

**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.....”

Blackwell was High Sheriff of Middlesex for the year 1894.

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. |
|----------------|--|----------------|---------|

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. |
|----------------|---------------|---------|

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. |
|-----------------|---------------|---------|

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. |
|----------------|-----------------|---------|

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. |
|----------------|-------------------|---------|

Note: Cllr. Little proposed and Cllr. Laidlow seconded that Stops be chosen to fill the vacancy. There were no other nominations.

