

Sir Alan Cottrell

Sir Alan Howard Cottrell was a metallurgist and physicist. He was born on 17th July 1919 in Moseley. His family lived at 22 Westlands Road and he was educated at Moseley Grammar School. He received his BSc degree from Birmingham University in 1939 and a PhD for research on welding in 1942. In 1944 he married Jean Harber in Birmingham. He joined the staff of Birmingham University as a lecturer, and was made professor in 1949.

From 1958 to 1965 Cottrell was Professor of Metallurgy at Cambridge University. He also worked for the government in various capacities, most notably as Chief Scientific Adviser from 1971 to 1974. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1955 and was knighted in 1971. Cottrell died on 15th February 2012 after a brief illness.