



LEYTONSTONE COMMUTERS

Leytonstone at Work

Leytonstone's growth was underpinned by its geographical position whereby city workers could commute into London, agricultural workers were near the Essex countryside and Engineers and Craftsmen were within easy reach of the more industrialised areas.



The list below shows the 303 workplaces the Chief Medical Officer inspected in 1914 and the number of premises visited. This gives an insight into the range of work Leytonstone people were engaged in. Leyton district had 804 registered workplaces in total.

Blouses, underclothes	80	Cabinet making	5
boots, shoes	19	Picture framing	1
ties, neckwear	17	Paper articles	1
Walking sticks	1	Shop fitting	1
leather, fancy goods	1	Chopping firewood	5
brushes	22	Rag sorting	3
firelighters	0	Cycle repair, motors	3
bedding, upholstery	0	Wheelrights, carriages	4
polishes	1	Printing, book binding	4
food products, sweets	0	Rope making	0
scales, tools	1	Cork-cutting	1
Heating apparatus	1	Whalebone cutting	0
childrens toys	0	Glass blowing	0
ether sprays	1	Wire workers	3
wooden boxes	2	Furriers	0
drawing intruments	1	Fibre works	0
mats	1	Feather curling	0
Dressmaking	33	Packing inks	0
Millinary	16	Stone mason	1
Tailoring, alteration	26	Fixing leaden seals	1
Art-needlework	2	Brick - building	1
Corset making	1	Sheet steel, asbestos	1
Bakehouses	44	Military water bottles	1
Laundries	15	TOTALS	303



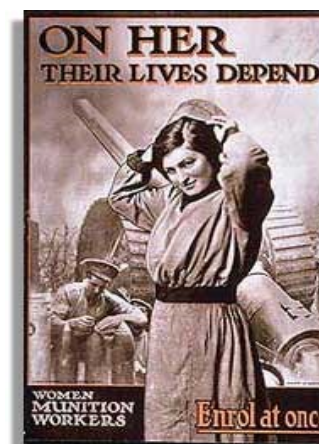
Opportunities for building workers dried up from 1914. In this year only 79 new houses were built and far fewer during the war years.



Leytonstone boasted :-
 4 Cow keepers,
 21 Dairymen,
 19 Milk sellers

The Edwardian growth of the national economy led to an expansion of the public services and the numbers of council employees grew as did the ranks of city workers and employees in private companies. The classified advertisements in the 'Express and Independent' reflected a vibrant jobs market and a council report indicated that the vast majority of people in the town were employed during daylight hours.

Typical of the development of public services was the local fire 'brigade' which was initially manned by volunteers. By 1918 firemen were council employees and paid. Harrow Green fire station opened in 1914.



Leytonstone women were well placed to fill the many positions made vacant when male workers joined the army and they were massively encouraged to do so by the government. Many had the opportunity to work in the munitions industry but although well paid, the chemicals used were dangerous to health. In December 1917 the nearby plant at Silvertown blew up killing 73 and destroying a wide area.

Some men tried to use better female job opportunities for their own advantage. In 1915 a man argued in court that he should not have to pay his wife maintenance money because she was now able to get a job as a Postwoman. He lost his case