

MORGAN MAN



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Frank, Henry and Morgan with their father, Harry

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Morgan, Gwyneth Campbell James, Barbara Ward, Mary Ellis, Marjorie Campbell James



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Paris - June 1935



Morgan & Marjorie outside the Campbell James' home in Aberystwyth



Borth
1936



Marjorie's new car - Aber 1936

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Aberystwyth - August 1936



Aberystwyth - Easter 1935

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Barbara Ward, Morgan, Marjorie at Valsolda, the Campbell James' home in Caradoc Road, Aberystwyth, Easter 1935



Oxford 1935



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At Hyde Park Gate after the Ampleforth Ball, June 1935 - Morgan, Marjorie & Frank



Cader Idris, September 1935



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My mother, Marjorie Eluned Campbell Cookson (nee James) met Morgan in Cheltenham where they were both at school.

Marjorie was born in Aberystwyth in July 1914. Her father Thomas was a lecturer in Chemistry at the University and her mother, Nell, was a lecturer in Botany until her marriage and during the 1st World War. Thomas was Professor of Chemistry from 1921-1946. Nell died following stroke in 1934.

In later life Marjorie wrote about her schooldays in a notebook which she left to me. Here is an extract from that which includes how she met Morgan.

“Spring 1933. For the second year the prefects from the 2 Colleges met for a Ball. The first year it was held at Cheltenham Ladies College in the Princess Hall and the girls had to wear their ‘Simple Whites’. These were worn at any evening function held in College. This year the (Boys) College were the hosts and the girls were allowed to wear evening dresses of their choice as long as there were no bare backs.

Miss Robinson (in charge of St Austins) led her ex house pupils from the bus which brought them to Cheltenham College, into the main hall, rather like a mother duck and her following ducklings. There they were introduced to the Headmaster and his wife and inspected from the sidelines by the boys who were deciding whose cards they would like to sign. It was here that I met Morgan Man, the red headed son of an English banker who lived in Hamburg. We became good friends and continued our friendship right through his years at the Queens College, Oxford and mine at the National Training College for Domestic Science in London. I would be invited to the May Week Ball at Queens and to the Varsity Rugby match. The MP for Montgomeryshire at this time (1935-6) was Clement Davies. He and his wife had been students at UCW, Aberystwyth, at the same time as my parents and came to the Old Students Association Easter meetings. they lived at Meifod and had a house in Church Street, Kensington, quite near the NTCDS hostel in Linden Gardens, Notting Hill. Mary Ellis, who was a student at Kings College, Campden Hill, and I were often guests at the CD house, They had a daughter and 2 sons and Mary and I were often included in their London parties and Morgan, too, was invited as my partner.

In Linden Gardens there was a flat used for housewifery practice and this was sometimes used by students to entertain friends for tea - Morgan came occasionally. With parental permission one was allowed out for the weekend for special occasions. This meant that I could go to the May Week Balls at Queens. If the weather was good (it always seemed to be) Morgan took me on the river in a punt.

At the hostel students had to be in at 10pm and sign the book. It was possible to get an extension to midnight. Once - at a coming out Ball for Mary Clement Davies at the Dorchester Morgan took me back to Linden Gardens by taxi. I signed in and then went back out to return sometime later. I think one of my friends must have gone down to put the door on the latch so that I could get in!”

In July 1936 Marjorie gained her Diploma in Domestic Science and found a teaching post at Welshpool Grammar School. She does mention that Morgan visited her there and they drove home to Aberystwyth in her newly acquired car - a Morris 8 traveller, her pride and joy which she named Elizabeth.

After that they must have gone their separate ways and in September 1940 Marjorie married my father Edward Cookson. I was born in 1946 and my brother Peter in 1951. Marjorie died in 2016 at the age of 101 and a half!