



## EULOGY FOR ELWYN

Morning and night, day after day, every day of the year for eighteen years, Elwyn Lewis has been the popular landlord of "The Red Horse, your village pub". Now he has left and this gives me a chance to pay tribute to his excellence as a publican, his charm as a man and his loyalty as a friend.

As a publican he kept an orderly house with a wide range of goods and services on offer from simple food to the most exotic liqueurs. The facilities were open to all and many a tired hiker, cyclist or driver have been refreshed on their journeys. He also gained the affection of a loyal band of local customers who enjoyed their tipples in his company and camaraderie. He is a gifted conversationalist and raconteur yet he would humour those who preferred silence for their book and a pint.

He was obviously interested in making the business pay, yet he always considered that the pub should be a hub of activity for the whole community. Early on, he encouraged the young footballers, he arranged team contests for darts, cribbage, Aunt Sally, and dominoes. Raft races, pram races and tug of war teams were each encouraged in their turn. He even 'Bungee' jumped with the best of them.

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He has arranged collections and support for various good causes such as Earl Haig's Fund, spastics and the blind. He has encouraged the young to support charity and has gained publicity by arranging for the vicar and the doctor to knock over his piles of coins. (Over the years his collections must have reached several thousand pounds).

Musical evenings and Karaoke nights have been organised and behind the bar he has assembled a row of reference books which were kept for elucidation or settlement of friendly discussions. His television set was available when there were football or racing highlights to show. His strong Welsh voice was often raised in praise or commiseration for his favourite team at Cardiff Arms Park.

All these activities were prompted by his concern that the young people of the district should be kept of the streets and out of the influence of the drug pusher.

His charm as a man springs from a wide experience of life - his childhood in a Welsh valley village, his dozen years in the Metropolitan Police and his three London pubs can only be hinted at here, but are all part of the web which is being woven around Elwyn. He can speak from first hand experience of all life's joys and sorrows.

He proves to be a loyal friend. His sympathy for the bereaved and his regular attendance at his friends' funerals show him to be a thoughtful and considerate man.

Behind all such men there is usually a woman and Elwyn has introduced us over the years to various help-mates who have provided good backup for the work he has had in hand. His mother, for many years was with us ministering to our needs in the kindest of ways. Presently he is being helped by Lynda Murray who brings her Mancunian touch to bear effectively on the many problems. With thanks, we wish her well.

Elwyn has been helped by a number of part-time staff, many of whom have remained firm friends after their need for work has ceased. Pauline Littlejohn, the most recent, will be sorely missed if the change of licensee makes her redundant.

Elwyn has now become a mature student at Brooke's Oxford University where he is studying law. He served us well and we now wish him well.

Thank you Elwyn for your eighteen inspirational years as licensee of the "Red Horse - the village pub".

J.G.E.