

Appendix K

HENDON UNION BOARD OF GUARDIANS: ELECTION RESULTS, 1894-1928

Boards of Guardians were founded as a result of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834, which replaced parish Overseers of the Poor established under the old poor law. Following this legislation, Hendon Union Board of Guardians was formed in May 1835 from the parishes of Edgware, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Hendon, Kingsbury, Pinner, Great Stanmore, Little Stanmore and Willesden.

Each Board was composed of Guardians elected by the owners and *bona fide* occupiers of land liable to pay the poor rate. Depending on the value of the property held, an elector could cast from one to three votes. Electors could nominate proxies to cast their vote in their absence. Where property was held by a corporation or company, its governing body could nominate an officer to cast its vote or votes.

The Local Government Act 1894 altered the system; members of newly established rural district councils became guardians for their areas, with separate poor law elections being limited to urban areas. At the same time, property qualifications were abolished, plural voting was ended and women were able to become Guardians. Additionally, the term of office of a guardian was increased to three years. At this time Harrow Weald, Wealdstone and Wembley were added to the Hendon Union.

By 1895, the Hendon workhouse at Edgware had become extremely overcrowded. Since many inmates came from Willesden Parish, it was decided to set up a separate workhouse at Willesden, and in 1896 the Local Government Board ordered that Willesden should leave the Hendon Union and operate as an independent Poor Law District.

Poor Law Unions were abolished by the Local Government Act 1929 which passed responsibility for public assistance to county and county borough councils in 1930. The Hendon Union Board of Guardians held its last meeting on 28 March 1930, the proceedings closing with the singing of the National Anthem. Dr. A. Findlater, on behalf of the officers of the Union, presented the Chairman, John Bransgrove, with a pair of silver candlesticks.

During research for this book most of the Board of Guardians election results for Harrow-on-the-Hill and Wealdstone have been discovered. Tabulated below are the results of these elections insofar as they are known, although some information for events in the 1920s remains to be confirmed. It appears that (with one exception — recorded in a footnote) all candidates stood on a non-party basis. It has been assumed that the number of electors at each election was the same as the simultaneously-held UDC election.

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL

[Two seats until 1904; four seats from 1904]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1894	1,183		Joseph Hawkins Dr. Reginald R.T. Risk	Unopp. Co-opt.	

Note: Hawkins was the only candidate nominated at the election, leaving the second seat vacant. At a Board meeting on 17 January 1895 the Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Local Government Board stating that they would "shortly issue an order as to the method of filling the casual vacancy." On 14 February the Clerk informed a meeting of the Guardians that "the County Council have the matter in hand: Mr. Copland Crawford and Mr. Job are candidates for the seat." However, at a meeting on 9 May it was reported that an Order had been received from the Middlesex County Council appointing Risk to fill the vacancy. Risk attended his first meeting on 6 June 1895.

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL [cont.]

[Two seats until 1904; four seats from 1904]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1898	1,516		Joseph Hawkins Dr. Reginald R.T. Risk	Unopp. Unopp.	
1901	1,754		Rev. William D. Bushell Joseph Hawkins	Unopp. Unopp.	
1904	2,055		Dr. Joseph B.H. Beatty Miss Isabella C. Brown Rev. William D. Bushell Joseph Hawkins	Unopp. Unopp. Unopp. Unopp.	

[Disqualification of Beatty]

1906 (30/8)			Rev. Percy J. Dale	Co-opt.	
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Note: Beatty was disqualified under the terms of the Local Government Act 1894, section 46, sub-section 7, for his failure, throughout a period of six consecutive months, to attend any meetings of the Board or its committees. The Board was informed of Beatty's disqualification on 26 April 1906; no candidate was nominated to fill the casual vacancy so the Clerk was instructed on 24 May to communicate with the Middlesex County Council (MCC) on the matter. The MCC invited the remaining Guardians to propose the name of a person willing to accept office so that they could make an Order under the Local Government Act 1896. This resulted in Dale's appointment and he attended his first meeting of the Board on 30 August 1906.

1907	2,438	36.1	Joseph Hawkins	581	66.1
			Rev. William D. Bushell	465	52.9
			Rev. Percy J. Dale	404	46.0
			Miss Isabella C. Brown	388	44.1
			Henry G. Hoare	288	32.8

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 54.

The local press reported that many of the spoilt papers were blank. This spoilt papers figure has been subtracted from the number voting at the simultaneously-held Urban District Council election (933) to give 879, used for the '%' calculations.

1910	3,072		Miss Isabella C. Brown	Unopp.	
			Rev. William D. Bushell	Unopp.	
			Rev. Percy J. Dale	Unopp.	
			Joseph Hawkins	Unopp.	

[Resignation of Dale]

1911 (30/10)	3,374		Robert B. Black	Unopp.	
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Note: A second candidate, John E. Williams, was nominated to contest this by-election. He withdrew his nomination papers within the allowable period.

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL [cont.]

[Two seats until 1904; four seats from 1904]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1913	3,856		Robert B. Black Miss Isabella C. Brown Rev. William D. Bushell Rev. Philip D. Ellis	Unopp. Unopp. Unopp. Unopp.	

Note: The 1916 Board of Guardians election was postponed due to the First World War. All four members continued as Guardians until the 1919 election, unless a casual vacancy was caused by death, resignation or disqualification. The following vacancies occurred for Harrow-on-the-Hill during this period and were filled by co-option:

[Death of Bushell. Resignation of Black]

1917 (8/11)			Arthur L. Lloyd Arthur N. Tuck	Co-opt. Co-opt.	
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Note: Miss Brown proposed and J. Smither (a Guardian representing Wealdstone) seconded that Lloyd and Tuck be appointed to fill the casual vacancies. There were no other nominations.

1919	7,831		Miss Isabella C. Brown Mrs. Mabel Browne Arthur L. Lloyd Arthur N. Tuck	Unopp. Unopp. Unopp. Unopp.	
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Note: Lloyd died on 24 March 1919 after his unopposed election as one of the Guardians for Harrow-on-the-Hill but before the due date of contested elections (7 April). Lloyd was a retired official of the London and North Western Railway and keen churchman; in the 1880s he had led, with Mr. Charles Colbeck, fund-raising to enable the purchase of 18 acres of land for the creation of Harrow Recreation Ground (opened 1885). At the time of his death, at the age of 67, Lloyd was Secretary of the Cunningham Building Society.

[Death of Lloyd]

1919 (19/5)	7,728		Frederick W. Perkins	Unopp.	
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Note: The number of electors has been compiled from the Spring 1919 *Register of Electors* that came into force on 15 May 1919.

No record has yet been found to indicate that this was a contested election; Perkins is therefore shown as being elected unopposed and he attended his first meeting of the Board on 22 May 1919. Perkins was a Labour Party candidate at the 1926 Harrow-on-the-Hill UDC election.

[Resignation of Miss Brown]

1919 (3/11)	7,902		Edward W. de W. Bruce	Unopp.	
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Note: The number of electors has been compiled from the Autumn 1919 *Register of Electors* that came into force on 15 October 1919.

The date shown is the date that an election would have taken place had Bruce not been elected unopposed. He attended his first meeting of the Board on 6 November 1919.

[? [Perkins]]

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL [cont.]

[Two seats until 1904; four seats from 1904]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1921 (2/6)			George R. White	Co-opt.	
<p><u>Note:</u> The reason for Perkins leaving the Board of Guardians is unknown. At a meeting of the Board on 12 August 1920 Tuck and Mrs. Browne drew attention to "a Harrow vacancy", and proposed that a Mr. Henry Holliday be asked to fill the seat; the resolution was passed unanimously. In December 1920 Tuck reported to a meeting of Harrow-on-the-Hill UDC that Holliday was away from Harrow due to illness and was unable to accept the office of Guardian. The next reference to the vacancy has been found in a <i>Hendon and Finchley Times</i> article about a meeting of the Middlesex County Council: at its meeting of 2 June 1921 the MCC made an Order appointing White as Guardian to fill the vacancy.</p>					
1922	8,295	7.1	Edward W. de W. Bruce	419	71.1
			Mrs. Mabel Browne	399	67.7
			George R. White	380	64.5
			Arthur N. Tuck	378	64.2
			Arthur Atkins	159	27.0
<p><u>Note:</u> Atkins was a member of the local Labour Party.</p>					
1925	9,316		Mrs. Mabel Browne	Unopp.	
			Edward W. de W. Bruce	Unopp.	
			Arthur N. Tuck	Unopp.	
			George R. White	Unopp.	
1928	10,477		Mrs. Mabel Browne		
			Edward W. De W. Bruce		
			Arthur N. Tuck		
			George R. White		

WEALDSTONE

[One seat until 1904; two seats in 1904; three seats from 1907]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1894	652	36.7	Miss Edith B. Joyner	144	60.3
			Henry W. Job	<u>95</u>	<u>39.7</u>
				49	20.6
<p><u>Note:</u> The voting figures show 239 electors cast valid votes at this election, and the turnout figure has been calculated on that basis. In the simultaneously-held Wealdstone Urban District Council election a total of 387 electors cast votes (59.4% turnout).</p>					
1898	527		Miss Edith B. Joyner	Unopp.	
<p><u>Note:</u> Henry W. Job was also a nominated candidate at this election. The nomination lapsed when Job was elected unopposed as the Hendon Rural District councillor, and therefore Guardian, for Harrow Weald parish.</p>					

WEALDSTONE [cont.]

[One seat until 1904; two seats in 1904; three seats from 1907]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1901	798	44.7	Henry W. Job	201	56.3
			Miss Edith B. Joyner	156	43.7
				45	12.6

Note: The voting figures show 357 electors cast valid votes at this election, and the turnout figure has been calculated on that basis. In the simultaneously-held Wealdstone Urban District Council election a total of 387 electors cast votes (48.5% turnout).

1904	1,172		Rev. William H. Pratt	367	
			Henry W. Job	228	
			Miss Edith B. Joyner	175	

Note: In the Wealdstone Urban District Council election, held simultaneously, there was a turnout of 52.1%.

1907	1,633	48.1	Henry I. Drury	398	50.6
			Arthur Flint	355	45.2
			Rev. William H. Pratt	351	44.7
			Henry W. Job	261	33.2
			Alexander S. Meikle	254	32.3

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 50. (42 papers were unmarked and 8 had more than three votes marked on them.)
The spoilt papers figure has been subtracted from the number of ballot papers issued for the Guardians election (836) to give 786, used for the '%' calculations.

[Death of Drury]

1908 (10/10)	1,892		Henry W. Job	Unopp.	
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Note: The date shown is the date that an election would have taken place had Job not been elected unopposed. Job was an unsuccessful candidate for the Wealdstone UDC by-election held that day, a vacancy also caused by Drury's death.

[One seat vacant — Death of Job]

1910	2,165	53.6	Arthur Flint	746	64.3
			Frederick W. Wale	551	47.5
			James How	508	43.8
			Charles J. Twinn	453	39.1

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 123. (The local press reported that they had no votes marked upon them.)
In the simultaneously-held Wealdstone Urban District Council election there was a turnout of 59.3%, arising from a total of 1,283 electors voting.
The spoilt papers figure has been subtracted from the number of ballot papers issued for the UDC election (1,283) to give 1,160, used for the '%' calculations.

WEALDSTONE [cont.]

[One seat until 1904; two seats in 1904; three seats from 1907]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1913	2,432		John Favell Arthur Flint James Smither	Unopp. Unopp. Unopp.	

Note: Three further candidates — James How, William H. Taylor and Frederick W. Wale — were nominated but withdrew their nomination papers within the allowable period.

Note: The 1916 Board of Guardians election was postponed due to the First World War. All three members continued as Guardians until the 1919 election.

1919	5,563		Mrs. Mary A. Bunting Arthur Flint James Smither	Unopp. Unopp. Unopp.	
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Note: The *Harrow Observer* reported that a "Mrs. Marshment" (presumably Clara J. Marshment of Masons Avenue, Wealdstone) had been nominated for this election. No other mention of her possible nomination, or actual nomination and subsequent withdrawal, has been found.

Favell continued to serve as a Guardian following his election as a Rural District Councillor for Pinner parish.

1922	5,983		Mrs. Mary A. Bunting James Smither Arthur Flint	Unopp. Unopp. Co-opt.	
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Note: Following the election there was one vacancy as nomination papers for only two candidates had been received by the Returning Officer. It is assumed that Flint remained a Guardian under the terms of the Local Government Act 1894, where section 56 of the Municipal Corporations Act 1882 applied: if at an ordinary election any vacancies were not filled by election, the required number of retiring members would, if willing, continue to hold office.

It would appear that Flint was not keen on continuing acting as a Guardian: the *Hendon and Finchley Times* reported on 1 December 1922 that "Mr. A. Flint, Guardian for the Parish of Wealdstone, not having attended the meetings of the Hendon Board of Guardians for over six months, Mr. A.E. Hammond yesterday gave notice of motion that the seat be declared vacant".

[Disqualification of Flint]

1923 (?/?)			Mrs. Emmelia F. Taylor		
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Note: Flint was disqualified under the terms of the Local Government Act 1894, section 46, sub-section 7, for his failure, throughout a period of six consecutive months, to attend any meetings of the Board. A Mrs. Taylor was present at a meeting of the Board on 2 February 1923 (reported by the *Hendon and Finchley Times*). This was probably Mrs. Emmelia F. Taylor, elected or co-opted to fill the vacancy.

1925	6,422		Mrs. Mary A. Bunting James Smither Mrs. Emmelia F. Taylor	Unopp. Unopp. Unopp.	
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1928	8,467		Mrs. Mary A. Bunting James Smither Mrs. Emmelia F. Taylor		
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