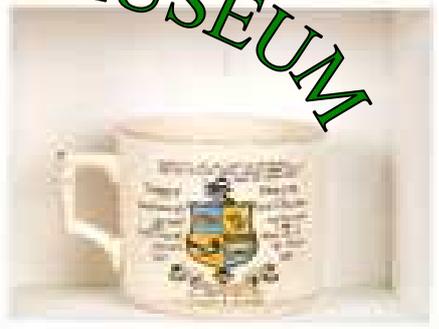


FRIENDS OF SWALEDALE MUSEUM



Newsletter No.28
Spring 2018

The Museum is open and Spring has sprung. I wonder if there is any connection? Helen has organised a fascinating summer of talks which will be stimulating, informative and as always, thoroughly enjoyable. I am looking forward to being able to go through the gate, to admiring Alan's vegetable garden, and then stepping into my favourite Museum.
Janet Bishop, Chair

A message from the Curator

I am delighted to welcome you all to the new season. We have done a bit of re-arranging in the Museum to accommodate new acquisitions and enable us to think in new ways about old favourites. In order not to disappoint those who can't make the stairs we have also brought more of the exhibits down to the ground floor. We installed Roger Preston's new work at the end of April, which this time focuses on local limekilns. These black and white photographs have the same drama as those of the lead mine workings he presented a couple of years ago, and like them, will be for sale. We have invited David Johnson to give us a lecture on 18th July, as part of the Friends of the Museum Lecture Programme, on the 'Lime kilns in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale: the where, the when and the what for?' to set these photographs in broader context. We will also be installing a display of nearly 70 knitting sheaths, part of a wonderful local collection, that the owner wants sell. So as well as admiring their workmanship and detail, you can actually buy one to take home. Their owner has kindly agreed

The Museum garden in full swing last Summer. This year's blossom suggests another good harvest for 2018

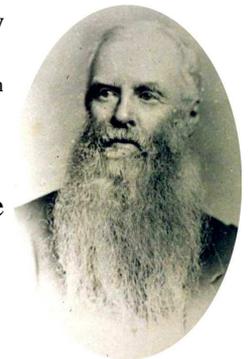


A colourful corner of quilts in the re-ordered upstairs gallery

that part of the proceeds will go to much needed Museum funds. Tracy will let you know when this exhibition is launched, via her regular email updates and in the local press.

We have some exciting talks, by distinguished

historians, that are already booking up. On 23rd May Duncan Bythell will give a talk on 'Keld in Swaledale 1870-1970 - The Decline of an Upland Community'. He tells me that this will be his final public lecture, and while we hope this is actually not true, are honoured to be the venue he has chosen for this seminal event. His lectures are legendary for the clarity of their structure, attention to primary sources, and connection of local events to larger perspectives. On 20th June we are lucky to have Dr Christine Hallas with us to talk on 'The Garths of Crackpot, a Swaledale Yeoman Family'. The day books on which the talk is based are a treasure trove of information. Last year Dr Jane Greville came into the Museum in search of sources connected with her current project, revising Pevsner's architectural guide to North Yorkshire. I immediately pounced, and asked her if she would like to present her findings. On 1st August she will talk on 'Surveying the Architecture of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale for the Revised Pevsner'. This will be an opportunity to learn ahead of publication her discoveries relating to our dale. Our last talk of the season is on 8th August, when we welcome back Ann Henderson, who will give a lecture on 'Selina Cooper and Keld'. It was thanks to Ann's mother, who was a stalwart supporter of the



*Francis Garth
1817-1911,
Photo courtesy of Myles Metcalfe*



Selina Cooper - suffragist & activist who opened a 'holiday retreat' in Keld in 1899 as a 'Spartan centre!'

Museum, that we came to know about Selina and the holiday camp she set up at Keld. Ann is taking up the story, and we are grateful to her for coming all the way from Edinburgh to join us.

Much of the winter has been spent thinking about the new historical guidebook to Swaledale we are writing, thanks to support from the Upper Dales Family History Group. An invitation to participate in the celebrations connected with the re-publication of Hartley and Ingilby's *Life and*

Tradition in the Yorkshire Dales, (1968) led me to rashly offer a lecture on how histories of the dale have been written. So my lecture on 9th May will, by using *Life and Tradition* as a touchstone, examine how it was influenced by earlier histories, and how it in turn influenced those to come. (Ed: Due to popular demand this lecture will be repeated on 11th July!)

We have a record number of groups booked in to visit this year. They include not only regulars, like the children of Arkengarthdale School, and from Pannal and Belton schools, but also the trustees of Weardale Museum and the Friends of Leeds City Museums. We start with 40 participants in a car rally, who will come to the Museum in search of vital clues to questions in their touring quiz!

Links in the Chain

Lime kilns in Swaledale, like the remains of the lead mining industry, are a reminder of another time; a link with the past.

Some in ruins, some still well preserved and some painstakingly restored - all provide us with an insight into another time, another way of living.

Some are large, and dominate the landscape, like the ones at Sharrow Hill, Gunnerside and Punchard Gill, whilst others, such as the kiln at West Stonesdale are more intimate, less intimidating, built by the people who lived and worked in the landscape.

Picking your way through the detritus of the last burning you cannot fail to feel a connection to that past, and to the landscape, and I have tried in these photographs to show that connection.

Roger Preston



Roger's stunning photographs of local lime kilns are on display upstairs in the Museum & are all for sale.

One of our innovative new projects has been funded by Wensleydale Arts Society, thanks to their Young Arts Officer Jenny Haywood. While working with Anne Hewitt and her inspiring woven textiles she came up with the idea of a Museum Colouring Book. We will be completing the outlines and hope to get the book launched in time for the school holidays.

Our shop is already filling up, thanks to the generosity of donors. New stock includes vintage lead mining books and chinaware and we have also stocked up on new publications. We have some beautiful stained glass incorporating old Victorian painted panels (*below*), and fine Swaledale and Weardale mineral samples...and lots more.

You will note that we have put up the price of entry to the Museum and the talks, as we fight to meet

increasing costs. However as Friends of the Museum, it means you will be gaining more, as the subscription has not gone up. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Museum for our fifteenth season. We hugely appreciate your support!

Helen Bainbridge, Curator



James and Isabella Pratt bought this little cenotaph in remembrance of their son Thomas (1899-1918) who is buried in northern France. The cenotaph passed to their other son Anthony Pratt (who married Gertrude Lockey) after the death of James and Isabella. It then passed to the donor's mother, Isabella Pratt. Donated by Heather Branch, April 2018



Tribute to John Squires (1945-2018) - Friend of the Museum

When we took over the Museum fifteen years ago John was one of our first visitors, and became one of our greatest supporters. Over regular cups of hot tea we learnt so much about the dale from him - its archaeology, its mysteries, as well as its more recent history. He entertained visitors with long local sagas, he helped build cases, screens and doors. John always had a nugget of information - no matter what the topic. Life will not be the same without his warm-hearted physical presence - but he is of course firmly and indelibly part of our local history and our own memories.

Helen Bainbridge

STOP PRESS

One of our members has just brought in the fins of a WW2 British Army 2 inch mortar bomb which he found while swimming in the Swale between Healaugh and the swing bridge! There's a date of 1942 on one of the fins. He wonders if it was used by the Recce Corps when they trained in the area?

How valuable are old newspapers to you? This depends on whether you think there is a good rate for recyclable paper; whether you need to line the cat's litter tray or stand your muddy boots on something to keep the floor clean. However, to historians old newspapers are something else - pure gold. A glimpse into the lives of quite ordinary people whose names made the local press, as well as popular opinion on serious events that made history. Newspapers were written to sell copy, so they offer a contrast to official documents which recorded notable events. Local newspapers had to name names, so whether you won the egg and spoon race at the Coronation sports or were up before the Bench for some misdemeanour, your name was in the newspaper. Births, marriages, deaths, scandals, auctions, chapel anniversaries, this is what made the news, and still does.

Researching old newspapers has recently been revolutionised with technology. Instead of going all the way to the Colindale Newspaper Library in London, you can now flick through thousands and thousands of pages online. The British Newspaper Library has now closed, but their holdings are available through the British Newspaper Archive online - <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> This is a partnership between the British Library and Findmypast who are digitising 40 million newspaper pages. What a resource! You can access these online (subscription required) or through the computers at the library. You can search them using a word or a phrase, but sometimes the results look strange because of the system used OCR – Optical Character Recognition – which renders some words as odd symbols. But there are still rich pickings.

The British Newspaper Archive allows you to select particular titles, and a whole range of newspapers are relevant to our part of the Yorkshire dales. In the early years there were not so many provincial publications so dales news was reported in titles such as the *Leeds Intelligencer*, the *York Herald* or the *Newcastle Courant*, but by the mid to late 19th century there was a proliferation of titles which reported on local news. Our local is the *Darlington and Stockton Times*, and the British Newspaper Archive has recently added this to their digital collection with dates between 1846 and 1911. Not all dates are covered, newspapers are fragile and ephemeral, but this still saves having to wind through miles of microfilm in a library. Other titles that reported on local news in this collection are, the *Northern Echo* between 1870 – 1900, *Durham County Advertiser* 1814 – 1910, *Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough* 1870 – 1940, *Pateley Bridge and Nidderdale Herald* 1877 – 1904, and some of the newspapers from the other side of the Pennines – *The Westmorland Gazette* 1818 – 1909, *Kendal Mercury* 1834 – 1880 and a range of Carlisle newspapers. Burnley newspapers also reported widely on Swaledale people and events and obituaries regularly told the life story of those who had left the dales and crossed the Pennines to Lancashire. *The Teesdale Mercury* has had digital editions for some time now searchable between 1855 and 1955 <http://www.teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk/>

Here is a notable Swaledale character whose death was reported in 1829:

Yorkshire Gazette 27 June 1829

‘On Thursday the 18th inst at Reeth in Swaledale, in this County. Mr John Kearton, in his 94th year. He was born at Feetham Holm in the parish of Grinton, in March 1736. He went into the racing stables at Middleham at a very early age, and was greatly esteemed on account of his ability and integrity as a rider, and won a greater number of gold cups than any jockey in his day. He rode Dainty Davy in the celebrated match between that horse and Sylvia at Richmond in 1765: and won the Doncaster St Leger in 1784, on Mr Coates's Omphale. He was many years in the service of Sir Charles Turner and Sir Hedworth Williamson. About the year 1809, the last of the family of the Rapers of Reeth died intestate, and although a very distant relation, Mr Kearton was found to be the heir-at-law, and after a long and expensive litigation, obtained possession of a considerable property. For the last three years he has been totally blind, and confined to bed in consequence of a weakness in his hips and knees, but retained his mental faculties unimpaired to the latest moment of his existence.’

NB At John Kearton's burial at Grinton 23rd June 1829 he was said to be 92 and his baptism seems to have been in April 1737 so you couldn't always believe everything you read in the papers, even nearly 200 years ago!

Marion Moverley

Yorkshire Historic Dictionary

We've been contacted by Alexandra Medcalf, the project archivist for the *Yorkshire Historic Dictionary* project at the Borthwick Institute, University of York. The dictionary contains words relating to many aspects of Yorkshire's heritage and she is keen to reach out beyond their usual audiences and engage the wider community. Find out more at:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/projects/yorkshire-dictionary/>.

The project will run until January 2019. For further information contact Alexandra Medcalf, 01904-321166 or email: borthwick-institute@york.ac.uk We can provide a postal address if you'd prefer to write to her instead

Mystery Object

No-one guessed that the last object was an anaesthetic mask from the collection of Dr Spiers' instruments! This issue's mystery is a recent donation about 13 cms long with an ivory coloured handle and a slightly flexible loop made out of faux tortoiseshell.



Archives Consultation

NYCC is launching a major consultation on what the North Yorkshire Archive service of the future should look like.

Currently the county archives are housed in the County Record Office at Northallerton in a building that is in need of a complete overhaul. In consulting on future provision, they want to understand what other heritage groups, as well as users and non-users of the service would like to see provided by a digital age record office. If you are able to take part please visit the consultation webpage on their web site:

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/recordofficesurvey>

Swaledale Archaeologists Plan Further Exploration of Fremington's Romano-British Site



Volunteers hard at work on the site

Amateur archaeologists from the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group (SWAAG) are planning for another summer exploring a Romano-British site in Swaledale.

In July 2017 SWAAG led a large excavation near Hagg Farm in Fremington. The dig, which was strongly supported by over 70 volunteers, received funding from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Sustainable Development Fund.

It was the first large scale excavation on the Hagg site. Project Leader, Philip Bastow, said, "Public support for the dig has been overwhelming. This is the largest project that we have undertaken. Our finds have now all been professionally examined and it has been confirmed that the site has regional importance and we were delighted to share these finds with the public at a presentation in Reeth on 21st April."

The finds include interesting Roman artefacts that hint towards both domestic and trade use, raising more questions than answers. Philip said, "We are discovering an exciting new phase in the history of Swaledale. It's a challenging project and every new find raises new questions that we need to answer."

Last summer's dig confirmed that the site was regionally important when a beautiful piece of worked stone was found. It has been identified as a Roman cosmetic or medicinal palette. Just imagine that a lady or her maid might have used this to mix and apply facial cosmetics. The edge of the piece was chamfered around the edge, perfectly smooth on one side and small enough to sit comfortably in the hand. The palette is only one of several high-status items which were found. They have all been professionally examined and indicate that the site was occupied from at least the early 3rd century to late 4th century AD. This coincides with the period of prosperity at Catterick. A link that has been reinforced by finds that indicate the presence of an individual with military connections.



Part of the excavated area



Artist's impression of the site when occupied

Philip described the site, saying that "There is a roundhouse that faces east, with its back to the prevailing winds and weather. The door entrance has a stone sill that has been skilfully chiselled to form a rebate and drip groove, and to-date is without parallel in the country. A large area of flagged yard, laid upon older cobbling, has been uncovered to the south of the roundhouse. The quality of the civil engineering on such a rural site is extraordinary, it shows that the site was progressively improved and developed during its occupation. I am sure that it has more secrets to show us."

This is very much a community project and SWAAG would welcome support from local volunteers with an interest in archaeology. There are no charges for participation and all equipment and training will be provided. They just want your enthusiasm!

The dig will be held from Wednesday 4th to Wednesday 18th July. Anyone interested in taking part should contact SWAAG at andrea@SWAAG.org For more information on any aspects of SWAAG and the dig please visit their website at: www.SWAAG.org

Rod Flint, SWAAG

Pop-Up History Rescue Unit

Three years ago the Swaledale Museum was invited to participate in Muker Show. It has proved a wonderful and immensely enjoyable opportunity to meet people and learn more about the dale, as well as demonstrate some of the resources that we have here.

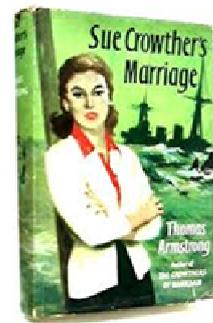
This year we would like to do something special and help the organisers capture some of the history of the Show. On our stand in the produce tent we will have a special tape recorder to catch some of your memories associated with the Show. We would also like people to bring objects and archives - posters, prize rosettes, letters, photographs which we will copy on site on the day. Do you still have the clothes you wore to Show Day 10, 15, 20 or 30 years ago? Can you still wear them - if not bring them! As a result of this project the Show Committee will have a fine collection of words and images capturing how the Show has changed over time, stories, memories, thoughts - before it is too late. So do come and visit us on the day.

Calling all Friends of Museum volunteers - can you come and help us on the day (Wednesday 5th September). We need four or five people to man the tape recorder, and take photographs for us!

In the footsteps of Thomas Armstrong...Thanks

I'd like to thank the Newsletter readers who contacted me as they had deciphered Thomas Armstrong's wife's diary extract to be the battleship, *HMS Temeraire*. Since then I haven't progressed any further with Uncle Tom's naval career research, but I have republished *Sue Crowther's Marriage* as Kindle.

I'm interested in Uncle Tom's naval career as I believe his stories were inspired by real life events. *Sue Crowther's Marriage* unfolds around the salvage of a battleship, the *Santa Colonna*. The following extract from the book however infers that the *Santa Colonna* may have been French and not a ship he served on:



Temeraire at anchor, 1909

The old fellow had the essentials: sent to England for a refit, the Santa Colonna had been re-commissioned just after it became known that Maraguay's neighbour and naval rival had bought from France one of the 13.4-inch Lorraines. Not to be outdone, a Maraguayan commission was sent to Italy, where a 15-inch-battleship of the Dandola class was acquired. As Maraguay's naval forces were insufficient to man two large ships the Santa Colonna, promptly declared obsolete, was sold for a song to three gentlemen, one of whom was the President's nephew. This trinity resold her to shipbreakers in Hamburg, but she had parted the tow during a gale and, drifting, was eventually stranded in The Bracelet, where a nucleus Maraguayan crew had thankfully dropped anchor and more thankfully seen a helicopter.

As always, I'd love to hear from anyone with memories of Tom or his wife, Dulcie.

Linda Bray, Great Niece of Thomas Armstrong

Lawn House Publications, email: lawnhousepublications@outlook.com

As usual, during the winter months, the Museum has received an interesting assortment of queries, some of which are more easily answered than others. This one was slightly more unusual than some....

Ruslan Pashayev, a wrestling fan from Ohio, wrote: "My inquiry is about traditional folk wrestling styles which were historically practiced in Richmondshire, Yorkshire. According to the book *The Diary of Charles Fothergill*, 1805, looks like this part of North Yorkshire had strong wrestling traditions in the late 1700s early 1800s. Fothergill refers to the manly miners' sports in his diary. To the best of my knowledge wrestling matches along with running, leaping, cudgel plays were among the most popular amusements at the local Fairs...and other local folk festivals. Among the centres of local sports were Richmond, Reeth, Fremington, Aysgarth etc. Please let me know if you have any materials on traditional wrestling styles practiced in that area."

There's nothing specifically about wrestling in the Museum archives but a search of old newspapers online (thank you Marion Moverley!) turned up endless columns dedicated to the sport in Westmorland newspapers, where it was, and still is, an important part of social get-togethers. The Westmorland events attracted competitors from far and wide, sometimes even from Swaledale.

The *True Sportsman's Gazette* 21 October 1841 for example has a whole column on wrestling at Penrith, with results for each round in which there were many participants, and a list of those who 'stood' and those who 'fell'. Andrew Slingsby of Swaledale 'stood' in the third round.

Marion also found articles about the Newcastle Easter Wrestling matches to which the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company subscribed. Hexham also had Easter Wrestling competitions. By the 1850s there was a North of England Wrestling Society. The *Westmorland Gazette* advertised local events which included wrestling matches such as the edition for 20th September 1856 which ran an advert for Keswick Sports with £40 to be given in prizes in Wrestling, heavy and light weights, Hound Racing, Leaping etc. Even places like Stockton on Tees and West Hartlepool had wrestling matches which attracted competitors from as far away as Cumberland and Westmorland. *The Northern Echo*, 7th August 1873, announced the West Hartlepool Horticultural Show and Gala "...there will also be awarded £50 for Wrestling in three classes - Cumberland and Westmorland style - for 11 and 14 stone men. A special train will run from Tebay, Penrith and all stations up to and including Darlington...Two splendid Military Bands will give two concerts through the day..."

Ruslan provided further information: "...I am aware of Cumberland/Westmoreland Ring (or Northern Ring). It was huge wrestling promotion since 1825. They had their branches everywhere around the country, Newcastle, Manchester, Leeds, London of course. It was basically a travelling...entertainment, they would show during the Easter week etc ...looks like locals didn't know much about Cumberland wrestling, and the participants were basically a troupe of the same wrestlers from those two counties [who] would take all the prizes. Not surprising it was their style. But...when I read that passage from Fothergill diary about local wrestling traditions, I understood that there was some local North Yorkshire wrestling style not related to the Cumbrian one. It would be amazing to find more materials on it... I do think Yorkshire Dales had their own wrestling style, which most likely became extinct because of the hard pushing from the side of Cumbrian Wrestling."

If anyone can help Ruslan with his research, please get in touch with him directly on ruslanpashayev15@gmail.com but do let us know as well so we can possibly do an update in a future Newsletter.

Friends' Programme 2018

All talks to be held in the Museum at 7.30pm

Please note that other events may be added during the course of the season

Wednesday 23rd May

Duncan Bythell,

'Keld in Swaledale 1870-1970 - The Decline of an Upland Community'

Wednesday 20th June

Christine Hallas,

'The Garths of Crackpot, a Swaledale Yeoman Family'

Saturday 30th June

Richard Lamb - A Tour of the Grinton Mill Site 10am & 2pm
[limited numbers] contact the Museum for details

Wednesday 11th July (repeated from 9th May)

Helen Bainbridge,

'A Little Country in Itself - Ingilby and Hartley's Swaledale'

Wednesday 18th July

David Johnson,

'Lime kilns in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale: the where, the when and the what for?'

Wednesday 1 August

Jane Greville,

'Surveying the Architecture of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale for the New Pevsner'

Saturday 4 August

A Lichen Drop-in with Les & Sue Knight

Wednesday 8 August

Ann Henderson

'Selina Cooper and Keld'

COST: £4 for Friends and £5 for Visitors.

More information: 01748 884118

museum.swaledale@btinternet.com

Please watch the local press & posters for occasional alterations to time/date &, if coming from a distance, **please check with the Museum** before setting off.

Those of you who are interested in the local novelist May Sinclair might be interested in the forthcoming 'Stream of Consciousness Centenary Conference' to be held at Sheffield Hallam University 26th - 28th July 2018. April 2018 marked a hundred years since May Sinclair's now-famed review of Dorothy Richardson's *Pilgrimage* appeared in the modernist periodical *The Egoist*, likening Richardson's prose-style to a 'stream of consciousness going on and on'. It was the first acknowledged use of a literary term which was to become a defining aesthetic of modernist literary representations of the daily fluxes, nuances, thoughts and perceptions of the inner life. This centenary conference seeks to draw out discussion of the complexities inherent within the term 'stream of consciousness', its intersections with psychological and philosophical discourses of the period, its influences on later literature, the cultural and intellectual debates it inspires, and its centrality – justifiably or otherwise – as a defining aesthetic of literary modernism. Hosted by the May Sinclair Society. Conference organisers: Dr Claire Drewery, Sheffield Hallam University; Dr Rebecca Bowler, Keele University. Contact them at SOCcentenary@gmail.com

Mrs Greathead – a little known local hero

A Swaledale solicitor's widow, Elizabeth Eleanor Greathead, quietly made history in early 1907 when *The British Journal of Nursing* reported on 2nd February: 'It is interesting to note that a lady has for the first time been appointed to the office of Clerk to the Guardians, the appointment having been made by the Reeth Guardians and the Reeth Rural District Council, who have elected Mrs Greathead as their Clerk, in the place of the late Mr A B. Hudson. As the widow of Mr Greathead, a solicitor, who held the office for a number of years, the new Clerk is well acquainted with the duties to be performed.'

This was no mere secretarial post. We have some idea of what the job entailed, thanks to *The Business Encyclopaedia And Legal Adviser* (1911): 'The position of Clerk to the Guardians carries with it great responsibility, and is the most important office in connection with the administration of the Poor Law in the Union. He is the expert adviser to the Guardians on all matters affecting indoor and outdoor relief and those relating to the powers and duties of the Guardians. The Clerk is not obliged to belong to the legal profession, though this probably obtains in the majority of instances, and in such cases the fact is of considerable advantage to the Board...'

Mrs Greathead was born Elizabeth Eleanor Bennett, a farmer's daughter from Deddington, Oxfordshire, and came to Swaledale when she married local solicitor Francis Joseph Greathead in 1879. He was appointed Clerk to the Reeth Board of Guardians and to the Rural Sanitary Authority Committee in April 1884 but died ten years later and by the 1901 census Elizabeth is describing herself as a 'solicitor's clerk', presumably having gained experience working alongside her husband. Having married at 17 she certainly hadn't had time to do much law studying beforehand, even if the profession had been open to her - it wasn't until 1922 that the first female solicitor was admitted to the British legal profession

The Local Government Act of 1894 had allowed women to serve on parish rural district and urban district councils for the first time and by the late 1890s, they were in evidence in local government, on School Boards and Poor Law Boards, on parish, rural and urban district councils and on London's vestries. By 1900, there were around 1000 women Poor Law Guardians, more than 200 women members of School Boards and about 200 women parish councillors. Only the city and county councils eluded them. The Local Government Act 1907 admitted women to all local government authorities (including borough and county councils) and women ran their first candidates that autumn. By 1914, some fifty women were serving on borough and county councils in England and Wales.

Mrs Greathead was very much a part of this increasing involvement of women in politics but was way ahead of the field in holding the position she did. Astonishingly, two decades later, she was still unique. *The Leeds Mercury* reported in 1926: 'The only woman who is a clerk to Guardians and also to a Council, Mrs. E. E. Greathead, of Reeth, is retiring.'

With thanks once again to Alan Gibson for allowing us to make free with his extensive research notes!