page 250.

COLLINS, G.B., 1992, A specialised area of unknown function on the antennae of British grasshoppers (Orthoptera: Acrididae.) *Entomologist* 111, 195–200.

COLLINS, G.B., 1993, The pink colour-variety of the Large Marsh Grasshopper, *Stethophyma grossum*. *Bulletin Amateur Entomologists' Society* 52 161 - 163.

COLLINS, G.B., 2001, The nymphal stages of the Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus* (Thunberg) (Orthoptera: Acrididae.) *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* 13, 203 - 213.

COLLINS, G.B., 2003, The nymphal development of the Large Marsh Grasshopper, *Stethophyma grossum* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Orthoptera: Acrididae.) *Entomologist's Gazette* 54, 269 - 273.

COLLINS, G.B., 2006, Changes in antenna) segmentation during the nymphal development of British grasshoppers (Orthoptera: Acrididae.) *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* 19(4), 209 — 216.

**Paul W. Sowan and Graham A. Collins**

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## 100 Years Ago

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April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1909:

The President [James Edmund CLARK] read a paper on “The Meteor which appeared on the Evening of February 22nd.” The paper was illustrated by diagrams, and Mr. Clark had made elaborate calculations, and, in conjunction with Mr. W. F. Denning, the well-known Bristol astronomer, estimated the height of the meteor as fifty-four miles when first seen, and at forty-two miles at the time of disappearance in the south. Mr Clark also described the streak of light which lasted about 1½ to 1¾ hours. A full report of the appearance of the meteor is published in the ‘Proceedings’ of the British Astronomical Association for 1909.

*Proceedings of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society* (1910), 7(1), xx.

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## Electricity Distribution Feeder Pillar

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— *situated in Wandle Park, West Croydon*

Do you have any information? Situated in the centre of Wandle Park is a cast iron Electricity Distribution Feeder Pillar which it is thought would have had fuses inside it to distribute 415/240v for lighting and power in the adjacent area; these pillars are still a common sight standing on some street corners around the town. The pillar is rectangular, at the base measuring 25" wide x 19½" deep x 58" high. Up until 1966/7 when the River Wandle was diverted into a culvert it stood only a few feet away from the north side of the river's flint wall. About a year or so ago EDF engineers were carrying out mains repair work in Vicarage Road and were unable to give an answer as to what it was being used for; they were unable to trace it on the computer system they had or any cabling in the vicinity of it. A visual inspection of the pillar proved fruitless and their suggestion was to contact the Parks Department for information.

Apparently with the proposed regeneration of the Wandle Park the council's Greenspaces Development Officer had been trying to find out about its purpose and history, and the Senior Urban Design Officer envisages retaining the pillar in the regeneration proposal; they are very keen to find out exactly what it was used for, and would like to get an explanatory note placed either on or near the pillar.

From recent researches in Croydon's Local Studies and Archives the following has come to light:-

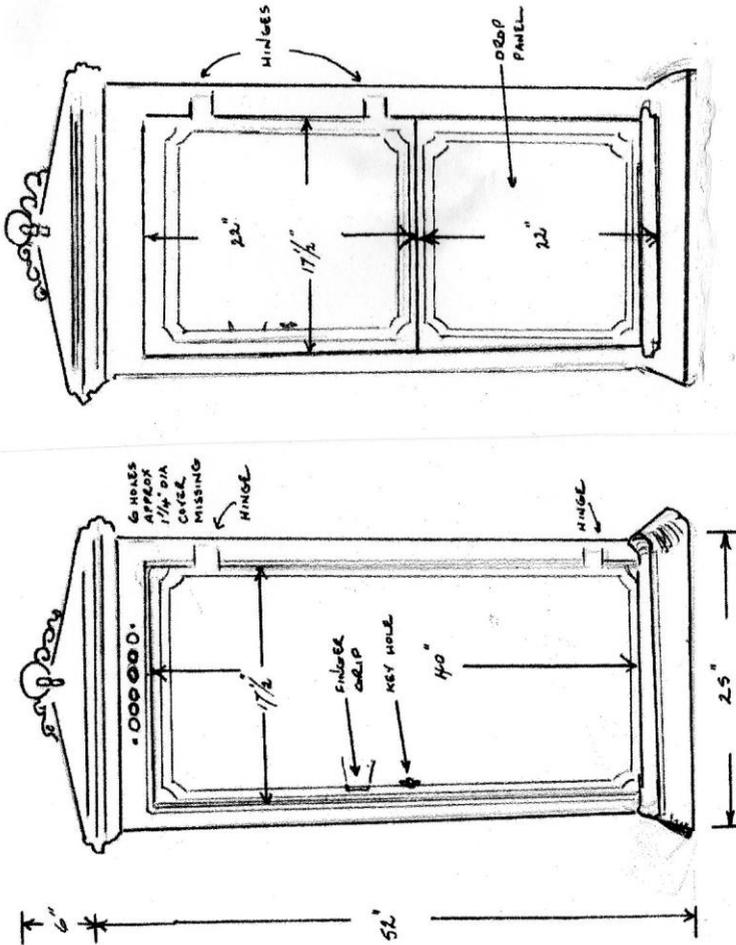
At a meeting of the Lighting and Electricity Committee held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1919 the Borough Electrical Engineer reported that an application for a supply of electricity to the works of Messrs. A. Vivian Mansell & Co.\* in Vicarage Road would require the running of a Direct Current main for which the applicants had been asked to contribute £350 towards the cost: an alternative being the installation of a motor generator capable of converting the existing supply to direct current. The applicants declined to pay anything towards the cost of the D.C. main, but offered to guarantee a minimum payment of £150 for 5 years.

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\* Mansells were Art Printers and Publishers occupying part of the former Paragon Works.

## Rough sketch of pillar

Front and back panels, one with full height door, other with half-height door and half-height drop panel.



At a meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1919 the Committee recommended the extensions of mains to Vicarage Road be carried out as follows:-

Cost of extension	£614
Guarantee	£150 for five years <sup>†</sup>
Three-way Conduit	£280

The recommendation went on “As the route followed by this cable is the one necessary for running feeders to the Waddon District, and as there are no spare ways of drawing in the cables, a three-way conduit will be laid and the proposed feeder to Vicarage Road drawn into one of the ways. This will leave two spare ways to draw cables in to supply the Waddon District at a later date should these be required”.

The Roads Committee were responsible for Recreation Grounds and at a meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 1919 under the heading “Wandle Park Recreation Ground – Electric Cable” it states that “The Committee agreed to the proposed laying of an electric cable through the Wandle Park Recreation Ground to connect with a conduit passing under the railway”.

Do any members know:

- 1) the manufacturer’s name, there not being any logo on it and the reference number cast at its base is not decipherable,
- 2) actual date of installation,
- 3) when the extension works to the Waddon District were eventually carried out,
- 4) when did it become redundant, and
- 5) why was it left standing in the centre of the park if no longer in use?

Any information sent to the writer at 96a Brighton Road or emailed to [rbrooker@talk21.com](mailto:rbrooker@talk21.com) would be greatly appreciated.

**Ron Brooker**

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<sup>†</sup> At a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1921 the Committee approved the proposal that the total period of the guarantee should be extended from 5 to 6 years.

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## A Man of some Importance

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On the South East wall of the chancel in Croydon Parish Church is a beautiful brass of a medieval priest that was originally in the floor before the fire of 1867. It commemorates GABRIEL SYLVESTER who died in 1512.

I do not know when and where he was born (but suspect Lincolnshire) and my research has discovered a distinguished Cambridge academic and priest.

In 1479-80 he became BA followed by MA in 1483-4 then was elected Fellow of Clare Hall (College) on 17 November 1489. In 1491-2 he gained his Bachelor of Divinity and in 1500 Doctor of Divinity.

On 12 June 1496 he was elected Master of Clare until 1506. In 1500-1 he became Acting Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University and in 1503 he became a Member of the Council of the Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Derby (and mother of King Henry VII). She established the Professorship of Divinity at Cambridge University in 1502 when the post was given to John Fisher, her confessor. (Incidentally, in 1563 it was held by John Whitgift.)

During his life Gabriel Sylvester held a number of pluralities including Rector of Folkingham, Lincs, (from 1502 until his death); Canon of Lichfield and Prebend of Weeford College in the Church of Lichfield (from 1506 until death); Canon of Stoke by Clare, Suffolk (1502 until death); and Canon of Chichester and Prebend of Colworth College (1598 until death).

He died in Croydon on 4 October 1512 making his Will on 29 September when he was "...sick in mind and body". What was he doing in Croydon? I do not know but guess he may well have been visiting Archbishop Warham in his manor house then called Croydon House (now, of course, Old Palace). In his Will he wishes to be buried "in the parish where I shall die unto the laws and customs of the same parish...I bequeath to the same church such mortuary as shall be lawfully required and all other debts ...I bequeath the same church 20 shillings".

Gabriel Sylvester's Will reveals an apparently wealthy man with distinguished friends and important connections. There are various

bequests to the poor of his various parishes and to the churches of vestments and money.

To Clare Hall he left three goblets with covers; to various friends he left horses (he had at least three) with accoutrements, gowns and doublets of luxury fabrics and fur, various bags, a lute, books, golden cups and a large number of gilt spoons. To one knight he left “a ring with a diamond which I had of him” and he was generous to his executors who he appeared to hold in affection. There is one woman mentioned to whom he leaves “my better tawny gown furred with badge and the hood” and “my best chamlet doublet”, Chamlet was material with wool and animal hair – usually goat – he had several of these.

One bequest I have been unable to track down: “I bequeath to every priest of my Lords chapel 11s 4d and to every secular of the chapel 3s 4d and to every child of the chapel 12d.” The obvious places are King’s College Chapel and Westminster Abbey but neither of these has a record of this.

The residue of his goods were to be disposed of by his three executors but half was to go to “priests specially at Clare Hall”.

I have more research to carry out on Gabriel Sylvester, for he exercises my brain considerably partly because of my ignorance of the idiom and customs of his day! However, it does, perhaps, seem appropriate for his final resting place to be among Archbishops.

**Sue Turnbull**

**Nunhead Cemetery's Annual Open Day – Saturday 16 May 2009  
11:00-17:00**

The Friends of Nunhead Cemetery are arranging a wide variety of events with something for everyone. Children will enjoy the face painting and the celebrated 'Bug Hunt'. A bodger will be on site and also the popular Birds of Prey. Choirs will be performing in the Chapel and throughout the day there will be guided tours of the chapel, crypt and cemetery. There will also be a well stocked refreshment tent and plant stall.

The cemetery is in Linden Grove, SE15 with Nunhead rail station nearby. Bus routes P12, 78, 343, 484.