

Fact Sheet



Dr Barnardo

Date of birth: 14th July 1845

Place of birth: Dublin, Ireland

Why Was Dr Barnardo Famous? Dr Barnardo was the founder and director of homes for poor children. He established the charity we now know as Barnardo's. From the foundation of the first home in 1867, to the date of Barnardo's death, nearly 60 000 children had been rescued, trained and supported into their adult life. At the time of his death, his charity was caring for over 8500 children in 96 homes.

Early Life: Barnardo studied medicine at the London Hospital, where he became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. Through his work he became aware of the many homeless and destitute children in the cities of England. The first of the "Dr Barnardo's Homes" opened in 1867 in London. In 1873, Barnardo married Sara Louise Elmslie and they had seven children, three of whom died in early childhood.

Important Work: Barnardo's workload helping homeless children steadily increased until, at the time of his death in 1905, he had established 112 district homes and many regional mission branches throughout the United Kingdom. Barnardo was given a home in Barkingside as a wedding gift and there, on 9th July 1876, The Girls' Village Home was officially opened, housing some 1300 girls.

Later Years: Barnardo died in London on 19 September 1905, and was buried in front of Cairns House, Barkingside, East London. The house is now the head office of the children's charity he founded, Barnardo's.

Interesting Fact: At the time of the Whitechapel murders, various doctors in the area were suspected. Dr Barnardo was named a possible suspect. However, there was no solid evidence that he committed the murders and his age and appearance did not match any of the descriptions of Jack the Ripper.