

Bethnal Green

Pronounced 'Befnal' Green, the accent is noticeably London, and residents seem long established. There is no real heart to the area, perhaps because, as in Stepney, large numbers were moved out wholesale during and after the Second World War. Bethnal Green Road has a subdued street market on weekdays. On a Sunday, there is a flower market¹¹ on Columbia Road. The core of the market is good fun, and very crowded, the shops along it, and in the side streets and yards, have been beamed in from Camden Lock¹² and are, perhaps, becoming a little earnest. During the week, it is curiously dead. Hackney Road, to the north, has some remnants of the furniture trade, especially reproduction furniture, that used to dominate the area. Somewhere nearby there is the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood.

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