

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL URBAN DISTRICT
ELECTION RESULTS, 1894-1918

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1894	1,183	53.9	William J. Overhead	321	50.3
			Dr. Alfred H. Williams	312	48.9
			William W. Clowes	296	46.4
			Oliver A. Saunders	263	41.2
			John B. Smith	240	37.6
			Harry J. Strickland	234	36.7
			Joseph Hawkins	219	34.3
			Thomas Dell	215	33.7
			Joseph W. Strange	206	32.3
			Charles E.G. Webb	196	30.7
			Herbert W. Bryans	171	26.8
			John Short	162	25.4
			Robert C. Gilson	144	22.6
			Dr. Reginald R.T. Risk	139	21.8
			David Pitcairn	129	20.2
			Henry W. Dunmore	66	10.3

Note: Turnout has been calculated on the assumption that the number voting (638), reported by both the *Harrow and Wealdstone Press* and the *Watford Observer*, is accurate and that the figure given (600) by the *Harrow Gazette* is an estimation. The *Watford Observer* overestimated the number of electors as 1,200.

Short and Dunmore were the candidates of the Harrow Progressive Union and called on "Working Men and Women to Vote for your Working Class Candidates" and to "rally round the cause of Labour and to vote for their fellow workers". A seventeenth candidate for this election and the Union's intended third candidate, Henry Godfrey, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

An eighteenth candidate for this election, Dr. Edward W.F. Stiven, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

The *Middlesex and Buckinghamshire Advertiser* reported on polling day as follows: "Polling ... took place on Monday last at the Harrow Board School, Roxeth Hill, Mr. R.E.H. Fisher being the Returning Officer. All the arrangements for the poll were satisfactorily made, and no hitch of any kind occurred throughout the day. The day was very dull and it rained, little or much, the whole day. This had a most depressing effect, and kept many away from the poll, especially the Greenhill voters, who bitterly complained that a polling place had not been [arranged] in their district.... After the poll had closed at eight o'clock, the officers adjourned for an hour for refreshments and then commenced their weary task. This was accomplished most expeditiously and at 11.30 the poll was declared."

Additional reporting was supplied by the *Watford Observer*. "The results of the elections throughout the whole of the old Parish of Pinner, with the exception, perhaps, of Harrow-on-the-Hill itself, have given much satisfaction. A radical change has taken place at Harrow, the old Board, with one exception, being replaced by strangers..... The polling stations were at the Board Schools. Mr. J.L. Winckley presided over No. 1 Station, and Mr. A.C. Fisher over No. 2. The polling was very steady and there was little excitement."

At the first meeting of Harrow-on-the-Hill UDC on 3 January 1895, the Clerk submitted his account of expenses incurred as Returning Officer for this election, amounting to £25.6s.4d.

The *Minutes* of the meeting of the Council held on 26 May 1896 record that Smith agreed to postpone his resignation "until 6 months before the 15 April next so that the necessity of another election would be avoided."

[Resignation of Williams]

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1896	1,385	50.0	Charles E.G. Webb	237	
			Joseph Hawkins	191	
			John Short	184	
			Thomas Dell	164	
			Dr. Reginald R.T. Risk	157	
			Joseph W. Strange	154	
			James S. Fisk	129	
			Herbert W. Bryans	118	

Note: On 1 October 1895 Local Government Board Order no. 33,399 made radical changes to the boundary of Harrow-on-the-Hill UD with Wealdstone UD. This was the first election following the Order coming into force; 156 parochial electors (1896 *Register*) transferred to Harrow-on-the-Hill, while 4 parochial electors transferred to Wealdstone.

The *Harrow and Wembley Observer* reported that “only one half of the electors took the trouble to record their votes” and that the election had been “exceedingly unexciting and uninteresting”. The *Harrow Gazette* also did not give an accurate turnout figure, only remarking that by 6 pm on polling day less than 300 electors had voted.

The *Middlesex and Buckinghamshire Advertiser* remarked that, after the result was declared, “Messrs. Webb and Hawkins adjourned to the Liberal Club, and each made a speech to the crowd of members who had gathered together to congratulate them.”

[One seat vacant — Resignation of Smith]

1897	1,454	37.8	Dr. Edward W.F. Stiven	263	47.8
			Joseph W. Strange	179	32.5
			Julien Barret	175	31.8
			James Woodbridge	169	30.7
			Oliver A. Saunders	164	29.8
			Harry J. Strickland	148	26.9
			David Pitcairn	122	22.2
			James S. Fisk	67	12.2

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 9.

Stiven and Pitcairn issued a joint election address.

Barret called for the district of Greenhill to be made into a separate electoral ward of the urban district.

[Overhead and Dell retire from the Council]

1898	1,516	Arthur J. Batchelor	Unopp.
		William W. Clowes	Unopp.
		Dr. Reginald R.T. Risk	Unopp.

Note: A fourth candidate for this election, Ernest Johnson, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period. Johnson told the local press that “as there were only four nominations for the three vacancies he could best serve the interests of the Ratepayers by withdrawing his candidature and thereby save the expense of an election.”

[Resignation of Risk]

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1899	1,555	52.5	Brian P. Lascelles	451	55.2
			Joseph Hawkins	449	55.0
			James R.V. Marchant	401	49.1
			Frederick W. Hance	364	44.6
			John Short	345	42.2
			Charles E.G. Webb	319	39.0
			Frederick W. Parsons	99	12.1

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 7.

The *Harrow Gazette* incorrectly reported that the number of electors at this election was 1,624. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (817) is accurate, a figure confirmed by the *Middlesex and Buckinghamshire Advertiser*.

Lascelles was the Librarian at Harrow School. The previous year he had contributed two chapters (on 'Early Headmasters' and 'Speech Day') to the book *Harrow School*, edited by E.W. Howson and G.T. Warner (Edward Arnold, London, 1898, pp. 54, 199). Lascelles served continuously as a councillor (and later also as a county councillor) until his death, in January 1922, at the age of 62. H.M. Wilkins (in his 1976 booklet *The Wealdstone Scene: The Story of Harrow's Victorian Neighbour*, p. 71) reports that Lascelles was a giant of a man who "stood six feet ten inches tall".

[Death of Hance]

1899 (25/5)	1,555	30.5	John Short	239	51.3
			Thomas Dell	165	35.4
			Charles E.G. Webb	<u>62</u>	<u>13.3</u>
				74	15.9

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 9.

Hance died on 16 April, nearly three weeks after he was elected, and before he was able to take his seat on the Council. He was 59 years old.

[Strange and Barret retire from the Council]

1900	1,619	46.2	Thomas Charles	423	56.5
			Dr. Edward W.F. Stiven	391	52.2
			John Young	273	36.4
			Watkin Watkins	262	35.0
			Francis A. Bliss	154	20.6
			Dr. Joseph B.H. Beatty	119	15.9

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 2.

The *Harrow Gazette* incorrectly reported that the number of electors at this election was 1,680. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (749) is accurate, a figure confirmed by the *Middlesex and Buckinghamshire Advertiser*.

The *Advertiser* stated that Young was "the Advocate for Workmen's Dwellings". Two days following the election he took the Chair at a crowded "Grand Smoking Concert" organised by the Liberal Club in the large Lecture Hall. Young was supported on the evening by, amongst others, H.W. Dunmore, J. Short and G.H. Gooderson. Half way through the concert news arrived of the attempted assassination of the Prince of Wales by a young anarchist, Jean-Baptiste Sipido, at the Brussels-North railway station. The *Advertiser* noted with approval that "the whole company at once joined in singing most loyally and heartily 'God Bless the Prince of Wales'."

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
[Clowes retires from the Council]					
1901	1,754	39.7	Sidney W. Hunt	381	54.7
			Arthur J. Batchelor	380	54.5
			John Short	329	47.2
			Charles E.G. Webb	216	31.0

Note: The *Harrow Gazette* estimated that the number of electors at this election was 1,800. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (697) is accurate.

After nomination, William W. Clowes decided to retire from the Council and withdrew his nomination papers within the allowable period. A further candidate for this election, Rev. William D. Bushell, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period. Hunt and Batchelor contested the election on a joint 'ticket'.

1902	1,838	48.8	George H. Gooderson	550	61.3
			Joseph Hawkins	468	52.2
			Brian P. Lascelles	375	41.8
			James R.V. Marchant	228	25.4
			John S. Hastings	227	25.3

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 6.

This was the first election to Harrow-on-the-Hill UDC where a second polling place was provided for the convenience of electors living in Greenhill. The statistics for the two districts were:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>Parochial Electors</u>	<u>County Electors</u>	<u>Parliamentary Electors</u>
Greenhill	C	932	887	839	756
Harrow	F	985	951	856	808
Totals		1,917	1,838	1,695	1,564

The *Harrow Gazette* reported that the number of electors at this election was 1,830. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (897) is correct, a figure confirmed by the *Middlesex and Buckinghamshire Advertiser*.

[One seat vacant — Death of Stiven]

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1903	1,897	49.8	Charles E.G. Webb	443	46.9
			Thomas Charles	319	33.8
			David Pitcairn	317	33.6
			John G. Wright Cooper	272	28.8
			Richard Elias	227	24.0
			John Young	210	22.2
			Frederick L. Watkins	180	19.1

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 6.

On 24 September 1902 Local Government Board Order no. 44,414 made minor changes to the boundary of Harrow-on-the-Hill UD with Wealdstone UD. This was the first election following the Order coming into force; no electors were involved.

The *Harrow Gazette* incorrectly reported that the number of electors at this election was 1,972. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (944) is correct.

Two further candidates for this election, John S. Hastings and George F. Shepherd, were nominated but the Returning Officer ruled that their nomination papers were invalid.

[Three additional seats created]

1904	2,055	46.5	Bertram E. Fenwick	588	61.5
			Harry J. Strickland	333	34.8
			John G. Wright Cooper	332	34.7
			Arthur J. Batchelor	324	33.9
			Sidney W. Hunt	305	31.9
			Rev. Lionel Goodrich	281	29.4
			John Short	275	28.8
			Dr. Joseph B.H. Beatty	211	22.1
			Thomas V. Marsh	211	22.1
			John Young	132	13.8

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 2.

For the three new seats created, Batchelor was deemed elected for a term of three years, Hunt for a term of two years and Goodrich for a term of one year.

Two further candidates for this election, Francis A. Bliss and John S. Hastings, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

1905	2,203	38.4	Henry S. Clark	409	48.3
			Joseph Hawkins	409	48.3
			Brian P. Lascelles	332	39.2
			George H. Gooderson	306	36.2
			Rev. Lionel Goodrich	269	31.8
			John Young	259	30.6
			Thomas V. Marsh	124	14.7

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 7.

The *Harrow Gazette* reported that the number of electors at this election was 2,200. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (846) is correct.

An eighth candidate for this election, John Short, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
[Webb and Charles retire from the Council. Resignation of Fenwick. Death of Batchelor]					
1906	2,387	44.0	James O'Brien	547	52.1
			David Pitcairn	518	49.3
			Sidney W. Hunt	404	38.5
			Charles A. Werner	333	31.7
			Harry B. Henderson	317	30.2
			John Young	273	26.0
			Henry Sherwood	263	25.0
			Edward N. Martin	246	23.4
			Richard Elias	234	22.3
			John S. Hastings	230	21.9
			James A. Atkins	210	20.0
			John Short	203	19.3
			John Batchelor	171	16.3

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 1.

The *Harrow Observer* overestimated the number of electors at this election as 2,400. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (1,050 in the District) is correct. The newspaper said that 511 electors voted at Roxeth Hill and 539 at Greenhill, thereby allowing construction of the following analysis:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>Parochial Electors</u>	<u>Voted</u>	<u>T'out</u>
Greenhill	D	1,371	1,327	539	40.6%
Harrow	G	1,088	1,060	511	48.2%
Totals		2,459	2,387	1,050	44.0%

A prominent local landowner and benefactor, Mr. Samuel Gardner of 'Oakhurst', Mount Park Road, attempted to broker a 'ticket' of candidates to contest this election. A meeting was held at Gardner's home on 13 March with O'Brien, Pitcairn, Werner, Henderson and Sherwood in attendance. The five candidates were invited to run on the ticket together, but O'Brien declined.

[Cooper retires from the Council. Resignation of Werner]

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1907	2,448	38.1	John Young	474	50.8
			Dr. William S. Darby	388	41.6
			Harry J. Strickland	367	39.3
			Edward N. Martin	303	32.5
			Harry B. Henderson	289	31.0
			Charles Hulbert	261	28.0
			John Martin	257	27.5
			John H. Hollingsworth	246	26.4
			John Short	236	25.3

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 6.

The *Harrow Gazette* incorrectly reported that the number of electors at this election was 2,300. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (933) is correct. The *Harrow Observer* reported the number of electors as 2,439, but also stated the number voting by polling place, thereby allowing construction of the following analysis:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>Parochial Electors</u>	<u>Voted</u>	<u>T'out</u>
Greenhill	F	1,511	1,459	447	30.6%
Harrow	I	1,018	989	486	49.1%
Totals		2,529	2,448	933	38.1%

A tenth candidate for this election, Ernest Johnson, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

[Gooderson retires from the Council]

1908	2,733	29.9	Brian P. Lascelles	489	59.9
			Joseph Hawkins	402	49.3
			John Martin	386	47.3
			Thomas Charles	355	43.5
			Henry S. Clark	308	37.7

Note: Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting by the *Harrow Observer* (816) is correct. There were 1,092 electors on the *Register* for the Roxeth Hill polling place and 1,641 electors for the Greenhill polling place.

[Henderson retires from the Council]

1909	2,848	Richard Elias	Unopp.
		Sidney W. Hunt	Unopp.
		James O'Brien	Unopp.
		David Pitcairn	Unopp.

Note: Hunt, O'Brien and Pitcairn were retiring members of the Council seeking re-election. At close of nominations two further candidates had come forward to fill the fourth seat, namely Richard Elias and John A. Smith (better known as J. Albert Smith, an optician with premises on the High Street). Neither Elias or Smith wished to cause the expense of a contested election, so they agreed to draw lots for the fourth vacancy. Elias won and Smith withdrew his nomination papers within the allowable time.

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1910	3,072	32.9	John Young	592	58.5
			John A. Smith	533	52.7
			Dr. William S. Darby	392	38.7
			Edward N. Martin	344	34.0
			Harry J. Strickland	327	32.3
			Frank E. Spencer	172	17.0

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 1.

Both the *Harrow Gazette* and the *Harrow Observer* reported that the number of electors at this election was 3,076. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (1,012) is correct. The spoilt paper was caused by the "enthusiastic elector giving two votes each for two candidates"; contemporary Returning Officers probably would have allowed the paper as good (single) votes for two candidates.

A seventh candidate for this election, Rev. Lionel Goodrich, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

[Death of Pitcairn]

1911	3,374	32.3	Brian P. Lascelles	598	54.9
			Joseph Hawkins	574	52.7
			Thomas Charles	487	44.7
			Robert B. Black	414	38.0
			John Martin	411	37.7
			James W. Reynolds	382	35.0
			Philip Poole	308	28.3
			Eldred Penrose Stevens	219	20.1

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 3. (2 where the elector had voted for six candidates and 1 where the elector had signed the ballot paper.)

The *Harrow Observer* reported that the number of electors at this election was 3,375. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (1,090) is correct.

Reynolds and Poole issued a joint election address.

There were few polling day incidents for the *Harrow Observer* to report: "There were no weighty questions at Harrow which disturbed the voters, and the drizzling rain and cold wind of Monday emphasised the apathy of the electorate.... The most active among the candidates was Mr. T. Charles, who, with the kindly aid of Mr. J.E. Jones' motor car, and the pony cart of his son, Donald, brought many a voter comfortably to the poll despite the inclement weather."

[Elias and Hunt retire from the Council]

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1912	3,540	34.8	John Martin	735	59.6
			Harry J. Strickland	704	57.1
			James O'Brien	635	51.5
			Eldred Penrose Stevens	385	31.2
			James W. Reynolds	349	28.3
			William H. Hawks	165	13.4
			George Higgins	141	11.4
			Frederick C. Gough	115	9.3
			Robert H. Steemson	114	9.2
			Frederick C. Wildy	61	4.9

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 2.

An eleventh candidate for this election, John Daborn, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

The *Harrow Observer* reported that 521 electors voted at Roxeth Hill and 712 at Greenhill, making a district total of 1,233, thereby allowing construction of the following analysis:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register</u> <u>Entries</u>	<u>Parochial</u> <u>Electors</u>	<u>Voted</u>	<u>T'out</u>
Greenhill	H	2,397	2,282	712	31.2%
Harrow	K	1,286	1,258	521	41.4%
Totals		3,683	3,540	1,233	34.8%

Martin, Strickland, O'Brien and Stevens were endorsed by the *Harrow Observer*. The newspaper made no pretence at impartiality and displayed deep hostility, in both its reporting and editorial columns, to the presence of Socialist candidates at the election.

Hawks, Higgins and Steemson were nominees of the local branch of the Independent Labour Party (ILP). Higgins and Steemson were also members of the Bessborough Social Association and supported the Association's policy that provision should be made for a recreation ground on the Bessborough Estate. The Chairman of the Association, Edward G. Bunyan, advised them that the Association was "non-political and unsectarian" and could not, as an organisation, endorse them.

The *Observer's* diarist reported that "one Socialist candidate, who attended the Council chamber during the counting, with regal indifference to custom kept his hat on during the whole time he was in the room. This absolute indifference to custom — I won't say anything more — is I suppose the hallmark of Socialistic upbringing."

Gough and Wildy were the candidates of the local Anti-Socialist Union. There is uncertainty about the precise form of the name of *both* the Union's candidates. The spelling of Wildy's surname appears to be confirmed by the *Minutes* of the Council, the 1912 *Register of Electors* and 1911 *Census* returns; however the *Harrow Observer* persisted throughout its election coverage with the spelling "Wildey". The issues surrounding Gough's name are complex and form the subject of Appendix W (page 192).

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1894-1918 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Votes	%
1913	3,856	38.1	John A. Smith	673	45.8
			Dr. William S. Darby	636	43.3
			Edward N. Martin	547	37.2
			John Batchelor	521	35.4
			John Daborn	475	32.3
			John Young	433	29.5
			James W. Reynolds	332	22.6
			James A. Atkins	232	15.8
			Robert W.R. Hill	193	13.1

Note: The *Harrow Gazette* incorrectly reported that the number of electors at this election was 1,470; the *Harrow Observer* made it clear this was in fact the number *voting*.

The *Observer* reported that Daborn received the support of the Bessborough Social Association and the "tacit support" of the Church and the local Unionist Association.

1914	3,903	32.2	Thomas Charles	648	51.6
			Joseph Hawkins	552	43.9
			Brian P. Lascelles	521	41.5
			John Young	423	33.7
			Ernest Johnson	405	32.2
			Robert B. Black	392	31.2
			Edward G. Bunyan	365	29.1

Note: The *Harrow Observer* reported that the number of electors at this election was 4,056, a figure 153 greater than the statistic in the 1914 *Register of Electors*. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (1,256) is correct.

Bunyan was in receipt of support from the Bessborough Social Association.

1915	4,119	John Martin	Unopp.
		James O'Brien	Unopp.
		Eldred Penrose Stevens	Unopp.
		Harry J. Strickland	Unopp.

Note: Elections postponed for the remainder of the First World War. No casual vacancies occurred on Harrow-on-the-Hill UDC during this period and all twelve sitting members continued as Councillors with due retirement dates in 1919, 1920 or 1921, dependent on the year of their election.

