Addison ward

Joseph Addison, the 18th-century essayist, founding Spectator journalist and MP, was firmly linked to Fulham and Hammersmith - and the wider Holland Park area. Across the borough boundary in Kensington are Addison Road, Addison Park Gardens and Addison Crescent. Just across Hammersmith Road from Olympia is Addison Bridge Place.

Joseph Addison was also a regular visitor at Sandford Manor House in Fulham. And immediately south of Shepherd's Bush Green are Addison Gardens and the ward in this borough named after him.

Addison is, essentially, Shepherd's Bush South. The ward since the 2022 council elections resembles the one that existed 20 years before, with two councillors. In the boundary changes it lost all the area it gained from Brook Green ward in 2002 - most notably Sinclair Road with its almost 1,000 voters - but reclaimed the small section by Goldhawk Road tube station and the bus depot that had been in Shepherd's Bush Green.

Addison had - at least until 2022 - always been the borough's bellwether, falling to whichever party won the council in every election bar 1949. Not only has Addison always fallen to the overall winner, it is a good measure of how well that winner fares borough-wide too:

In the Conservative landslide of 1968 they won Addison by almost 1,000 votes.

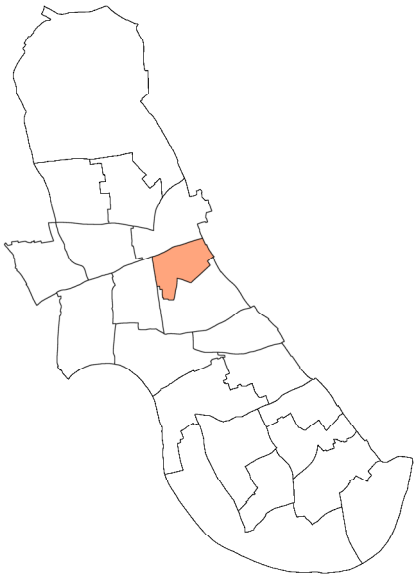
In 1978 and 1982 when the Tories won most seats but without an overall majority, they scraped in here by less than 50 votes.

During 16 years of big Labour council wins from 1986-98, Labour held Addison by big majorities - but in their tight 2002 win they retained it by just 26 votes.

For the eight years the Conservatives controlled the council between 2006 and 2014, they easily held Addison.

With a narrow Labour council majority of eight in 2014 Addison returned to Labour - but they only beat the Tories by, again, 26 votes.

With a landslide majority in 2018, Labour won Addison by about 18% - comfortable but by no means a landslide.



In the 2010, 2014 and 2018 elections, not only did Addison choose the winning side; it was within 2% of the borough-wide margin for the winner.

The ward's politics haven't always been quite so attuned though. Originally it was a fair bit more Conservative than the borough, becoming markedly less so after the high-rise Charecroft council estate, along the southern edge of Shepherd's Bush Green, was built. Crossover came in 1982 when the ward became slightly less Conservative than the borough; then significantly more inclined to Labour up until 2002.

Addison was created in the boundary review preceding the 1949 elections, forged from the larger Brook Green and St Matthew's ward that covered the entire neighbourhood from Shepherd's Bush Green to Hammersmith Road. Brook Green and St Matthew's originally had nine councillors, slimmed down to six and only once - in 1945 - voted Labour.

Alongside a smaller Brook Green and an Olympia ward, all three began life electing Conservative councillors but, Addison was always the most promising for Labour.

The first incarnation of Addison was entirely east of Shepherd's Bush Road, from the green south to Bolingbroke Road and Dewhurst Road. What is today the western side of Addison: Sulgrave Road, Lena Gardens, the bus depot in Wells Road and Tesco (Osram Court: formerly the Osram light bulb factory) was part of Brook Green, with the rest in Olympia ward.



Labour gained Addison (and Olympia) in 1953 and held onto them both, always by tight margins, until the old Hammersmith Borough Council was abolished. When Fulham and Hammersmith were amalgamated in 1964 Addison gained everything west of Shepherd's Bush Road right down to Hammersmith Broadway to give it a slightly odd bowed shape. But this extra dollop of voters was worth a third councillor for the ward.

This new territory did not prove especially good for the Conservatives for, despite a swing to the Tories in 1964, Labour won Addison by slightly more: just over ten percentage points. Despite the Labour win, the ward was still sixteen points more Conservative than the borough.

A 19% swing handed Addison easily to the Conservatives in 1968 but that was an aberrant election and in 1971 a swing of almost equal magnitude retuned the ward to Labour by, again, just over ten points.

The Conservatives narrowed the gap somewhat in 1974 and then, in 1976, a rare double by-election occurred. One of the Labour seats fell to Conservative Eleanor Belsham who, along with her husband Arthur, had won Addison in 1968. She would hold her seat for the next decade, if by knife-edge majorities: 58 in 1978 and 41 in 1982.

Minor boundary changes in 1978 again reduced Addison to a 2-councillor ward. By then the Charecroft estate was becoming occupied. This development probably prevented the Tories winning Addison more comfortably in 1978 and why, in 1982, Addison moved a little more towards Labour ward than the borough as a whole did.

But then London started swinging rapidly and significantly to Labour. Addison was part of that trend and by 1994 the ward was 22 percentage points better for the party than the borough.

BY-ELECTION SPECIAL.....

THE THREE-CORNERED FIGHT FOR ADDISON

WITH just a week to go before polling in the Addison Ward by-election it promises to be a close-run affair.

Labour are confident of holding the two seats on the borough council, although the Liberals claim to have stirred up plenty of support — especially in the Charecroft tower blocks.

Here are the runners in the six-horse race to the Town Hall.

Labour

LIVERPOOL-born Eddie Cunningham, one of two Labour candidates, is 36 and has lived in the ward for ten years.

His first plan, if elected, is to set up a regular advice service in Addison. Among his main concerns are housing — both council and private — free parking for Addison residents and playspace for children.

"Addison is one of the ten worst wards in London for amenities, so it is particularly important that we put pressure on the leisure and recreation committee for more adequate playspace," he said.

But his main concern is housing. "I want to see the existing stock of both council and private housing brought up to scratch and people given decent housing conditions — not as a gift from local politicians or unscrupulous private landlords, but of right."

Eddie is a legal adviser and serves on a local branch of the RSPCA. He is a governor of Addison and Lena Gardens primary schools.



Eddie Cunningham.



John Gorter.

ENVIRONMENT and employment are at the top of the list for John Gorter, the other Addison Labour candidate.

Aged 30 and married with one child, John is a systems accountant and governor of three local schools.

"I will keep a watchful eye to ensure there are no cut-backs on social services provisions to the elderly and especially the handicapped," he said.

He would also press for prompt action to restore Shepherds Bush Green which is "deplorable and unsafe".

Mr. Gorter is also compiling a list of vacant sites available for industrial development in Hammersmith.

"More and more jobs are being lost from the borough and our unemployment rate is high," he said. "We must look to see how we can remedy the situation before it overtakes us completely."

He also wishes to ensure that long-term residents do not have their rights usurped by "Chelsea trendies" now moving into the area, buying up flats and houses from local people who can no longer afford the upkeep.

John Gorter is an active trades union member.

Liberals

ROBERT BOWLES, a 50-year-old dry cleaner, has joined the Addison by-election fray for the Liberals to provide opposition to Labour on Hammersmith Council.

Mr. Bowles, a former member of Hammersmith North Labour Party, quit to join the Liberals three months ago because he thought the Labour Party had gone "too far left".

"I've been called a traitor in the camp, but it's like water off a duck's back — it doesn't bother me one bit," said Mr. Bowles, a father of five.

"I'm standing in this election because I feel there should be some opposition to the Labour Party who have things their own way and do just what they like," he said.

Mr. Bowles, who ran and lost in two previous by-elections for Labour, said he wanted a rates standstill. He is also demanding amenity cut-backs.



Robert Bowles.



Angela Rooney.

A WIDOW, 36-year-old Mrs. Angela Rooney is one of two Liberals fighting the Addison by-election.

Mrs. Rooney, head of the Guinness Trust Building tenants' committee, is campaigning on:

A better distribution of council funds, with a cut-back on leisure facilities and spending on theatres.

A better system of housing allocation to make use of empty properties in the borough.

Better care of geriatrics, with council payment of heating bills for the elderly.

A review of the points system whereby those on the housing waiting list for the longest time get extra points.

Mrs. Rooney says her third priority is traffic — she wants a review of danger spots in the borough with consultation of residents' and tenants' associations.

"I would also like to see one road for heavy traffic in the borough and an outer ring road around London to keep traffic out of the centre," she said.

Tories



Eleanor Belsham.

FOR 55-year-old housewife Mrs. Eleanor Belsham it will be her second campaign when she stands for the Tories.

Mrs. Belsham, a company director in a family printing business, is a former Hammersmith councillor. She intends to campaign for:

Improved housing conditions; Recreation facilities on the Charecroft Estate; And improved play centres for local children — divided into two groups, infants and older children.

She is a governor of Addison School and her voluntary work includes hospital visiting. She is chairwoman of Hammersmith Operatic Society, a Red Cross officer and a member of Hammersmith Charities.

"As a member of the Blythe Neighbourhood Council, I have always been concerned about the shortage of recreation facilities and play centres in Addison," she said.

"Extra Conservative councillors are needed in Hammersmith to make a stronger opposition and ensure as far as is possible economic and reasonable spending."



Chris Thorne.

ADDISON Tory candidate Chris Thorne is to demand an immediate ban on council house purchases.

Mr. Thorne, a 37-year-old shopkeeper from Addison Gardens, said: "I am very angry about the number of empty, council-owned properties in the borough.

"There are 685 standing empty with 6,000 families on the housing waiting list."

Mr. Thorne's campaign platform will include: a rates standstill; rent cuts; better road-sweeping of Addison pavements and stricter enforcement of dog-fouling laws; attracting more industry to the borough.

He believes that with a "sensible and careful policy" over a number of years, Hammersmith could peg rates without cuts in essential services.

'DIRTY TRICKS' ROW AFTER LABOUR LOSS AT BY-ELECTION

the victors



Eleanor Belsham



Eddie Cunningham

THURSDAY'S Addison Ward council by-election which resulted in a surprise Tory gain has been marred by a bitter slanging match between the Labour and Liberal camps.

Local Labour Party secretary Frank Ing has claimed that a "smear attack" by Liberal agent Simon Knott was largely responsible for the Labour loss. The two marginal seats were previously both held by Labour.

But although their man, Eddie Cunningham, clinched the highest number of votes on Thursday, second place went to Conservative Mrs. Eleanor Belsham.

The other Labour candidate, John Gorter, was beaten into fourth position, with the Liberals finishing as also-rans.

Here are the full details of the election:

Eddie Cunningham (Lab.) 999 votes
Eleanor Belsham (Con.) 969 votes
Chris Thorne (Con.) 920 votes
John Gorter (Lab.) 915 votes
Robert Bowles (Lib.) 192 votes
Angela Rooney (Lib.) 148 votes

A furious Frank Ing said afterwards: "I am a bit disappointed but not surprised in view of everything we have had against us."

He accused Mr. Knott of "mud slinging" and "dirty tricks".

"He is a shyster of the first order and completely unprincipled," added Mr. Ing.

Mr. Ing was referring to a Liberal election leaflet circulated in Addison ward telling people not to vote for Labour left-wingers who controlled Hammersmith North.

The leaflet added that Labour left-wingers Tony Benn and Michael Foot would be considered right-wing by Hammersmith Labour members.

"The voting showed that the people of Addison treated Simon Knott's diatribe with the contempt it deserved," said Mr. Ing.

"I would now hope he has learned his lesson . . . that smears and mud-slinging do not work."

But Mr. Ing added: "I still think he was largely responsible for splitting the Labour vote. I should say that about 100 of our votes went to the Liberals as a result of their smears. And those votes would have been crucial."

Simon Knott in turn complained of rudeness at Thursday night's count.

"John Gorter called me a guttersnipe and both Labour candidates seemed to be competing in insulting me," he said.

"My leaflet did not attack any individuals — I always try to avoid that. Many left-wingers happen to be very nice people. But I was attacking what they represent."

Mr. Knott admitted he was disappointed with the poor Liberal showing.

"The third party in any highly marginal seat always gets squeezed, although we did rather better than Liberals in other similar areas of London," he claimed.

Successful Tory, 55-year-old Mrs. Belsham, has served on Hammersmith Council in the past.

She said: "I am very satisfied. It gives me a much wished for opportunity to serve the ward. My previous experience must be a great help. I shall concentrate on Addison and its environment."

Thursday's percentage turnout of voters was 41.

Once again, new public housing helped Labour: the opening of the Tesco Superstore behind Little Brook Green with the Osram Court housing association flats above it. But that alone does not explain why the ward turned its back on the Conservatives - more than, say, Grove or any Fulham ward in those high-water years.

But Labour's supremacy did not last. In 2002 and 2006 Addison swung to the Conservatives, tracking very close to the borough norm but still slightly Labour-leaning.

Part of that was down to the 2002 boundary changes which made the enlarged ward more Conservative than its predecessor. But there was a hefty swing to the Tories on top.

What is it about Addison that makes it more "swingy" than other Hammersmith and Fulham wards?

A large part must be due to the high proportion of private renters here, not just in Addison but in the whole W14 section of the borough: Addison, Brook Green, Avonmore and West Kensington. 42% of Addison residents rent privately.

Private tenants have two characteristics of relevance here. They are highly mobile, partly by choice, partly because they tend to hold relatively short leases on their homes and so move in and out of the ward in significant proportions.

Hence Addison can be more politically volatile than a ward with a relatively stable electorate. It's harder for politicians to build a personal vote because incomers know nothing of the politics of the ward or their councillors' record. But because this is Shepherd's Bush it's also relatively more affordable than either the wider W14 or Hammersmith neighbourhoods.

Second, because so large a share of their income goes on rent, these voters feel an acute part of the "cost of living crisis" generation - which means they are more open to a "retail offer" and have less political loyalty to any party.

After the 2008 financial crisis, presided over by Labour, crushed the housing market many will have been attracted to the pitch made by liberal Conservative leader David Cameron and George Osborne. After the pandemic they soured on the chaotic Conservative government and surged behind Labour. And, while plenty sloughed off to the Greens in 2026, they're basically still aligned with Labour; definitely not being won back by the Conservatives.

In some ways, Addison is the Shepherds Bush equivalent of Fulham Town: it has large townhouses, grand Edwardian terraces and imposing mansion blocks typical in that Conservative Fulham ward. It continues - to use that horrible sociological phrase - to "gentrify".

Over the past two decades the number of council tenants has fallen markedly and the shops along Shepherds Bush Road have started catering for a market with more disposable income. Fewer convenience stores specialising in international phone cards; more cafes and restaurants of the wide diversity you'd expect in this neck of the woods. This isn't remotely Fulham Road - yet - but compared to how it was twenty, thirty years ago it's unrecognisable.

It has streets - like Sinclair Gardens - that carry over the Palladian style of Holland Park and Earls Court: four-storey houses with basements and porticoed entrances. It has terraces in Addison Gardens that, if a Fulham resident found themselves there, might assume they were in SW6. But also ranks of streets full of four-storey homes with basements: an archeype Fulham does not have in abundance. And, running through the middle, Richmond Way with its strip of cafes.

Let's not get too carried away with the comparison between Fulham and Addison, because whereas in Fulham Town many of these big houses are single properties owned outright, in Addison more are subdivided and privately rented. There has been a trend of converting multi-occupancy houses into single dwellings but these big houses remain largely divided.

Summary of results for Addison ward

	Con	Lab	LD	Grn	Oths
1949	52.6	41.4			6.0
1953	45.4	54.6			
1956	41.8	50.4	7.8		
1959	39.9	50.6			9.5
1962	41.4	51.7			6.9
1964	40.9	52.9			6.2
1968	60.7	34.5	4.8		
1971	44.3	55.7			
1974	46.3	53.7			
1976 By	45.6	46.2	8.2		
1978	50.0	45.3			
1982	33.7	32.7	17.0		16.6
1986	30.3	55.6	10.3		3.7
1990	34.6	55.7		9.6	
1992 By	37.0	56.9	4.4	1.7	
1994	23.0	59.2	12.3	5.5	
1998	25.0	57.4	17.6		
2002	40.5	44.2	15.3		
2006	42.5	30.3	10.4	14.8	2.0
2010	39.5	29.2	19.5	11.8	
2014	41.8	44.5	13.7		
2018	30.1	51.0	8.2	9.2	1.5
2022	14.9	70.4	14.7		
2026	16.3	46.2	8.6	18.8	10.1

There remain plenty of bedsits and hostels, especially along Shepherds Bush Road.

It is the northern end of Addison that has experienced the most transformation. Until the late 1960s, the south side of Shepherds Bush Green was much like the north: a parade of shops with flats above them and a small cluster of terraced streets behind: Roseford Gardens, Roseford Terrace, Shepherd's Gardens and Richmond Gardens.

This area was divided from the rest of Addison by the loop of the Kensington and Richmond railway that connected what is now the Hammersmith and City Line to the West London Line. In the trench through which that railway line ran stand the bus garage in Wells Road, Sulgrave Gardens, the Grampians, The Shepherds Building (Minford House), Rockley Court and the K-West Hotel. If you stand on the Addison Gardens bridge over the West London Line you can still see where the loop joined: the triangular Woodstock Studios building marks the fork in the line.

Art Deco The Grampians on Shepherds Bush Road hit the headlines in the 1970s when its owners went bankrupt and the administrators ceased letting flats with a view to selling the entire site. Over three years, 40 flats in the

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1962

West Indian enters vote battle, and says . . .

'QUITE CONFIDENT I'LL BE ELECTED IN MAY'

IT is virtually certain that a coloured man will soon be helping to decide how to spend Shepherds Bush and Hammersmith ratepayers' money. For West Indian Mr. Spencer Ward, of Rockley-road, Shepherds Bush, is to stand for Addison Ward in the Hammersmith Council elections next month.

And Mr. Ward prophesied that West Indian faces will become increasingly familiar on the local government scene.

"I don't think it is unusual for a West Indian to stand for the Council. When we West Indians have settled here long enough to get to know the people it is reasonable to expect that a lot more of us will be nominated for Council seats."

Mr. Ward left Trinidad for England 13 years ago and has been a member of the Labour Party since he moved to Shepherds Bush in 1952.

He married an English woman and his sister married his wife's brother. He has an 11-year-old son who attends the St. Mary's Junior Catholic Boys' School at Brook Green.

Colour bar?

He thinks that the colour bar in this country is not so serious as many people believe.

"If you are looking for a colour bar you can find it. One can put things down to colour when it's not that at all."

But he does not deny that a colour bar exists "though too much play is made of it. It tends to be built up in the papers theoretically and in turn is built up practically."

About Notting Hill race riots he said: "One has a feeling that the whole thing was staged by a few people for their own benefit.

"But one of the reasons for my standing for the Council is that it will help to break down whatever prejudice there might be."

Then Mr. Ward, who works in the finance section of the L.C.C. supply department, emphasised: "I do not intend to be a representative of the coloured people but of all people. Nationality makes no difference to me."

'Capable chap'

He expects to lose a few votes because of his colour, "but I am quite confident that I shall be elected. No one seemed to mind when I was canvassing on Sunday."

His main criticism of local councils: "There is a certain amount of stagnation. The same people with the same ideas get elected and there are very few differences of opinion.

"That is mainly why I shall stand—to introduce new ideas and opinions which are so badly needed, not only in this borough, but in others, too.

"But I am willing to just listen and learn for a time."

Commented North Hammersmith Labour Party agent Mr. John Carroll: "Mr. Ward's chances of being elected are extremely good. People are not so narrow minded as to vote against him because he is a West Indian though there may be one or two extremists.

"He is a very capable chap."

175-apartment block became void, it became dilapidated, a squatters' rights group attempted to occupy it and the then Labour council looked seriously at purchasing it. In the end a private buyer was found and the Grampians remains privately owned and managed.

But it was the fate of the south side of Shepherd's Bush Green that made the largest impact. This triangle of land between the green and the railway was owned by the Campden Commissioners who, in the mid-1960s, entered into a joint venture with Parway Investments, the council and the GLC to build a shopping centre, multi-storey car park and two 20-storey council tower blocks: Shepherds and Bush Courts, above it.

Shopping malls of this type were the epitome of "modern" in the 1960s following the opening of Arndale centres around the country. Wandsworth's Arndale was, at the time, the largest shopping centre in Europe and followed a similar - fairly disastrous - model of a mall with a huge, troubled, council estate towering above it.
Two later towers, Roseford and Woodford Courts, to the west of the shopping centre, followed.

Like many large council estate in the 1960s and 1970s, the Charecroft estate suffered shocking problems of vandalism, lift breakdown and poor amenities.

This went beyond simple indifference by the council - though perhaps councils were so preoccupied with the building of new homes that insufficient attention to their maintenance and the well-being of their tenants once built was paid.

Local news reports from the time document efforts by councillors and housing staff to fix the problems,but the tide of vandalism and poor engineering seemed

overwhelming in that era. As John Boughton, the author of the Municipal Dreams blog wrote:

"This was a period – for reasons I've never seen convincingly explained – when antisocial behaviour spiked (football hooliganism was another manifestation of the same malaise). In housing terms, the obvious target of blame to many seemed to be the design of the new multi-storey, modernist estates – their lack of 'defensible space' and 'natural surveillance' in the jargon of the time and the design features – decks and stairways – held to facilitate crime."

The Charecroft is a happier estate today though not without problems - for example, a flat fire a few months after the Grenfell tragedy raised concerns about the cladding of the blocks, though this estate's was completely different to Grenfell Tower's.

This is still not an affluent estate and amenities for children are nowhere near as good as they should be. But there is far less crime, in part because the council eventually found vandal-proof CCTV and security doors, but also because that crazed wave of vandalism, so prevalent for a time, faded away.

The W12 shopping centre beneath the estate has struggled, in no small part because of the opening of Westfield just to the north which dwarves its older neighbour. But W12 has found a niche with shops catering to the residents living above and around it.

The Charecroft estate and Osram Court are not the only sources of votes for Labour from public housing. There is Sulgrave Gardens, built in the basin the railway line used to run through. This was recently added to by an Octavia Hill Housing Association development next door.

Between Minford and Westwick Gardens there is the Charcroft estate - a small, low rise tenement estate long council block in Netherwood Road and the council and housing associations own several properties in places like Lakeside Road, with its unusual white brick town-houses and wrought iron light stands at the top of the staircases to the basements.

The 1978-1986 Conservative-led council attempted to sell off the basement flats (they came with the rear gardens of the buildings) in Lakeside Road but most of the sales were halted when Labour won in 1986. The campaign to stop the Lakeside Road sell-offs was an early example of a community, led by an influential Residents Association, organising politically around a single issue and taking their fight to the politicians. And winning.

Addison also has a claim to a part in national political folklore. One of Addison's (and thereafter Olympia's) councillors in the 1950s was Harry Solomons. In 1964 Solomons became MP for Kingston-Upon-Hull North but his was a very short tenure: he collapsed in the House of Commons, and later died, in 1966. It was Labour's performance in the ensuing Hull North by-election that encouraged Harold Wilson to call the 1966 general election, which resulted in a Labour landslide.

Solomons was not the only Member of Parliament Addison has produced: Bridget Prentice served as a Lewisham MP for considerably longer having represented this ward from 1986 to 1992.

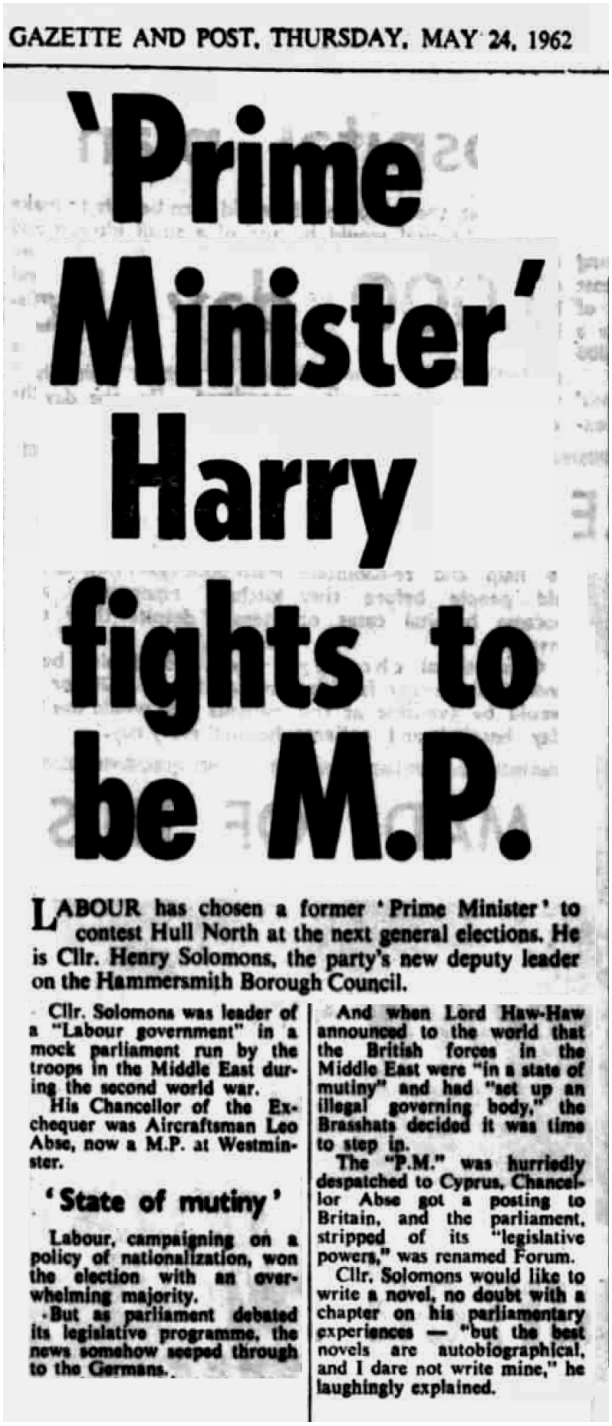
Addison also drew some local media attention in 1962 when Spencer Ward, a black candidate, was selected by Labour. Despite the speculation of the news headline reproduced on page 52 at that time this was a somewhat risky selection in a marginal ward. But Ward held Addison in both the last election for the old Hammersmith Metropolitan Borough and the first for the new London Borough of Hammersmith two years later.

In electoral terms marginal wards tend to fall into just two types. There are wards that can swing substantially, and wards where voters are much more entrenched in their political allegiances - for example a ward with perhaps a large council estate and a similarly sized affluent area competing. In these wards who wins depends more on which party is better at getting its vote out than the national political environment. Addison is very clearly in the former type: a swing marginal, for reasons discussed earlier.

In 2022 Addison's bellwether status came into question, in part because of that status as a swing marginal. The ward swung to Labour by 17% if comparing that year with the different boundaries of 2018 or some 13% if you use the notional 2018 result. That was the largest movement to Labour of any ward and it made Addison the second safest ward in the borough. Labour polled 70% - their best share prior to this was 59% in 1994.

But in 2026 Labour did a lot worse, dropping 24 points to 46%; much more in line with historic norms. Yet the Conservatives barely benefited from that huge slide: they gained just 1.4% to end up with a still woeful 16%. Instead, the Greens - who had never contested the ward - won 19% and Reform UK won 10%.

This was not a Green target but the party did some work here, judging that the ward may be open to their demands for the council to divest its pension funds from investments in businesses with links to Israel.



GAZETTE AND POST, THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1962

'Prime Minister' Harry fights to be M.P.

LABOUR has chosen a former 'Prime Minister' to contest Hull North at the next general elections. He is Cllr. Henry Solomons, the party's new deputy leader on the Hammersmith Borough Council.

Cllr. Solomons was leader of a "Labour government" in a mock parliament run by the troops in the Middle East during the second world war.

His Chancellor of the Exchequer was Aircraftsman Leo Abse, now a M.P. at Westminster.

'State of mutiny'

Labour, campaigning on a policy of nationalization, won the election with an overwhelming majority.

But as parliament debated its legislative programme, the news somehow seeped through to the Germans.

And when Lord Haw-Haw announced to the world that the British forces in the Middle East were "in a state of mutiny" and had "set up an illegal governing body," the Brasshats decided it was time to step in.

The "P.M." was hurriedly despatched to Cyprus. Chancellor Abse got a posting to Britain, and the parliament, stripped of its "legislative powers," was renamed Forum.

Cllr. Solomons would like to write a novel, no doubt with a chapter on his parliamentary experiences — "but the best novels are autobiographical, and I dare not write mine," he laughingly explained.



LABOUR M.P. FAINTS IN THE HOUSE

THE collapse of a 62-year-old Shepherds Bush man in the early hours of Thursday morning further imperilled the Government's slender majority.

He is Labour M.P. Mr. Henry Solomons, of Flanchford-road, Shepherds Bush. Mr. Solomons, member for Hull North, fainted in the House of Commons after an all-night Finance Bill sitting.

He was rushed to Westminster Hospital for "investigations."

A spokesman for the Central Labour Party said this week that Mr. Solomons was still being detained for observation. The Party, already strained to the limit to hold a majority in the House, are hoping it will be only for a few more days.

At her home in Shepherds Bush, his wife, Mrs. Anne Solomons said: "For six weeks prior to his collapse my husband had been suffering from lumbago. He was so busy going out at eight in the morning and returning home in the early hours of the morning that he did not have time to see his doctor.

"Then that last four hours in committee was too much for him He collapsed," she went on.

"Now at least he is getting some well deserved rest. I am hoping he will be out and about again in a few days," explained Mrs. Solomons as she rushed off to the Westminister Hospital to visit her husband.

Mr. Henry Solomons was a Councillor on the old Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith up until its recent merger with the Greater London Council.

The big population of young, left-leaning private renters also made Addison a ward with considerable potential for the party.

Because the Conservative vote didn't budge, that big Labour slide still left them with a substantial majority of around 30% - less daunting than the 55% lead of 2022 but still not exactly competitive. Even less so given they finished behind the Greens.

Until the Conservatives can put Addison back in play they cannot win Hammersmith and Fulham - so in that sense it is still a bellwether.

But it also shows how deep the hole the party is in, with Labour winning three votes for every one that went Tory. That is a huge gap to close and it almost certainly can't be done whilst Reform are winning 200 votes in Addison.

New test for Labour's six seat marjority

The battle for Addison

RIVAL candidates are gearing themselves up for another by-election battle over a council seat.

The Labour and Conservative hopefuls are the main contenders for Addison ward, and they have until September 24 to make their mark.

If the Tories can take the seat left vacant when Bridget Prentice became an MP, they will be within four seats of the Labour council's majority.

Labour are defending the ward won in 1990 by Mrs Prentice with more than 50 per cent of the vote.

The party's candidate is 44-year-old Jane Hackworth-Young, who lives in Milson Road, West Kensington. She works in theatre production and has lived in the borough for 15 years.

She said: "I am confident of winning but I will not be taking anything for granted. Hammersmith and Fulham has suffered greatly over the past two years because of the recession.

"We have had a lot of housing repossessions and redundancies. That has all been the fault of the Conservative government. I think people were very disappointed the Labour party did not win the General Election but I think we have a lot of supporters who will come out and vote for me."

She added: "I am campaigning for better housing, which is the biggest problem we face in Addison and around the rest of the borough. We have to try and persuade the government to change its policy towards council housing so we can provide people with proper homes."

Her Conservative challenger is Roderick Corrie, a 30-year-old insurance broker living in Netherwood Road, West Kensington.

Mr Corrie said: "There are particular problems in Addison I will be looking to tackle as councillor.

"In particular the railway bridge over the main road is not ideal for elderly people. It needs an escalator to help people up and down and it needs improved access."

Mr Corrie believes one of the main problems in the council chamber is the confrontational atmostphere.

"I am one of those people who believe councils should be non-political. But I cannot see myself voting against the Conservatives because they have the most sensible policies."

The other candidates are

- Roger Sutton Crosskey, The Green Party and
- Angus James McIntosh, The Liberal Democrat Party.

Addison stays with Labour

By NICK HOPKINS

NEW councillor Jane Hackworth-Young has vowed to fight homelessness in her ward after claiming a thumping Addison by-election victory for Labour.

The 44-year-old from Milson Road, West Kensington, put the problem first on her priority list within hours of trouncing her main Tory challenger.

Her win eases the pressure on the ruling Labour group in the council chamber, which retains its majority of six seats.

Voters defied miserable weather on Thursday last week to elect a new councillor to replace Bridget Prentice who was elected to Parliament in April.

Despite pre-election fighting talk from Conservative candidate Roderick Corrie, the evening count at Hammersmith Town Hall showed solid Labour loyalty in the ward.

After the figures were declared, Cllr Hackworth-Young said: "Obviously I am delighted with the result, but I know the real work starts now. There are a lot of hard, hard problems that we have to deal with.

"I am the new girl and I have no idea what committees I will end up on but tackling homelessness in Addison is an extremely high priority for me. It is a difficult problem but I hope we can find ways of housing people. Cllr Jeff Kenner (the other Addison councillor) has done marvellously well already."

She added: "I am looking forward to our advice surgeries. People do not like ringing their councillors up – it is much better to have face to face meetings and the Addison surgeries are very well attended."

She says she is also looking forward to council chamber battles with other members. "Sometimes we all scream and shout at each other, which I think is a good thing. Getting issues out in the open is something the Labour party is good at."

The full results were:

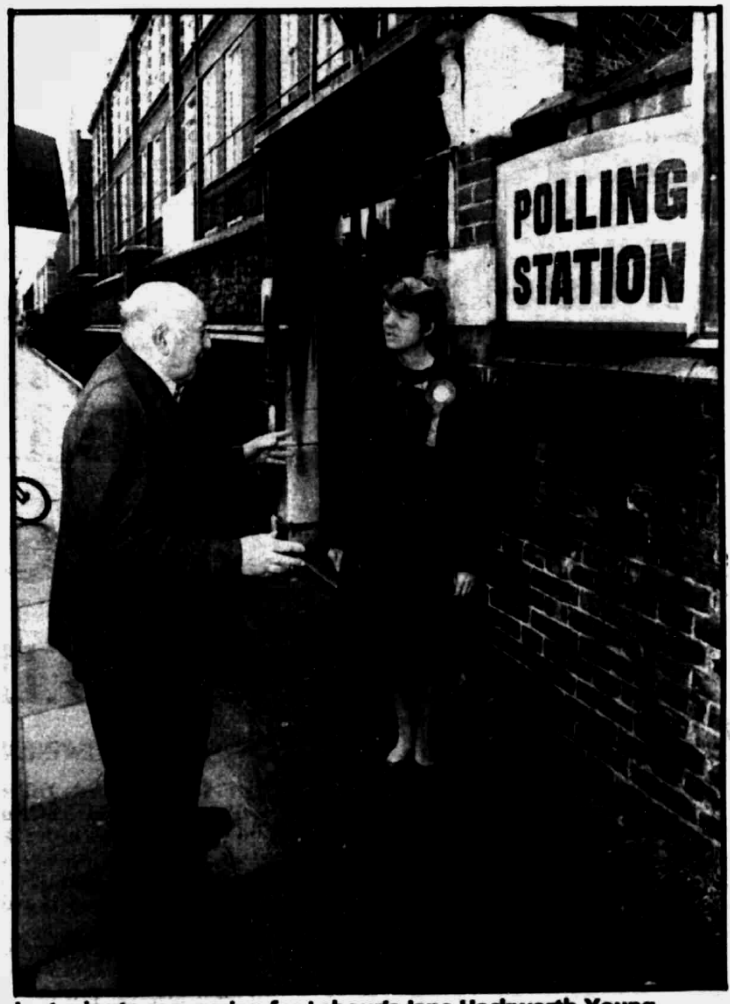
Jane Hackworth-Young, Labour, 1,014 votes.

Roderick Corrie, Conservative, 695 votes.

Angus McIntosh, Liberal Democrat, 78 votes.

Roger Crosskey, Green Party, 30 votes.

The turnout was 40.2 per cent.



Last minute canvassing for Labour's Jane Hackworth-Young

Rollcall of Addison ward councillors

2026
- Jacolyn Daly
- Ross Melton

2022
- Jacolyn Daly
- Ross Melton

2018
- Adam Connell
- Sue Fennimore
- Rachel Leighton

2014
- Adam Connell
- Belinda Donovan
- Sue Fennimore

2010
- Alex Chalk
- Belinda Donovan
- Peter Tobias

2006
- Helen Binmore
- Belinda Donovan
- Peter Tobias

2002
- Siobhan Coughlan
- Ghassan Karian
- Melanie Smallman

1998
- Siobhan Coughlan
- Ghassan Karian

1994
- Jacqueline Abbott
- Jane Hackworth-Young

1992B
- Jane Hackworth-Young

1990
- Jeff Kenner
- Bridget Prentice

1986
- Jeff Kenner
- Bridget Prentice

1982
- Eleanor Belsham
- Simon Chase

1978
- Eleanor Belsham
- Simon Chase

1976B
- Eleanor Belsham
- Eddie Cunningham

1974
- Christine Hammond
- Louis Hanscombe
- Phyllis Perlin

1971
- Mildred Bamford
- Liam O'Neill
- Leonard Stanley

1968
- Arthur Belsham
- Eleanor Belsham
- Douglas Ward

1964
- Charles Parsons
- Ben Sawbridge
- Spencer Ward

1962
- Eric Gosling
- Charles Parsons
- Spencer Ward

1959
- Eric Gosling
- Charles Parsons
- Harry Solomans

1956
- Eric Gosling
- Robert Oak
- Harry Solomans

1953
- J. Brady
- Harry Solomans
- M. Wakeman

1949
- J. Giles
- J. Leach
- E. Webb