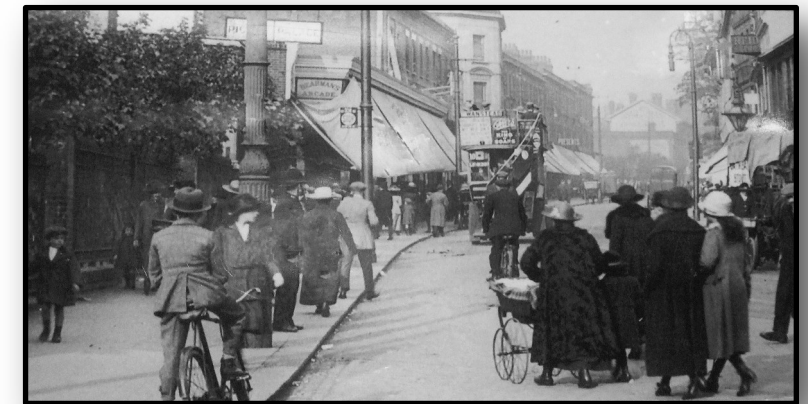


Leytonstone in Context

To the people of Leytonstone, war happened elsewhere. The Edwardian era (1901—1910) was a time of 'plenty' for Great Britain and with this wealth came the overwhelming might of its military forces. Consequently as the war got closer, Leytonstone residents could be forgiven for believing that any conflict would be brief and the British victorious. How could they or anyone envisage the intensity of the struggle that lay ahead and how it would impact directly on their lives?

So what was exercising the minds of the Leytonstone people just prior to the war.



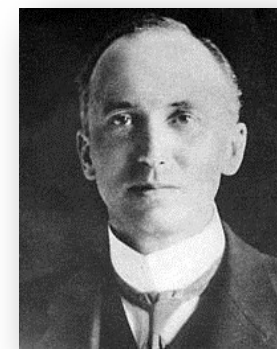
The growth of Leytonstone

The population of the district of Leyton grew from 43,098 in 1891 to 124,735 in 1911 with Leytonstone's people numbering 55,000. A large house and road building programme brought about massive improvements but also worrying social challenges.



Politics

The country was run by a 'minority' Liberal government under Herbert Asquith (left) who was introducing important social reforms. The local MP was a Liberal 'high flyer' Sir John Simon who was to become Home Secretary.



A Royal Visit

Many residents welcomed the visit of Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig Holstein to open a flower show in support of the 'Home of the Good Shepherd' in Davies Lane. The Princess visited the area quite regularly.



Keepers Lodge c. 1906

The lights went 'on'

The 'Express' reported that Captain Miller of the fire service asked for Electric light to be supplied for the annual fete of the Fire Brigade. The council agreed. The date of the Fete was 3rd August 1914.

This letter to the 'Express' would have been of concern to many

Dear Sir, I shall be obliged if you will kindly allow me through the medium of your paper to issue a warning to all owners of dogs living in the vicinity of Bushwood to take particular care of their dogs when let out for exercise. On Tuesday evening, my dog (an Irish terrier) was in front of the keepers lodge when he was shot.

I have not been able to find out who killed him but if any readers have their dogs shot in this neighbourhood I shall be glad if they will communicate with me.

T.W. Mitchell, "Penrith", Beacontree Rd.

29th July, 1914

A local hero

Leytonstone people would have been saddened to hear about the death of W. Dawson who, as the district surveyor, oversaw the construction of the sewage and later the tramway systems.

He lived at 113 Wallwood Road.

