

= Whitechapel Road =

Whitechapel Road is a major arterial road in Whitechapel , Tower Hamlets , in the East End of London . It is named after a small chapel of ease dedicated to St Mary and connects Aldgate to the west (as Whitechapel High Street) with Mile End Road to the east . The road is part of the historic Roman Road from London to Colchester , now the A11 .

The road had become built up by the 19th century and is now a main shopping district in the Whitechapel area . There is an established street market along the road next to Whitechapel tube station . The Whitechapel Bell Foundry and the Royal London Hospital have been based on Whitechapel Road since the 18th century . It remains an important road and is marked with bus lanes , with limited parking .

Several ethnic minority communities have centred on Whitechapel Road . The road was a focal point of the Jewish Community from the 1850s to the 1930s , with many Jewish shops and market stalls . Towards the latter part of the 20th century , the street became an established settlement of the British Bangladeshi community , who now sell a range of authentic Asian food and clothes in the market and on shop fronts . Altab Ali Park sits on the site of the original church at the western end of Whitechapel Road , and is a memorial to an Asian worker who suffered a fatal racial attack in 1978 .

= = Geography = =

The road 's name , along with the area , is derived from the original 14th @-@ century White Chapel . It follows the section of the Roman road between Londinium (London) and Camulodunum (Colchester) , which connected to the Pye Road to Venta Icenorum (Caistor St Edmund near Norwich) . The section of the Roman Road that is now Whitechapel Road is a Primary A @-@ road , the A11 , and has bus lanes running along its length . Owing to the popularity of the market , parking is heavily restricted , limited to occasional parking metered spaces along the road .

Cycle Superhighway CS2 runs along Whitechapel Road . The nearest London Underground stations are Whitechapel station and Aldgate East station and the nearest National Rail station is Bethnal Green railway station . A number of local London Buses routes run along Whitechapel Road , including 25 , 205 and 254 .

= = History = =

The road has been an important thoroughfare and coaching route for centuries . Whitechapel High Street and Whitechapel Road are named as such on John Rocque 's Map of London , 1746 , both marked as " White Chapel " . On John Cary 's " Environs of London " of 1795 (published in his New Itinerary of 1798) there are properties on both sides of the road . By the ninth edition in 1821 , the road is shown as extensively built up . In the mid @-@ 19th century , drovers steered livestock from local farms along the road towards Smithfield Market , causing considerable traffic congestion . By the 1870s , the road had become extensively developed with properties along the entire stretch of the road .

The Freedom Press Bookshop is on Angel Alley , No. 84b Whitechapel High Street , and was established in the 1880s by Peter Kropotkin and Charlotte Wilson as the first publishing house to deal with anarchism and radical publications . The press has been controversial , and was fire @-@ bombed in 2013 , but quickly reopened . The Whitechapel Art Gallery on Whitechapel High Street opened in 1899 . It was designed by Charles Harrison Townsend in 1895 and was the first major art gallery in East London . It has shown works of Jackson Pollock , Robert Rauschenberg and David Hockney . It continues to be the centre of the arts scene in the area .

The Whitechapel Bell Foundry , a principal supplier of church bells in Britain , is based at No. 32 ? 34 Whitechapel Road . The buildings date from 1670 and are Grade II listed . Originally a coaching inn known as The Artichoke , it has been occupied by the foundry since 1738 , replacing smaller premises on the north side of the road . Davenant Foundation School moved to No. 173

Whitechapel Road in 1818 . The school expanded with a new hall and classrooms in 1896 , with further improvements in 1909 . However , a decreasing child population meant that in 1965 , the school moved to Loughton , Essex . The building remains on the north side and is Grade II listed .

Continuing eastwards , Whitechapel tube station is on the north side of the road , alongside the street market . Behind the tube station is the former site of Blackwall Buildings a set of philanthropic houses built in 1890 . Just to the east of the market are almshouses at Trinity House , that were originally built in 1695 for retired seamen .

Nearby is the former site of St. Mary 's (Whitechapel Road) tube station . The station opened in March 1884 but its close proximity to both Whitechapel and Aldgate East tube stations made it superfluous , leading to its closure in April 1938 . It was used as an air raid shelter in World War II , but was destroyed by bombing in 1940 . Opposite to the south is the former Royal London Hospital building , built in 1740 . The hospital suffered significant structural damage during World War II , but much of the 18th- and 19th @-@ century architecture still remains . A new building now sits adjacent to the original .

The Pavilion Theatre opened on Nos.191 ? 193 Whitechapel Road , the site of a former clothes factory , in 1828 . It was the first major theatre to open in the East End of London . The original building was destroyed in a fire in 1856 , and was replaced by a larger theatre that could accommodate over 1 @,@ 000 people , becoming the centre of Yiddish theatre in Britain . It closed in 1934 .

During the 1940s , the Metropolitan Police attempted to crack down on illegal gambling held in social clubs along Whitechapel Road . The Brancroft Social Club was based at No. 69 , and in March 1944 , a police raid uncovered unlicensed horse and dog race betting which led to the arrest of the club 's owner and 21 patrons .

The Albion Brewery was first established at the eastern end of Whitechapel Road in 1808 by Richard Ivory , landlord of the Blind Beggar . In 1860 , the brewery was rebuilt , producing an average of 133 @,@ 000 barrels of beer a year . It closed in 1979 .

The Eastern District Post Office is based at the eastern end of Whitechapel Road , on the south side . This was the eastern terminus for the former London Post Office Railway (colloquially known as the " Mail Rail ") , built to allow fast mail transfers across London . It closed in 2003 . Beyond this is Mile End Gate ? where the road becomes Mile End Road ; and was the site of the former toll gate .

= = Community = =

The road has the been the centre of several ethnic minority groups in London . In the 1840s , many Irish emigrated to avoid the potato famine and began street selling at Whitechapel Market and along Whitechapel Road .

The Jewish community settled on and around Whitechapel Road from the 1850s onwards . In the 1880s , the community expanded rapidly as Ashkenazi Jews fled to Britain and took over many of the shops and market stalls on the street . For the remainder of the century and much of the 20th , the road was the focal point of the community . The nearby Jewish Free School was , at one point , the largest educational establishment in the world , with over 4 @,@ 300 pupils . A fountain opposite the Royal London Hospital in memory of King Edward VII has the inscription " erected from subscriptions raised by Jewish inhabitants of East London " . On 4 October 1936 , British Union of Fascists leader Oswald Mosley organised an anti @-@ Jewish parade through the East End that included passing through Whitechapel Road , but was stopped by a crowd of protesters . The sentiment against Jews in Whitechapel Road caused the community to dissolve from the 1930s onwards ; the Pavilion Theatre closed and the Jewish Free School was destroyed in the Blitz during World War II . The Yiddish newspaper The Jewish Times (Die Zeit) was produced at No. 135 Whitechapel Road from 1913 to 1936 .

Towards the end of the 20th century , the street , along with nearby Brick Lane became the centre of the British Bangladeshi community . The East London Mosque on Whitechapel Road was opened by Shaykh Abdullah bin Subayl in 1985 and can accommodate over 3 @,@ 000 worshippers , with

dedicated facilities for women . The nearby London Muslim Centre opened in 2003 . Whitechapel Market caters well for the community , with stalls stocking Asian fruit and vegetables including okra and mangoes , clothing such as tunics and pashminas , and mobile phone cards for cheap long @-@ distance calls . A racially motivated attack on local worker Altab Ali near Whitechapel Road in May 1978 was a significant event for the local Asian community , and his life is now commemorated in Altab Ali Park at the western end of the road , which was built on the former St Mary 's church grounds .

= = Events = =

The area around Whitechapel Road is notorious for the 19th @-@ century Whitechapel Murders , which are believed to be linked to Jack The Ripper . One of the first victims was Martha Tabram , who was found with multiple stab wounds on George Yard Buildings , Whitechapel Road on 7 August 1888 .

Joseph Merrick , the Elephant Man , moved to Whitechapel Road in 1884 . Visitors paid to see him in the back room of a shop owned by showman Tom Norman . The shop was directly opposite the Royal London Hospital , and Merrick was frequently visited by doctors . Merrick later moved to the hospital permanently , where he spent the last years of his life .

The Blind Beggar is at No. 337 and was the founding point of the Salvation Army following a meeting outside the pub by William Booth in 1865 . On 9 March 1966 , the venue became notorious after Ronnie Kray fatally shot George Cornell at the pub . The premises remains open for business , though it has been refurbished several times . The Kray Twins also used the Blackwall Buildings , by then dilapidated , as a form of punishment by locking a victim in a flat alone with Ronnie 's German Shepherd dog .

= = Cultural references = =

Whitechapel Road is the equal cheapest property location on the British version of the Monopoly game board . Both it and the Old Kent Road are priced at £ 60 . In reality , increasing property prices across London meant that the average house price on Whitechapel Road in 2013 was £ 295 @, @ 082 .