

I was about 27 years old when I met Ann Aikman, then 20, and in due course we got married at Chelsea Registry Office in London on 12 November 1946. We met in the middle of the War when I was working during the day at Milton's and spent about three or four nights a week at the Fire Station near Sloane Square. At the Station there was always a telephonist on duty, also an unpaid volunteer like all firemen, but her title was of course Firewoman. It was Firewoman Elizabeth from Ilkley Moors in Yorkshire, who was for a time my best girl friend.

My best man friend during those days in the early 1940s was Christopher Forbes-Adam, later Sir Christopher (Baronet) then the Diplomatic Correspondent of the excellent *Yorkshire Post*. It was a strongly conservative newspaper which coincided with Christopher's views, but not always with mine. Politically I did not then, and do not now, agree with any political party, simply because my views are based on a very simple concept: 'Progress through science and technology to promote the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people'. The Scientific Temper in fact. As far as I know no political party has as yet adopted my programme and has therefore not been able to enlist me as a member. [Title 145]

Now, both Christopher and Elizabeth had a common friend Sim Cooper-Willis and her parents were the legal guardians of Ann Aikman. So, when there was a great party given by the Cooper-Willis, and they were one man short for their table, I was asked and met Ann Aikman. She had just finished at Sherbourne Girls School, a very good public girl school for young ladies, and her Guardians had advised Ann to spend some time at a 'Finishing School for Young Ladies' in Pont Street, Chelsea.

During the party I danced with Ann and asked her of course what she was doing during the war and what was her contribution towards victory. I must have sounded very conceited, pompous and bombastic, but I was genuinely interested what an intelligent, young and attractive girl was contributing. Her reply 'attending a finishing school' stunned me and I remember giving Ann a lecture that she could do far more for the country, join one of the Women's Auxiliary Services, like the ATS (The Auxiliary Territorial Service) of the Army. I had in mind the work which Bridget Jackson and her Adjutant Rosamond Hanworth were doing at the time. It was a few weeks later that either Christopher or Elizabeth told me that Ann had joined the ATS and was now in uniform at a training camp not far from London. I was of course much flattered and impressed and asked Ann for a date on her next leave in London. Perhaps I cooked her a meal from dried American eggs and we soon became good friends.