

Miss Winifred Leyshon (later, Dr) writes about her parents.

I was born at Chevington in Suffolk, where my parents went after they were married. We came to Wheatley when I was a year and a half old, in September 1891. My father was then twenty-nine years old and, in addition to being schoolmaster, he was also the organist (self-taught) and choir-master. He also held evening classes for young men who had left school. Alderman Tombs attended these classes for 16 years. They included Arithmetic, Physiography (*physical geography*), Gardening, Woodwork, and Botany. He used to do some land-measuring for the farmers - and he kept bees. He was an expert carpenter and he had much artistic ability.

Rhys Leyshon took a great interest in his pupils as individuals - and he inspired much affection. As a child, I idolised him and was sure there was no other person like him. My opinion did not change as I grew up.

We went for long walks together and discussed the Universe. I feel that I owe any intellectual success I may have had, entirely to his friendly discussions of all the work I afterwards undertook. He had a much better brain than I - and there seemed no subject that he could not master.

He was entirely without ambition for himself: I think he had too much sense of proportion. He was a profoundly convinced Christian: I did not discover how much this meant to him until I got into difficulties at college and he was so much disturbed by my intellectual doubts. These were fashionable among scientist students and I was infected for a time, but cured by him. I still think he was the wisest parent I ever met.

He was a very jolly person, too, and he was fond of teasing his friends. He played billiards, card games and bowls - all with extreme skill.

He did not take much part in public work until the First World War when he was Chairman of the Wheatley U.D.C. after Mr Welch, and until Mr Cullum took over. He was a staunch Conservative, but hated social injustice in any form.

My mother was devoted to him, and she did all she could to make things easier for him; he was never very strong physically and he died in 1926 at the early age of 64.