

Winifred Agnes Leyshon
(b. 26.2.1890 Wheatley, Oxfordshire)

Winifred Leyshon was one of the three female physicists at the Royal Free Hospital for Women who joined the HP A in 1943.

After graduating from Bedford College, London, she taught chemistry and Physics in a girls' school in Bristol for several years before joining Dr Mary Waller's department at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School as Physics Demonstrator. However, she had developed an interest in electronics and the following year she joined the war effort to become a technical assistant at the Royal Engineers Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich, where she worked on the development of a 50 metre short distance radio telephone. She was thus a true pioneer research worker in the radio field and this remained her research interest for life.

After a short period in Liverpool, school teaching and at the same time doing research on triode circuits at the University, she returned to the Physics Department at the Royal Free Hospital as senior demonstrator, at their request. She remained there until her retirement, eventually taking over from Doctor Waller as Senior Lecturer and Head of Department.

As an eloquent and lucid speaker she made an excellent teacher. She had a reputation for being extremely kind and patient with her students and junior colleagues. This reputation was shared by Mary Waller, who was her friend as well as colleague, and when Mary died before finishing her book, 'Chladni Figures', Dr Leyshon, with Doctor Bertha Taylor arranged and revised the text for publication posthumously.

Dr Leyshon is now 93 and retired in Warwickshire, but recently she wrote to the Institute of Physics renewing her subscription explaining that she still enjoyed reading the Bulletin even though she was no longer active.

1910 Bedford College, London B.Sc. 1st
1910 - 1917 Teacher in Bristol
1917 - 1918 Demonstrator, Royal Free Hospital Medical School
1918 - 1919 Technical Assistant R.E. Exp. Woolwich
1919 - 1920 Teacher Belvedere School, Liverpool - and research at Liverpool University
1920 - 1947 Senior Demonstrator, then Lecturer, Royal Free Hospital and
Medical School for Women
1947 - 1952 Head of Physics Department