

Ragged Children, Mended Lives? Childhood, Poverty and Philanthropy in Late Victorian London

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Ragged Children, Mended Lives? Childhood, Poverty and Philanthropy in Late Victorian London is a new permanent gallery display at the Ragged School Museum and a linked set of educational resources for their work with schools.

The gallery explores the issues of poverty, precarity, poor health and emigration among the children of the late-nineteenth-century East End, using research drawn from various projects undertaken by the team.

The educational materials, aimed at Key Stages 2 and 3, are designed to be used on- or off-site, and to help the Ragged School deliver on its commitment to experiential learning, innovative pedagogy and community involvement.

The Collaboration

The Ragged School is a local museum, focused on the history of the struggle for education, social justice and equality of opportunity for the poorest children of the Victorian East End.

It is run as a charity and has deep involvement in Tower Hamlets' diverse communities, welcoming around 17,000 school visitors from over 300 schools per year.



“ The project offers a model of how collaborations with small heritage organisations might be undertaken in a way that shares expertise and brings mutual benefit. ”

Results so far

The new display was opened on 20th October 2015 by the 12th Earl of Shaftesbury, descendant of the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury who founded the Ragged School Union in 1844.

The opening attracted 200 guests and was covered by TV and radio.

