

**HARROW WEALD PARISH
ELECTION RESULTS, 1894-1918**

HARROW WEALD PARISH COUNCIL, 1894-1918

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Meeting Votes	Poll Votes
1894	268	66.8	William Brockhurst	47	130
			Thomas J. Smith	32	127
			Thomas F. Blackwell	42	125
			Rev. William H. Peers	48	120
			John Wiltshire	44	93
			Miss Mary M. Cobb	20	91
			William H. Durrant	32	85
			Charles Durley	39	83
			Robert Whelan	20	83
			Mrs. Edith B. Kingsmill	12	56
			James C. Rackham	21	43
			George Wall	19	42
			Henry T. Jobbins	16	40
			John Price	6	36
			George B. Game	11	—

Note: The first Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Old Board School Rooms on 4 December with Mr. Frank R. Parker in the Chair during the election. The *Harrow Gazette* commented that “between 70 and 80 [were] present”.

A further five candidates — John Ensten, Cooper Harvey, James Martin, Thomas Tappenden and William Tyler — were nominated, but their nominations were ruled invalid because in each case the seconder was not a parochial elector.

A poll was demanded, with Game not proceeding to the poll. The poll resulted in Miss Cobb and Whelan (both of whom had originally tied for 9th place) being elected in place of Rackham. The voting figures of the poll have been taken from the *Harrow and Wealdstone Press* and differ with those reported by the *Harrow Gazette* in case of Brockhurst (180 votes) and Price (40 votes). The former figure is clearly an error in view of the number voting.

Both the *Harrow and Wealdstone Press* and *Watford Observer* incorrectly estimated that the number of electors was “about 240”. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that their report of the number voting in the poll (179) is correct. The *Press* provided a colourful report of the election as follows:

“The result of the election at Harrow Weald has given great satisfaction to the parishioners. It was a foregone conclusion that most of the candidates mentioned on the election addresses issued, and placed at the head of the poll at the parish meeting, would be returned, but the surprise occasioned in many of the neighbouring parishes made the electors uneasy until the result was actually declared. It was expected that a good number would poll very early, and this would undoubtedly been the case, had the booth been placed at the new school, instead of the old schools, near the church. Further, the morning was miserably wet, and those who were obliged to go to the City preferred to vote on their return, instead of running down to the old schools before train time.

“Mr. H.W. Job was the presiding and deputy returning officer. Polling was steady during the day, with the usual rush at the last hour There was a little excitement during the day, but at about seven o'clock in the evening between thirty and forty people assembled outside the polling booth, when one of the company — by the way, a would-be councillor — endeavoured to enlighten his brethren on the *modus operandi* of the New Parish Councils Act. At eight o'clock the poll was closed, and Mr. Job and his assistants forthwith proceeded to count the votes. The result was declared at about ten o'clock [and] was received with cheers.....”

HARROW WEALD PARISH COUNCIL, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Meeting Votes	Poll Votes
1896	269		William Brockhurst	27	
			Thomas F. Blackwell	26	
			John Wiltshire	25	
			William H. Durrant	24	
			James Martin	24	
			Rev. William H. Peers	24	
			James C. Rackham	20	
			William Tyler	17	
			Miss Mary M. Cobb	15	
			Henry T. Jobbins	9	

Note: The Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Old Board School Rooms (probably) on 9 March with Mr. Henry Grinling in the Chair during the election. The local press reported that "owing to the wet evening there were not many present." A poll was not demanded.

1897	263		Rev. John H.C. Baxter	Unopp.
			William Brockhurst	Unopp.
			Miss Mary M. Cobb	Unopp.
			Albert C. Day	Unopp.
			William H. Durrant	Unopp.
			James Martin	Unopp.
			Rev. William H. Peers	Unopp.
			James C. Rackham	Unopp.
			William Tyler	Unopp.

Note: The Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Old Board School Rooms on 18 March with retiring parish councillor Cllr. Thomas F. Blackwell in the Chair during the election. A tenth nomination paper in the name of Blackwell was submitted but he asked for it to be withdrawn.

[Failure of Baxter to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office]

1897 (14/6)		Charles Hughes	Co-opt.
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Note: Cllr. Brockhurst proposed and Cllr. Durrant seconded that Hughes be chosen to fill the vacancy. There were no other nominations.

HARROW WEALD PARISH COUNCIL, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Meeting Votes	Poll Votes
1898	283		William Brockhurst	14	
			Miss Mary M. Cobb	14	
			William H. Durrant	13	
			James Martin	13	
			Rev. William H. Peers	13	
			Thomas F. Blackwell	11	
			Albert C. Day	10	
			James C. Rackham	10	
			Charles Hughes	9	
			William Tyler	7	

Note: The Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Harrow Weald Girls' School (the new name of the old Board Schools) on 14 March with Mr. Henry Grinling in the Chair during the election. The local press reported that "there was not a very large attendance." The nomination paper for an eleventh candidate, Rev. John H.C. Baxter, was declared to be invalid before voting took place. A poll was not demanded.

1899	281		Thomas F. Blackwell	Unopp.	
			William Brockhurst	Unopp.	
			Albert C. Day	Unopp.	
			William H. Durrant	Unopp.	
			Thomas Laidlow	Unopp.	
			Rev. William H. Peers	Unopp.	
			James C. Rackham	Unopp.	
			William Tyler	Unopp.	
			John Wiltshire	Unopp.	

Note: The Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Harrow Weald Girls' School on 6 March with Mr. Samuel J. Blackwell in the Chair during the election. The Minutes record that there was a "small attendance."

1901	302		Harry G. Assiter	Unopp.	
			Thomas F. Blackwell	Unopp.	
			William Brockhurst	Unopp.	
			Albert C. Day	Unopp.	
			William H. Durrant	Unopp.	
			Rev. William H. Peers	Unopp.	
			James C. Rackham	Unopp.	
			William Tyler	Unopp.	
			John Wiltshire	Unopp.	

Note: The Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Harrow Weald Girls' School on 4 March with Mr. Samuel J. Blackwell in the Chair during the election.

HARROW WEALD PARISH COUNCIL, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Meeting Votes	Poll Votes
1904	327		William Tyler	20	
			William H. Durrant	18	
			William Brockhurst	15	
			James C. Rackham	15	
			Thomas Laidlow	14	
			Harry G. Assiter	13	
			Thomas R. Randall	13	
			Thomas V. Durrant	9	
			Miss Alice T. Skilbeck	9	
			Albert C. Day	7	

Note: The Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Harrow Weald Girls' School on 7 March with Mr. Charles G. Mott in the Chair during the election. The Minutes record that the nomination paper for an (unnamed) eleventh candidate was ruled invalid due to the proposer not being a parochial elector. Day demanded a poll, but received no support and the Chairman did not give his assent.

1907	388		David W. Sandison	74	150
			Rev. William H. Peers	90	144
			William H. Durrant	60	107
			Alfred E. Hammond	40	107
			Harry G. Assiter	35	106
			James C. Rackham	26	106
			William Truslove	54	105
			James M. Dewar	61	102
			Charles J. Ward	50	99
			William Brockhurst	41	83
			Thomas Laidlow	38	63
			Albert C. Day	40	61
			Frank G. Stone	22	45
			James Condie	25	42
			William Tyler	24	38
			Thomas R. Randall	33	37
			Arthur Wilson	42	—
			Thomas V. Durrant	22	—

Note: The Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Harrow Weald Girls' School on 4 March with Mr. John Wiltshire in the Chair during the election. The Minutes recorded the names of 29 people who were present, adding that "many others" also attended.

There was a tie for 9th elected place between Hammond and Day, the Chairman using a casting vote in favour of Hammond (although the *Harrow Observer* reported it to be in favour of Day). A poll was demanded, with Wilson and T.V. Durrant not proceeding to the poll. The poll resulted in Assiter and Rackham being elected in place of Brockhurst and Wilson. The result of the poll indicates that the turnout was at least 38.7%.

Peers, W.H. Durrant, Hammond, Rackham, Truslove, Brockhurst, Laidlow and Day contested the election on a joint 'ticket'. Assiter, Dewar and Ward contested the election on a separate 'ticket'. The *Harrow Gazette* reported on the poll as follows:

"Monday was a day of surprises at Harrow Weald, where the *Gazette's* prediction regarding a change in personnel of the Parish Council was fulfilled. The contest was characterised by a good deal of feeling and bitterness, the great question at stake appearing to be the position of the Tennis Club. Mr. D. Sandison, 'the independent candidate', was indiscreet enough to publish a bill minus an imprint, and he had to hurriedly — and at considerable expense — apply to the High Court for relief from proceedings under the Illegal Practices Act."

HARROW WEALD PARISH COUNCIL, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Meeting Votes	Poll Votes
1910	440		Alfred E. Hammond	66	162
			Rev. William H. Peers	64	156
			James C. Rackham	46	143
			William H. Durrant	49	138
			David W. Sandison	49	133
			Charles J. Ward	73	126
			James M. Dewar	61	102
			Harry G. Assiter	31	98
			Charles H. Lovett	38	82
			Edwin C. Strawbridge	36	72
			Charles F. Little	23	70
			Mrs. Elizabeth Cobb	13	64
			James Taylor	18	53
			Albert C. Day	24	50
			Joseph J. Jones	10	49

Note: The Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Harrow Weald Girls' School on 14 March with Mr. John Wiltshire in the Chair during the election. The Minutes recorded the names of 26 people who were present, adding that there were also "many others" in attendance. A poll was demanded and resulted in Assiter being elected in place of Strawbridge.

Strawbridge and Taylor were also unsuccessful candidates in the Wealdstone Urban District Council election held on the same day as this election; see page 51. Both were residents of Wealdstone UD (in Spencer Road and Peel Road, respectively) but also qualified as parochial electors in Harrow Weald parish through the ownership of properties within the boundaries of the parish. (Strawbridge owned 1 to 12 Elsie Terrace in Belmont Road; Taylor owned 1 to 3 Belmont View, also in Belmont Road.)

The *Harrow Observer* printed an affectionate portrait of Harrow Weald at the time of this election: "For a Parish Council, probably Harrow Weald has not its equal in the kingdom in raising questions of local administration to international importance. Whether sheep should graze or should not graze on the Recreation Ground, or whether the grass should be cut near the edges as well as on the pitches, have been questions of burning interest, and it must be said that while the district possesses such examples of oratory as Cllrs. D.W. Sandison and H.G. Assiter the village will continue to take its local politics very seriously."

The result of the poll indicates that the turnout was at least 36.8%.

[Resignation of Dewar]

1911 (12/7)	Daniel Higham	Co-opt.
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Note: Cllr. Hammond proposed and Cllr. Rackham seconded that Higham be chosen to fill the vacancy. There were no other nominations. The proposition was agreed without opposition; however Cllr. Ward was recorded as not voting.

[One seat vacant — Resignation of Peers]

HARROW WEALD PARISH COUNCIL, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Meeting Votes	Poll Votes
1913	512		Charles J. Ward	38	
			Alfred E. Hammond	35	
			Charles H. Lovett	30	
			William H. Durrant	26	
			James C. Rackham	26	
			Arthur W. Bugg	24	
			William H. Whitaker	22	
			Charles F. Little	20	
			Thomas Laidlow	19	
			Daniel Higham	16	
			Albert C. Day	1	

Note: The Parish Meeting to elect councillors was held at the Harrow Weald Girls' School on 17 March with Mr. John Wiltshire in the Chair during the election. Although a poll was demanded by Higham and another elector, the Chairman did not give his assent.

[Death of Durrant]

1913 (10/11)	Daniel Higham	Co-opt.
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Note: Cllr. Hammond proposed and Cllr. Rackham seconded that Higham be chosen to fill the vacancy. There were no other nominations.

[Resignation of Lovett]

1914 (15/4)	Joseph Dinsmore	Co-opt.
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Note: Cllr. Laidlow proposed and Cllr. Bugg seconded that Dinsmore be chosen to fill the vacancy. There were no other nominations.

Note: The 1916 election was postponed because of the First World War. All nine members of Harrow Weald Parish Council continued as Councillors until the 1919 election, unless a casual vacancy was caused by death, resignation or disqualification. The following vacancy occurred during this period and was filled by the existing practice of co-option:

[Resignation of Whitaker]

1917 (9/10)	Thomas J.E. Stops	Co-opt.
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Note: Cllr. Little proposed and Cllr. Laidlow seconded that Stops be chosen to fill the vacancy. There were no other nominations.

