

## INTRODUCTION

The London Borough of Harrow was created by the London Government Act 1963, together with 31 other London Boroughs. These assumed full powers from former authorities on 1 April 1965.

From May 1964 until May 1978 there were 65 members of the Council of the London Borough of Harrow — 9 Aldermen, and 56 Councillors elected from 15 wards. The composition of the Council changed in May 1978 following the Borough Elections, when 63 Councillors were elected from 21 wards of approximately equal electorates, each ward electing three Councillors. The wards were created by The London Borough of Harrow (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978. At the same time the office of Alderman was abolished.

The results contained in this book are those of the 1978, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994 and 1998 Borough Elections and of intervening and subsequent by-elections.

The book can be used in conjunction with a previous handbook — *Harrow Votes: The London Borough of Harrow, 1964-1977* — but as a result of the redrawn ward boundaries the statistics may only be compared with safety in the pre-1978 and 1978-1990 periods for one ward — Stanmore South — where the boundary changes were of a minor nature. (In 1994 the boundaries of Stanmore South were extensively revised, thereby breaking once and for all electoral comparisons with the pre-1978 period.) The other 20 wards in the Borough bear little resemblance to any of the previous wards even though three further ward names — Harrow Weald, Roxbourne, and Roxeth — were retained.

The population of the London Borough of Harrow in 1998 was 210,700. 16.0% of the population was estimated to be over pensionable age, with 20.7% under-16. Of the population, 67.3% were white, 4.7% black, 21.0% had an Indian sub-continent background, 0.9% were Chinese, and 6.1% fell into other ethnic groups. 4.9% of the population were born in Ireland.

Between 1978 and 1993 the Council administered an area of approximately 12,555 acres (5,081 hectares). Both population and area figures underwent slight alteration when Borough boundary changes were implemented on 1 April 1993 (boundary changes with Hertsmere, Hillingdon and Ealing) and on 1 April 1994 (boundary change with Brent). The Borough and ward boundaries were altered by the following Orders in Council: The Greater London and Hertfordshire (County Boundaries) Order 1992, The Greater London and Hertfordshire (County and District Boundaries) Order 1992, and The North and Central London (London Borough Boundaries) Order 1993. The area of the Borough after completion of the boundary changes was 12,367 acres (5,005 hectares).