

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

KINGSBURY UDC, 1919-1933

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1919	372	61.6	+John W. Reeves	Ind	182	79.5
			+Henry Johnson	Ind	161	70.3
			Sidney Lee	Ind R	156	68.1
			+Archibald McIntyre	Ind	141	61.6
			+Samuel Hopkins	Ind	133	58.1
			+Charles Lane	Ind	131	57.2
			+John Noad	Ind	130	56.8
			+Lewis Stanley	Ind	130	56.8
			Frederick Lavender	Ind	115	50.2
			+Frederick A. Trendle	Ind	108	47.2

Note: The *Hendon and Finchley Times* stated that the number of electors was 371; it would appear that a single entry in Division I of the *Supplementary Register of Electors* had been overlooked. It is assumed that the newspaper's statement that 229 electors went to the poll is correct.

The sitting members and Lavender sought election on a joint 'ticket'. Lee had previously been associated with the Kingsbury Ratepayers' Association and had unsuccessfully contested the 1913 election in opposition to José Diaz's party.

Of polling day the *Times* commented that "Mr. Turner, assisted by Mr. R.C.N. Newport, conducted the election, the polling taking place at the Kingsbury Council Schools. Three quarters of an hour after the close of the poll Mr. Turner announced the result, it being tolerably clear that Mr. Lee had many plumpers."

1922	805	61.9	John W. Reeves	Ind	343
			Sidney Lee	Ind	319
			Archibald McIntyre	Ind	268
			Charles J. Mitchell	Ind	261
			Samuel Hopkins	Ind	258
			Lewis Stanley	Ind	250
			John Noad	Ind	246
			George E. Jenkins	Lab	241
			William H. Pugsley	Lab	237
			Henry Johnson	Ind	218
			Henry G. Hill	Lab	210
			Albert S. Whitaker	Lab	199
			Mrs. Gertrude Argent	Lab	183
			Charles Allen	Lab	172
			Charles Brown	Mod	148

Note: Unfortunately, the *Hendon and Finchley Times* did not record the number of electors who went to the poll. The above estimate of the turnout is based on the number of valid votes (498) cast at the simultaneously-held election for a Kingsbury representative to the Hendon Union Board of Guardians. (The practice of some voters, having voted in the Council election, to ignore the Guardians election means the figure of 498 is likely to be an underestimate.)

At some point during 1924 (the date is unknown) Mitchell joined the Labour Party.

[Death of Stanley]

1923 (26/3)	834	65.3	William H. Pugsley	Lab	309	56.7
			William T. White	Ind	<u>236</u>	<u>43.3</u>
					73	13.4

KINGSBURY UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1925	999	80.0	John W. Reeves	Ind	461	57.7
			Sidney Lee	Ind	444	55.6
			Carl H. Fisher	Ind	441	55.2
			William H. Pugsley	Lab	411	51.4
			Elmer T. Ashman	Lab	408	51.1
			Archibald McIntyre	Ind	396	49.6
			Samuel Hopkins	Ind	390	48.8
			Charles Brown	Ind	388	48.6
			Frederick Lavender	Ind	388	48.6
			Thomas H. Hedges	Ind	383	47.9
			George E. Jenkins	Lab	375	46.9
			Alfred Stewart	Ind	367	45.9
			Charles J. Mitchell	Lab	362	45.3
			Henry G. Hill	Lab	282	35.3
			Edwin F.R. Catterell	Lab	273	34.2
			Walter C. Tapp	Lab	259	32.4
			Victor P. Tortonese	Lab	243	30.4
Frederick G. Hughes	Lab	216	27.0			

Note: The *Hendon and Finchley Times* stated that there were "about 1,200 electors" at the election. This was a significant overestimation as there were 1,069 total entries in the Autumn 1924 *Register of Electors* for Kingsbury, of whom 999 were the names of electors qualified to vote at this election. It is assumed that the newspaper's statement that 799 ballot papers were issued is accurate.

As well as the use of Kingsbury School as a polling station, for the first time one was opened at Chalk Hill.

The practice of annual UDC elections was introduced at this election. The three candidates at the head of the poll were deemed to be elected for a term of three years, the next three elected candidates for a term of two years and the final three to be elected for a term of one year.

1926	1,176	63.2	Samuel Hopkins	Ind	403	54.2
			Charles Brown	Ind	399	53.7
			Frederick Lavender	Ind	388	52.2
			George E. Jenkins	Lab	337	45.4
			Charles J. Mitchell	Lab	333	44.8
			George A. Harris	Lab	265	35.7

Note: The *Hendon and Finchley Times* stated that there were 1,259 electors on the *Register*. This was the total number of entries; those with the local government franchise is indicated above. The *Times'* statement that 743 people went to the poll is assumed to be accurate and has been used to calculate the turnout.

In a speech after the declaration Jenkins remarked, "The Labour Party thrives on defeat. Every defeat encourages us to greater things. There are certain people in Kingsbury who would vote for a guinea-pig if it had a Tory rosette on it." He added that Labour had been handicapped by a lack of motor cars, which was the principal cause of their defeat, and their opponents had not acted in a "sporting manner by bringing people from Roe Green as they might have done."

[Pugsley retires from the Council]

KINGSBURY UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1927	1,301	69.9	Frederick S. Bennett	Anti-Soc	447	49.1
			Alfred Stewart	Anti-Soc	423	46.5
			Archibald McIntyre	Anti-Soc	381	41.9
			Elmer T. Ashman	Lab	343	37.7
			Charles J. Mitchell	Lab	290	31.9
			William F.D. Powell	Lab	256	28.1
			Maurice Melhuish	Ind	201	22.1
			Henry Millward	Ind	189	20.8

Note: The *Hendon and Finchley Times* stated that there were 1,421 electors on the *Register*. This was the total number of entries, rather than the local government electorate, in the Autumn 1926 *Register of Electors*. It is assumed that the paper's report that 910 people went to the poll is correct.

The newspaper went on to comment that for the first time a polling station was opened at Roe Green, that "many motor cars were brought into use in bringing voters to the poll" and that "the 'Blues', or anti-Socialists, had the support ... of several of the sitting members."

[Fisher retires from the Council]

1928	1,705	John W. Reeves	Ind	637
		Elmer T. Ashman	RA	607
		Mrs. Grace H. Millward	RA	534
		Alwyn W. Marven	RA	520
		Cyril W. Champion	Ind	501
		Sidney Lee	Ind	496

Note: The *Hendon and Finchley Times* stated that the electorate was "just over 1,700" but did not report any figure for the turnout, simply commenting "the number polling was considered very creditable."

[Brown retires from the Council]

1929	2,318	58.4	Alwyn W. Marven	RA	966	71.4
			Walter B. Hill	RA	955	70.6
			Edwin H. Everett	RA	951	70.3
			Samuel Hopkins	Ind	383	28.3
			Frederick Lavender	Ind	375	27.7
			Henry Higginbotham	Ind	360	26.6

Note: Due to the growth of the district, a total of four polling stations were provided (although the Kingsbury polling district of the *Register* was not officially organised into four sections). The *Hendon and Finchley Times* reported their registered electorates (presumably those with the local government franchise) as follows: Kingsbury School, 547; Roe Green, 515; Council Offices (Kingsbury Green), 666; and Chalk Hill, 589; total 2,317. The statement in the newspaper that 1,353 ballot papers were issued is assumed to be accurate.

Marven resigned from the Council in July 1931, his seat remaining vacant until the 1932 election. Ostensibly, Marven's resignation was prompted because he could not support the "policy of the Council on the boundaries question." His relationship with former colleagues quickly deteriorated, exemplified by a *Hendon Times and Guardian* report of the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Central Branch of the Kingsbury Ratepayers' Association, held in January 1932. "For almost [ninety minutes] Marven cross-examined the members of the District Council. On more than one occasion tempers appeared to be frayed until they were about to burst...."

KINGSBURY UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
[Bennett, Stewart and McIntyre retire from the Council]						
1930	3,378	45.4	Avery W. Clarke	RA	1,101	71.8
			Walter J. Thomas	RA	1,071	69.9
			Devonald G. Griffith	RA	1,065	69.5
			William H. Pugsley	Lab	424	27.7
			Frederick C. Woods	Lab	378	24.7
			Alfred W. Harper	Lab	367	23.9

Note: Spoilt ballot papers: 5.

A study of the relevant sections of the *Register of Electors* confirmed that the *Hendon Times and Guardian* was incorrect to state there were 3,553 electors at this election; it has been assumed that the newspaper's comment that 1,533 ballot papers were issued is correct.

The *Harrow Observer and Gazette* reported some differing figures from those shown above. The number of electors was printed as 3,351, with 1,462 going to the poll. In addition, Griffith was credited with 1,055 votes and Harper with 357.

Woods was formerly a Labour member of Hendon UDC, representing Childs Hill ward from 1926 to 1929.

[Reeves retires from the Council]

1931	5,944	29.2	Elmer T. Ashman	RA	1,275	73.4
			Mrs. Grace H. Millward	RA	1,246	71.8
			Joshua Anchell	RA	1,205	69.4
			Frederick C. Woods	Lab	449	25.9
			Alfred W. Harper	Lab	431	24.8
			Frank P. Crook	Lab	408	23.5

Note: The *Hendon Times and Guardian* estimated there were 6,000 names on the *Register*, it is assumed that the newspaper's statement that 1,736 people voted is accurate.

Anchell was in effect expelled from the Ratepayers in May 1933. A note appeared in the *Hendon Times* (19 May 1933) that at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Kingsbury Ratepayers' Association, held on 11 May, it had been unanimously decided the Association could no longer support Anchell as one of its representatives on the Council, as it was "satisfied that he had ceased to observe the ideals of the Association." A perusal of reports of Kingsbury UDC meetings from 1933 in the local press showed that Anchell was frequently voting against the proposals and motions of the Council, usually as a minority of one.

[One seat vacant — Resignation of Marven]

KINGSBURY UDC, 1919-1933 [cont.]

Election	Electors	T'out	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1932	8,830	16.1	Edwin H. Everett	RA	1,025	72.2
			Walter B. Hill	RA	1,013	71.4
			Charles Thurston	RA	1,012	71.3
			Frank P. Crook	Lab	366	25.8
			Alfred W. Harper	Lab	365	25.7
			Frederick W. Collingbourne	Lab	345	24.3

Note: The *Hendon Times and Guardian* estimated that there were 8,800 electors. It is assumed that the paper's statement that 1,419 people voted is accurate.

The newspaper further reported of election day as follows: "The Kingsbury Labour Party's poster to 'spring clean the Council' did not have the desired effect at the District Council Election on Monday, for the Kingsbury Ratepayers' Association were successful in obtaining the three vacant seats. For the first time for many years members of the general public were allowed to witness the count, which took place at Fryent Schools. There were about 50 people present when the count was commenced at 9.40, and while it continued for an hour the buzz of excited whispering testified to the interest that was created.

"The result was declared in the playground of the school, but the excitement which is usually looked for was absent and the proceedings were conducted in a manner which spoke well for the way in which the Labour Party accepted defeat."

[Griffith retires from the Council]

1933	10,750	22.7	Walter J. Thomas	RA	1,195	49.1
			Avery W. Clarke	RA	1,123	46.1
			Athwell Rowbottom	RA	1,122	46.1
			Alwyn W. Marven	C	756	31.0
			John W.G. Snook	C	703	28.9
			Henry B.B. Weeks	C	687	28.2
			Frank P. Crook	Lab	518	21.3
			James Day	Lab	474	19.5
			Mrs. Jenny E. Fordham	Lab	469	19.3

Note: The *Hendon Times* reported that there were 10,743 electors. It is assumed that the paper's statement that 2,436 electors voted is accurate.

In a newspaper advert before the election the Conservative Party candidates claimed to be "Real Ratepayers candidates"; in their statements to the press they implied it was unhealthy for the District Council to solely consist of members of a single party "What Kingsbury needs is Investigation." The point was emphasised by Marven in a speech after the declaration of the result, noting that the Conservatives and Labour between them had secured more votes than the Ratepayers' Association. He was convinced that opposition was needed in the Council chamber and in the future he was "sure the public would come to think the same way."

In 1934 Snook was a Ratepayers' Association candidate, elected for Chalkhill ward at the first Wembley UDC election for the expanded district. At the same election Crook was a successful Labour Party candidate for Fryent ward.