

**WEALDSTONE URBAN DISTRICT  
ELECTION RESULTS, 1919-1933**

## WEALDSTONE UDC, 1919-1933

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1919	5,562	29.2	+George Clarke	Ind	768	47.2
			John Kirby	Ind	674	41.5
			+Robert Balk	Lab	650	40.0
			William G. Collard	Lab	576	35.4
			Philip Porter	Ind	564	34.7
			Walter J. Bentley	Lab	485	29.8
			William J. Meller	Ind	480	29.5
			+Frederick W. Wale	Ind	468	28.8
			Alfred P. Mitchell	Lab	451	27.7
			Sydney Bleaney	Lab	450	27.7
			Thomas Millbourn	NFDSS	448	27.6
			+William H. Taylor	Ind	433	26.6
			+James How	Ind	433	26.6
			Richard E. Cockerell	Lab	430	26.4
			Frederick C. Pike	Ind NFDSS	413	25.4
			Otto H. Pike	NFDSS	407	25.0
			William O. Jackson	Lab	370	22.8
			+Charles Twinn	Ind	345	21.2
			+Herbert E. Harwood	Ind	342	21.0
			+Alfred I. Taylor	Ind	273	16.8

Note: There were 3,445 local government electors on the *Register* in the North-East (H) polling district and 2,117 in the South-West (I) polling district. However both the *Harrow Gazette* and *Harrow Observer* reported that the number of electors at this election was 5,563. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting by both newspapers (1,626) is correct.

Frederick C. Pike had been the secretary of the local branch of the NFDSS. He described himself as the 'Independent Soldier Candidate'. His nomination papers had been signed by Otto H. Pike, one of the official NFDSS candidates.

W.H. Taylor and How tied for the twelfth elected place, each polling 433 votes. The Returning Officer (Richard J. Bryant) was entitled to use a casting vote but declined to do so. Taylor was declared elected after lots were drawn from a hat.

Of polling day, the *Harrow Observer* commented: "There was little excitement in the district, few carriages, one or two favours were exhibited and election cards thrown about, but there was nothing to denote that an exciting and important election was in progress beyond the candidates and 'persuaders' at the doors of the polling stations at High Street schools and the Bridge schools."

1920	5,718	34.2	James How	Ind	1,132	58.0
			Charles Twinn	Ind	1,077	55.1
			William H. Taylor	Ind	980	50.2
			Henry E. Cross	Ind	954	48.8
			Alfred P. Mitchell	Lab	607	31.1
			Sydney Bleaney	Lab	508	26.0
			Richard E. Cockerell	Lab	414	21.2
			Thomas Millbourn	NFDSS	382	19.6
			Clement E. Cattermole	Lab	362	18.5
			Samuel J. Garratt	NFDSS	241	12.3

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 27.

How, Twinn, Taylor and Cross sought election on a joint 'ticket'.

[Bentley retires from the Council]

## WEALDSTONE UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1921	5,852	28.8	Frederick W. Wale	Ind	980	58.1
			William J. Meller	Ind	791	46.9
			Philip Porter	Ind	752	44.5
			Arthur W. Cross	Ind	717	42.5
			Alfred P. Mitchell	Ind	646	38.3
			Alfred I. Taylor	Ind	551	32.6
			Emmanuel Radford	Lab	372	22.0
			Frederick S. Leigh	Lab	350	20.7
			Ernest A. West	Lab	335	19.8

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 25. (Mainly caused by "electors voting for more than four candidates".)

The *Harrow Observer* incorrectly stated that the number of electors at this election was 5,888. Turnout has been calculated on the basis that the reported number voting (1,688) is correct.

A tenth candidate for this election, Edmund H. Brandt, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

Wale, Meller, Porter and Cross sought election on a joint 'ticket'.

1922	5,983	18.9	Sidney M. Young	Ind	776	68.6
			John Kirby	Ind	519	45.9
			George Clarke	Ind	485	42.9
			William G. Collard	Ind	432	38.2
			Robert Balk	Ind	424	37.5
			Emmanuel Radford	Lab	260	23.0

Note: A seventh candidate for this election, Alfred I. Taylor, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

Kirby, Collard and Balk sought election on a joint 'ticket'.

[Taylor retires from the Council. Resignation of Young]

1923	6,140	16.9	George C. Hill	Ind	612	61.6
			Robert Balk	Ind	493	49.6
			James How	Ind	493	49.6
			Henry E. Cross	Ind	487	49.0
			Charles Twinn	Ind	478	48.1
			Alfred I. Taylor	Ind	406	40.8

[A.W. Cross retires from the Council]

## WEALDSTONE UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1924	6,302	22.9	Charles M. Rose	Ind	747	51.7
			Frederick W. Wale	Ind	545	37.7
			Philip Porter	Ind	499	34.5
			William J. Meller	Ind	479	33.1
			Sydney Bleaney	Lab	465	32.2
			Edward J. Hurley	Lab	408	28.2
			Mrs. Caroline L. Morgan	Ind	392	27.1
			Mrs. Emmelia F. Taylor	Ind	325	22.5
			Mrs. Hannah M. Farrow	Ind	291	20.1

Note: Rose was honorary General Secretary of the Wealdstone (Wesleyan) Brotherhood.  
Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Farrow sought election on a joint 'ticket'.

[Clarke retires from the Council. Death of Hill]

1925	6,422	38.0	Mrs. Annie C. Belshaw	Lab	813	33.3
			Francis J. Cresswell	RA	811	33.3
			Alfred P. Mitchell	Ind Lab	768	31.5
			William Bryon	RA	701	28.8
			Harry Phippard	RA	672	27.6
			Sydney Bleaney	Lab	663	27.2
			George Withers	Lab	642	26.3
			George Hullah	RA	610	25.0
			James Wharton	RA	595	24.4
			William G. Collard	Ind	594	24.4
			John Kirby	Ind	581	23.8
			Charles Twinn	Ind	576	23.6
			Herbert L. Lockwood	Ind Lab	565	23.2
			Gilbert L. Postlethwaite	Lab	557	22.8
			Henry G. Gange	Lab	528	21.7
			Ernest E. Higgs	Ind	364	14.9

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 3.

This was the first election to Wealdstone UDC where the district was divided into three, rather than two, polling districts. Their statistics were:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>Parliamentary Electors</u>	<u>District Electors</u>
North-East	J	2,443	2,437	2,144
North-West	K	2,049	2,043	1,813
South-West	L	2,770	2,753	2,465
Totals		7,262	7,233	6,422

Collard, Twinn and Higgs sought election on a joint 'ticket'.

Both Mitchell and Lockwood were short-listed by Wealdstone Labour Party as potential candidates for this election. Mitchell then withdrew and stated that for business reasons he could not run on the Labour Party 'ticket', and would stand as an Independent instead. Lockwood also withdrew, resigned from the Labour Party and contested the election on a joint platform with Mitchell. During the campaign Mitchell and Lockwood were supported by the Wealdstone (Wesleyan) Brotherhood. After the election Mitchell was expelled from the Labour Party together with three other members who had assisted his campaign.

[Balk, How and H.E. Cross retire from the Council]

## WEALDSTONE UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1926	6,492	32.6	Harry Phippard	RA	1,362	
			William S. Rainbow	RA	1,311	
			George Hullah	RA	1,290	
			Mrs. Mary E. Webb	RA	1,262	
			Mrs. Kathleen M. Davies	Lab	700	
			Sydney Bleaney	Lab	685	
			Henry G. Gange	Lab	640	
			Thomas I. Ellis	Lab	619	

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 6.

The local press did not disclose the number of electors at this election. The Autumn 1925 *Register of Electors* for the Harrow Parliamentary division is not available at the London Metropolitan Archives; therefore the above electorate figure has been compiled from the Spring 1925 *Register*. It is likely to be an underestimate of the electorate at the 1926 election.

[Porter retires from the Council]

1927	7,333	33.4	Frederick W. Wale	RA	1,356	55.4
			William E. Calow	RA	1,115	45.5
			George H. Recknell	RA	1,106	45.2
			Henry C. Stutfield	RA	1,033	42.2
			Charles M. Rose	Ind Prog	988	40.3
			Mrs. Kathleen M. Davies	Lab	652	26.6
			Henry G. Gange	Lab	595	24.3
			Hugh W. McCleery	Lab	572	23.4
			Miss Kate F. Rogers	Lab	532	21.7
			William J. Meller	Ind	417	17.0

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 2.

This was the first election to Wealdstone UDC where the district was divided into four, rather than three, polling districts. Their statistics were:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>Parliamentary Electors</u>	<u>District Electors</u>
Kenton	K	1,028	1,025	983
North-East	L	2,360	2,354	2,088
North-West	M	2,288	2,282	2,044
South-West	N	2,489	2,479	2,218
Totals		8,165	8,140	7,333

Rose was honorary General Secretary of the Wealdstone (Wesleyan) Brotherhood, and was in receipt of their support. Rose described himself as an "Independent Progressive" candidate and (despite signing Meller's nomination papers as his proposer) urged electors to 'plump' (i.e. use one vote only) for him.

The Kenton branch of the local Conservative Association actively supported the Ratepayer Association candidates, who (apart from Wale) lived in Kenton. The *Harrow Observer and Gazette* noted that the Conservatives were responsible for "a large fleet of cars, estimated at about 30, that toured the district carrying voters to the poll."

[Mrs. Belshaw, Mitchell and Bryon retire from the Council]

## WEALDSTONE UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1928	8,467	27.0	Francis J. Cresswell	RA	1,536	67.2
			Henry E. Norman	RA	1,504	65.8
			Mark G. Welch	RA	1,470	64.3
			Hugh S. Pickthall	RA	1,435	62.7
			Mrs. Kathleen M. Davies	Lab	702	30.7
			Henry G. Gange	Lab	678	29.6
			Miss Kate F. Rogers	Lab	635	27.8
			Thomas I. Ellis	Lab	618	27.0

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 10.

The Ratepayer Association candidates received the support of the Wealdstone and Kenton branches of the local Conservative Association.

[Phippard retires from the Council]

1929	9,375	Walter T. Adams	RA	Unopp.
		George Hullah	RA	Unopp.
		William S. Rainbow	RA	Unopp.
		Mrs. Mary E. Webb	RA	Unopp.

Note: A fifth candidate for this election, Alfred P. Mitchell, withdrew after the close of nominations but within the allowable period.

A meeting of Wealdstone Labour Party, held on 27 February 1929, agreed to adopt a recommendation from their Executive Committee (EC) that this election should not be contested. The recommendation, carried at the EC by 8 votes to 7, was prompted by the (mistaken) expectation that there would be local elections later in 1929 following the reorganisation of local government in the Harrow area.

[Calow and Recknell retire from the Council]

1930	10,720	29.1	Frederick W. Wale	RA	2,184	70.0
			Henry C. Stutfield	RA	2,176	69.7
			George W. Allen	RA	2,118	67.8
			Robert B. Small	RA	2,079	66.6
			Arthur J. Cook	Lab	862	27.6
			Henry G. Gange	Lab	844	27.0
			John Davies	Lab	774	24.8
			Joseph Barrow	Lab	771	24.7

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 8.

The total number of electors and turnout (3,122 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 10,717 (29.1% turnout based on 3,122 voting).

The *Observer* commented that this was the first time that the Wealdstone count had been held in the Council chamber in Peel Road; previously counting was carried out in local schools.

Cook was General Secretary of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain from 1924 until his death from cancer, at the age of 47, in November 1931. His period of office included the General Strike of 1926 about which Cook wrote the pamphlet *The Nine Days*. This led to him being associated with the slogan 'Not a penny off the pay, not a minute on the day'. He lived in Carlton Avenue, Kenton.

## WEALDSTONE UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1931	12,634	18.8	Francis J. Cresswell	RA	1,720	72.6
			Henry E. Norman	RA	1,687	71.2
			Mark G. Welch	RA	1,633	68.9
			Hugh S. Pickthall	RA	1,604	67.7
			Joseph Barrow	Lab	714	30.1
			Henry G. Gange	Lab	694	29.3

Note: The total number of electors is taken from a *Special Report* presented to the Middlesex County Council in 1932. The total number voting (2,370) has been calculated from this figure and the turnout (18.76%) reported by the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*.

[Hullah and Rainbow retire from the Council. Resignation of Cresswell]

1932	13,859	16.4	Mrs. Mary E. Webb	RA	1,543	68.0
			James V. Smith	RA	1,496	65.9
			Walter T. Adams	RA	1,468	64.7
			Herbert H. Crabb	RA	1,431	63.0
			Donald C. Ellis	RA	1,396	61.5
			Henry G. Gange	Lab	617	27.2
			Mrs. Elizabeth Baker	Lab	578	25.5
			Joseph Barrow	Lab	576	25.4
			Mrs. Edith E. Howes	Lab	528	23.3
			Allan C. Cullington	Lab	519	22.9

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 8.

The total number of electors was determined by a contemporary examination of the 1931 *Register of Electors*. The *Harrow Observer and Gazette* reported there were 13,849 electors and that 2,270 voted; the latter figure is assumed to be accurate and has been used in the 'percentage' calculations. A *Special Report* presented to the Middlesex County Council in 1932 tabulated the total electors as 13,959 (16.3% turnout based on 2,270 voting).

## WEALDSTONE UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1933	14,668	13.5	Frederick W. Wale	RA	1,184	59.6
			George W. Allen	RA	1,179	59.4
			Henry C. Stutfield	RA	1,165	58.7
			Edwin Priestley	RA	1,108	55.8
			Henry G. Gange	Lab/Co-op	718	36.2
			Joseph Barrow	Lab/Co-op	707	35.6
			Allan C. Cullington	Lab/Co-op	663	33.4
			Robert B. Small	Ind R	241	12.1

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 8.

This last election to Wealdstone UDC was the first where the district was divided into five, rather than four, polling districts. Their statistics were:

<u>Polling District (PD)</u>	<u>PD Letter</u>	<u>Register Entries</u>	<u>Parliamentary Electors</u>	<u>District Electors</u>
Kenton - East	N	4,339	4,334	3,665
Kenton - West	O	3,013	3,000	2,411
North-East	P	3,012	2,993	2,243
North-West	Q	3,998	3,989	3,034
South-West	R	4,315	4,308	3,315
Totals		18,678	18,624	14,668

The *Harrow Observer and Gazette* reported that there were 14,664 electors on the *Register*. Turnout has been calculated on the basis of their report that 1,985 voted.

The local branches of the Labour Party and Co-operative Party had made an agreement to contest this election on a joint 'ticket', with three candidates coming from the Labour Party and one candidate from the Co-operative Party's membership. When the Co-operative Party failed to supply a nominee a decision was taken to continue with the candidatures of Gange, Barrow and Cullington using the 'Labour and Co-operative' description.

The Ratepayer Association candidates received support from the local Conservative Association.