Wk. 15.06.20 Year 6 English 1

SHQ: Who were the people who changed the lives of ordinary Victorian children?

Dr. Thomas Barnardo and the Earl of Shaftesbury were two Victorian figures who tried to help the hundreds of thousands of children who were living and working in terrible conditions across the United Kingdom. In this week's unit, you will be given a choice in the writing that you may wish to do i.e. either a newspaper report or a non-chronological report.

In preparation for this task, you will need to gather information. In the pages below are some details about the lives and work of Thomas Barnardo and the Earl of Shaftesbury. As a starting point you will need to read this information and take some notes. (You may wish to complete your own research).

Think about:

- What the important words and phrases are (key facts)
- Using abbreviations (shortened forms of words) or symbols
- Putting the information into sections under sub-headings

Thomas John Barnardo

Best known by the name Dr Barnardo, Thomas John Barnardo founded the British charity Barnardo's to provide care for vulnerable children and young people.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, on 4th July 1845, Thomas John Barnardo was the fourth of five children born to John Michaelis Barnardo, a furrier (someone who makes clothes or items, such as rugs, from animal fur) and his second wife Abigail.

In 1866, Thomas Barnardo left Ireland to move to London where he planned to study at London Hospital to become a doctor. However, when he arrived in London, he was so appalled by the amount of children that he saw living in terrible conditions that he desperately wanted to help. A deadly disease, cholera, was spreading through the East End of the city due to a lack of clean water and basic hygiene; in the Victorian times, less was known about the need for cleanliness and good hygiene. This fatal disease meant that many children from underprivileged families became orphans; this caused many of them to become homeless and end up living on the streets. Unfortunately, many children did not make it to their fifth birthday.

Ragged Schools

Despite his name, Dr Barnardo stopped training to become a doctor therefore not achieving his qualifications, due to his enthusiasm to help the children of London to experience more positive lives. His initial step was in 1867 when he set up a ragged school, which was an independent school providing free education, food, clothes and homes to impoverished children – these children were too poor to pay for education, as was the norm during the Victorian era.

One of the original pupils at Dr Barnardo's first ragged school, Jim Jarvis, took Dr Barnardo for a walk around the East End of London one evening, showing him the high quantity of children who slept on the street, often on roofs or in gutters. What he witnessed affected him so much, making him feel very distressed, that Dr Barnardo decided to give up his dream of becoming a doctor, choosing instead to devote his life to helping disadvantaged children.

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Homes for Vulnerable Children

In 1870, Dr Barnardo started his charity, which was known as Dr Barnardo's Homes, to help as many poor children in London as possible. He opened his first orphanage for vulnerable boys at 18 Stepney Causeway, London and spent the nights walking the streets of London looking for homeless boys who needed somewhere to stay. It upset Dr Barnardo greatly when, initially, he could only help a certain number of boys; he vowed to help all children, believing (unlike the majority of Victorians who saw poverty as shameful) that every child deserved the best possible start in life, whatever their background. As well as providing a home for the boys, Dr Barnardo also trained them in carpentry, metalwork and shoemaking and found apprenticeships for them to give them a future career.

Following his marriage in 1873 to Sara Louise Elmslie, who was known as Syrie, Dr Barnardo began to help vulnerable girls too. As a wedding present, they were given a piece of land to live on in Barkingside, east London but, due to Syrie's desire to support disadvantaged girls, they opened the Girls' Village Home on the land instead of building a home for themselves. Needy girls were looked after in small, family-style groups with a house 'mother' who taught them the skills of looking after a home while keeping them safe. By 1900, there were 65 cottages, a school, a hospital and a church on the land which housed over 1,500 girls.

Legacy

During his lifetime, Dr Barnardo and his charity opened 96 homes to look after vulnerable children and young people. From the foundation of the first Barnardo's home in 1867 to his death in 1905, more than 8,500 children had been taken in, including children with physical and learning difficulties. Dr Barnardo's experience of raising his own daughter Marjorie, who had Down's syndrome, influenced his desire to accept and care for all children. He also raised a lot of money to help children to stay with their families when times were difficult. Dr Barnardo's dream of giving every child the best possible future is continued by his charity to this day.

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Lord Shaftesbury (1801 - 1885)

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, was born in London on 28th April 1801. He was known as Lord Ashley until his father's death in 1851, when he became Lord Shaftesbury.

Lord Shaftesbury was:

- an English politician;
- a philanthropist (someone who cares for and wants to make life better for others);
- a social reformer (someone who campaigns for and brings about change for the better in society).

Lord Shaftesbury and Factories

Lord Shaftesbury was involved in reforming British factories; the working conditions and the length of a worker's day.

1833 – Lord Shaftesbury proposed a Bill for Parliament that children should work for a maximum of 10 hours a day. Factory owners did not like this! They were worried they would lose money. The government recognised that children needed protecting and passed their own Factory Act in that year.

1833 Factory Act facts:

- It was illegal for children under nine to work in textile factories.
- Children between nine and thirteen years could not be employed for more than eight hours a day.
- This Act was not often enforced and some children continued
  to work long hours.

1863 – Lord Shaftesbury published a report that showed children aged four and five were still working from six in the morning to ten at night in some British factories. A later Factory Act would eventually stop this practice.

Lord Shaftesbury and Coal mines

In 1840, Lord Shaftesbury persuaded the government to investigate working conditions in coal mines.

Published in 1842, his report shocked people when it told of:

- the accidents;
- long hours;
- lung disease;
- horrific conditions of work suffered by the men, women and children who worked in mines.

Lord Shaftesbury brought the Coal Mines Act to Parliament in 1842, which meant that no boy under ten years of age and no women should work underground.

Lord Shaftesbury and Chimney Sweeps

Lord Shaftesbury was a strong supporter of banning the employment of boys as chimney sweeps. Many climbing boys suffered from injury and disease caused by cleaning chimneys.

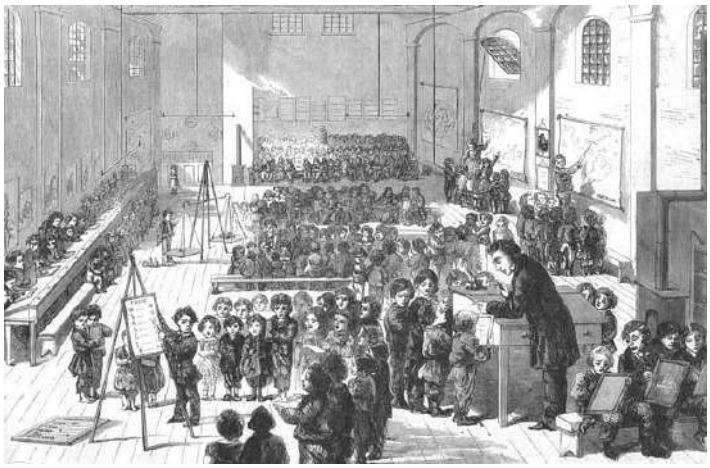
In 1840, a Bill was introduced making it against the law to employ boys as chimney sweeps. This act was enforced in London, but it did not stop this happening elsewhere.

Lord Shaftesbury finally persuaded Parliament to pass the Chimney Sweepers Act in 1875. This stopped the employment of boys as chimney sweeps.

Lord Shaftesbury and the Ragged Schools

Lord Shaftesbury was president of the Ragged School Union, which promoted the education of poor children. He believed that children were to be treated and educated well. Lord Shaftesbury believed education was a way of freeing children from poverty.

Ragged Schools gave poor children some education for the first time. They were called Ragged Schools because many pupils had nothing to wear but rags. Classes were held in homes and halls during the day and in the evening to fit in with the children's work.



Lord Shaftesbury; the poor man's Earl

Lord Shaftesbury died on 1st October 1885, aged 84. His funeral service was held in Westminster Abbey and crowds of ordinary people, many who had lived better lives because of the causes he fought for, gathered outside.

In 1893, the Shaftesbury Memorial was placed in Piccadilly Circus. The Memorial is topped by a statue of the Greek God, Anteros. The statue is called the The Angel of Christian Charity, but many people know it as the Statue of Eros.

Lord Shaftesbury was known as the Poor Man's Earl because of the many changes he campaigned for and the help he gave the poor of Victorian Britain.