



Title 36

Viscount Hanworth was a close friend for many years. Three weeks older than I was, he received the classical English education of a public school. At Trinity College, Cambridge he read engineering and law and achieved distinction in both, as Lt. Col. in the Royal Engineers and as Barrister (Inner Temple). In his free time he was devoted to colour photography at the highest amateur level, publishing two books. Married to Rosamund Parker in 1940, they gave me a home at their large house 'Folly Hill' in Ewhurst when I was a refugee. I spent many happy weekends there talking politics and engineering with David while helping him relaying the terrace. I helped Rosamund in other ways, and I therefore felt that I was able, to some degree, to return their generous friendship. As a liberal, David contributed greatly to the free-thinking crossbenches in the House of Lords. *Courtesy Viscountess Hanworth.*

Rosamond was married to the Viscount Hanworth, an officer in the Sappers, the engineering branch of the British Army. He served with the British Expeditionary Force in France during the 'phony war' and was evacuated through Dunkirk in 1940. By that time Rosamond had left Northern Command and was stationed in the South of England. During the war years (1939-1945) I did not see much of either Bridget or David and Rosamond, as travel by train was extremely difficult and I was living in London.

It was only after 1953, when David and Rosamond had moved to 'Folly Hill', a lovely large house overlooking extensive rural areas near Guildford, that our friendship really began. I had a car by then, belonging to the Milton Company, and I could easily drive to Folly Hill for the weekends, indeed a great pleasure. Folly Hill was by no means in good repair, and the terrace, consisting of great flagstones, needed much attention. The heavy flagstones had to be lifted, a two-man job for David and me, a new sand base had to be levelled underneath them, and they had then to be lifted back. A real back-breaking job, which occupied me for years, during which our friendship grew and grew. I also built a wall which the Hanworths called the 'Antonine Wall' after the Roman frontier barrier, built in AD 142 north of the famous Hadrian's Wall. 'My' wall was of large sandstone blocks which I cemented together, and I hope it too will last for centuries.

David, bald at an early age, had read engineering at Cambridge and after the war served in Hong Kong, where he was in charge of building the modern water supply system for the Colony. After that he was in the British Occupation Forces stationed in Germany. Rosamond, by then demobilised, accompanied him whenever possible, and their marriage was exemplary. Three children were born, a girl called Gilla, Stephen the heir to the title which he inherited on David's death, and Charles the youngest son. I have known them from early childhood, and all three are as good friends as their parents. In fact, Rosamond appointed me an 'honorary uncle'.

Stephen, Viscount Hanworth after David's death and until the Labour Government abolished hereditary titles in 1999, now Stephen Pollock, as bald as his father, is a brilliant mathematician at Queen Mary's College, part of London University. There he has achieved an international reputation, and he is often invited as a visiting professor to Austria and Poland. While at Sussex University he met Liza from Zimbabwe, a coloured student, and their marriage is as good as that of David and Rosamond's was. Liza had a most difficult job as a headmistress of a school in the East End of London with rough and even violent pupils and their difficult parents.

[Back to Synopsis](#)

To... Scientific Films in London - David and Rosamond's Friendship. Title 37.