

## Electrifying Women 5 Key Themes: Further Information

### COLLABORATION

#### FAMILIAL



For women engineers in the 19th century, one of the most common routes into the field was through family, for example, [Henrietta Vansittart \(1833-1883\)](#), a nautical engineer, who was introduced to engineering through her father James Lowe. She continued his work on the screw propeller after his death and registered patents for it in the UK and the USA. Find out more about her life on the Electrifying Women [blog](#).

Other examples to consider:

[Dorothee Pullinger](#), [Rachel Parsons](#), [Blanche Thornycroft](#).

#### SPOUSAL



For other women, marriage was a crucial entry point into engineering, for example, [Lady Katharine Parsons \(1859-1933\)](#) who collaborated with her husband Sir Charles Parsons. Lady Parsons assisted her husband with the running of the Parsons company, including attending tests for the steam turbine. She was one of the founders of the Women's Engineering Society in 1919 and was a lifelong advocate for women's rights. Learn more about a speech she gave on the subject [here](#).

Other examples to consider: [Lady Margaret Moir](#), [Alice Gordon](#).

### BETWEEN WOMEN

[The Women's Engineering Society \(WES\)](#) was founded through the collaboration of seven women in 1919. Find out more about it on our [blog](#) and at the IET archives' [online exhibition](#).

Lifelong collaborative partnerships were formed through it, such as between [Margaret Partridge](#) (pictured right) and [Margaret Rowbotham](#) (pictured left), who were business partners, lived together, and are buried together in Devon. Their apprentice [Beatrice Shilling](#) (pictured centre) went on to have a highly successful career as a mechanical engineer.

