

**KINGSBURY URBAN DISTRICT
ELECTION RESULTS, 1900-1918**

including

**KINGSBURY WARD, WEMBLEY URBAN DISTRICT
ELECTION RESULTS, 1894-1900**

KINGSBURY WARD, WEMBLEY UDC, 1894-1900

| Election | Electors | T'out | Candidate | Party | Votes | % |
|----------|----------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|------|
| 1894 | 141 | 74.5 | Thomas S. Anderson | W | 70 | 66.7 |
| | | | Dr. Arthur C. White | W | 57 | 54.3 |
| | | | James Pocock | W | 52 | 49.5 |
| | | | Thomas Goddard | | 45 | 42.9 |
| | | | Benjamin J. Wyand | | 28 | 26.7 |
| | | | Charles J. Mitchell | | 26 | 24.8 |

Note: The *Hendon and Finchley Times* initially reported that there were 120 electors at the election, a possible misprint as elsewhere in the article a more accurate figure of 140 electors was mentioned. It is assumed that the reported number of people voting, 105, was accurate.

The paper gave a description of the campaign and polling day as follows: "The contest has been a very keen one, and party feeling has run particularly high. The polling station for this district was at the Board Schools, Kingsbury Lane, The Hyde, Mr. Finch being the presiding officer, with Mr. Hart as assistant; whilst Mr. Chad was also present in the booth watching the interests of Messrs. Anderson, Pocock and White. Outside, this party was particularly active, they having at their disposal a good number of vehicles The lanes had been freely posted with bills and the seat upon the Board of Guardians was also stoutly contested.

"Immediately after the close of the poll the boxes were conveyed to the Workmen's Hall, Wembley, where Mr. Skelton, the Returning Officer, counted up the votes. A number of the electors of Kingsbury journeyed over and shortly after half-past eight quite a little crowd gathered outside the hall. [In the hall] the candidates were accommodated with seats upon a special platform. Shortly after eleven o'clock, after a lot of apparently unnecessary delay, the result was declared There was some cheering, a vote of thanks to the Returning Officer was proposed [and] the Kingsbury contingent left for home. By the aid of a big bell the result was duly announced at The Hyde shortly before midnight, the news being received with some cheers."

[Pocock retires from the Council]

| | | | | | | |
|------|-----|--|---------------------|--|--|--------|
| 1896 | 123 | | Charles J. Mitchell | | | Unopp. |
| 1897 | 133 | | Dr. Arthur C. White | | | Unopp. |
| 1898 | 136 | | Thomas S. Anderson | | | Unopp. |
| 1899 | 131 | | Charles J. Mitchell | | | Unopp. |

Note: Newspaper reports stated that Mitchell was offering himself for re-election. No record of other candidates or a contested election have been found, so it must be assumed Mitchell was returned unopposed.

KINGSBURY WARD, WEMBLEY UDC, 1894-1900 [cont.]

| Election | Electors | T'out | Candidate | Party | Votes | % |
|----------|----------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|---|
| 1900 | 147 | | Dr. Arthur C. White | | Unopp. | |

Note: It was not expected that this election would have to take place because the ward was due to form the new Kingsbury Urban District. The *Hendon and Finchley Times* (30 March 1900) explained the reasons for the election:

“By the way, the complete severance of Kingsbury from Wembley had not been effected last week. It was understood that the election of six members to form the new Kingsbury Urban District would take place on Monday, but for some reason or other Mr. F.J. Seabrook, the appointed Returning Officer, did not receive instructions from official quarters to proceed. It therefore became necessary to elect a member for Kingsbury on the Wembley Council. In view of the fact that the general election [of Kingsbury UD councillors] will take place almost immediately, no one was nominated to fill the vacancy caused by Dr. White’s term of office having expired. A form nominating the retiring member was, however, sent in after the prescribed time, and as there was no other candidate, Mr. Bagshaw, the [Wembley] Returning Officer, has declared Dr. White duly elected. Since that time the necessary orders separating the two districts have been issued, and the general election of a Kingsbury Urban District Council will take place on 14th April.”

KINGSBURY UDC, 1900-1918

| Election | Electors | T'out | Candidate | Party | Votes | % |
|----------|----------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------|---|
| 1900 | 147 | | Thomas S. Anderson | | Unopp. | |
| | | | Henry Johnson | | Unopp. | |
| | | | Charles J. Mitchell | | Unopp. | |
| | | | Thomas Noad | | Unopp. | |
| | | | Henry Ward | | Unopp. | |
| | | | Dr. Arthur C. White | | Unopp. | |

Note: Three further candidates — Joseph Bannister, Pettinger T. Brooks and Mason Kidner — were nominated to contest this election. They withdrew their nominations within the permitted time.

At the first meeting of the Council it was agreed that an application be made to the Middlesex County Council that elections to the Council of the Urban District take place triennially. This was granted, with subsequent elections occurring in 1901, 1904, etc.

| | | | | | | |
|------|-----|------|---------------------|---|----|------|
| 1901 | 125 | 84.0 | Henry Ward | W | 76 | 72.4 |
| | | | Dr. Arthur C. White | W | 58 | 55.2 |
| | | | Mason Kidner | | 53 | 50.5 |
| | | | Louis Miéville | | 50 | 47.6 |
| | | | Pettinger T. Brooks | | 48 | 45.7 |
| | | | Henry Johnson | W | 42 | 40.0 |
| | | | Thomas Noad | W | 40 | 38.1 |
| | | | Thomas S. Anderson | | 31 | 29.5 |
| | | | Charles J. Mitchell | | 31 | 29.5 |

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 1.

Ward, White, Johnson and Noad contested the election on a joint 'ticket'. They were in favour of Kingsbury having its own system of sewerage rather than entering into agreements with Hendon and Wembley.

Kidner, Miéville and Brooks contested the election together on a joint 'ticket'. Anderson and Mitchell were the candidates of a third 'ticket'.

Reporting election day, the *Hendon and Finchley Times* commented that during the past year Council "matters have not worked altogether smoothly and as a result a good deal of feeling has been imparted into the present contest. Election addresses have been issued by all the candidates, the district has been freely placarded with literature; whilst canvassing has by no means been neglected. Mr. W.T. Mansfield, the clerk to the Council, was Returning Officer, and the polling room — the Board School, Kingsbury Road — was opened promptly at eight o'clock. Mrs. Wells had the honour of being the first voter, but Mr. Brooks was very early on the scene. Many persons assembled outside the school in the evening, and during the last hour or two there was a great deal of excitement." Of the count, the paper commented that "it was expected that Mr. Ward would take a prominent position [and] Dr. White also found many supporters, but the electors had not confined themselves to voting for a party and that party only, the six votes being in many instances divided indiscriminately."

[Resignation of Miéville]

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|------|------------------|--|-----------|-------------|
| 1902 (11/1) | 135 | 77.8 | Daniel D. Bulger | | 61 | 60.4 |
| | | | William Burton | | <u>40</u> | <u>39.6</u> |
| | | | | | 21 | 20.8 |

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 4.

The *Hendon and Finchley Times* incorrectly reported that there were 133 electors on the *Register* who were entitled to vote at the election.

KINGSBURY UDC, 1900-1918 [cont.]

| Election | Electors | T'out | Candidate | Party | Votes | % |
|----------|----------|-------|------------------|-------|--------|---|
| 1904 | 135 | | Thomas C. Chad | | Unopp. | |
| | | | José Diaz | | Unopp. | |
| | | | Henry Johnson | | Unopp. | |
| | | | Arthur Jones | | Unopp. | |
| | | | Mason Kidner | | Unopp. | |
| | | | Howard H. Spicer | | Unopp. | |

Note: A seventh candidate, Daniel D. Bulger, was nominated but he withdrew his papers within the allowable period. Bulger was, however, co-opted to the Council as Chairman. He claimed that by his withdrawal he had saved the district £20, equivalent to a half-penny rate. He moved from Kingsbury to live in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, in October 1904.

Spicer was a prominent papermaker and wholesale stationer. He founded the Empire League (a patriotic movement for British boys) and edited the League's magazine *Boys of the Empire*. During the Great War he was a technical advisor to the War Office and later received a knighthood for his services. (He assisted in the design and manufacture of an improved gas mask.) Spicer was found dead in a hotel near the Strand, having shot himself, on 16 August 1926.

[Resignation of Diaz]

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|------|-------------------|------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1905 | 144 | 85.4 | Henry Ward | Red | 65 | 53.3 |
| (28/10) | | | William H. Harper | Blue | $\frac{57}{8}$ | $\frac{46.7}{6.6}$ |

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 1. The *Hendon and Finchley Times* reported that since the *Register* had come into force, two of the 144 electors had died ("joined the great majority").

The circumstances surrounding Diaz's sudden resignation, only a few months after his election as the Chairman of the Council, are to a large extent explained in the *Hendon and Finchley Times* (6 October 1905) which reported the proceedings of the Revision Court considering the forthcoming 1906 *Register of Electors* for the Harrow Parliamentary Division. Held at the offices of Harrow Council on 29 September, the voting lists for Kingsbury, Edgware, Little Stanmore, Great Stanmore, Wembley, Wealdstone, Harrow and Harrow Weald were revised. In addition to representatives of the Conservative and Liberal Parties, a delegation from Kingsbury attended, including Messrs. W.H. Harper (Overseer), F. Tootell (vestry clerk), F. Tavener (Assistant Overseer) and H.H. Turner (representing several Kingsbury residents).

Once business turned to the Kingsbury lists, Harper reported to the Court that Diaz was "a Spanish merchant domiciled in England, but he has not taken out letters patent to become a naturalised British subject. The records at the Home Office have been searched. [As such he is] an alien and has no claim [to be an ownership elector]." Diaz, in a letter to the Court apologised for not being able to be present and claimed to be a British subject: "For 17 years past my name and that of my wife have been allowed to remain on the list without question. At the invitation of (amongst others) these same Overseers, and on the nomination of Mr. Walton, I was elected a member of the Urban District Council of Kingsbury. Unfortunately, there now exists between the Overseers, their friends and myself a personal dispute on a matter of local politics." The Overseers assured the Court they were only doing their duty. The Revising Barrister, Mr. Paul Strickland, removed Diaz and his wife from the lists.

When the Revision Court was convened the following year, on 2 October 1906, to consider the names to be included in the 1907 *Register*, Strickland returned both Diaz and Mrs. Diaz to the voting lists. In the intervening period Diaz had taken out letters of naturalisation.

Ward received strong support from Diaz during the campaign, whilst Harper was endorsed by Mr. St. Ledger G. Stephen (an eminent solicitor and owner of property in the district) and sitting councillors Kidner and Mason. The local press headlined the by-election as being "A Sharp Fight," adding that half of the votes were recorded before noon. "So enthusiastic were the supporters [of the candidates] that some time before the ballot box was sealed every voter that could possibly attend had been brought up to the Council offices."

KINGSBURY UDC, 1900-1918 [cont.]

| Election | Electors | T'out | Candidate | Party | Votes | % |
|---|----------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|------|
| [Resignations of Chad, Johnson and Jones] | | | | | | |
| 1905 (15/12) | 144 | 84.0 | Dr. Arthur C. White | Red | 71 | 58.7 |
| | | | John J. Walker | Red | 65 | 53.7 |
| | | | Robert Pettitt | Red | 64 | 52.9 |
| | | | William H. Harper | Blue | 57 | 47.1 |
| | | | Charles J. Mitchell | Blue | 52 | 43.0 |
| | | | William Walton | Blue | 52 | 43.0 |

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 1.

At the time of his election Pettitt was a serving member of St. Pancras Borough Council, having been elected as a Moderate councillor in Ward No. 8 in both 1900 and 1903.

In his resignation letter Johnson said he would leave it to the electors to say whether "it is to be [the] 'Reds' or 'Blues'. The other day they said 'Reds'. If [it is to be the] 'Reds', [then] workmen's cottages, cheaper rents and lower rates; if [it is to be the] 'Blues' [then it would] keep the parish in rural, picturesque beauty and [the] rates high." The victor of the October by-election, Cllr. Ward, claimed that Jones (who was a farrier) had been tricked into resigning, fearing that he would lose work if he remained on the Council.

Electioneering during the by-election was robust. At an eve-of-poll meeting held by the 'Blues', their candidates doubted the ability of the 'Reds' to deliver on their promise of lower rates, lower rents and better housing for the working classes. Harper stated that his opponent at the earlier by-election, Ward, had "only attended two meetings of the school authority since June 1903, and to elect a man like that on the Council was simply ridiculous. He was sorry for the district if they were to be controlled by one man [Diaz]. Mr. Diaz was at the bottom of all the trouble." Harper expressed his displeasure with the former Chairman of the Council, J.J. Done, for his role in the siting of the smallpox hospital, saying: "he [Done] had no right to bring that source of danger into the district."

Later in the meeting Mitchell stated that in 1894 he had opposed making Kingsbury an urban district, "and this was the cause of all the trouble." As an Overseer, he [Mitchell] was prepared to stand by his actions in the raising of assessments, including raising the assessment on his own property. He was baffled that Done referred to him as a "decoy". Walton stated that he too had striven for equitable assessments and "would not listen to the dictation of anyone." Cllr. Spicer, speaking in support of the 'Blue' candidates provocatively referred to the defeat of the Spanish Armada, and said he thought "history would repeat itself on the morrow."

The *Hendon and Finchley Times* suggested the election result "was somewhat unexpected" as "hardly anyone anticipated that either side would achieve complete success, especially after the close fight in October." The paper added that "the poll was opened at 8 am and closed twelve hours later, but, as was the case on the last occasion, business was by no means brisk during the last hour, so energetic had the workers on either side been earlier in the day. Towards evening a good crowd gathered outside the offices, and the appearance of the Returning Officer at about twenty minutes to nine to declare the result was hailed with much cheering."

[Three additional seats created]

Note: Following a petition from a number of Kingsbury ratepayers, in 1906 the Middlesex County Council, under the terms of the Local Government Acts 1888 and 1894, ordered that an Inquiry be held into Kingsbury UDC. The petition made reference to disorderly scenes at the Council that brought the district into ridicule. The Inquiry commenced on 20 April under the auspices of W. Harold Squire, esq., barrister-at-law, and was held at the Kingsbury Council School, continuing periodically until late July. Various remedies for "the lamentable state of things" were considered, including dividing Kingsbury up among neighbouring authorities, but those authorities opposed such a remedy. The main recommendation of the Inquiry was that the power of the Chairman be reduced by increasing the number of councillors in Kingsbury from six to nine, effective at the next election, to be held in 1907.

KINGSBURY UDC, 1900-1918 [cont.]

| Election | Electors | T'out | Candidate | Party | Votes | % |
|----------|----------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| 1907 | 169 | 81.7 | José Diaz | D | 93 | 67.4 |
| | | | Alfred Lawrence (junr.) | D | 83 | 60.1 |
| | | | John W.H. Wheeler | D | 82 | 59.4 |
| | | | John J. Walker | D | 81 | 58.7 |
| | | | Henry Johnson | D | 72 | 52.2 |
| | | | Alfred Shefford | D | 69 | 50.0 |
| | | | Thomas Noad | D | 68 | 49.3 |
| | | | Frederick A. Trendle | D | 66 | 47.8 |
| | | | Arthur H. Ward | W | 60 | 43.5 |
| | | | Charles J. Mitchell | W | 59 | 42.8 |
| | | | Francis Judge | W | 52 | 37.7 |
| | | | Frank Sibley | W | 52 | 37.7 |
| | | | Dr. Arthur C. White | W | 50 | 36.2 |
| | | | William T. White | W | 45 | 32.6 |
| | | | John Perry | W | 45 | 32.6 |
| | | | Edward E. Lack | W | 44 | 31.9 |
| | | | Charles A. Goodwin | W | 35 | 25.4 |

Note: The *Hendon and Finchley Times* reported that there were 168 electors at the election, a difference of one from the figure in the *Register of Electors*. It is assumed that the reported number of people who voted, 138, is accurate.

Goodwin withdrew from the election after the close of nominations, but too late to prevent his name appearing on the ballot papers. He was a convalescent home manager and felt that, if elected, he would have insufficient time to be a councillor. Goodwin requested that voters transfer any intended vote for him to another candidate.

The *Hendon and Finchley Times* (29 March 1907) devoted almost the whole of page 2 (five full columns) to the description of a stormy public meeting held before the election. At the meeting Diaz expounded at length, saying he was "sorry that Dr. White and I have ceased to regard local matters in the same light." Three main areas of disagreement had arisen between them:

- 1) The sewerage farm and the state of the roads.
- 2) The clerk. (White had dismissed the clerk to the Council, W.T. Mansfield, shortly before the election. Diaz felt the future of the clerk was best dealt with by the newly-elected council.)
- 3) The "W. Rowland, or Paul Pry, incident". (A series of allegations and counter-allegations. Paul Pry, a meddling and mischievous busybody, was the eponymous character of an 1825 farce by the playwright John Poole.)

The *Times* also described the scenes on election day, calling it "the most exciting election that has ever taken place in the history of Kingsbury canvassers have been busy and the district has been supplied with a good deal of election literature. The hoardings have been covered with posters of every colour, and the Union Jack was in evidence on all the placards and leaflets issued on behalf of Mr. Diaz and his party. Mr. F.J. Seabrook, the clerk to the *Hendon Guardians*, acted as Returning Officer due to the fact that at the present moment the Council is without a permanent clerk. The polling station was at the Council Schools, and Mr. Seabrook, who personally conducted the election, was assisted by Mr. Arthur Bone. There was a plentiful supply of carriages and no effort was spared on either side to gain a victory. We hear of electors having been fetched long distances to vote. Mr. Diaz worked incessantly throughout the day either in a motor or carriage. In his attempt to bring voters from near St. Albans his motor broke down, but he managed to reach St. Albans and return to Kingsbury. Many ladies helped Mr. Diaz very much, and not the least enthusiastic worker was Mrs. Diaz.

"Punctually at eight o'clock the station was closed and the Returning Officer at once began the task of counting the votes. Mr. J.D. Newton acted as scrutineer on behalf of Mr. Diaz's party and Mr. Spencer for Dr. White and his colleagues. Although the whole of the candidates on one ticket were returned, the voting was by no means solid. There were only a few plumpers, and these were mainly supporters of Mr. Diaz. A crowd numbering several hundreds had assembled outside the offices, and a cheer went up as Mr. Seabrook announced the result of the poll. Mr. Diaz was approached to allow his enthusiastic supporters to take his horses out of his carriage, and pull him home, but he asked them not to do so...."

KINGSBURY UDC, 1900-1918 [cont.]

| Election | Electors | T'out | Candidate | Party | Votes | % |
|---|----------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| <u>Note:</u> Lawrence absented himself from meetings of the Council after Wheeler was bodily removed by stewards from a meeting held on 24 March 1909; Wheeler also absented himself after attending the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 21 April 1909. No record has been found to suggest that the seven remaining councillors later went on to declare the seats of Lawrence and Wheeler vacant due to disqualification for their failure, over a period of six consecutive months, to attend any meetings of the Council or its committees. | | | | | | |
| 1910 | 224 | 87.9 | José Diaz | D | 175 | 88.8 |
| | | | Charles W. Burton | D | 154 | 78.2 |
| | | | Thomas Noad | D | 142 | 72.1 |
| | | | Archibald McIntyre | D | 141 | 71.6 |
| | | | Henry Johnson | D | 140 | 71.1 |
| | | | John W. Reeves | D | 130 | 66.0 |
| | | | Alfred Shefford | D | 126 | 64.0 |
| | | | Frederick A. Trendle | D | 124 | 62.9 |
| | | | John J. Walker | D | 106 | 53.8 |
| | | | Charles J. Mitchell | Ind | 73 | 37.1 |
| | | | Arthur H. Ward | Ind | 67 | 34.0 |
| | | | Frederick H.G. Galvayne | Ind | 66 | 33.5 |
| | | | John W.H. Wheeler | Ind | 60 | 30.5 |
| | | | Francis Judge | Ind | 48 | 24.4 |

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 2.

The *Hendon and Finchley Times* incorrectly reported that there were 227 electors at this election. It is assumed that the paper's statement that 197 went to the poll is accurate.

The Independent candidates requested that their supporters also give votes to Diaz and Burton.

As usual, the *Hendon and Finchley Times* provided a commentary on the proceedings of election day. "Vote Solid for Diaz's Nine — One Vote to Each' was the advice given to Kingsbury ratepayers by striking placards, with Union Jack at the head. This advice was followed. The polling station was at the Council Schools, Mr. J. Deacon Newton being the Returning Officer and Mr. R.C.N. Newport poll clerk.

"The parties entered into the fight with much enthusiasm. Mr. Diaz is a very successful organiser [and] another big victory has to be placed to [his] credit. Not only has he been returned at the head of the poll, but all his 'soldiers' — to use a phrase beloved of him — [were] also elected. The worth of Mr. Diaz was recognised on all hands. Even his bitterest opponents bore testimony to his value as an administrator it is remarkable that there were only [about] twenty papers on which [a] cross had not been placed opposite his name.

"A good deal of literature was circulated, and the 'opposition' held a meeting at the Council Schools on Friday, Mr. H.H. Spicer, who at one time loomed largely in the Kingsbury municipal world, being in the chair. There was a fair amount of excitement outside the polling station in the evening [of polling day], and as motors and horsed carriages drove up cheers were raised. There appeared to be no lack of vehicles for a small election. At one time two or three motors were standing outside the offices. Mr. Diaz knows the value of vehicular accommodation, and he is happy in having friends to rally round him when support in this direction is needed.

Mr. Newton commenced the counting of the votes a few minutes after eight o'clock. He was assisted by Mr. Newport. It was almost half past ten before the result was known. Mr. Newton announced the result from the steps of the schoolroom, and at this time there must have been a crowd of two hundred or more outside. After the names of the newly-elected councillors had been given there was loud cheering."

KINGSBURY UDC, 1900-1918 [cont.]

| Election | Electors | T'out | Candidate | Party | Votes | % |
|----------|----------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|------|
| 1913 | 277 | 79.4 | José Diaz | D | 162 | 73.6 |
| | | | Samuel Hopkins | D | 130 | 59.1 |
| | | | John W. Reeves | D | 125 | 56.8 |
| | | | Thomas Noad | D | 122 | 55.5 |
| | | | Martin W. Bird | D | 122 | 55.5 |
| | | | Henry Johnson | D | 121 | 55.0 |
| | | | Archibald McIntyre | D | 113 | 51.4 |
| | | | George E. Fowler | Ind | 110 | 50.0 |
| | | | Frederick A. Trendle | D | 109 | 49.5 |
| | | | Alfred Shefford | D | 103 | 46.8 |
| | | | Thomas C. Chad | Ind | 99 | 45.0 |
| | | | Sidney Lee | Ind | 97 | 44.1 |
| | | | Dr. William Innes | Ind | 93 | 42.3 |
| | | | Charles J. Mitchell | Ind | 92 | 41.8 |
| | | | Miss Alice W. Harvey | Ind | 78 | 35.5 |

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 4.

The *Hendon and Finchley Times* incorrectly reported that there were 280 electors at this election. It is assumed that the paper's statement that 220 voters went to the poll is accurate.

Dr. Arthur Calcutta White signed the nomination papers (either as proposer or seconder) of all six Independent candidates. However, in a letter to the *Finchley and Hendon Times*, Lee denied that he and his four fellow male independent candidates were "Dr. White's party", and to describe them as such was "a blow below the belt, and far from being fair."

Miss Harvey sought election separately from the other independent candidates. She denied, in a separate letter to the *Times*, that she was a "militant suffragette". This was in response to statements circulating in the district which she said were detrimental to her candidature.

Fowler was the headmaster of the Council Schools in Kingsbury. The *Hendon and Finchley Times* (25 April 1913) in their report of the Council's Annual Meeting stated that "for a reason for which no public explanation was given, [Fowler] did not take his seat at the Council table, but with other ratepayers occupied a place at the back of the room." No explanation for this was forthcoming until the *Times* reported (17 October 1913) the proceedings of a meeting of the Kingsbury Ratepayers' Association. During the meeting Fowler was given the opportunity of updating the membership, the newspaper reporting as follows:

"Mr. Fowler, referring to the fact that he had not taken a seat on the Council, although successful at the election, said he considered a game of bluff had been played upon him. At the first meeting of the Council after the election he attended to sign the book. He was asked into the clerk's room, but was then requested to wait until every member had gone out. A document was handed over for the clerk to read, and the clerk, after apparently reading the document, said the Council were advised that he [Fowler] was disqualified because he held a position under the Council. He [Fowler] was morally certain that this was wrong.

"He was told that if he signed this particular book he was liable to a fine of £20; that if he sat at the table he was apparently liable another fine of £20; and if he happened to vote there would be a further fine of £20. Under the circumstances he thought it well to take further advice, and his information was that there was no bar whatever to his taking the seat, as similar cases had arisen in the County. He must confess that he was not aware the book must be signed within one month of the election according to the Standing Orders of the Council. A meeting should have been called for May 7th but this was not done. The next meeting did not take place until May 23rd and when he attended he was told he was disqualified, as it was too late. He took further advice, and it was suggested to him that he should allow the matter to come before the Courts. This, however, would have meant putting the parish to unnecessary expense, and he had decided to let the matter rest for a time."

The Kingsbury Council made no effort to declare Fowler's seat vacant, however, and he continued to attend meetings from the public gallery and engaged with the Council by letter. Fowler's case is the subject of a file at the London Metropolitan Archives [MCC/CL/GP/03/266].

KINGSBURY UDC, 1900-1918 [cont.]

| Election | Electors | T'out | Candidate | Party | Votes | % |
|----------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|---|
|----------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|---|

Note: Fowler was killed on the evening of 21 January 1915, when he was hit by a motor car being driven by a Mr. Leslie Pickworth of Finchley, in the Edgware Road, near Shoelands Farm, The Hyde. The inquest recorded a verdict of accidental death.

The *Hendon and Finchley Times* gave a short description of election day. "Matters were very quiet on polling day until the evening advanced, and then a considerable crowd collected outside the schoolroom. While the counting proceeded bells were rung and horns sounded. The result was received with loud cheers, and Mr. Diaz, on stepping forward to thank the electors had a great reception. Mr. Diaz, who was evidently feeling the strain of the contest, following as it did upon his fight for the County Council [where he lost his seat as the member for the South-West division of Hendon], said he thanked them from the bottom of his heart for their support given to his nine. At the same time his heart was pained to know that the unity of the nine had been broken."

Note: Local elections, including the triennial election due in 1916, were postponed because of the First World War. All nine members continued as Councillors until the 1919 election, unless a casual vacancy was caused by death, resignation or disqualification. The following vacancies occurred on Kingsbury UDC during this period and were filled by co-option:

[Deaths of Fowler, Noad and Diaz]

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 1915 (22/9) | | | James P. Bates John Noad Lewis Stanley | | Co-opt. Co-opt. Co-opt. |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------|

Note: Diaz died on 17 July 1915. The inquest recorded a verdict of death from misadventure, the cause of death being potassium cyanide poisoning. The cyanide had been purchased to deal with wasps and was likely to have been mistaken for aspirin.

[Resignation of Bird]

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|--|----------------|--|---------|
| 1917 (25/7) | | | Robert Pettitt | | Co-opt. |
|----------------|--|--|----------------|--|---------|

Note: The death of Pettitt was reported to the members of Kingsbury UDC at the meeting of the Council held on 27 July 1918.

[Resignation of Bates]

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--------------|--|---------|
| 1917 (30/11) | | | Charles Lane | | Co-opt. |
|-----------------|--|--|--------------|--|---------|

[One seat vacant — Death of Pettitt]