

The Wireless & Elham Timeline



Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) became fascinated with the discovery by German physicist Heinrich Rudolf Hertz of “invisible waves” generated by electromagnetic interactions. Marconi built his own wave-generating equipment at his family’s estate and was soon sending signals to locations a mile away. After failing to interest the Italian government in his work, Marconi decided to try his luck in London.

1894



On April 14, 1912 RMS Titanic struck an iceberg, its Marconi operator was able to summon RMS Carpathia to the scene to pick up 700 survivors.

1912

1909

Marconi shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with the German physicist Karl F. Braun, the inventor of the cathode ray tube. Marconi’s accolades were not without controversy: many other men had claims (some dubious, some not) to the “Father of Radio” title.

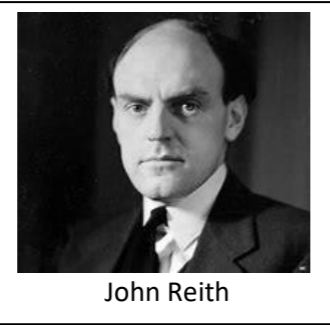


1914 - 1918

Civilian radio activities during World War One were suspended, as the radio industry was taken over by the government. Numerous military applications were developed, including direct communication with aircraft.
Troops in the square at Elham



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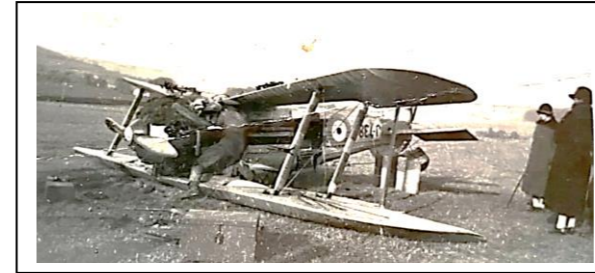
John Reith

The Folkestone to Canterbury, via Elham bus service starts.
On the 18th October the British Broadcasting Co.Ltd is formed.

1st Nov Broadcasting Licence of 10 shillings is introduced.
14th November First daily transmission from 2LO in London.
15th November daily transmission broadcast from Birmingham & Manchester.

14th Dec John Reith made General Manager
24th Dec First Radio play "Danger"

1922



1st Jan the British Broadcasting Corporation formed.
10th Feb an RAF plane crashed in a field near Elham Station.

13th Aug first BBC Prom from Queen's Hall

11th Nov first experimental radio broadcast to the Empire from Chelmsford.

1927

1924

Keeler's Mansion had its plaster removed. Later to become the Abbot's Fireside

5th Feb First Greenwich Time Signal transmitted.

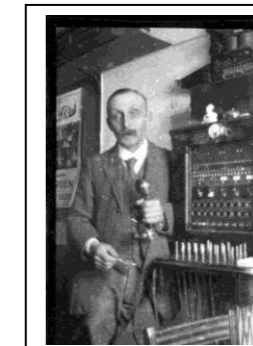
17th Feb First Big Ben daily time signal



1929

The Listener first published.
The telephone service came to Elham. By the following year there were 29 subscribers

Edward Smith at the switchboard in King Post, The Square Elham



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22nd Aug First experimental TV broadcast.
 25th Dec First Empire Christmas Day programme and message from King George V.
Hounds were exercised in Elham High Street.
Most of Elham had yet to have electricity installed, so people would go to Tom Goatman's shop at Monk's Cottage to get the accumulators (batteries) for their wireless sets recharged.

1932



The Battle of Britain is fought in the skies over Elham. Mary Smith records the events in her diary. The cottages at the south end of the square are demolished.
 The BBC record events from the battlefields for later transmission.

1940



1941

The Belgian Service began the "V" campaign, exhorting listeners to adopt the V-sign as a rallying emblem. Soon the whole of the European Service had joined in, and with them audiences across the Continent. Placards and posters and chalked Vs appeared everywhere. The morse code for V - three dots and a dash - was replicated by the opening bars of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*. It soon became the European Service's call sign and interval sign. Prime Minister Churchill made the sign his trademark.
Elham Registration District abolished and incorporated into Folkestone Registration District.

1939

Hitler invades Poland and war with Germany declared. 3rd Sept Chamberlain & King George V address the country via the wireless.
The Abbot's Fireside is opened and blackout material is put up at the Methodist Church windows. Audrey Hepburn (Ruston), who has been living in Elham since 1936, leaves for home in Holland.
 BBC TV Service closed down.



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29 Jan 1942 Desert Island Discs first broadcast
 22nd Mar First daily news bulletin transmitted in morse code for the Resistance in Europe.
 11th Jul 1943 Broadcast for clandestine European Press began.
 6th Jun 1944 D-Day War Report broadcast.
 7th Jun Allied Expeditionary Forces programme began
 30th Jun Flying-bomb hits Bush House.

1942- 1944



4th Mar Housewives Choice first broadcast.
 24th Mar Letter from America first broadcast.
 7th Jun TV Service restarted on 405 lines.
 29th Sept Third Programme began. This was shortly followed by From Our Own Correspondent, Woman's Hour, Dick Barton & Down Your Way radio programmes.

1946



1945

8th May VE Day broadcast by Churchill & King George VI.
 29th July Regional broadcasts resumed and the Light Programme started.
 1st Aug Family Favourites first broadcast.
 15 Aug VJ-Day broadcast by Attlee & King George VI.



1947

2nd Jan Much Binding in the Marsh first broadcast.
 9th Feb Home Service and Light Programme closed early due to the fuel crisis. This was quickly followed by the Third Programme and Television Service.



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During this period many favourite programmes started including: Top of the Form, Any Questions, Book at Bedtime, Billy Cotton Bandshow, Listen with Mother, Life with the Lyons, The Archers, Crazy People, which later became The Goon Show.

1948 - 1951



The BBC continued the development of its TV service. 22nd Jul BBC engineers receive the Queen's Award to Industry for work on advanced colour TV standards.

Radio Kent morning show broadcast from Elham to celebrate the Elham Festival.

27th June 1986 BBC Any Questions was broadcast from the old Elham Village Hall as part of the same festival.

1968 - 1986

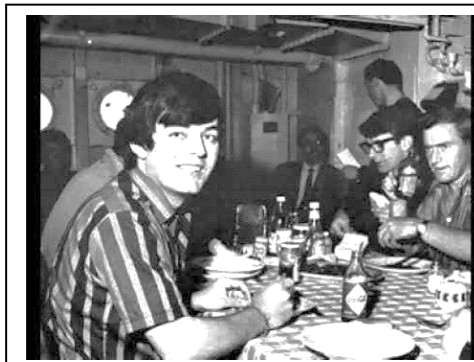
1952 - 1967

During this period the BBC developed its TV Service.

Pirate Radio Stations operating in coastal waters and further afield, together with public pressure soon forced the government to change the BBC programme appeal. On the 30th Sept Radio 1 started with Tony Blackburn, a former pirate radio DJ. The old BBC networks were renamed Radios 1, 2, 3 & 4.

1989

3rd September Derek Jameson's Radio 2 Breakfast programme was broadcast live from Elham. Various people were interviewed around the village including, Derek Boughton as shown here, Mary Smith and many others.



Roger Ames, pictured here at the rear of Cherry Gardens, was the drummer in The Sundowners. They had a big hit in the 60's with "House of the Rising Sun".



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20 December, Tim Berners-Lee published the first web site and the World Wide Web was born. His site provided an explanation of what the World Wide Web was, and how people could use a browser and set up a web server, as well as how to get started with your own website.

1990



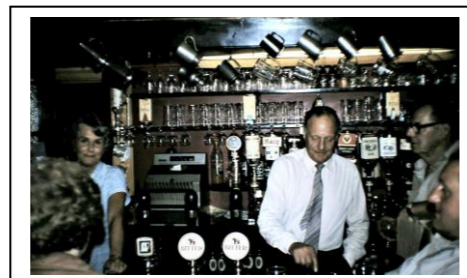
BT Launch BT Internet a "Dial-up Internet access" service over existing telephone lines.
 The BBC begin test broadcasts for Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) services in 1995.
 The Dot Com Era was with us and the "web" was expanded to include media content, including content from the BBC and other sources.
 The way people listened to radio programmes was changing dramatically. Although most new ways continue to use "wireless" connections in the form of WiFi.

1994 - 2000



1992

Elham resident and BBC producer Michael Hayes was often seen in Elham with his trusty BBC tape recorder. His night time World Service programme included "A Year in the Country" where he spoke about life in the Kent countryside. The broadcasts also included interviews with local people, many of whom were recorded while having a drink (or two) in The King's Arms, Elham.



2019

BBC Radio Kent visit Elham. 19th July, the Dominic King show interviewed Andree Sladden, Derek Boughton and Bryan Badham during the Elham Historical Society's event to mark what would have been Audrey Hepburn's 90th Birthday.

