

## David and Rosamond's Friendship... Title 37

David Hanworth was an engineer, whose knowledge and imagination never helped him to achieve the high position in industry for which he was qualified. He showed his real skill in his hobby, motor cars, particularly Jaguar models. In industry, and he worked for several companies including De Havilland, his great handicap was his lack of interest for the commercial aspects of engineering. During the many weekends when I enjoyed his company at Folly Hill, my most vivid memory is to see him working on his Jaguar, whichever model he owned at the time. He was able to rebuild complete sections of the body and even of the engine, if he considered this essential to the good looks and performance of his car. Later he spoke often in the House of Lords, but always from the 'Cross Benches', occupied by those who were neither Conservative nor Labour party member. I admired him greatly, not only for his political views which I shared.

When the children were grown up and married, Folly Hill became too large and David and Rosamond moved to a smaller house nearer to Guildford. It was then easier for him to catch a train to London to attend the sittings of the House of Lords, where he spoke about energy, education and the need for parliamentary reform in England. Politically, David was independent, and could thus say what he considered to be right and did not come under the supervision of either party boss, the so-called 'Whips'. David particularly deprecated the growth of 'adversarial politics.'

His liberal attitude taught me much and he continued what my father and Mr Oldershaw, my former tutor, had already shown me to be the right attitude to politics. In addition, Rosamond's warmth, humour and wisdom made their home a centre for all the growing family and for their many friends among which I was lucky enough to count myself. I was often lonely, and whenever I had a new girl friend, I asked, and was never refused, to bring her down to Folly Hill. Rosamond was invariably warm and hospitable, and I only learnt later if she thought any of them rather 'unsuitable', as she put it. My daughter Bar and her husband, Geoffrey Wells, were made equally welcome on their one, rare visit from Australia to England.

As it is not unusual for Members of the House of Lords and their wives to be invited to go to foreign countries, David and Rosamond went on one such visit to the Turkish part of Cyprus. Rosamond, by then a respected and highly qualified archaeologist, who had discovered, excavated and published about Roman antiquities in Surrey, was so impressed by Cyprus, that she decided to write a book about Cyprus antiquities for visitors to the Island. It was greatly admired and well reviewed. The close friendship of these two wonderful people will always be something for which I am deeply grateful.

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