

Charles Booth and Poverty in London

Keyword : Poverty = having little or no money or possessions

In 1885 Charles Booth wanted to find out about the terrible poverty in London. He had been told that 25% of the population were very poor. Booth decided to visit the East End of London and recruited a team of researchers that included his cousin, Beatrice Potter. The result of Booth's investigations was a book called 'Labour and Life of the People'. The book explained that the situation was even worse than he had thought because 35% of the population was living in poverty.

Booth now decided to expand his research to cover the rest of London. He spent his evenings and weekends working and he and his small team of researchers made at least two visits to every street in the city. Over a twelve year period (1891 to 1903) Booth published 17 volumes of 'Life and Labour of the People of London'. One of the ideas that Booth had in his book was to introduce Old Age Pensions to help old people get out of poverty.

Task - read the paragraphs about Charles Booth and Poverty in London

1) Copy out the following paragraph filling in the gaps as you go along

Charles _____ was interested in finding out about people living in _____ in London. He had been told that _____% of people were poor but he did not believe this. He recruited a team of _____ to visit the _____ End of London and wrote a book called _____ and _____ of the _____. Booth found that _____% of people were living in _____. Over a _____ year period Booth and his team visited every street in the city _____ times. He published _____ volumes of the book.



2) Write down 5 words to describe what this room was like.

3) Write a few sentences explaining what it must have been like to live like this.

4) What could be done to help people in this position?

<p>Fulham has always had a reputation for women's drink but it is not growing worse. He has known of cases of wives of small clerks putting down spirits as groceries but they are not frequent. Men's drunkenness is slightly decreasing.</p> <p>There are quite enough licenses to supply Fulham and he would be glad to see no more granted even when all the vacant land is built over.</p> <p>As a whole he said Fulham goes out to work & Bathsea comes in!</p> <p>Gambling is on the increase, both street & clubs. The foreigners attracted by the Earl's Court exhibition have encouraged clubs & club gaming.</p> <p>He has only known 3 cases of children being drunk at or under 14 years of age in his 26 years service.</p> <p>The Dukes Head at the corner of High Street & Fulham Palace Road was sold the other day for over £20,000 & the Covent priced full house at being £5,000 by the old bar at</p>	<p>Fulham has always had a reputation for women's drinking but it is not growing worse. He (the Police inspector) has known of cases of wives ... putting down spirits (gin, vodka etc) as groceries but they are not frequent. Men's drunkenness is slightly decreasing.</p> <p>Gambling is on the increase both in streets and clubs. The foreigners attracted by the Earls Court exhibition here encouraged clubs and club gaming.</p> <p>He has only known 3 cases of children being drunk at or under 14 years of age in his 26 years service.</p> <p>The Dukes Head (pub) at the corner of High Street and Fulham Palace Road was sold the other day for over £20,000.</p>
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Task - read the entry from Booths book about Fulham

1. Write down 3 examples of the problems that Booth found in Fulham
2. Choose what you think was the most important problem and give a reason why you made that choice.
3. Write a short report about Fulham in 2004 in which you explain some of the problems that are happening today in our area. You might want to include some of the following: graffiti, litter, violence, muggings.

I live in and these are the problems in my area: