

Nina Boyle - Keighley By-Election. March 1918.

The first woman parliamentary candidate - 3935

Keighley (Yorks.)

Marion Holmes election agent. Mr Wright - Returning officer accepted her nomination - "before the right of women to stand as candidates had been legally assured".

Women Candidates for Parliament

See letter from Keighley Town Clerk given details of N.B.'s candidature there in 1918.

June 4th, 1945.

Dear Member,

The war in Europe is over. We are now ready to go ahead. Many jobs ably done by women during the past six years will automatically come to an end, and they will have leisure for political or social service again.

Our General Election activity is bringing us to the notice of many sympathisers for the first time, so this is the psychological moment for a new membership drive. Although our membership is growing steadily, it must grow rapidly larger to be adequate to the National and Civic work we want to do.

We have set ourselves a target of 15,000 new members. Will you send us the names and addresses and occupation of every woman you think could be interested and I will write to them from Headquarters.

PLEASE FILL IN the names on the back of this letter and return to me. Thank you. I know I can count on your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

T. BILLINGTON GREIG
Honorary Director.

Dear Mrs. Billington Greig,

I recommend you to write to the following:—

NAME.	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS
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- * 1. You can mention my name.
- 2. Please do not mention my name.

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)

Address.....

* Please strike out 1 or 2.

~~Miss Nina Boyle~~

NB

3935

came forward as first woman Parliamentary
candidate at Kighley Yorks in March
1918.

Marian Holmes - Election Agent.

Write to Kighley ✓ 3/6/53

See Tom Clarke's letter in reply

Miss Nina Boyle

BOROUGH OF KEIGHLEY



H. W. SMITH,
SOLICITOR,
TOWN CLERK.
TELEPHONE NOS. 3242-43.

File
Women Candidates

April & Dec
1918

TOWN HALL.

3935

KEIGHLEY.

YOUR REF.

OUR REF. TC/M. 2013

8th June 1953.

Dear Madam,

re Miss Nina Boyle

With reference to your letter of the 3rd June, I have referred to the local weekly newspaper, the "Keighley News", and in the issue of 30th March 1918, it is stated "If he (the Returning Officer) should decide to let the nomination pass it will be the first case, we believe, of a woman actually standing as a candidate for parliament."

The issue for 6th April refers to Miss Boyle having written to the Home Secretary on the constitutional point as to whether or not a woman could stand for parliament, and goes on to state that the reply was that the matter could only be determined authoritatively by Court of Law. The date for delivery of nominations was Friday, the 19th April and the "Keighley News" for the following day, the 20th April, states that on one of Miss Boyle's nomination papers appeared the name of a non-voter and on the other the name of a person who resided outside the constituency. Those irregularities consequently rendered her nomination void. The date of the bye-election was April 26th.

At the general election in December 1918, it appears that there was talk of Miss Boyle being nominated, but the newspaper makes no reference to it in connection with the nominations.

Yours faithfully,

Town Clerk.

Mrs. T. Billington Greig,
12A Belsize Park Gardens,
Hampstead,
LONDON N.W. 3.

Nina Boyle

3935

Late 1917 - Lecturing on
What I saw in Macedonia -

Leader writing in The Vote - occasional -
vivid, direct, clear - husky, bitter -

"Bishops are the inveterate supporters
and unwavering champions of the
highest form of masculine arrogance."

"We must listen to the foolish praise
now ladled out to us by foolish persons
and a very foolish Press!" These
may be due to "mingled relief at the
cessation of annoyance and dread of
its recurrence."

Summary

The wild rush to put forward various
desirable reforms ~~at~~ the support of the
women voters to be may be intended to
secure their support - or may even
have the sinister aim of overloading the
government programme - when the something
to be thrown overboard may quite likely be
the Rep. of the People Bill

Also - Legislation on these issues
- Education - Morals - Health -

now - would take them out of the
women's range - They would be
settled without her decision or
wishes - perhaps for a generation

August 1917. 31st The Yoke 3935

Miss Boyle is back. Lectures at
Minerva Club - Sept 23.

Welcome Dinner - August 31st