

Thomas John Barnardo

Thomas John Barnardo was best known by the name Dr Barnardo. He created the British charity, Barnardo's, to provide care for children and young people in need of help.

Early Life

Thomas John Barnardo was born in Dublin on 4th July 1845. He was one of five children born to John Michaelis Barnardo, whose job was to make clothes from animal fur, and his second wife, Abigail.

In 1866, Dr Barnardo left Ireland and moved to London. He wanted to become a doctor and was going to study at London Hospital. However, when he arrived in London, Dr Barnardo was shocked by what he found. A deadly disease called cholera was spreading throughout the East End of the city and many children were **orphaned**. Dr Barnardo wanted to do something to help.



Ragged Schools

Even though he was known as Dr Barnardo, Thomas stopped training to become a doctor. Instead, he set up a ragged school in 1867. A ragged school gave free **education**, food, clothes and homes to children who were too poor to pay.

One pupil at Dr Barnardo's first ragged school was called Jim Jarvis. One evening, Jim took Dr Barnardo for a walk around the East End of London. Jim showed him all of the children who slept on the street. Dr Barnardo was so upset by what he saw that he gave up his dream of being a doctor and decided to spend all of his time helping poor children.

Stepney Causeway

In 1870, Dr Barnardo started a charity. It was known as Dr Barnardo's Homes. He also opened his first **orphanage** for boys at 18 Stepney Causeway, London.

Barkingside

In 1873, Dr Barnardo married Sara Louise Elmslie. Sara was known as Syrie, just like her mother had been. As a wedding present, Dr Barnardo and Syrie were given a piece of land to live on in Barkingside, East London. They used this land to open the Girls' Village Home. Dr Barnardo and Syrie used the 65 cottages on the land to give a home to over 1500 needy girls. They taught them skills and kept them safe.

During his lifetime, Dr Barnardo and his charity opened 96 homes to look after children and young people in need. Dr Barnardo's dream of giving every child the best possible future is continued by his charity to this day.

Glossary

education: Being taught or trained, usually at a school.

orphanage: A place which cares for and trains children who no longer have parents.

orphaned: To be left without parents.

Questions

1. Dr Barnardo helped children who were orphans. What does the word orphan mean?

Tick **one**.

- someone who is poor
- someone who no longer has parents
- someone who lives in London
- someone who goes to a ragged school

2. Which disease was spreading throughout the East End of London? Tick **one**.

- typhoid
- dysentery
- cholera
- measles

3. Join the boxes to match the place to the year in which Dr Barnardo was there.

1870
1873
1845

Dublin
Barkingside
Stepney Causeway

4. Number the facts below to show the order in which they appear in the text.

1	He was one of five children.
	Dr Barnardo started a charity.
	Jim took Dr Barnardo for a walk around the East End of London.
	Dr Barnardo married Sara Louise Elmslie.
	He promised that no poor or needy child would ever be turned away.

5. In which year was Dr Barnardo born?

6. Find and copy an adjective from the section, Ragged Schools, which describes how Dr Barnardo felt.

7. Explain what a **ragged school** was.

8. **Dr Barnardo should have finished his training to become a doctor.**

Do you agree? Explain your answer.
