

## Cor Blimey, Dad!

'Aw, Cor Blimey', I'm stuck,' .....I can just see him now  
trapped in a taxi with the seat belt wrapped round him, somehow  
Now if he was Cockney that phrase would be uttered quite naturally  
but my Dad was a Brummie and this was his little idiosyncrasy  
Oh, and he was hopeless at spelling  
When we played 'I Spy...' he got some heckling

Alexander J Elkin was Brummie to the core  
who served his country in both Army and Navy in the Second World War  
He was discharged from the Navy, injured, when his ship was hit by a torpedo  
But the Army reckoned he was fit for Gibraltar, India and Borneo  
He was captured by the Vichy French but he survived to work on the Railways  
He was a family man, loving and giving..... always!

He must have been reliable because he worked on the Railways for thirty five years  
He was old school, with good values like most from these eras  
When he split up with my Mum and left home permanently, I hated it  
I was devastated, and more so, because I knew I was his favourite  
But he was always around and kept close to us and we felt his love  
He was 74 years old when he was sent for from above

But I have many great memories which I can now vividly recall  
Even if, now, I cannot remember them all  
We could travel around on the train because dad got concessions  
which meant we could visit places that otherwise would be out of the question  
And we had a caravan at Weston Super Mare  
which was a bit of a luxury and we all loved going there.

Dad liked a wee bet and now and then he got lucky  
One night after he'd he won at the dogs he wanted to surprise Mummy  
He divided his winnings into two separate 'wads'  
One larger bundle for him and another smaller lot  
When he took the bigger wad from his pocket he discovered too late  
that he'd given Mummy the wrong bundle and was left to rue his mistake

Dad was a great Union man and his hero was Tony Benn  
He never wanted any Prime Minister other than a Labour one in Number 10  
And he loved to tell us wonderfully imaginative stories -  
some of his tales were outrageous but absolutely glorious  
There was always much laughter and fun when Dad was around  
Oh, sometimes I wish I could turn the clock back to my old stomping ground.

I managed to see my Dad a week before he passed away  
I wasn't quite sure what was the right thing for me to say  
So, I simply lent over as he lay on his bed,  
He opened his eyes briefly when he heard what I said  
I said, 'I love you Dad'  
He said, 'I know that'

