Dr Barnardo

1845 - 1900

Dr Barnardo



Thomas Barnardo was born in Dublin in 1845. He became a Doctor in 1876.

During his lifetime he was to become one of the most famous men in Victorian Britain due to his work with orphans.

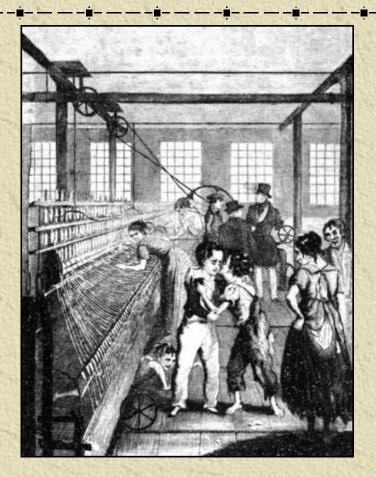
Dr Barnardo's London

In 1866 Thomas Barnardo arrived in London to train as a doctor.

The population in London had increased rapidly due to the Industrial Revolution particularly in the East End where the poorest people lived. This led to unemployment, overcrowding, poverty and disease.



Dangers in Victorian London



Cholera was a deadly disease that was a daily threat in Victorian London. Shortly after Thomas Barnardo arrived in London, cholera swept through the East End, killing more than 5, 500 people.

Thousands of children were forced to sleep on the streets and beg to survive. Many had been injured terribly working in factories.

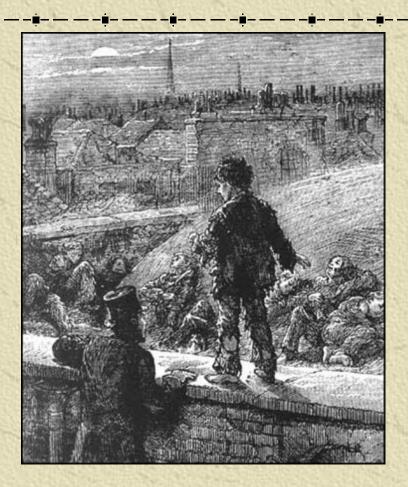
Dr Barnardo's First School

Because of everything Thomas Barnardo had seen he decided to open a school in the East End so children could get a basic education.

Hope Place was opened in 1867 and termed a 'ragged school' – this photograph shows Hope Place with some of the children that it helped.



Thomas Barnardo and the East End



Thomas Barnardo continued to take a great interest in destitute children. One day a child called Jim Jarvis took him around the East End, showing him young children sleeping in gutters and on top of roofs. The sight affected Barnardo so much that he decided to devote himself to helping these children.

Stepney Causeway

This house in Stepney Causeway was to become the first of Thomas Barnardo's homes for children. It was opened in 1870 as a Home for Boys.

Barnardo would go out every night looking for homeless children. One night an 11 year old boy was turned away as the home was full. Two days later he was found dead. From that day on the Home's motto was 'No Destitute Child Ever Refused Admission.'



Girls' Village Home



Girls Village Barkingside Essex



The Girls' Village Home in Barkingside was opened in 1876. It housed over 1,500 girls at a time. This was different to the boys home as it was set in its own grounds; each cottage had its own front and back gardens and there was also a steam laundry on the grounds.

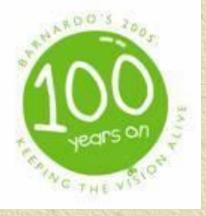
The girls who stayed at the Village Home received training as cooks and domestic service maids. This meant that every child could find employment once they had left the home.

Dr Barnardo's Belief

The Victorians felt that poverty was the result of laziness – an unwillingness to work and something to be ashamed of. Thomas Barnardo fought against these ideas by accepting every child into his homes. He was determined to give any child the best possible start in life, no matter where they had come from. This meant that during most of his life he battled against these traditional Victorian beliefs, but by his death, the Barnardo's charity was established housing over 8, 000 children.



Dr Barnardo's Today



The last Dr Barnardo's home closed in 1981. Today Barnardo's helps over 110, 000 vulnerable children and families through projects run at homes, schools and in local communities. The main aim of Barnardo's continues to be to support and encourage disadvantaged children to achieve success in their lives.