



Dr Winifred Alice Melland Thompson 1898-1990

Winifred was born at Kniveton House, Derby Road in Ilkeston named after the village where both sets of grandparents were from, she had 3 brothers and 1 sister. She attended St Elphin's school in Darley Dale and then studied medicine at the Royal Free Hospital school for women in London graduating with a M.B.B.S. in 1922 after which she held resident posts there as Casualty officer and then in charge of obstetric and gynaecological units. She then went to Northampton General Hospital for 2 1/2 years before moving to Beeston where she lived and had her practice at Oban House. She was for many years the only woman Dr in Beeston. She also had a special connection with Florence Boot Hall dealing with the female students there. Friends and family enjoyed visiting the house, its gardens and tennis courts. During the war she helped neighbouring practices whose colleagues were on active service and she was often called out after air raids. Also during the war when petrol restrictions prevented trips into the country with her mother, she drove her car from the garage on to the lawn picnicked there with her mother and Scottie dogs and then returned the car to the garage. Soon after the NHS was set up she had to take on an assistant. She was an active member of the Medico Chirurgical Society, the Medical Women's Federation the University Women's Association, the local Conservative Club and the National Trust. (Obituary in BMJ) After more than 40 years as a Beeston GP she moved to live in Bramcote Drive in Beeston. She was tragically killed in a car accident aged 92 while crossing the road to post letters.

Beeston Civic Society is trying to save Oban House (above)- her home and practice base- and to raise awareness of Dr Thompson.

Any information or stories will be passed on.