Queenof8s GAC – History notes

* 1855 John Simon
- LDN surgeon
- Appointed by general board of health
- Carried out research linking health to living conditions
- His reports important to persuade government to intervene

* 1858 Great Stink
- River Thames dried up in warm summer
- Smell of sewage = unbearable
- House of commons soaked curtains in chloride of lime to hide smell
- MPs decided to do something as sewage problem was affecting them
  → Joseph Bazalgette built 1300 miles of new sewers across LDN (1858 – 1865)
- 82 miles of main sewers running from west to east
- 3 main sewers North the river / 2 main sewers South
- Smaller street sewers to people’s houses
- Pumping stations on each side
- He calculated how much sewage Londoners produced each day, found a perfect diameter and then doubled it as he knew the population would keep growing = they still cope today

* 1860 “Pure Food” ACT
- First law that tried to prevent food adulteration
- In 1672 a stronger law passed – more power to inspectors

* 1861 Pasteur’s “Germ theory”
- France Pasteur researches contaminated wine
- Explained Snow’s theory
- Most kept believing in Miasma
- Not accepted until 1880

* 1867 Working class VOTE
- Reform act – working class men got vote
- Now politicians had to listen to poor

* 1867 Pail privies
- Midden privies were replaced by pail privies in most
- Pail = bucket under privy that could be emptied
- Waste didn’t sit in a hole for weeks and leaked in water supply = emptied regularly

* 1874 Benjamin Disraeli
- Leader of conservative party determined to win support of working class
- Speech in Manchester = promised pure air / water + inspection of unhealthy houses
  = became prime minister = made public health a priority

* 1875 “Public Health” ACT
  Forced councils to clean up their town
  - All local authorities had to appoint: medical officer + sanitary inspector
  - Local authorities had to take responsibility for sewers, water supplies, rubbish collection, public toilets + parks
  - All new houses had to have piped water, proper toilets and sewers
  - Sanitary inspectors had to visit all slaughterhouses and shops to prevent sale of contaminated food
Food rationing ended in 1954 = health of Britain’s poor \( \uparrow \) = more balanced diet

After 1950 most families became richer = diet changed
- 1960 = 13% had a refrigerator
- More women worked and people relied on ready to go meals
- Preservatives added to foods
- Immigration around that time also impacted variety of foods and tastes

1975 = microwave became popular

After 1980 fears about food
- 1986 = BSE = cow brain infection \( \rightarrow \) gov thought it would not transfer to humans who ate beef but they were wrong
- People started to eat healthier = antibiotics fed to animals = resistance = world health organisation = if we keep up in 15 years minor infections could kill us

Rickets
- Not enough vit D = bones = weak and twisted
- 1900 = worse than ever in towns, poor not eating veg and fish
- Children lived in dark houses, dark alleys
- Grinding grains destroys many nutrients
Solution = adding extra nutrients to bread
2014 = \( \uparrow \) in cases of rickets
- Reliance on junk and processed food
- Children spend less time outside

AIR
Coal
1800 = 10 m tonnes of coal a year
1900 = 200 m tonnes a year
- LDN, Leeds, Glasgow and Manchester = big cities with lots of people = permanently filled with smoke
- 1853 / 1875 / 1926 = laws allow police to prosecute offending factory owners
Smog = smoke + fog = people could not get enough oxygen in their bodies, bacteria trapped in smog \( \rightarrow \) pneumonia, bronchitis, people collapsing
1952 “the great smog” = London
- 12k Londoners died
1956 = clean air act
\( \rightarrow \) by 1980 = smoke not a problem
Cars
- Exhaust fumes
- Car ownership quickly \( \uparrow \) 1980 – 1990
- 2001 = scientists found poisonous lead in petrol \( \rightarrow \) laws to produce lead free petrol
\( \rightarrow \) encouraged people to buy diesel
\( \rightarrow \) since then scientists discovered that diesel are actually more harmful
- Big cities = experiencing smog again (LDN)

INACTIVITY
- Activity started falling around 1915 as people used public transport
- As wages \( \uparrow \) people spent money on things like sweets
- Advertising convinced people of buying non essential items
- 1920 = gov concerned about health of public
  * Lack of fresh air and exercise (jobs more sedentary, offices)
AIDS – case study
- **1970** = started
  - Pneumonia, weight loss, sores on their skin = bodies wasted away
- **1982** = 5 gay men died in America + 1 in England
  - They found it was an immune system disease = called it AIDS – auto immune disease
- **1984** = virus that caused aids → hiv = spreads through body fluids

The way society reacted:

- 7 people in Britain died
- Set up a trust to raise funds for research – few people cared
- More attention when people developed aids from a blood transfusion
  - Gov urged gay + drug addicts to stop donating blood
  - “Gay plague”
- Church leaders = punishment

[1980 – 1985 ] growing alarm
- People unsure of how it spread and over reacted
- In 1985 a wrong prediction = 1 million cases in 5 years

[1985 – 1990] growing understanding
- Charities provided clean needles
- Gov funded free testing
- Gov funded a AIDS prevention campaign
- Television and radio ended myths about aids
- 1987 princess Diana handshake w an AIDS patient

[1990 – 1995 ] growing acceptance
- 1992 Freddie mercury died of hiv
- Raised 20 m £
- Measures for safe sex and blood donations safe taken
- 25 k people had aids
- 8 k people died

[1996 – now ]. Lazy ignorant people
- 1996 drug found that delayed aids
- Gov funded the drug for people to take
- Gov relaxed campaigns
- Instead of falling hiv and other std ↑
- 2009 = 100 k people
- % of these people don’t know it and may be spreading the disease

1900 LAWS

1902
- Regulation and training of midwives
1906
- Free School meals for poor children
1907