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By-elections in the 2019 Parliament



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Summary

This research briefing sets out results of the by-elections held during the 2019 Parliament. Results for previous by-elections for parliaments since 1997 are available in the following briefings:

- [By-elections 2017-19](#)
- [By-elections 2015-17](#)
- [By-elections 2010-15](#)
- [By-elections 2005-10](#)
- [By-elections 2001-05](#)
- [By-elections 1997-01](#)

By-elections since 1945 are summarised in [UK Election Statistics: 1918-2019](#).

Glossary

Chiltern Hundreds/Manor of Northstead

Under a Resolution of the House of 2 March 1623, MPs cannot directly resign their seats. Deaths, disqualification, elevation to Peerage, dissolution or expulsion are the only causes by which a Member's seat can be vacated. Therefore, a Member wishing to resign has to be appointed to a paid office of the Crown, which automatically disqualifies the Member from holding a seat in the House of Commons. There are currently two nominal offices of profit under the Crown:

- Crown Steward and Bailiff of the three Chiltern Hundreds of Stoke, Desborough and Burnham
- Crown Steward and Bailiff of the Manor of Northstead

This paper notes which, if any, Members have been appointed to.

Deposit

Candidates in a UK Parliamentary Election must pay a deposit – currently £500. If they receive more than 5% of the valid votes cast, their deposit is returned.

Majority of Winning Candidate

The majority of the winning candidate is calculated by working out the votes difference between the winning candidate and the candidate who got the second highest amount of votes.

Recall Petition

Recall is used to describe a process where the electorate in a constituency can sign a petition to remove an MP before the end of their term. A recall procedure was introduced in the UK in 2015. It only applies to Members of

Parliament and can only be triggered under certain circumstances. More information can be found in our briefing paper, [Recall Elections](#).

Total Poll

The total poll indicates the number of valid votes cast. This does not include invalid votes that were not counted.

Turnout

The turnout is calculated by dividing the total poll (valid votes) by the electorate in the constituency.

Writ

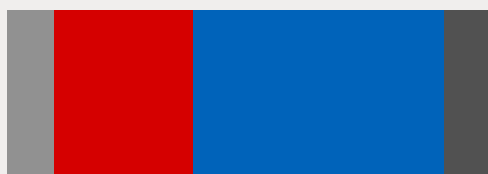
A writ of election is a legal document sent to returning officers declaring that an election must take place in the constituency, and that they must publish a notice of election.

Conservative Gain

Hartlepool

06 May 2021	Jill Mortimer	Majority 6,940 (23.2%)	Turnout 42.3%	Majority Trend
Date of by-election	Elected with 15,529 Votes (51.9%)	Electorate 70,768	▼ 15.6% on the 2019 GE	

Vote Share by Party



Note: Parties who fail to obtain 5% of the vote appear under 'Others' (Dark Grey).

Election Summary

	This by-election		2019 GE	
	Votes	%	Votes	%
Winning Majority	6,940	23.2	3,595	8.8
Total Poll	29,933	-	41,037	-
Invalid Votes	182	-	119	-
Electorate/Turnout	70,768	42.3%	70,855	57.9%

The Writ was moved on 25 Mar 2021. Of the 16 candidates, 13 failed to obtain 5% of the valid votes, so lost their £500 deposit.

Results of by-election and the comparison to the 2019 GE

Candidate	Party	This by-election		2019 GE (Party)		Change (% points)
		Votes	%	Votes	%	
<i>Other votes at 2019 GE not standing:</i>				1,405	3.4	
Jill Mortimer	Conservative	15,529	51.9	11,869	28.9	▲ 23.0
Paul Williams	Labour	8,589	28.7	15,464	37.7	▼ 9.0
Sam Lee	Independent	2,904	9.7	-	0.0	▲ 9.7
Claire Martin	Heritage	468	1.6	-	0.0	▲ 1.6
John Prescott	Reform UK	368	1.2	10,603	25.8	▼ 24.6
Rachel Featherstone	Green	358	1.2	-	0.0	▲ 1.2
Andrew Hagon	Liberal Democrat	349	1.2	1,696	4.1	▼ 3.0
Thelma Walker	Independent	250	0.8	-	0.0	▲ 0.8
Chris Killick	Independent	248	0.8	-	0.0	▲ 0.8
Hilton Dawson	North East	163	0.5	-	0.0	▲ 0.5
W. Ralph Ward-Jackson	Independent	157	0.5	-	0.0	▲ 0.5
Gemma Evans	Women's Equality	140	0.5	-	0.0	▲ 0.5
Adam Gaines	Independent	126	0.4	-	0.0	▲ 0.4
Incredible Flying Brick	Off. Monster Raving Loony	108	0.4	-	0.0	▲ 0.4
David Bettney	Social Democratic	104	0.3	-	0.0	▲ 0.3
Steve Jack	Freedom Alliance	72	0.2	-	0.0	▲ 0.2

Note: The Reform UK Party is a rebrand of the Brexit Party, consequently, results have been compared to the Brexit Party performance at the 2019 General Election.

The Hartlepool by-election was due to the resignation of Mike Hill following accusations of "sexual harassment and victimisation". Won by Jill Mortimer, she became the first Conservative to represent the area since John Kerans won the previous seat of The Hartlepoons in 1959.

You can view the parliamentary biography of the winning candidate, Jill Mortimer, [here](#)

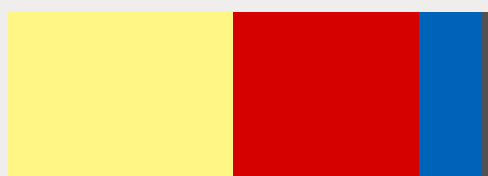
Hartlepool

SNP Hold

Airdrie and Shotts

13 May 2021	Anum Qaisar-Javed	Majority 1,757 (8.0%)	Turnout 34.3%	Majority Trend
Date of by-election	Elected with 10,129 Votes (46.4%)	Electorate 63,705	▼ 27.8% on the 2019 GE	

Vote Share by Party



Note: Parties who fail to obtain 5% of the vote appear under 'Others' (Dark Grey).

Election Summary

	This by-election		2019 GE	
	Votes	%	Votes	%
Winning Majority	1,757	8.0	5,201	13.1
Total Poll	21,827	-	39,772	-
Invalid Votes	25	-	91	-
Electorate/Turnout	63,705	34.3%	64,011	62.1%

The Writ was moved on 06 Apr 2021. Of the 8 candidates, 5 failed to obtain 5% of the valid votes, so lost their £500 deposit.

Results of by-election and the comparison to the 2019 GE

Candidate	Party	This by-election		2019 GE (Party)		Change (% points)
		Votes	%	Votes	%	
<i>Other votes at 2019 GE not standing:</i>				685	1.7	
Anum Qaisar-Javed	SNP	10,129	46.4	17,929	45.1	▲ 1.3
Kenneth Stevenson	Labour	8,372	38.4	12,728	32.0	▲ 6.4
Ben Callaghan	Conservative	2,812	12.9	7,011	17.6	▼ 4.7
Stephen Arrundale	Liberal Democrats	220	1.0	1,419	3.6	▼ 2.6
Neil Manson	Social Democratic	151	0.7	-	0.0	▲ 0.7
Jonathan Stanley	Scottish Unionists	59	0.3	-	0.0	▲ 0.3
Martyn Greene	Reform UK	45	0.2	-	0.0	▲ 0.2
Donald MacKay	UKIP	39	0.2	-	0.0	▲ 0.2

The Airdrie and Shotts by-election was due to the resignation (Northstead) of Neil Gray following his decision to stand for election to the Scottish Parliament. He subsequently returned as MSP for Airdrie and Shotts in May 2021.

Anum Qaisar-Javed won the by-election replacing Neil Gray as MP, also representing the Scottish Nationalist Party.

You can view the parliamentary biography of the winning candidate, Anum Qaisar-Javed, [here](#)

Airdrie and Shotts

Liberal Democrat Gain

Chesham and Amersham

17 Jun 2021	Sarah Green	Majority 8,028 (21.2%)	Turnout 52.1%	Majority Trend
Date of by-election	Elected with 21,517 Votes (56.7%)	Electorate 72,828	▼ 24.7% on the 2019 GE	

Vote Share by Party	Election Summary	This by-election		2019 GE	
		Votes	%	Votes	%
	Winning Majority	8,028	21.2	16,223	29.1
	Total Poll	37,954	-	55,685	-
	Invalid Votes	54	-	289	-
	Electorate/Turnout	72,828	52.1%	72,542	76.8%
Note: Parties who fail to obtain 5% of the vote appear under 'Others' (Dark Grey). The Writ was moved on 12 May 2021. Of the 8 candidates, 6 failed to obtain 5% of the valid votes, so lost their £500 deposit.					

Results of by-election and the comparison to the 2019 GE

Candidate	Party	This by-election		2019 GE (Party)		Change (% points)
		Votes	%	Votes	%	
<i>Other votes at 2019 GE not standing:</i>				-	0.0	
Sarah Green	Liberal Democrat	21,517	56.7	14,627	26.3	▲ 30.4
Peter Fleet	Conservative	13,489	35.5	30,850	55.4	▼ 19.9
Carolyn Culver	Green	1,480	3.9	3,042	5.5	▼ 1.6
Natasa Pantelic	Labour	622	1.6	7,166	12.9	▼ 11.2
Alex Wilson	Reform UK	414	1.1	-	0.0	▲ 1.1
Carla Gregory	Breakthrough	197	0.5	-	0.0	▲ 0.5
Adrian Oliver	Freedom Alliance	134	0.4	-	0.0	▲ 0.4
Brendan Donnelly	Rejoin EU	101	0.3	-	0.0	▲ 0.3

The Chesham And Amersham by-election was due to the death of Dame Cheryl Gillan on the 4 April 2021. Dame Cheryl had been the MP for Chesham and Amersham since 1992 and had served in Government, firstly between 1995 and 1997 as a Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Department of Education and Employment; and later as Secretary of State for Wales between 2010 and 2012. She also held many different opposition and committee positions during her time as an MP.

Sarah Green won the by-election for the Liberal Democrats in the seat vacated by the death of Cheryl Gillan. She becomes the first non-Conservative to win the seat since the formation of a Chesham and Amersham seat in 1974 (changes have been made at subsequent boundary reviews).

Only the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives received over 5% of the vote and subsequently got their deposits back.

You can view the parliamentary biography of the winning candidate, Sarah Green, here

Chesham and Amersham

Labour Hold

Batley and Spen

01 Jul 2021	Kim Leadbeater	Majority 323 (0.9%)	Turnout 47.5%	Majority Trend
Date of by-election	Elected with 13,296 Votes (35.3%)	Electorate 79,373	▼ 19.0% on the 2019 GE	

Vote Share by Party	Election Summary	This by-election		2019 GE	
		Votes	%	Votes	%
<p>Note: Parties who fail to obtain 5% of the vote appear under 'Others' (Dark Grey).</p>	Winning Majority	323	0.9	3,525	6.7
	Total Poll	37,695	-	52,927	-
	Invalid Votes	83	-	104	-
	Electorate/Turnout	79,373	47.5%	79,558	66.5%

The Writ was moved on 27 May 2021. Of the 16 candidates, 13 failed to obtain 5% of the valid votes, so lost their £500 deposit.

Results of by-election and the comparison to the 2019 GE

Candidate	Party	This by-election		2019 GE (Party)		Change (% points)
		Votes	%	Votes	%	
<i>Other votes at 2019 GE not standing:</i>				8,802	16.6	
Kim Leadbeater	Labour	13,296	35.3	22,594	42.7	▼ 7.4
Ryan Stephenson	Conservative	12,973	34.4	19,069	36.0	▼ 1.6
George Galloway	Workers	8,264	21.9	-	0.0	▲ 21.9
Thomas Gordon	Liberal Democrats	1,254	3.3	2,462	4.7	▼ 1.3
Corey Robinson	Yorkshire	816	2.2	-	0.0	▲ 2.2
Therese Hirst	English Democrats	207	0.5	-	0.0	▲ 0.5
Jack Thomson	UKIP	151	0.4	-	0.0	▲ 0.4
Howling Laud Hope	OMRLP	107	0.3	-	0.0	▲ 0.3
Mike Davies	Alliance for Green Socialism	104	0.3	-	0.0	▲ 0.3
Paul Bickerdike	Christian Peoples Alliance	102	0.3	-	0.0	▲ 0.3
Jonathan Tilt	Freedom Alliance	100	0.3	-	0.0	▲ 0.3
Anne Waters	For Britain	97	0.3	-	0.0	▲ 0.3
Andrew Smith	Rejoin EU	75	0.2	-	0.0	▲ 0.2
Oliver Purser	Social Democratic	66	0.2	-	0.0	▲ 0.2
Jayda Fransen	Independent	50	0.1	-	0.0	▲ 0.1
Susan Laird	Heritage	33	0.1	-	0.0	▲ 0.1

The Batley and Spen by-election was held due to the sitting MP, Tracy Brabin, being elected as Mayor of West Yorkshire and subsequently vacating her Parliamentary seat (Chiltern Hundreds). Labour held the seat with Kim Leadbeater (sister of former Batley & Spen MP, the late Jo Cox) winning the seat with a 0.9% majority.

A Labour victory in this by-election means that the first four by-elections of this Parliament have been won by four different parties.

You can view the parliamentary biography of the winning candidate, Kim Leadbeater, [here](#)

Batley and Spen

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