

Ode to Invention

Who would have dreamt at the end of the war
what wonderful things we'd have in store?
In 1918, although unintended,
the radio circuit was invented.
In 1919 what do you know -
we then had short wave radio.
And at breakfast, what did we love most?
A cup of tea with pop up toast.
If your Tommy gun, invented in 1920,
went off for fun - we had Band Aid in plenty.
In 1923 cars on the road were a very rare sight,
but they still invented the traffic light!
Cinema goers were in seventh heaven
When the talkies arrived in 27.
Antibiotics in 28 -
sadly, for many, came too late.
But thanks to Fleming and penicillin
most of us can carry on living.
From 39 to 45
we were lucky to survive.
Who was to know when the war began
the evil that man would do to man?
1947 made parents happy
with the invention of the disposable nappy.
Health care was in a very bad state
till the NHS started in 48.
Hardly an invention, but nevertheless,
where would we be with no NHS?
1950s rock music would not have gone far
without the first electric guitar.
And with your transistor in 52
you could take your music along with you.
In 53, Watson and Crick they say,
discovered the secret to DNA
and there was colour TV in the USA.
If your heart was dicky in 59
the Pacemaker was invented just in time.
Sex had never been much fun
till the pill came along in 61.
And things were moving on apace
with Yuri Gagarin - first man in space.

In 67 you could have fun
eating your microwave dinner for one.
And then what joy in 69 -
man walked on the moon for the very first time.
That was also the year of Concorde's first flight,
and at that time its future looked bright.
In 73 we heard a new tone -
the ringing of the mobile phone.
No more having to sit in the hall,
waiting to get that longed for call.
Now you could get that call in a show
or anywhere else you happened to go.
In 78 the Browns got their wish -
a daughter conceived in a petri dish.
The CD player in 82
replaced vinyl records for all but a few.
In 1990 we won't forget
the invention of the internet.
Thanks to Timothy Berners-Lee,
the World Wide Web changed history.
In 91 we could go far,
thanks to satnav in the car.
In 98 the world had a thrill,
with the invention of the little blue pill.
In 2010 Steve Jobs made us glad,
with his invention of the Apple iPad.
Facebook too deserves a mention,
voted the most favourite invention.
100 years of history -
without these inventions where would we be?
And now it's 2022
With celebrations for me and you
Time for the Platinum Jubilee
70 years for her Majesty
Everyone here please give a cheer
For our wonderful queen in her Jubilee year.

Andrea Neidle