

## BLODWYN ELEANOR JOYCE RIDING (née Roberts)

**Consultant Psychiatrist. Born 1925. Qualified MB Ch B (Liverpool) 1950, D.A (1959), DPM, MRCPsych (1973). Died 11th December 2017.**



Joyce Riding died aged 92 years on December 11th 2017. Her husband was Edmund Riding, a Liverpool anaesthetist who rose to become President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and she was mother of Gordon and Heather.

Born in 1925, Joyce started her medical career as a General Practitioner in 1957. She was also a clinical assistant in anaesthesia in Wigan and Leigh Hospital in Lancashire and gained the Diploma in Anaesthesia in 1959. She was still a GP anaesthetist in 1968 but is listed in the Medical Directory for 1969-1971 as School Medical Officer and no longer as GP.

She was still listed in the Medical Directories for 1972 to 1975 but no post is described although during this period she published three papers on psychiatric subjects in *The Lancet*, the *British Medical Journal* and *Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, and then by 1976 she had gained the Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatry and was a lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry in the University of Liverpool. In 1977 Joyce was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist in Park Lane Hospital in Maghull and then moved to Fazakerley, Walton and Rainhill in 1979.

By 1990 she is listed in the Directory as 'late consultant...' But that was not the end of her remarkably diverse career. She served as Chair of the Mental Health Tribunals (MHRT) of Liverpool and North Wales from 1988 to 2001. She was considered outstanding and she only retired at 76 because the Lord Chancellor could not keep giving special dispensation to carry on (72 was the actual limit). On her final retirement she received the following tribute:

In the Mental Health Review Tribunal, edition 20 David Jones, Deputy Chairman wrote: 'One of the privileges of membership of MHRT is to work with those who have succeeded in their chosen profession. Dr Riding has succeeded as an academic, as a psychiatrist and in the field of medicine generally. She possesses that rare combination of academic accomplishment and sound common sense. Her clarity of thought enabled her to unravel complex problems, identify issues and find answers with apparently so little effort. Coupled with these virtues was an ability to deal courteously and sympathetically with people.'

It has been a privilege to work with Dr Riding. We will miss her wise counsel, cheerful comradeship and warm personality. We wish her well in retirement.'

I also realise that it was a privilege to have known both Edmund ('Dinge') and Joyce. May they rest in peace.

Tony Gilbertson  
Gordon Riding