A secret research arm of Rediffusion has reformed as Re-Rediffusion – and they want your voices.

Radio and TV signal distribution company Rediffusion, fondly remembered by many, introduced its first cable radio service in Hull in 1929, offering customers frustrated with the difficulties of tuning into weak radio broadcasts another option. However by 1984, the company and service was no longer.

Llast Monday, KCOM engineers reported digging up a strange crate during routine work near ASDA, Beverley Road, where Rediffusion’s Yorkshire Head Office was originally located. It was confirmed that the crate bore the Land of Green Ginger mark as well as another logo, which was identified through social media as the Rediffusion Star.

After removing the crate from Beverley Road, the Green Ginger Fellowship – the group investigating these mysterious crates - opened it and reported finding a machine in a number of pieces. They appealed for any ex-Rediffusion employees to help them work out what it could be for.

Janis Robinson, who worked for the company for five years, then contacted the Fellowship to confirm existence of a secret research group. A number of other people then came forward to further confirm this, with one even stating he had a notebook left by his grandfather - inscribed with the initials ‘*PV*’ - and full of diagrams of machinery similar to those discovered by the Fellowship. Seemingly the function of this apparatus was to capture or “extract” people’s voices, for purposes as yet unclear.

Following a successful call-out for a missing integral part – being used as a vase in a house near Pickering Park – enthusiastic followers of this story have decided to try and recreate this work. All pieces have now been passed over to the newly-formed group Re-Rediffusion, who will now embark on voice collection across the city.

James Crumpton, part of the newly-reformed Re-Rediffusion, commented:

‘We’re delighted - it’s an honour to be carrying on the work our relatives started.

‘I’ve had the notebook since my granddad died, but assumed ‘PV’ was someone’s initials – I didn’t even consider it might be a secret project.

‘Now the missing part has been found, we’re just looking forward to getting to grips with how the machine works and collecting as many Hull-based voices as possible, maybe even working towards building a ‘super voice’.’

Tally Fisher of the Green Ginger Fellowship said:

‘We’ll be working closely with Re-Rediffusion over the coming months.

‘We’re not really used to giving up part of our investigation to someone else, but we’re absolutely confident the equipment is in the right hands.’

If you’d like to have your voice documented, please contact the Green Ginger Fellowship on Facebook @greengingerfellowship, who’ll pass the request on to Re-Rediffusion. Current dates for voice collection are between July 12 – 16 and September 6 – 9.