

An introduction to Harrow

Some facts about the Borough of Harrow that you may not know



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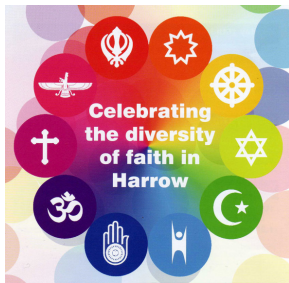
Some facts about the Borough of Harrow that you may not know.

Harrow is the 12th largest London Borough in terms of geographical area.

Harrow was formed in 1934 as an urban district of Middlesex by the Middlesex Review Order, as a merger of the former area of Harrow on the Hill Urban District, Hendon Rural District and Wealdstone Urban District. The local authority was Harrow Urban District Council. The urban district gained the status of Municipal Borough on 4 May 1954 and the urban district council became Harrow Borough Council.

In 1965 the Municipal Borough was abolished and its former area transferred to Greater London to form the London Borough of Harrow. It is uniquely the only London borough to replicate exactly the unchanged boundaries of a single former district.

22% of Harrow's population identify themselves as 'Indian' in ethnicity, the highest in London. The largest Hindu communities in London are in Harrow and Wembley.



Harrow's resident communities contribute to the borough being the most diverse borough by Faith in the country with more than 80 places of worship representing faiths including Buddhism, Christian, Hindu, Humanism, Islam, Jain, Judaism, Rastafarianism, Sikh and Zoroastrian.

There is a 62% chance that two random residents would be from different religious groups.

Christians have been in Harrow since the 12th Century. St Mary's, Harrow-on-the-Hill is one of the most ancient churches in this part of London.

British Zoroastrians have settled in the United Kingdom since 1724 and are the oldest established Zoroastrian community outside Iran, the Indian Sub Continent and East Africa. Worship, education and social events take place in the renovated, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe Centre in Rayners Lane, a listed building, once an Odeon cinema.



Harrow has the highest percentage of Hindus per head of population of any local authority and this community can be traced to the arrival of Indian professionals and students in the 1950s and those of Indian origin who came from Tanzania and Kenya in the 1960s, many of whom were Hindus or Jains. Harrow is home to a number of temples.

The Borough is home to the third largest percentage of Jews per head of population in England, after Barnet and South Hertfordshire. There are six centres of community including Canons Park Synagogue, with the largest Jewish congregation in Europe.

Harrow has four Mosques, the largest being the newly built Harrow Central Mosque. Many of Harrow's Muslims are from the Indian sub-continent. Muslims from parts of East Africa, the Balkans and some Arab countries have also settled in Harrow.

Harrow has the third largest population of millionaires in any borough in London.

One fifth of the borough is composed of parkland and open spaces, creating a green belt equivalent to eight Hyde Parks.

Harrow is a vibrant part of the London economy with over 10,000 businesses located here. The borough has a strong entrepreneurial tradition characterised by a thriving small business culture, with 91% of the companies employing less than 11 staff. The borough is home to a number of major national and international companies including Kodak Ltd, established in Harrow in 1896, and is the world largest factory for the production of photographic paper. Bovis Lend Lease, Racal Acoustics, Wickes, Ladbroke's and Bakkavör Pizza, with the latter producing over 100 different styles of pizza.



Julius Caesar had a camp at Brockley Hill and his army took their water from a pond there now known as Caesars pond.

The Medieval Church of St Mary's in Harrow on The Hill is Harrow's most famous landmark, it is now over 917 years old. It is also one of London's oldest surviving medieval structures.



Allegra, daughter of Lord Byron, who attended Harrow School, is buried in an unmarked grave near the south porch of St Mary's Church.



Pinner has an annual street fair, which dates back to 1336; this was originally granted by Royal Charter by Edward III. Traditionally it was a cattle fair but it is now the second largest street fair in Britain and the last of its kind in Middlesex.

Built in circa 1310 the moated manor house known as Headstone Manor is the earliest surviving timber framed building in Middlesex and is a Grade I listed building. Headstone Manor is surrounded by the only surviving filled moat in Middlesex. Described as 'one of the most interesting domestic complexes in the whole country', the fabric of Headstone Manor contains examples of high quality work dating from the 14th, 17th and 18th centuries.



The Tithe Barn was built in 1506 during the reign of Henry VII, and is a Grade II listed building. Originally, the barn would have been mainly used by the tenant farmer of Headstone to store grains and stable horses, with a few bays reserved for the use of the Archbishop. Despite its name, it was never used to store tithes. It now hosts Harrow's Museum.

Harrow is well known for the prestigious Harrow Boy's School, located in Harrow-on-the-Hill, founded in 1572 by John Lyon. It was originally a school for poor boys of the Borough and they only spoke Greek or Latin (these were known as the languages of the educated) whilst there.

Now known as Harrow School it has educated seven Prime Ministers and a King, these include Sir Winston Churchill, the late King Hussein of Jordan and Jawaharlal Pandit Nehru the first Prime Minister of independent India along with Robert Peel, creator of the modern police force,



There are many traditions at the School and these include wearing boaters, morning suits, top hats and canes as uniforms. The game of squash was also developed at the school.

Harrow School has also featured in the Harry Potter film 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone', and other films including Brideshead Revisited, the Secret Garden and Pride & Prejudice.



Anthony Trollope a respected and prolific novelist was educated at Harrow School; he is also credited with the creation of the current day pillar box.

George Frideric Handel born in 1685 was a German-British composer who is famous for his operas and concertos. Handel was the organist in St Lawrence Church in Canons Park which to this day has a stunning Baroque interior. He received critical musical training in Italy before settling in London and becoming a naturalized British subject.



Daniel Dancer was born in 1716 in Harrow Weald and is known as one of the great misers of the UK. His grandfather and father had been noted misers, and his sister and two brothers were almost equally niggardly. After inheriting the whole of his father's estate in 1736, Dancer had an income of over £3,000 a year, but his sole occupation was hoarding his wealth.

Lord Byron (1788 to 1824) poet and leading figure in romanticism was educated at Harrow School. He achieved no scholarly distinction at the school but was rather more notable for his indulgence in pranks and escapades. He represented Harrow during the very first Eton versus Harrow cricket match which took place at Lords in 1805.



Lord Shaftsbury born in 1801 was educated at Harrow School and became the leader for factory reform. He was responsible for the Factory Act of 1847 and the Coal Mines Act of 1842 and was chairman of the Ragged Schools Union. Ragged schools provided free schools for the poor.

W.S. Gilbert (1836 to 1911) of Gilbert and Sullivan used to live in Old Redding in a big old house that is now known as the Grim's Dyke Hotel. There he kept a variety of animals including monkeys, lemurs, a lynx and many others. This has been a film set for Hammer horror films and T.V shows including an episode of East Enders.



Mrs Beeton's "Book Of Household Management" was the book for aspiring domestic goddesses. Mrs Beeton lived at 2 Chandos Villas, Hatch End, from 1856 to 1862. Hatchets restaurant is now located close to where her home once stood.



The Metropolitan Railway began as the world's first underground line in 1863. The extension line ran initially from Baker Street to Swiss Cottage reaching Harrow in 1880. The architect Hugh Casson (director of architecture at the 1951 Festival of Britain) regarded Harrow as the "capital city" of Metro-land.



Horatia Nelson Thompson the adopted daughter of Horatio Nelson lived for her last 22 years until her death in 1881 at Elmdene, Pinner. Horatia was buried in Pinner Parish old cemetery, Paines Lane in Pinner.



Sir Winston Spencer-Churchill (1874 – 1965) was known for his leadership of the United Kingdom during the Second World War. He was educated at Harrow School where he earned high marks in English and History and was the school's fencing champion. He was the first person to receive the freedom of the Borough of Harrow in 1955.

A roadside plaque unveiled on 25 February 1969 stated that the first recorded motor accident in Great Britain to have involved the death of the car driver had taken place at Harrow on the Hill on a road called Grove Hill seventy years earlier, on 25 February 1899. The car was a 6HP Daimler and it appears that a rear wheel collapsed after breaking its rim which in turn resulted in the vehicle hitting a wall.



Britain's best-loved wartime cartoonist Heath Robinson produced much of his best work while living in Pinner from 1908 – 1918. A blue plaque now marks the family home at 75 Moss Lane. A mural dedicated to him can be seen on the recently restored and open to the public West House in Pinner Memorial Park.

William Leefe Robinson was the first British pilot to shoot down a German airship over Britain during the First World War. For this action he became the first person to be awarded the Victoria Cross for action in the UK. He is buried at All Saints' Churchyard, Harrow Weald.



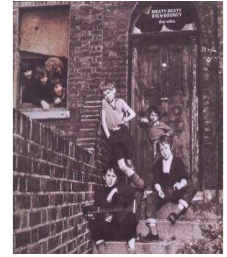
The former RAF base of Bentley Priory was the nerve centre of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain and the Second World War.

The priory provided the setting for the 1969 film version of "The Battle of Britain", which starred Michael Caine and Laurence Olivier.

Sir Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes. He was born in Harrow, attended Vaughan school as a youngster and grew up in the area. In 2004 he was given Freedom of the Borough of Harrow.



The Railway Tavern, originally on the Harrow Wealdstone Bridge but demolished in the 1980's, was where the popular music group 'The Who' were discovered by their managers Kit Lambert and Chris Stamp. The building was featured on the inside sleeve of the Who's first compilation album. This was possibly the venue for Pete Townsend's first guitar smashing trademark.



St Ann's Shopping Centre was originally opened in 1987 by Princess Diana and houses dozens of brand name shops and stores.

St Georges Shopping Centre is a shopping mall which has a gym and 9 cinema halls. This was opened by the actress Catherine Zeta Jones.



The 50th anniversary of the incorporation of Harrow as a borough (in 1954) was celebrated in April 2004, which included a visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Harrow has been the birth place of many famous celebrities, these include; Patrick Moore (Astronomer), Peter Andre (singer), Ian Dury (Musician), Billy Idol (singer), Pam St Clement (actress), Screaming Lord Sutch (musician), and Philip Glenister (actor).

Harrow has also been (or still is) the residence of several celebrities including; Matt Smith (Doctor Who), Barry Cryer (comedy writer), Sir Elton John (musician), Ronnie Barker (comedian), Simon Le Bon (singer of Duran Duran), Roger Moore (actor), Dev Patel (actor), Courtney Pine (jazz musician), Claire Rayner (journalist and agony aunt), and Mark Ramprakash (cricketer).

For further information about Harrow visit our web site www.harrow.gov.uk

"THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE IS THE HIGHEST LAW"

The 'pile' represents the shape of the table in which the Saxon Moot held their meetings.

The symbol of archery. During the early wars archery was taught to all. There is still an archery competition between the two schools of Harrow.

Shown in green, this depicts the Green Belt, and open spaces and parks.

The Goddess of Health
Depicts the fact that Harrow was considered a healthy place to live, the black death did not reach the Borough.

The Benedictine Monk recalls the long association of the Borough with the Church.



The Torch of Knowledge represents the good schools within the Borough.

The quill represents the eminent writers associated with the Borough.

The organ handle alludes to the connection of Handel within the Borough.

Represents the Great Weald of Middlesex, and the excellent hunting grounds within the Borough.

The mound typifies the Hill of Harrow-on-the-Hill.



LONDON BOROUGH OF **HARROW**

**A welcome from
The Worshipful the Mayor of Harrow
Councillor Ramji Chauhan**



I would like to welcome you officially as a new citizen of the United Kingdom, particularly to the talented, diverse and exciting community that makes up the London Borough of Harrow.

I know that the contribution you will make to the community will be invaluable and I hope that you will find it rewarding.

I pray that you will find peace, prosperity and stability for yourself and your family and that British Citizenship will inspire you to achieve your desires.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ramji Chauhan', with a horizontal line above and below the name.

Mayor

URGENT INFORMATION

Please be aware that where a person who holds a BIOMETRIC RESIDENTS PERMIT is granted British citizenship they are required to return their BIOMETRIC RESIDENTS PERMIT to the Home Office.

The correct address is;-

**POL Returns
PO Box 195
Bristol
BS20 1BT**

Local Authorities will not take the BIOMETRIC RESIDENTS PERMIT from the applicant following the award of British citizenship, the onus is on the applicant to return it.

Failure to return a BRP BIOMETRIC RESIDENTS PERMIT to the Home Office following a grant of British citizenship may result in the issuance of a financial penalty.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

DESCRIPTION OF ARMS



BLAZON

EXTRACTED FROM THE GRANT OF ARMS
dated 3rd May, 1938, to the Harrow Urban District Council

OR a Fesse arched Vert in chief on a Pile Gules between a Torch Sable enflamed proper and a Quill pen of the fourth a Clarion of the first and in base upon a Mount issuant a Hurst of Trees of the second And for the Crest Issuant from a Mural Crown proper a demi Lion holding between the paws an Arrow fessewise Argent enfiled with a Wreath of Oak also proper.