

## Crispe Charity Apprentice

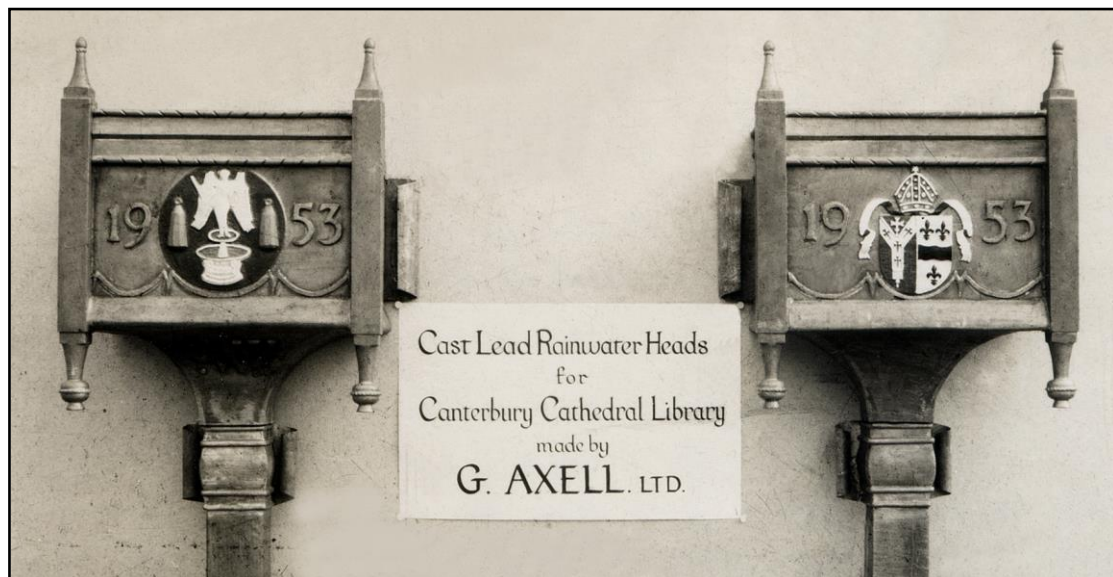
Reginald Cecil Sayer was baptised on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1907 and his parents were Henry John and Pricilla Ellen. He was the middle of 5 children and began at the Birchington Infant School in Albion Road in 1912. He moved up to the C. of E. Boys' Elementary School in Park Lane in c. 1915 and became a Chorister at All Saints Church when the Rev. H. A. Serres was Vicar and the Choir Mistress and Organist was Miss Lyons.

When he left school, with the help of the Crispe Charity, he was apprenticed (through the will of Anna Gertruy Crispe) to B. G. Osmotherly, Managing Director of the Operative Builders & Decorators Ltd of Birchington on March 17<sup>th</sup> 1922, aged 15. Mr B. Raven was Clerk to the Parish Council at this date.

Reg Sayer left Birchington in August 1928 when his apprenticeship was completed and entered the employment of Heating, Ventilating & Sanitary Engineers, Rochester, except for short periods, until June 1940, soon after the start of WW 2. At this point he was directed by the Ministry of Labour into the Aircraft Industry until 1945. He was then redirected to his old firm from 1945-1950. He was offered a Directorship but initially refused it and was then persuaded to accept it.

1950-1951 – He became a director of C. F. Hitches.

1952-1958 – He became General Foreman of G. Axell Ltd and during 1953 he made the lead rainwater heads for the new Canterbury Cathedral Library, which had been bombed during the war.



### Notes on reverse of above photo:

*“Designed by Mr John L. Denman F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A, the architect for the new Canterbury Cathedral Library.*

*The left crest - of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, as used by the Kent District Council for the Registration of Plumbers*

*The right head – Coat of Arms of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, Quartered and the Cathedral Coat of Arms.*

*“Overall height of the heads; 32 inches; width 22 inches; front to back 11¼ inches. Corner members are 2 inches square and the heads have a weir overflow in the corner members of 3½ inches from the top of the front panel.*

*The head with the Plumbers’ crest was a gift from the Kent District council, all the work on this head was voluntarily executed by R. C. Sayer, A.M.I.P., R.P. with the help of the staff employed by G. Axell, who also gave support with the use of the equipment and work shop.”*

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1959-1972 he became Civilian Instructor to H. M. Borstal.

1946-1962 – He was the Sessional Teacher at the Medway Technical Colleges.

1951-1962 – He was Honorary Secretary of the Kent Council of Registered Plumbers Association.

1966-1970 – He was President of the Kent Council of Registered Plumbers Association.

1970-1977 – He became President of the Kent District Council’s Institute of Plumbing.

1963 - He was awarded the ‘Sayer Medallion’, named after himself and of which he was the first recipient. The Award was for ‘outstanding service to the Council rendered by and to its members’. It carried with it Life Membership of the Council.

Reg Sayer then asked if there were any changes in the Crispe Charity awards – they have remained the same since the beginning of the Charity. His next question was “Are there any records of the Birchington Old Scholars’ & Sports Club?” This no longer existed after the Second World War. The records of the club appear to have been lost. Reg mentioned that the Club had been founded by Mr Charles Laming of “The Moorings”, Albion Road. He was the headmaster of the Boys’ School for many years.

Reg described the badge of the club – The setting sun with rays over the sea, plus a man in a boat fishing. He thought the colours of the badge were blue and gold and the motto of the Club was “**Rise & shine – we toil to win**”

He wondered if there were any records relating to the Club hut (later rented by the Birchington silver Band for many years and now owned by George Brazil, who lives next door across the footpath. Reg remembered that the hut was built by volunteer labour and subscriptions (for materials) and was constructed under the supervision of the O.B.D. Directors (Bentley Osmotherly, Stump Tumber and Ashton Pemble). Reg thought that the land had been given by Major P.H.G. Powell-Cotton.