

**HARROW-ON-THE-HILL URBAN DISTRICT**  
**ELECTION RESULTS, 1919-1933**

## HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1919-1933

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1919	7,819	30.5	+Dr. William S. Darby	Ind	932	39.0
			George A. Jordan	Lab	820	34.3
			John H. Baker	Ind	704	29.5
			Arthur H. Bartle	Lab	651	27.3
			Levi T. Vaughan	Ind	646	27.1
			George H. Exeter	Ind	635	26.6
			+John A. Smith	Ind	539	22.6
			Sidney A. Jewell	Ind	387	16.2
			+John Batchelor	Ind	243	10.2
			+Edward N. Martin	Ind	217	9.1
			Arthur N. Tuck	Ind	160	6.7
			Frederick C. Gough	Ind	159	6.7
			Frederick R. Marriott	Ind	144	6.0
			Alfred T. Wilson	Ind	134	5.6
			Edward G. Bunyan	Ind	80	3.4

Note: Both the *Harrow Observer* and the *Harrow Gazette* reported the total number of electors as 7,831, with 2,388 voting. The *Observer* gave a summary of the polling statistics as follows:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>District Electors</u>	<u>Voted</u>	<u>T'out</u>
Harrow-on-the-Hill	F	3,206	2,855	800	28.0%
Greenhill	G	6,095	5,256	1,588	30.2%

There is clearly an error, as printed, in this breakdown as the figures imply a total 'district' electorate of 8,111. A contemporary analysis of the *Register* corrected the number of electors at Roxeth Hill and assumes the reported number voting is correct:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>District Electors</u>	<u>Voted</u>	<u>T'out</u>
Harrow-on-the-Hill	F	3,206	2,563	800	31.2%
Greenhill	G	6,095	5,256	1,588	30.2%
Totals		9,301	7,819	2,388	30.5%

Baker was described by the *Harrow Observer* as having "gained public favour daily for his solid views", and that he had "in very great measure the active support of the Liberal Party".

Vaughan had the assistance of the Traders' Association; the *Observer* commenting that the Association gave him "unqualified support". On polling day "he [Vaughan] was unlucky in that during a vital part of the day he lost touch with many people owing to an accident in which although Mr. Wright Cooper [a local baker and caterer] suffered severe injuries, he happily escaped."

For information on the political views of Gough, see Appendix W (p. 215).

The *Harrow Observer* made the following observation of the Labour Party candidates: "Messrs. Jordan and Bartle .... had done a good deal of solid work in canvassing and had the assistance of a small army of helpers, who were determined their henchmen should be returned to carry out their behests."

Although Bartle attended a Harrow Labour Party meeting in February 1921 — presenting a paper on 'A Levy on Wealth' — his affiliation to Labour appears to have weakened by May. The *Harrow Observer* commented in a (generally anti-Labour Party) editorial that "when elected with his colleague [Cllr. Jordan], Bartle came into fame as a Labour man. He soon discovered, however, that the work he was called upon to do in a corporate capacity had no relation to the nostrums of Labour or of Socialism. The result is that in the eyes of the stiff-backed Labourite he has broken from the fold, is beyond redemption and is doomed to be everlastingly ostracised from former comrades."

[Hawkins retires from the Council. Resignations of O'Brien and Strickland]

## HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1920	7,902	32.4	+Brian P. Lascelles	Ind	1,473	57.6
			+Thomas Charles	Ind	1,344	52.3
			George H. Exeter	Ind	1,125	44.0
			Edward W. de W. Bruce	Ind	1,041	40.7
			Levi T. Vaughan	Ind	1,012	39.6
			Arthur N. Tuck	Ind	800	31.3
			Richard Martin	Lab	641	25.1
			James T. Atkins	Ind Lab	613	24.0
			John H. Cross	Lab	589	23.0
			Bernard W. Handley	Lab	546	21.4
			Frederick C. Gough	Ind	293	11.5
			+John Young	Ind	276	10.8

Note: This was the first election to Harrow-on-the-Hill UDC where the district was divided into four, rather than two, polling districts. The statistics were:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>Parliamentary Electors</u>	<u>District Electors</u>
Greenhill	F	2,535	2,526	2,151
Harrow-on-the-Hill	G	2,381	2,369	1,983
Roxeth	H	1,691	1,686	1,386
West Harrow	I	2,664	2,658	2,382
Totals		9,271	9,239	7,902

The *Harrow Observer* reported that there were 7,903 electors on the *Register*. Turnout has been calculated on the basis of their report that 2,557 voted.

Lascelles, Charles, Exeter, Bruce, Vaughan and Tuck sought election on a joint 'ticket'.

The candidature of Atkins, a member of the Union of General Workers, was supported by the local Labour Party even though he was not an official candidate.

For information on the political views of Gough, see Appendix W (p. 215).

The *Harrow Observer* commented on polling day as follows: "This year there were four [polling] stations, the chief feature being that the Roxeth schools as a station were denuded of their ancient splendour as a polling booth, the venue being transferred to the Sunday School in Northolt Road, and a new station was opened at the Harrow Fire Station for the advantage of the Hill voters....., the other two stations being at the Vaughan Road Schools and St. Ann's Road Schools." The paper reported that the Labour candidates "worked extremely hard, and another conspicuous figure was Captain Bruce who genially hunted up his friends and supporters. Few carriages were employed, but some candidates were fortunate in the loan of well-equipped motors. One energetic partisan, during the day, whipped up no fewer than 49 electors in his side-car."

Of the count, the *Observer* reported that "once the counting had commenced there was not the slightest doubt as to the result .... the 'ticket' were polling in the proportion of nearly two to one .... The prominent feature of the early figures were that the Labour candidates were nowhere — much to their chagrin — and the extreme popularity which Captain Bruce enjoyed, a surprise probably to the gallant sailor himself. Mr. Atkins at one time looked a likely winner as he polled a large number of 'plumpers' but his support fell off towards the end...."

[Martin, Stevens and Vaughan retire from the Council]

## HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1921	7,893	30.7	Dr. John D.C. White	CT	1,224	50.5
			Montagu F.M.S. Kittoe	CT	892	36.8
			Alfred B. Champriss	Ind	852	35.2
			Vaughan D. Dempster	CT	830	34.3
			Arthur N. Tuck	Ind	820	33.8
			George Wheeler	CT	769	31.7
			Alfred J. Connelly	Ind R	541	22.3
			Bernard W. Handley	Lab	458	18.9
			John H. Cross	Lab	431	17.8
			Arthur Atkins	Lab	390	16.1
			Walter E. Roots	Lab	371	15.3

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 9.

The *Harrow Observer* stated that the number of electors at this election was 7,903. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (2,423) is correct.

Connelly was a prominent member of the 'Bessborough Social and Harrow Ratepayers' Association', and received support from its members.

Tuck and Champriss both claimed to have been approached by Harrow Chamber of Trade to run on their 'ticket'. Tuck assented; however, "at the last minute, without any notice", he was "thrown over, 'left in the cart', and it was not cricket". In the case of Champriss, he refused, preferring to run as a "real independent candidate than get in by a ticket system". He styled himself as the 'Independent and Anti-Waste' candidate.

The *Observer* claimed that "despite shouting and red ties the Labour four were, in a municipal sense, anathema to the ordinary voter. It could hardly be expected otherwise. They were roundly blamed for the coal strike and prospective evils and got little or no sympathy. Councillor A.N. Tuck, who, rumour said, had been coquetting with the Labour Party, felt the reaction and received a share of their disapproval ....."

[Darby retires from the Council. Death of Lascelles]

1922	8,295	John H. Baker	Ind	Unopp.
		Arthur H. Bartle	Ind Lab	Unopp.
		George A. Jordan	Lab	Unopp.
		Arthur N. Tuck	Ind	Unopp.
		Bernard W. Handley	Lab	Unopp.

Note: Retiring councillor Dr. William S. Darby was nominated to contest this election but withdrew his nomination papers within the allowable period.

Although this election was uncontested, a Board of Guardians election was held on 1 April. The *Harrow Observer and Gazette* reported a turnout of 7.1% among the 8,295 electors.

The Council voted as follows to decide which of the five unopposed candidates be deemed to have filled the casual vacancy resulting from the death of Lascelles: Handley 10 votes, Baker 1 vote, Tuck 1 vote, Bartle 0 votes, Jordan 0 votes.

[Resignation of Baker]

## HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1923	8,266	25.9	George H. Exeter	CT	1,304	60.8
			Edward W. de W. Bruce	CT	1,230	57.4
			Thomas Charles	CT	1,192	55.6
			Walter W. Symper	CT	848	39.6
			Bernard W. Handley	Lab	696	32.5
			John M. Rose-Troup	Ind	674	31.4
			Bernard J.B. Ashworth	Ind	564	26.3
			John H. Cross	Lab	560	26.1
			Douglas A.E. Bradford	Ind	397	18.5

Note: Rose-Troup, Ashworth and Bradford contested the election on a joint 'ticket'. In addition, Bradford received the endorsement of the local Roman Catholic church.

Rose-Troup had been a Captain in the Queen's Regiment during the Great War and was noted as a war poet. Three of his poems ('What is War?', 'Harrow's Honour' and 'The Listeners'), written whilst a prisoner-of-war in Germany, were included in the anthology *The Muse in Arms*, edited by E.B. Osborn (John Murray, London, 1917, pp. 161, 176, 267). Rose-Troup is mentioned in Paul Kendall's book *Aisne 1914: The Dawn of Trench Warfare* (Spellmount, Stroud, 2012, p. 292).

### [Resignation of Bartle]

1923 (27/5)	8,266		John M. Rose-Troup	Ind	Unopp.
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Note: The circumstances surrounding the creation of this vacancy were controversial. Bartle resigned after a protracted dispute at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16 April during which he failed to be elected as Chairman of the Council. Bartle had been proposed by Cllr. Jordan and seconded by Cllr. Handley, whilst Cllr. White proposed and Cllr. Dempster seconded an amendment that Cllr. Bruce be the Chairman. (See *Harrow Observer and Gazette*, 20 April 1923, p. 6.)

The official record of the meeting and the question of the legality of the election of the eventual Chairman (E.W. de W. Bruce) can be followed in *Harrow-on-the-Hill Urban District Council Minute Book No. 43* as follows:

pp. 1-4 (16 April 1923): Dispute during the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

pp. 24-28 (3 May 1923): Resignation of Bartle from the Council; doubts over the legality of the Annual Meeting; V.D. Dempster appointed Chairman *pro tem*.

pp. 82-85 (14 May 1923): Matter resolved with E.W. de W. Bruce reinstated as Chairman.

Bartle subsequently described his resignation as a protest against "intrigues and secret conclave" and "cliques and backstair methods."

1924	8,728	19.6	Montagu F.M.S. Kittoe	CT	888	52.0
			Dr. John D.C. White	CT	863	50.5
			Vaughan D. Dempster	CT	807	47.2
			Alfred B. Champniss	CT	773	45.3
			George W. Cosgrove	Ind	558	32.7
			Mrs. Sarah R. Ludbrook	Lab	550	32.2

## HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1925	9,314	26.0	George A. Jordan	Lab	1,403	
			Bernard W. Handley	Lab	967	
			John M. Rose-Troup	CT	899	
			Arthur N. Tuck	CT	845	
			Mrs. Sarah R. Ludbrook	Lab	796	
			Frederick W. Perkins	Lab	754	
			Charles Tyler	CT	725	
			Arthur J. Lambert	CT	719	
			Ernest F. Housden	Ind	542	
			Harry V. Birrell	Ind	297	

Note: An examination of the number of electors in each of the four polling districts at this election showed the following:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>Parliamentary Electors</u>	<u>District Electors</u>
Greenhill	F	3,244	3,219	2,939
Harrow-on-the-Hill	G	1,742	1,739	1,565
Roxeth	H	1,882	1,875	1,683
West Harrow	I	3,389	3,384	3,127
Totals		10,257	10,217	9,314

Housden was an assistant master at Harrow School and sought election in the School's interest.

[Resignation of Rose-Troup]

1926	10,021	31.7	Thomas Charles	CT	1,734	54.5
			George H. Exeter	CT	1,731	54.5
			Edward W. de W. Bruce	CT	1,702	53.5
			Ernest F. Housden	CT	1,436	45.2
			Walter W. Symper	CT	1,095	34.4
			Mrs. Sarah R. Ludbrook	Lab	1,091	34.3
			Frederick W. Perkins	Lab	1,004	31.6
			Arthur H. Bartle	Ind	972	30.6
			Wallace F. Clarke	Lab	959	30.2
			Francis A. Coles	Lab	889	28.0
			William F. Oliver	Lab	864	27.2

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 21.

[One seat vacant — Death of Champniss]

1927	10,300	23.3	Dr. John D.C. White	CT	1,492	62.1
			Montagu F.M.S. Kittoe	CT	1,462	60.9
			Vaughan D. Dempster	CT	1,383	57.6
			Frederick E. Mordant	CT	1,168	48.6
			Mrs. Sarah R. Ludbrook	Lab	849	35.4
			Frederick W. Perkins	Lab	781	32.5
			Wallace F. Clarke	Lab	718	29.9
			Francis A. Coles	Lab	668	27.8

## HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1928	10,477	25.4	Arthur N. Tuck	CT	1,535	57.7
			Walter W. Symper	CT	1,420	53.4
			George A. Jordan	Lab	1,388	52.2
			Mrs. Annie R.E. Sherwood	CT	1,312	49.3
			Walter J.S. Harris	CT	1,263	47.5
			Bernard W. Handley	Lab	1,024	38.5
			Mrs. Sarah R. Ludbrook	Lab	841	31.6
			Miss Olive A. Driver	Lab	715	26.9

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 8.

The Chamber of Trade candidates received support from the local Conservative Association. The *Harrow Observer and Gazette* went so far as to describe Mrs. Sherwood and Harris as "the Conservative Party candidates."

[Housden retires from the Council]

1929	10,963	22.7	Thomas Charles	CT	1,490	60.0
			Edward W. de W. Bruce	CT	1,415	57.0
			Frank Smith	CT	1,274	51.3
			George H. Exeter	CT	1,237	49.8
			David J. Pratt	Lab	782	31.5
			Mrs. Sarah R. Ludbrook	Lab	759	30.6
			Miss Olive A. Driver	Lab	679	27.3
			Thomas Baldwin	Lab	634	25.5
			Harold Ozanne	Ind	617	24.8

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 10.

On 1 October 1928 the Middlesex (Harrow-on-the-Hill Urban District) Confirmation Order no. 72,899 transferred 101 acres of Northolt parish (Uxbridge RD) to Harrow-on-the-Hill UD when the parish was disbanded. This was the first election following the Order coming into force. The area transferred formed a specific part of polling district I (Northolt) of the 1928 Uxbridge division *Register of Electors*, and contained 56 Parliamentary electors of whom 51 were local government electors.

The total number of electors and turnout (2,484 voting) shown above were reported by the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*. A *Special Report* presented to the Middlesex County Council in 1932 showed the total electors as 10,914 (22.8% turnout based on 2,484 voting).

Ozanne was the Estates Manager of Harrow School and sought election in the School's interest. He was also officer commanding of the Harrow Officers' Training Corps.

[Death of Jordan]

## HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1930	12,151	22.3	Montagu F.M.S. Kittoe	CT	1,446	53.5
			Dr. John R. Crichton	CT	1,415	52.3
			Dr. John D.C. White	CT	1,375	50.9
			Vaughan D. Dempster	CT	1,295	47.9
			David J. Pratt	Lab	1,155	42.7
			Mrs. Sarah R. Ludbrook	Lab	1,147	42.4
			Frederick E. Mordant	CT	1,146	42.4
			John H. Cross	Lab	1,139	42.1

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 5.

The total number of electors and turnout (2,704 voting) shown above were reported by the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*. A *Special Report* presented to the Middlesex County Council in 1932 showed the total electors as 12,212 (22.1% turnout based on 2,704 voting).

The Chamber of Trade candidates received support from the local Conservative Association, even though one of them (Crichton) had been Liberal Party candidate for Newcastle upon Tyne North at the previous year's General Election.

1931	13,013	16.2	Walter W. Symper	CT	1,139	54.0
			Mrs. Annie R.E. Sherwood	CT	1,119	53.0
			Arthur N. Tuck	CT	1,106	52.4
			Frederick E. Mordant	CT	1,033	48.9
			David J. Pratt	Lab	948	44.9
			John H. Cross	Lab	884	41.9
			Ernest C.K. Argall	Lab	831	39.4
			Frank A. Rawlings	Lab	767	36.3

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 6.

The total number of electors and turnout (2,111 voting) shown above were reported by the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*. A *Special Report* presented to the Middlesex County Council in 1932 showed the total electors as 13,031 (16.2% turnout based on 2,111 voting).

[Smith and Exeter retire from the Council. Resignations of White and Tuck]



## HARROW-ON-THE-HILL UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1932	13,229	23.2	Edward W. de W. Bruce	CT	1,434	46.8
			Thomas Charles	CT	1,332	43.5
			Arthur J. Lambert	CT	1,217	39.7
			Hugh J. Barton	CT	1,165	38.0
			George R.W. White	CT	1,143	37.3
			Harry Dawson	Ind	1,105	36.1
			John H. Hockings	CT	1,098	35.8
			Arthur Buttle	Ind R	1,041	34.0
			David J. Pratt	Lab	937	30.6
			Walter T. Farr	Lab	697	22.7
			Ernest C.K. Argall	Lab	690	22.5
			Thomas Aitken	Lab	661	21.6
			John Humbles	Lab	580	18.9

Note: This was the first election to Harrow-on-the-Hill UDC where the district was divided into six, rather than five, polling districts. The statistics were:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>Parliamentary Electors</u>	<u>District Electors</u>
Greenhill	IA	4,419	4,359	3,104
Harrow-on-the-Hill	IB	2,595	2,587	1,621
Roxeth East	JA	3,152	3,144	2,359
Roxeth West	JB	2,549	2,549	2,166
West Harrow	K	5,057	5,055	3,758
Northolt*	KE*	300	300	221
Totals		18,072	17,994	13,229

\* Uxbridge Parliamentary division

The *Harrow Observer and Gazette* did not report the number of electors, merely commenting that there were "206 more names on the *Register*". If correct, and if the electorate figure for the 1931 election is accurate, a local government electorate of 13,219 is implied. It is assumed that the reported turnout (3,065 voting) is accurate; this has been used in the 'percentage' calculations. A *Special Report* presented to the Middlesex County Council in 1932 showed the electorate as 13,478 (22.7% turnout based on 3,065 voting), a significant discrepancy from the other sources.

Buttle was the Chairman of the West Harrow Ratepayers' and Residents' Association.

The Chamber of Trade candidates received support from the local Conservative Association.

[Kittoe retires from the Council. Resignations of Mordant and Bruce]

1933	14,158	18.5	Arthur Buttle	CT	1,563	59.8
			Harry Dawson	CT	1,375	52.6
			Dr. John R. Crichton	CT	1,291	49.4
			Vaughan D. Dempster	CT	1,268	48.5
			Alan G. Elliot-Smith	CT	1,227	46.9
			John S. Bleasby	CT	1,171	44.8
			David J. Pratt	Lab	1,060	40.5

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 20.

The Chamber of Trade candidates received support from the local Conservative Association.

