

Queen Victoria (1837 - 1901)

- 1837 - Victoria succeeds her uncle, William IV
- 1838 - Publication of People's Charter. Start of Chartism.
- 1839 - First Afghan War. British Forces capture the fortress of Ghazi in Afghanistan.
- 1839 - - 42 First Opium War. Britain gains Hong Kong.
- 1840 - Victoria marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.
- 1840 - The Penny Post is introduced. First postage stamp is the Penny Black.
- 1840 - First colonist settlement in New Zealand
- 1841 - Sir Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister
- 1842 - End of First Opium War. Britain gains Hong Kong
- 1843 - Launch of SS *Great Britain* the world's first all metal ship.
- 1844 - Railway building mania starts. 5,000 miles of track are built in Britain by 1846
- 1845 - - 1849 Irish Potato Famine kills more than a million people. Many emigrate to America.
- 1846 - Repeal of the Corn Laws
- 1848 - Major Chartist demonstration in London.
- 1848 - Pre-Raphaelite movement begins
- 1849 - Harrods store in London is opened
- 1851 - Great Exhibition takes place in Hyde Park. Its success is largely due to Prince Albert.
- 1852 - Death of the Duke of Wellington
- 1853 - Vaccination against smallpox made compulsory.
- 1853 - Victoria uses chloroform during the birth of Prince Leopold.
- 1854 - -1856 Crimean War fought by Britain and France against Russia.
- 1854 - Charge of the Light Brigade
- 1854 - 10,000 die of cholera from contaminated water in London.
- 1856 - The Victoria Cross is instituted for military bravery.
- 1856 - David Livingstone discovers the Victoria Falls
- 1857 - -1858 Indian Mutiny against British rule.
- 1858 - Isambard Kingdom Brunel launches The Great Eastern, the largest ship in the world and the first with a double iron hull.
- 1858 - First trans-Atlantic telegraph service
- 1859 - Publication of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of the Species*.
- 1861 - Prince Albert dies of typhoid
- 1861 - - 65 Civil War in America. Southern states unsuccessfully seek to involve Britain which has sufficient cotton from Egypt and India, but needs the Union North's grain.
- 1863 - The world's first underground railway is opened in London
- 1863 - Edward, Prince of Wales, marries Alexandra of Denmark
- 1863 - The Salvation Army is founded.
- 1863 - The Football Association is founded.
- 1865 - Slavery is ended in America with Northern Union victory in the American Civil War
- 1867 - The Second Reform Bill doubles the franchise vote to two million.
- 1867 - Canada becomes the first independent dominion in the Empire.
- 1867 - Karl Marx publishes the first volume of *Das Kapital*
- 1868 - Gladstone becomes Prime Minister for the first time.
- 1869 - The Irish Church is disestablished.
- 1870 - First Education Act. Primary education becomes compulsory.
- 1870 - Death of Charles Dickens
- 1871 - Trade Unions are legalized
- 1872 - Secret voting is introduced for elections.



1872 - Henry Stanley finds David Livingstone who had been missing in Africa.
 1874 - Disraeli becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
 1875 - Suez Canal shares purchased for Britain.
 1875 - Thomas Moy demonstrates his Aerial Steamer the world's first flying machine at Crystal Palace, London
1876 – St Michael's School started
 1876 - Victoria becomes Empress of India.
 1876 - Scots Alexander Graham Bell demonstrates the telephone
 1878 - Second Afghan War. British defend the Khyber Pass.
 1878 - William Booths Christian movement adopts the name The Salvation Army
 1879 - Tay Bridge disaster
 1879 - Zulu war, British troops massacred at Isandlwana and Rorkes Drift
 1880 - Gladstone succeeds Disraeli as Prime Minister
 1880 - - 1881 First conflict with Boers in South Africa
 1883 - British occupy Egypt
 1884 - Third Reform Act all adult males given the vote.
 1884 - Greenwich Meridian and Mean Time adopted
 1886 - First Irish Home Rule Bill fails to pass House of Commons. Gladstone resigns as Prime Minister.
 1887 - Victoria celebrates her Golden Jubilee. She has ruled for 50 years.
 1887 - Independent Labour Party is founded.
 1891 - Free schooling is introduced. 11 years later school attendance becomes compulsory for all children.
 1893 - Second Irish Home Rule Bill fails to pass the House of Lords.
 1897 - Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.
 1897 - Marconi demonstrates wireless transmission across the Bristol Channel
 1899 - -1902 Boer War in South Africa. Siege of Mafeking
 1900 - Labour party founded
 1901 - Queen Victoria dies aged 81.

King Edward VII (1901 - 1910)

1901 - Edward VII becomes King on the death of his mother, Queen Victoria.
 1901 - Australia is granted dominion status.
 1902 - Arthur Balfour becomes Prime Minister.
 1902 - First trans-Atlantic radio transmission
 1902 - Edward VII institutes the Order of Merit.
 1902 - Empire Day is celebrated for the first time.
 1902 - Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories* published.
 1903 - Wilbur and Orville Wright of the US make the first manned and controlled aircraft flight.
 1903 - The Women's Social and Political Union, demanding votes for women, is founded by Emmeline Pankhurst.
 1904 - Britain and France sign the Entente Cordiale, settling outstanding territorial disputes.



- 1904 - Sigmund Freud publishes *Psychopathology of Everyday Life*.
- 1904 - *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie is published.
- 1905 - Motor buses are first used in London.
- 1906 - Construction of HMS Dreadnought
- 1907 - Edward VII visits his cousin Tzar Nicholas II of Russia
- 1907 - Taxi-cabs are legally recognized in Britain for the first time.
- 1907 - Baden-Powell takes the first ever group of boy scouts on holiday to Brownsea island, Dorset.
- 1907 - Parliament rejects Channel Tunnel scheme.
- 1907 - New Zealand is granted dominion status.
- 1908 - Production of Ford motor cars begins.
- 1908 - Publication of *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- 1908 - The fourth Olympic Games are held in London.
- 1908 - Herbert Henry Asquith becomes Prime Minister.
- 1908 - The Triple Entente is signed between Russia, France, and Britain.
- 1908 - The Children's Act establishes separate juvenile courts to try children.
- 1908 - Old Age Pensions established in Britain for all over 70 years old with an income of less than ten shillings per week.
- 1909 - The People's Budget is introduced by Lloyd George
- 1909 - The Women's Suffrage movement becomes more militant in their fight for votes for women.
- 1909 - Introduction of Labour Exchanges
- 1909 - French airman, Louis Blériot, makes the first cross-Channel flight from Calais to Dover.
- 1909 - First rugby match to be played Twickenham takes place.
- 1909 - First Boy Scout Rally is held at Crystal Palace, London.
- 1910 - Constitutional Crisis is caused by the House of Commons' attempt to curb the power of the House of Lords.
- 1910 - Edward dies of pneumonia at Buckingham Palace.

King George V (1910 - 1936)

- 1910 - George V becomes King and Emperor of India on the death of his father, Edward VII.
- 1911 - Parliament Act ensures the sovereignty of the House of Commons.
- 1911 - National Insurance Act provides sickness and unemployment benefits.
- 1912 - The luxury passenger ship *S.S. Titanic* sinks on her maiden voyage, drowning more than 1,500 people.
- 1913 - Suffragette Emily Wilding Davison throws herself under the Kings horse at the Epsom Derby
- 1914 - Anglican Church in Wales is disestablished.
- 1914 - The heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire is assassinated. Outbreak of World War I.
- 1914 - Battles of Mons, the Marne, and Ypres.
- 1915 - Second Battle of Ypres. Allied Gallipoli expedition fails to remove Turkey from the war.
- 1916 - Battle of the Somme. Naval Battle of Jutland between British and German fleets.
- 1916 - Easter Rising in Dublin in support of Irish independence.
- 1916 - David Lloyd George replaces Asquith as Prime Minister.



1917 - Battle of Passchendale.

1917 - Russian Revolution. Czar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra (both cousins of George V) and their royal family are shot in Ekaterinburg.

1918 - Kaiser Wilhelm II (cousin of George V) abdicates as Germany faces defeat in World War I.

1918 - The end of World War I. Armistice signed on 11 November.

1918 - Reform Act gives votes to women over 30.

1918 - General Election produces landslide victory for Sinn Fein MPs in Ireland, who refuse to take their seats in Westminster and form their own Dail parliament in Dublin.

1919 - Lady Astor becomes the first woman MP to take her seat in the House of Commons

1919 - Third Afghan War. Afghanistan gains independence from Britain

1919 - A flu-pandemic (known as Spanish Flu) rages around the world killing over 50 million people.

1919 - -1921 Ireland partitioned into the Free State and the province of Northern Ireland.

1920 - Marconi opens first radio broadcasting station in Britain

1920 - A flu epidemic rages around the world killing more than 20 million people.

1922 - The British Broadcasting Company starts radio transmissions

1923 - Prince Albert (later George VI) marries Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon

1924 - Ramsay MacDonald becomes Prime Minister of the first Labour Government

1926 - General Strike fails to reverse wage cuts and imposition of longer hours.

1926 - John Logie Baird demonstrates world's first television in London

1927 - British Broadcasting Corporation founded by Royal Charter

1928 - All women over the age of 21 get the vote.

1928 - George V falls seriously ill with blood poisoning of the lung.

1928 - Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin

1929 - Beginning of the Great Depression which lasted almost 10 years

1931 - The Statute of Westminster recognizes independence of the dominions.

1931 - Great Depression leads to the formation of a national government of all three political parties under the leadership of Ramsay MacDonald.

1932 - George V makes the first annual Christmas broadcast on radio.

1935 - George V celebrates his Silver Jubilee.

1935 - Robert Watson-Watt demonstrates Radar

1935 - Stanley Baldwin replaces Ramsay MacDonald as prime minister

1936 - George V dies at Sandringham.

King Edward VIII (1936)

1936 - Edward VIII succeeds his father, George V, as King on 20 January.

1936 - Outbreak of the Spanish Civil War.

1936 - Germany, under Adolf Hitler, reoccupies the demilitarized left bank of the Rhine.

1936 - Britain begins to rearm as political tension increases in Europe and the prospect of military conflict in the region becomes more evident.

1936 - Fire destroys Crystal Palace, once the home of the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park but now located in Sydenham, south London.

1936 - J.M. Keynes publishes his book *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* an internationally influential study of modern



Edward VIII
1936

economics.

1936 - Maiden voyage of luxury ocean liner the Queen Mary takes place.

1936 - Jarrow crusade of unemployed marches to London

1936 - The BBC inaugurates the world's first television service at Alexandra Palace in London.

1936 - On 10 December Edward signs the Instrument of Abdication over his wish to marry Mrs Wallis Simpson. Witnessed by all his brothers, it is a simple declaration of his intent to renounce the throne for himself and all his descendants. He is subsequently created Duke of Windsor.

King George VI (1936 - 1952)

1936 - George VI accedes to the throne upon the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII

1937 - Frank Whittle invents the jet engine

1938 - Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain signs agreement with Adolf Hitler at Munich in an attempt to stop outbreak of war in Europe

1938 - Nazi Germany annexes Austria

1939 - Germany invades Poland. Outbreak of World War II.

1940 - Retreating British troops evacuated from beaches of Dunkirk as Germans advance.

1940 - Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister.

1940 - Battle of Britain fought in the skies over England between the RAF and German Luftwaffe.

1940 - German bombers blitz London, Coventry and other major cities

1941 - Hitler invades the Soviet Union

1941 - America enters the War after Japanese air raid on US fleet at Pearl Harbour.

1942 - Fall of Singapore to the Japanese

1942 - British victory at El Alamein.

1944 - D-Day landings in Normandy as the Allies begin to push the German forces back across Europe.

1944 - Battle of Arnhem airborne landings

1945 - The defeat of Germany marks the end of World War II in Europe.

1945 - Japan surrenders, after US drops atomic bombs on two cities.

1946 - Start of the 'Cold War'. Churchill speaks of the 'Iron Curtain' separating Western Europe from the Communist Eastern block

1947 - India granted independence. Pakistan declared a separate nation.

1947 - Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) marries Philip Mountbatten

1948 - National Health Service establishes free medical treatment.

1948 - Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated.

1949 - Berlin Airlift relieves the Soviet blockade of Berlin

1950 - -1953 Korean War

1951 - Winston Churchill becomes British Prime Minister again.

1952 - George VI dies.



George VI
1936-1952

Queen Elizabeth II (1952 -)



Elizabeth II
1952-

1952 - Elizabeth accedes to the throne on the death of her father, George VI.

1952 - World's first jet airliner passenger service inaugurated by BOAC in Comet I aircraft

1953 - Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay climb Mount Everest just before Coronation Day

1953 - Francis Crick and James Watson unravel the mystery of DNA

1953 - - 1954 Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip embark on a 6 month world tour including Australia and New Zealand

1955 - Winston Churchill resigns as Prime Minister and is succeeded by Anthony Eden.

1955 - Laws restricting the burning of coal and establishing smokeless zones bring an end to London's notorious fogs

1956 - Anglo-French forces invade Egypt after the nationalization of the Suez Canal.

1957 - Harold Macmillan becomes Prime Minister

1957 - The Gold Coast becomes independent as Ghana, the first British colony in Africa to receive its independence.

1957 - Queen Elizabeth addresses the United Nations and opens the 23rd Canadian Parliament

1959 - Oil is discovered in the North Sea.

1959 - Queen Elizabeth tours Canada and the United States

1960 - Harold Macmillan becomes Prime Minister makes 'winds of change' speech in South Africa.

1960 - Union of South Africa withdraws from the Commonwealth.

1962 - Jamaica gains independence

1963 - Alec Douglas-Hume replaces Harold Macmillan as the Prime Minister.

1963 - The Beatles release their first LP.

1964 - Labour government of Harold Wilson takes office

1966 - Aberfan disaster leaves 116 children dead

1969 - Prince Charles is invested as Prince of Wales.

1969 - Troubles break out in the North of Ireland

1970 - Edward Heath becomes Prime Minister.

1971 - Decimal currency is introduced.

1973 - Britain joins the European Community.

1974 - Miners' strike brings down Heath Government. Harold Wilson returns as Prime Minister.

1976 - Concorde begins first supersonic trans-Atlantic flights

1977 - Celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Queen's accession

1978 - The world's first test-tube baby is delivered in Oldham, Greater Manchester

1979 - Margaret Thatcher succeeds James Callaghan, becoming Britain's first woman Prime Minister.

1981 - Prince Charles marries Lady Diana Spencer in St. Paul's Cathedral.

1982 - Unemployment in Britain tops three million.

1982 - Britain goes to war with Argentina over control of the Falkland Islands

1984 - Miners' strike again but is defeated by Thatcher.

1986 - Queen Elizabeth II celebrates 60th birthday.

1988 - PanAm flight 103 bombed and crashes on Lockerbie killing 270

1989 - Poll tax is introduced amid widespread protest.

1989 - Fall of the Berlin Wall. End of the 'Cold War'.

1990 - Margaret Thatcher resigns as Prime Minister after 11 years and is succeeded by John Major.

1991 - The Allied forces liberate Kuwait during the Gulf War.

1992 - Princess Anne and Mark Phillips divorce. Windsor castle suffers severe fire damage.

1993 - European Parliament comes into force

1994 - Opening of the Channel Tunnel between England and France

1996 - Both the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Duke and Duchess of York divorce.

1997 - Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister and ends 18 years of Conservative government.

1997 - Hong Kong reverts to China after 155 years of British rule.

1997 - Diana Princess of Wales dies in Paris car crash

1998 - Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland

1998 - Scotland and Wales vote for their own Assemblies

1999 - Edward, Earl of Wessex, marries Sophie Rhys-Jones.

2000 - Queen Mother celebrates her 100th birthday.

2001 - Twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York destroyed by Islamic terrorists.

2001 - - 2014. Fourth Afghan War. British and Allied troops in Afghanistan.

2002 - Queen Elizabeth II marks her Golden Jubilee of 50 years of rule. Deaths of Queen Mother and Princess Margaret.

2003 - British and US forces invade Iraq and topple Saddam Hussein

2005 - Prince Charles marries his second wife Camilla Parker-Bowles and she is given the title Duchess of Cornwall

2006 - Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her 80th birthday.

2007 - Tony Blair resigns as Prime Minister

2007 - Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip celebrate 60 years of marriage

2007 - Queen Elizabeth II becomes the oldest ever reigning British monarch

2008 - Worldwide banking crisis. Government has to bail out two major British banks

2009 - Parliamentary integrity damaged by expenses scandal

2010 - David Cameron becomes Prime Minister

2011 - Prince William marries Catherine Middleton. They become Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

2012 - Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her Diamond Jubilee of 60 years since her accession to the throne.

2013 - Birth of Prince George, son of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

2014 - Scottish voters reject proposal by the Scottish National Party to leave the United Kingdom

2014 - End of 4th Afghan war. British forces leave Afghanistan.