

- 14 Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS)** The Old Chapel, The Row. This was Elham's Fire Station during WW2.
- 15 Frederick Boughton** Oak Cottage, The Row. Fred became a member of the Auxiliary Unit mentioned in 11 & 13 overleaf. As WW2 progressed he joined the services in the Royal Engineers.
- 16 Albert Clout** West End House, The Row. WW2 saw Albert's life change from shop assistant to an army service man. Fortunately Albert survived hostilities.
- 17 War Memorial** Erected in the 1920's, like many war memorials it became a focal point for families to remember friends and loved ones lost many miles away.
- 18 Frederick Cork** 4 Cherry Gardens. Fred served in the Royal Navy during both World Wars. Sadly he was killed when his vessel hit a sea mine.
- 19 William Watson** 6 Cherry Gardens. During WW2 Bill was a member of the AFS and National Fire Service (NFS), and had a very close call with a Nazi bomb.
- 20 Les Ames** Fairfield Cottage, High Street. Les temporarily swapped his famous cricketering career for service in the RAF.
- 21 Frank Southern** 2 Brickfield Cottages, Park Lane. Frank was originally a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service. He then enlisted in the army and sadly died aged 29 during the Italian campaign of 1944.

- 22 Training Ship (TS) Barham** The original village hall was the base for the Elham Sea Cadets.
- 23 Village Hall** (Saturday 10th May 11:00—17:00 Only) An exhibition in the Peggy Pike room includes additional memorials to the service personnel who served during WW2.



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**ELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY (EHS)
SELF GUIDED VE80 WALKING TOUR
3RD MAY UNTIL 10TH MAY 2025**



Service men enjoy a cup of tea provided by Mrs. Phyllis Biddolph, Park Gate, Elham

Welcome to this walking tour leaflet which will guide you to information plaques highlighting the people and places in Elham that were affected by the events of WW2.

The EHS has been researching and recording the Service Records of the people from this parish to get a better understanding of where they went and what they did. Unfortunately a lot of records are still not easily available, however using the Parish Magazine, family interviews and other research material a better picture of their service life has been put together.

On Saturday the 10th May 2025 (11:00—17:00) you will be able to see more of this information and family items in the exhibition at Elham Village Hall.

This is a self guided walk. By using this leaflet you agree to be responsible for your own safety and that the EHS cannot be held liable for any loss or injury arising from the use of this information

- 1 The **War Shrine**, is within St. Mary's Church in the Square.
The area opposite contains a Roll of Honour for all those killed during both World Wars.
- 2 **Rev. Isaac Williams** The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Lane. Rev. Williams came to Elham with his wife Emily in 1935. He founded the Parish Magazine in 1938 which proved a valuable resource for parishioners during WW2.
- 3 **John Newing** Church Cottage, Vicarage Lane. John was born in Bladbean in 1926 and attended Elham school. During WW2 he was a member of Elham's Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS).
- 4 **James Peary & Harry Baldock** Cemetery, Vicarage Lane. You will find their distinctive Commonwealth War Graves : in the cemetery. James was a gunner on the railway mounted guns. Harry was a corporal in the RAF.
- 5 **Audrey Hepburn** Five Bells, Duck Street. Audrey came to Elham in 1936, with her mother Baroness Van Heemstra. They lodged with Mrs. Butcher at Five Bells.
- 6 **Leonard Murray** 2, St. Mary's Cottages, Duck Street. In 1937 Leonard joined the Royal Navy as a marine . After the war he settled in Elham working at Water Farm.
- 7 **Miss Ruth Biron** The Cottage, Cock Lane. Ruth had been a volunteer nurse in WW1 and was a tremendous fundraiser during WW2.

SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR DETAILING PEOPLE AND PLACES IN ELHAM DURING WW2



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- 8 **Donald File** The King's Arms, The Square.
At the time of the 1939 Register, Donald was living with his brother who was the manager at the King's Arms. Sadly Donald died aged 28 in 1944 whilst serving in Burma.
- 9 **Smith Family** King Post, St. Mary's Road.
Good communications during wartime are essential and the Post Master, Edward Smith together with his family played an important part. In 1939 Edward was also the chairman of Elham Parish Council.
- 10 **Raymond Castle** The Knoll, Canterbury Road. Raymond was serving in the Royal Navy on HMS Exeter when it was sunk by torpedo.
- 11 **William Benefield** 2 Villa Nova, Canterbury Road. William was a member of the Auxiliary Unit. These Units were a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers prepared to be Britain's last ditch line of defence during WW2. They operated in a network of cells from hidden underground bases (OB's) around the UK.
- 12 **Dr. Conrad Hunter-Smith** Aykley House, Old Road. Conrad became Elham's GP following his predecessor's move back to Ireland in 1939.
- 13 **Frederick Sturme**y South Cottage, Old Road. Fred was also a member of the Elham Patrol of the Auxiliary Unit. As Huntsman for the Elham Hunt his knowledge of the countryside was invaluable when determining the locations for the secret underground operational bases (OB's).