

Chapter 1 : The Blind Beggar's Daughter of Bethnal Green (Roud ; Laws N27; G/D)

By , the Bethnal Green beadle bore the badge of the Blind Beggar on his ceremonial staff. And in the 18th century every pub in the area bore the image of the beggar on their signs. Even Kirby's Castle, a lunatic asylum, was dubbed the Blind Beggar's House in

Pinterest Reddit London is too big of a beast to take in at once. Her citizens, whether short term or lifelong, must chop up the sprawling city into manageable bites if they ever hope to comfortably digest it. Like all Londoners, my neighborhood became a metropolis in microcosm. A greater place existed outside my home of Stockwell, a former council housing block in south London, but it was a foreign land, as accessible as a far off of nature. Within a few months, I had hopscotched across London, experiencing its streets from the posh to the residential to the desperate, living alongside Jamaicans and Portuguese, Greeks, Japanese, and Colombians. It was a veritable United Nations of neighborhoods that no other city has come close to approximating. I also want to get the Early Bird Books newsletter featuring great deals on ebooks. At the time, Bethnal Green was a collection of fading working class Cockney families intermixed with Bangladeshi immigrants. Today, those migrants face a new wave of transplants: In my mind, the oft-mythologized East End is the gritty essence of London: A rain-slicked mass of concrete and brick where one could find the last true eel and pie shops of the capital, packed with enclaves of the Irish, Jews, Caribbeans, Indians, Nigerians, Bangladeshis, and Pakistanis. Ronnie Kray murdered George Cornell in cold blood in front of numerous witnesses at The Blind Beggar, a Bethnal Green pub that dates as far back as It was here that a coalition of anarchists, labor unionists, socialists, communists, immigrants, and Jews also aced down thousands of blackshirt fascists at the Battle of Cable Street in Bethnal Green had recently opened its own tube station, a new expansion of the London Underground along the Central Line. The commuters rushed for the shelter of the Tube, where 19 stone steps, slicked by rain, led down. When the weapon fired at 8: A woman carrying a baby and a bundle of bedding slipped and fell, even as the sound of the rocket panicked those who were trying to enter the Underground. The flow of humanity stopped, surged, swelled and then stampeded, all within the cramped confines of the Tube entrance. Bodies were piled ten-deep, the oxygen quite literally squeezed out of the space. Even given the long, often violent history of the East End, the accident stands out for its carnage. Those nights were always faintly menacing, as London is wont to beâ€”rainy, and inhabited by characters who could have easily given the East End gangsters of old a modern-day lesson in violence.

Chapter 2 : Bethnal Green - The Rough Diamond in the Crown

Bethnal Green Gardens is located in the heart of Bethnal Green, which holds a war memorial, known as the Stairway To Heaven, and Weavers Fields, a acres park and is the 6th largest open space in Tower Hamlets that lies south of Bethnal Green Road.

October, in the front bedroom of 11 Royston Street. I was supposed to be born in the country, but circumstances came to pass that did not allow this to happen. As a result, I was born a cockney, and despite all efforts to educate and change me, I remain one. Being from Bethnal Green and being a cockney may not seem like much to those born elsewhere. However, ask an Irishman why he is proud of where he is born or someone from Brooklyn or The Bronx the same question. They will most likely get a faraway look in their eye and drift off to some magic place in their imagination and utter something or other that you are not likely to understand or, if you did, would not agree with. It is the same with the East End of London. Those born there are proud of this accomplishment despite having nothing to do with it. And I for one am doubly proud to come from Bethnal Green. I am told that the name Bethnal Green comes from the earliest name for the area, which is Blythenhale or Bliethehale. The name means happy, blithe Blyth, Blithe and angle, nook or corner. The area was marshland and forest Bishopswood until the 16th. It is thought that the first clearing was made next to St. The Green is the area now occupied by Bethnal Green Library. The people of Bethnal Green have always had a reputation for going their own way and standing up for their rights. The first recorded examples of this appeared in when the citizens defended their traditional right to hunt within the woods of the Bishop in Stepney and in when they reaffirmed their right to shoot with bows in the common fields of Stepney and Bethnal Green. This is a long poem that tells the story of Henry, son and heir of Simon de Montfort who was blinded in the Battle of Eversham in . Apparently, he escaped the king by dressing as a beggar. He survived by begging and obviously saved his money. His true identity was revealed at the wedding. The blind beggar is seen on the Common Seal of the borough of Bethnal Green and the Blind Beggar pub on Whitechapel Road, just across the border with Stepney, is said to be the site of his begging. In the late 17th. A trust was set up to maintain the area and rent from its use was used to help the poor. One of the main houses on the Green was Bethnal House, which was later leased and became an asylum. This area now houses the Bethnal Green Library and the park area before it is referred to as the Barmy Park by older residents. The citizens of Bethnal Green have always enjoyed gaming and between and bowling was very popular. However, their other gaming activities included more rougher pursuits and including whipping a cock on Shrove Tuesday in , dog-fighting, hunting ducks, for which the weavers bred a special small spaniel called a splasher and chasing bullocks. Apparently a subscription was raised to pay drovers on their way to Smithfield Market for a bullock, which was maddened with prods and peas in its ears and driven through the most populated part of the parish. In the rector of the church saved two bullocks, which had taken refuge in the churchyard, but a certain Joseph Merceron, as magistrate, refused to stop the practice and declared that in his youth, he was first in the chase. The chief amusements in were said to be dogfights, rat matches, and drawing the badger, although few badgers could be found in the parish. Dog- and cockfighting in seems to have been a popular feature of the bird fair. Bethnal Green has always been associated with a large immigrant population. The Huguenots settled into the area from Spitalfields from about and moved into Globe Town, which is the area east of the Green and would have included where I was born. They were refugees from France having come to England earlier to escape religious persecution. They were weavers and operated some 20, looms in their own homes by . The decline in the silk trade occurred with the relaxation on French imports and many turned to boot, furniture and clothing production. In Bethnal Green village consisted of about houses, a public house, a brewery and a factory on the east side of Cambridge Heath Road and houses and seven public houses on the west side. Obviously the population enjoyed a drink. By there were some Irish and foreign-born people in Bethnal Green and they represented 0. This rose to 6. Most were poor Jews from Germany, Poland and Russia. They spread into Bethnal Green from Spitalfields and Whitechapel and tended to concentrate in one area and so gave the impression of being present in greater numbers than they actually were. Yiddish was the language of this area.

At the start of the 20th. Century, Bethnal Green was one of the poorest slums in London. The infamous Jack the Ripper walked and terrorized the streets of the western end of the area and in neighbouring Whitechapel. As Bethnal Green grew, overcrowding became common. In , there were people to an acre. Since people were poor, they could not afford larger homes and, as they needed to be close to their work, overcrowding became increasingly common in the area. As a result of the subsequent things that follow overcrowding, the average death rate increased. However, when new homes were built, they often used billy sweet, a mortar including street dirt which never dried out. These homes were often below street level with little street distance between them. Many houses were soon condemned. In , one surveyed area of houses revealed 43 empty houses with 5, living there with almost half living in one-roomed dwellings. At this time, most people worked as labourers, hawkers, furniture makers, shoemakers, washerwomen, sawyers and costermongers. There were many criminals in the area. It was said that of the people housed in one particular street, 64 people had been in prison. Some areas were notorious for the number of rival gangs living there. By , the Jewish population was decreasing due to their movement into other areas of London. In , just prior to the influx of the next wave of immigrants, there was little political or criminal violence in Bethnal Green. Between and nearly 40, residents of Bethnal Green were relocated into London County Council homes in Essex and later into Buckinghamshire. This caused a breakup of the social order and a contraction of privately rented housing. These conditions contributed to outrageous rents and the development of the slum lord along with an increase in criminal behavior. The Kray Twins came to prominence at this time and held sway in the area for a while. The East End continues to be a haven for immigrants. The mid to late s saw the next wave of immigrants arrive. This time they came from the Commonwealth. Their numbers have risen dramatically over the last fifty years. In , the census revealed the population of Bethnal Green to be 17, with the largest ethnic group being of Bangladeshi descent and making up White British constituted Followers of Islam were now at An estimated 80 tons of bombs were dropped on Bethnal Green damaging over 21, houses: A total of people were killed and another seriously injured. When King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were urged to leave London during the bombing of London they refused, with the Queen saying that they would never be able to look the people of the East End in the face again if they were to leave. Many unexploded bombs were found in the area, the last of which was uncovered in May However the worst wartime disaster did not occur at the hands of the Axis powers, but as a result of the sound of an anti-aircraft battery coming from Victoria Park. At that time, Bethnal Green Tube Station was used as an air raid shelter. March, at 8. Apparently, a woman slipped while descending to the tracks, causing a number of people to fall. This resulted in the death of people. The results of the official investigation were not made known until This was the worse civilian disaster of the war and is commemorated by a plaque at the entrance to the tube station. Although it provided a sanctuary to those seeking freedom from religious persecution and those seeking a better life for their families and themselves, it has also provided a haven for criminals and political unrest. Today, police and ambulance sirens can be heard blaring out as they rush around the area with monotonous regularity. Despite this, life goes on. People meet, they get married, they have children, their children go to school, they grow up and the circle continues. The flower market is still open for business on Sunday morning. The trolleybuses are gone and the bus numbers and routes may have changed, but the buses still run and one can still get around the city by bus. Sadly, all of the cinemas are gone and many of the pubs have become theme pubs or else have become restaurants, however the museum and the parks are still open and are free to the public. However, they have been replaced by the delicious and exotic scents of Eastern herbs and mixes, which also cause the mouth to water. And so, as the French say, it would seem that the more things change, the more things stay the same. What better way to describe the life of Bethnal Green?

Chapter 3 : The Blind Beggar Pub and Resturant | London | Whitechapel Rd

THE BLIND BEGGAR OF BETHNAL GREEN was a popular composition. Several painted versions are known. Despite this, there appear to have been no engravings.

Part of it, I remember, went like this: However, had he only known it, there was no need for Paddy to stoop to forgery. The name of the pub was The Blind Beggar. Clearly the pub is named after the song. This is a mid-Victorian nursery book, with a red and gold cover, and delightfully whimsical colour-plates inside, each protected by a sheet of tracing paper. Eight ballads are included, greatly enhanced by the comic or sentimental pictures, each imbued with a yearning for a Golden Age when kings wore golden crowns and the world was young. The Publishers hope that the old charm lingers round them still, and that, in sunny nook, or by fireside, they may still delight the fresh minds of the children of the nineteenth century, as they did those of the little ones of the days long ago. Rich merchants jostle one another as they press around her, asking for her hand. And now with slow and stately pace, In a silken cloak and vest, Appeared the Beggar of Bethnal Green, With a lute hung to his breast. Striking up, the Beggar sings a ballad within the ballad. A dusky desert maiden finds him, takes pity on him and nurses him to health. They marry, and travel back to England. Presumably the bride becomes a Christian. His wealth is easily explained. Long live the knight! Long live the bride! How did the compilers of Merry Ballads find this wonderful song? It may be that they have done a Paddy Roberts on us, and made it up. But I think not. Far from being an anti-snobbery song, the ballad celebrates the worth of true Norman blood. Ironically enough, the most well know de Montford was Simon, who helped to bring about our modern Parliament, the downfall of aristocracy. However, it will take more than such a tenuous link with modern times to make the Beggar of Bethnal Green into a song of social protest. Those who search out the vestiges of traditional music should beware of the temptation to write songs of their own making in the same idiom, except as a Paddy Roberts-style joke. A folklore-researcher is such a different being from a traditional singer that his own made-up verse can never ring true. The Beggar of Bethnal Green is now remembered as a pub-sign, but in Victorian days a large house in the neighbourhood was pointed out as his home. And was she peeved when he received A longish term in clink!

Chapter 4 : THE BALLAD OF BETHNAL GREEN Â» 31 Jan Â» The Spectator Archive

Jim O'Connor sang The Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green in on the Critic Group's Argo anthology of London songs, A Merry Progress to London. Paddy Reilly of Tipperary sang The Blind Beggar to Jim Carroll and Pat Mackenzie in between and

He inherited the mansion known as Montford House, a large red brick building in the street now known as Victoria Park Square. He was wounded, and also lost his sight at the battle of Evesham in the year After his recovery, aided by a baroness, he was for some reason left dressed in beggars clothes. During his recovery period he also managed to get the baroness pregnant. The resulting baby girl was named Besse. Besse had many male admirers when she reached adulthood, including a knight. Of these possible suitors, the knight was the only one who would lower himself to approach a poor old beggar for permission to marry his daughter. The blind beggar appears on the Bethnal Green crest. There is also the famous Ballad of Bethnal Green below , which was written in Tudor times. The Ballad of Bethnal Green is extremely long. For this reason I have had to split it into two parts side by side in order to prevent having a ridiculously long page. As for the tune, I have no idea, but Greensleeves has been suggested. And though she was of complexion most fair, And seeing she was but a beggar his heir, Of ancient housekeepers despised was she, Whose sons came as suitors to pretty Bessee. Wherefore in great sorrow fair Bessee did say: Good father and mother, let me now go away, To seek out my fortune, whatever it be. This suit then was granted to pretty Bessee. This Bessee, that was of a beauty most bright, They clad in grey russet; and late in the night From father and mother alone parted she, Who sighed and sobbed for pretty Bessee. She went till she came to Stratford- at- Then she know not whither or which way to go, With tears she lamented her sad destiny; So sad and so heavy was pretty Bessee. She had not been there one month at an end, But master and mistress and all was her friend: And every brave gallant that once did her see, Was straightway in love with pretty Bessee. Great gifts they did send her of silver and gold, And in their songs daily her love they extolled: Her beauty was blazed in every decree, So fair and so comely was pretty Bessee. The young men of Rumford in her had their joy, She showed herself courteous, but never too coy, And at their commandment still she would be, So fair and so comely was pretty Bessee. Four suitors at once unto her did go, They craved her favour, but still she said no; I would not have gentlemen marry with me! Yet ever they honoured pretty Bessee. Now one of them was a gallant young knight, And he came unto her disguised in the night; The second, a gentleman of high degree, Who wooed and sued for pretty Bessee. The silly blind beggar of Bednall Green, That daily sits begging for charity, He is the kind father of pretty Bessee. As swift as the wind to ride they were seen, Until they came near unto Bednall Green, And as the knight lighted most courteously, They fought against him for pretty Bessee. But rescue came presently over the plain, Or else the knight there for his love had been slain; The fray being ended, they straightway did see His kinsman come railing at pretty Bessee. But of her sumptuous marriage and feast, And what fine lords and ladies there prest, The second part shall set forth to your sight, With marvellous pleasure and wished- for delight. It was in a gallant palace most brave, Adorned with all the cost they could have, This wedding it was kept most sumptuously, And all for the love of pretty Bessee. And all kind of dainties and delicates sweet, Was brought to their banquet, as it was thought meet, Partridge, and plover, and venison most free, Against the brave wedding of pretty Bessee. The wedding through England was spread by report, So that a great number thereto did resort Of nobles and gentles of every degree, And all for the fame of pretty Bessee. This wedding being solemnized then, With music performed by skilfullest men, The nobles and gentlemen down at the side, Each one beholding the beautiful bride. And thus, ye nobles, my song I do end, Hoping by the same no man to offend; Full forty long winters thus I have been, A silly blind beggar of Bednall Green. Advertise your business here.

Chapter 5 : THE CORNISH WONDER: JOHN OPIE R.A. - THE BLIND BEGGAR

The Beggar of Bethnal Green A Comedy in Three Acts; Altered From the Beggar's Daughter of Bethnal Green by J. S. Knowles A Comedy in Three Acts; Altered From the Beggar's Daughter of Bethnal Green by J. S. Knowles.

History[edit] The accepted Toponymy is the name Blithehale or Blythenhale, the earliest form of Bethnal Green, is derived from the Anglo-Saxon healh "angle, nook, or corner" and blithe "happy, blithe" , or from a personal name Blitha. Nearby Cambridge Heath Camprichesheth , is unconnected with Cambridge and may also derive from an Anglo-Saxon personal name. The area was once marshland and forest which, as Bishopswood, lingered in the east until the 16th century. Early history[edit] Parish of Bethnal Green, In what would become northern Bethnal Green known as Cambridge Heath a stretch of common land which stretched to the east and west, belonged to the old Stepney Manor to the south, the heath was used as a pasture where people could graze their sheep during the Middle Ages in the 13th century, though records suggest at least one ancient house stood there. It was one of the hamlets included in the Manor of Stepney and Hackney. Hackney later became separated. In the owners of houses surrounding the Green purchased the land to save it from being built on and in the land was conveyed to a trust under which it was to be kept open and rent from it used for the benefit of poor people living in the vicinity. From that date, the trust has administered the land and its minute books are kept in the London Metropolitan Archives. One of its owners was Sir Hugh Platt , author of books on gardening and practical science. Under its next owner it was visited by Samuel Pepys. In it was leased to Matthew Wright and for almost two centuries it was an asylum. Its two most distinguished inmates were Alexander Cruden , compiler of the Concordance to the Bible , and the poet Christopher Smart. Records of the asylum are kept in the annual reports of the Commissioner in Lunacy. Even today, the park where the library stands is known locally as "Barmy Park". The original mansion, the White House, was supplemented by other buildings. The asylum reorganised its buildings, demolishing the historic White House and erecting a new block in This building became the present Bethnal Green Library. Boxing has a long association with Bethnal Green. Daniel Mendoza , who was champion of England from to though born in Aldgate , lived in Paradise Row on the western side of Bethnal Green for 30 years. Since then numerous boxers have been associated with the area, and the local leisure centre, York Hall , remains notable for presentation of boxing bouts. The north end of the Green is associated with the Natt family. During the 18th century they owned many of its houses. Netteswell House is the residence of the curator of the Bethnal Green Museum. It is almost certainly named after the village of Netteswell , near Harlow , whose rector was the Rev. A few of its houses have become University settlements. This attracted many Huguenot and Irish weavers to the district. Large estates of small two story cottages were developed in the west of the area to house them. A downturn in the trade in led to the Spitalfield Riots , and on 6 December , two weavers accused of "cutting" were hanged in front of the Salmon and Ball public house. Slum children in bed, Bethnal Green, Slum street in Bethnal Green, circa In the 19th century, Bethnal Green remained characterised by its market gardens and by weaving. Having been an area of large houses and gardens as late as the 18th century, by about Bethnal Green was mainly full of tumbledown old buildings with many families living in each house. By the end of the century, Bethnal Green was one of the poorest slums in London. Jack the Ripper operated at the western end of Bethnal Green and in neighbouring Whitechapel. In , the Old Nichol Street rookery was demolished, and the Boundary Estate opened on the site near the boundary with Shoreditch. However most of the local residents were poor, especially in the streets around the railway line and the Regents Canal , as well as on Russia Lane. He was a capable pastoral visitor and established a parochial school. In , he got into trouble for preaching a sermon in which he argued that The Book of Common Prayer should have additional material to provide for confession and absolution and in which he criticised the "inefficient and Godless clergy" of the Church of England. After examining the text of the sermon, the Bishop of London condemned it as containing "erroneous and dangerous notions". As a result, the bishop sent Woodard to be a curate in Clapton. On the eastern side of Bethnal Green lies Globe Town, established from to provide for the expanding population of weavers around Bethnal Green attracted by improving prospects in silk weaving. The population of Bethnal Green trebled between and ,

operating 20, looms in their own homes. By , with restrictions on importation of French silks relaxed, up to half these looms became idle and prices were driven down. With many importing warehouses already established in the district, the abundance of cheap labour was turned to boot, furniture and clothing manufacture. Globe Town continued its expansion into the s, long after the decline of the silk industry. This forced the temporary relocation of the library into the unopened Bethnal Green Underground Station in order to provide a continuous of lending services. The library was rebuilt and opened a few months later for the public. The Chief Shelter Welfare Officer at the time, Jane Levenson said "people came to Oxford House not because it was an air raid shelter but because there they found happiness and a true spirit of fellowship". Families had crowded into the underground station due to an air raid siren at 8: There was a panic at 8: In the wet, dark conditions the crowd was surging forward towards the shelter when a woman tripped on the stairs, causing many others to fall. Within a few seconds people were crushed into the tiny stairwell, resulting in deaths. Although a report was filed by Eric Linden with the Daily Mail , who witnessed it, it never ran. The story which was reported instead was that there had been a direct hit by a German bomb. The results of the official investigation were not released until There were a total of people killed and seriously injured. Husbands in the sample population no longer went out to drink but spent time with the family. As a result, both birth rate and infant death rate fell drastically and local prosperity increased. It is true that the infamous gangsters, the Kray twins lived in Bethnal Green in the s. However, by the beginning of the 21st century, Bethnal Green and much of the old East End began to undergo a process of gentrification. The hospital closed as a public hospital in the s and was a geriatric hospital under the NHS until the s. Much of the site was developed for housing in the s but the hospital entrance and administration block remains as a listed building. It became part of music history as the band would hold Guerilla Gigs in the flat that would be packed with people. A map showing the wards of Bethnal Green Metropolitan Borough as they appeared in The district is associated with the E2 postcode district , but this also covers parts of Shoreditch, Haggerston and Cambridge Heath. Between and , the name Bethnal Green was applied to one of seven neighbourhoods to which power was devolved from the council. This resulted in replacement of much of the street signage in the area that remains in place.

Chapter 6 : Blind Beggar's Daughter of Bednall Green, The [Laws N27]

The blind beggar is seen on the Common Seal of the borough of Bethnal Green and the Blind Beggar pub on Whitechapel Road, just across the border with Stepney, is said to be the site of his begging.

Chapter 7 : The Beggar of Bethnal Green

*The Beggar of Bethnal Green: A Comedy in Three Acts [James Sheridan Knowles] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This is a pre historical reproduction that was curated for quality.*

Chapter 8 : The Ballad of Behnal Green

The Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green - A legend and a very long poem The Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green was in fact Henry de Montford, the son of Simon de Montford. He inherited the mansion known as Montford House, a large red brick building in the street now known as Victoria Park Square.

Chapter 9 : Playbill New Theatre Bridgnorth Shropshire Englnd BEGGAR OF BETHNAL GREEN | eBay

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