

@electrifyingwmn
#electrifyingwomen



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Electrifying Women: Understanding the Long History of Women in Engineering

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What do engineers actually do?

- Suggestions?

What do engineers actually do?

- Plan
- Design
- Make
- Improve

Will you be an engineer?

- Only 12% of UK engineers are women
- Lower percentage than many countries!
- Should that put you off engineering?



So how long have women been engineers?

- Quite a long time!
- Women inventors in Victorian Britain– took out patents
- Opportunities arose in the First World War, 1914-18
- Women's Engineering Society founded in UK, 1919



Which of these were engineers?



Women engineers 100 years ago



Gertrude Entwisle:
Mechanical
engineer



Amy Johnson:
Aeroplane pilot &
ground engineer



Beatrice Shilling:
Mechanical and
electrical engineer



Verena Holmes:
Mechanical
engineer

1. Laura Annie Willson

- Born in Halifax in 1877. Child textile factory worker – later a suffragette.
- Married factory owner & became building engineer
- Helped found Women's Engineering Society in 1919

**WORKMEN'S
HOUSES.**

*Modern.
Attractive.
Durable.*

Can be built in
quantities of 48.



Price £400 each (Freehold).
ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

LAURA A. WILLSON, M.B.E., Jumps, Halifax.



2.Hilda Lyon

- Born in Market Weighton, East Yorkshire in 1896
- Mathematics student Cambridge University
- Worked on designing airships after World War 1
- Her 'Lyon shape' design applied to US submarines



3. Amy Johnson

- Born in Hull in 1903, University of Sheffield degree
- First woman to fly solo from UK to Australia
- Expert pilot employed by RAF early in World War 2



Activity

- Groups of 4-5 students
- Look at the pictures in your group
- Go back in time and imagine you are one of these:
 - Laura Annie Willson
 - Hilda Lyon
 - Amy Johnson

We have some questions – answer them in character.

Use your imagination!

Write answers on post-it notes and stick them on the pictures.

Questions

- Why do you want to be an engineer?
- What skills do you need for engineering ?
- What would you ideally like to invent or make?
- What challenges are there? How do you deal with them?
- How would you persuade a friend to be an engineer?

Share your responses with your group!

Keep in touch



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