

2013

# BRITISH HISTORY TIMELINE

CSS Optional Subject – British History

Note: The CSS Point is NOT responsible for any fact/information mentioned in this booklet. This is a compiled work by The CSS Point, All Contents had been taken from different internet sources.



**THE CSS POINT**  
Yes We Can Do It!

The CSS POonti

9/4/2013



8000BC - 55BC

**Timeline**

**Year**

**BC**

<b>8000</b>	Britain is re-occupied after the Ice Age by Hunter-Gathers from Europe
<b>5000</b>	Neolithic period - simple stone tools are made and agriculture is introduced to Britain from Africa.
<b>2500</b>	Bronze age - tools are made from bronze which increases the efficiency of agriculture. Communities develop to the point where large projects, such as the the building of stone circles, can be undertaken.
<b>1000</b>	Hill forts are built indicating a move from co-operation to competition between larger communal groups.
<b>750</b>	Iron age - metal working techniques develop to use the new material iron; much stronger and hard wearing than bronze it allows more sophisticated tools and weapons to be made. Trade increases with the continent.
<b>500</b>	Celts - masters of ironwork and agriculture arrive in Britain from Europe. The Celtic culture eventually dominates southern Britain.
<b>150</b>	Coins are introduced indicating that trade activities are taking place over a much broader area.

Bronze

Henges

Hillforts

Iron

Celts

The period from the end of the Ice age to the arrival of the Romans is a story of slow but continual development in areas that we take for granted nowadays, such as agriculture and technology.

People re-occupied Britain after the last Ice age ended and the glaciers had receded. They were following the animals that they hunted with simple stone and wooden tools.

Agriculture was introduced several thousand years later, having its roots in Africa (no pun intended).

A few more thousand years later man has discovered how to make bronze, a mixture of tin and copper, and technology begins to improve. New harder tools are made, increasing the efficiency of agriculture.



- Interactive -

[A Stone Age flint arrow head](#)



Copyright © 2006 Virneth Studios Ltd.

Before the plough was invented a tool called an Ard was used to break up soil ready for planting crops. This was a simple tool made from suitably shaped pieces of wood that were available from the local environment. It would be pulled by Oxen.

As the communities expand, large scale projects are undertaken in the form of 'henges' or stone circles. Conflict arises between the larger more organised communities, now armed with Bronze weapons, and hill forts are built in response.

Around 750bc a new wonder material, Iron, is being used. Technology takes several leaps forward, greatly improving agriculture and mans ability to cause harm.

Two hundred and fifty years later the Celts start to arrive in Britain, as part of a general expansion over all of Europe from their homeland in the Alps . The Celts are masters of iron working and their superior agricultural skills are evidence of the successful application of the new material.

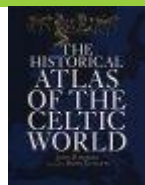
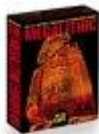
Coins are introduced around 150BC, partly due to the ever expanding influence of Rome. The coins are issued both as tokens to symbolise loyalty to a Chief and to support trade. Trade with Europe increases dramatically, and the tribes on the South East coast benefit enormously from this.



This period is characterised by a lack of documentation, the tradition was to record things orally in stories rather than writing them down.

In 55BC Julius Caesar set his eye on Britain and within a hundred years everything was to change.

## Books



## Bronze

[Back to the Top](#)

Bronze is an alloy, which means it is made from more than one metal. The materials used to make Bronze are Tin and Copper in the proportion of 60% Copper and 40% Tin. It is softer than Iron but less brittle, it also resists corrosion better than Iron; forming a surface layer of oxide rather than rusting away completely. Bronze has a lower melting point than iron making it easier to cast.



- Interactive -

[A late Bronze age axe head](#)

Bronze was first made about 4000BC in the middle east mainly around modern day Iraq and Iran. The trading of Copper and Tin was very important as the two metals are not usually found in the same place. The most important source of Tin in Europe was Britain, which was one of the reasons the Celts, and later the Romans, settled in Britain.

Even after Iron was being produced Bronze was still an important metal due to the ease of manufacture and its low friction.

## Iron

[Back to the Top](#)

Iron first started to appear in the Middle East around 1800BC, mainly as small objects. It didn't appear in Britain until much later.

Early iron was not as strong as Bronze, being harder but more brittle. Iron also rusts quickly, but is lighter.

Iron is not an alloy like Bronze and so its manufacture did not depend on trade as much as Bronze did; this eventually made it cheaper to produce and more readily available.

As ironworking became better understood the strength of iron improved and it slowly replaced bronze as the first choice of metal for most applications.

Iron was used excessively by the Celts who were masters of crafting metal.



- Interactive -

[A Celtic Iron Mirror](#)

## Hillforts

[Back to the Top](#)



An Iron Age hill top settlement

As technology improved, and its use in agriculture and hunting increased, so the human population increased too. It was inevitable that these expanding communities would eventually start to compete for resources and this led to the building of defensive works around the settlements, located preferably on the top of large hills.

Most hill forts followed the same pattern having alternating concentric embankments and ditches, the idea being to exhaust any attacking force before they got to the settlement at the top.



Copyright © Vlneth Studios Ltd. 2006. All rights reserved.

## Celts

[Back to the Top](#)

The origins of the Celts are unclear; they are thought to have originated in the European Alps somewhere around Switzerland and then expanded all over Europe including Germany, France, Britain, Spain, Italy and the eastern Mediterranean. The Celts didn't have a single leader or homeland but shared a common material culture and a similar language that is still represented today by the Irish, Cornish, Welsh and Breton languages.

The Celts came to Britain around 500BC during the beginning of a cultural period known as La Tène after a site discovered near Lake Neuchâtel in Switzerland. It was the transition between the Bronze and Iron ages and the Celts are particularly associated with their skilful use of Iron, applying it very effectively in the production of agricultural tools.

The artwork of the La Tène period is often quite complex and sophisticated, conflicting with the usual image of native barbarians existing in a wild and violent society. The Celtic preference was to decorate themselves, (as evident by the high level of artistic sophistication present in personal belongings like swords, mirrors and jewellery) rather than decorate their buildings, which were primitive by comparison.



[Click to see how a roundhouse is constructed](#)

The usual living accommodation was a circular hut having a single room with walls made from mud and a thatched roof. The Celts would live in extended family groups, occupying a village often located in a defensive position such as a hillfort. These families would belong to large tribal groups that controlled certain areas of the country. At the time of the Roman invasion of Britain two of the most influential tribes were the Icenii in Norfolk and the Brigantes in northern England.

Celtic society was divided into three main classes: the warrior aristocracy, the Druids who were the religious leaders and all the rest. Women were also regarded highly amongst the Celts, which was unusual during ancient times, some like Boudicca and Cartimandua even becoming tribal leaders.

The Celts were a warlike people who tended to have battles that frequently devolved into individual combats; where the victor would cut off the head of the loser and display it on a pole outside his hut. Many of the Celts would fight naked, simply covered by artwork made from a blue dye extracted from a plant called woad. It is believed that this dye, as well as being used for tattoos to intimidate the enemy, also had a medicinal value, being able to constrict the skin; a property which was useful for treating wounds. The British warriors, in addition to using infantry and cavalry tactics, also employed chariots in battle.



## Henges

[Back to the Top](#)

A Henge is a circular area of ground surrounded by a boundary made from an internal ditch with a surrounding external embankment. Inside the boundary there is usually a structure, made from stones, that is thought to have been used as a calendar to identify certain specific events in the year such as the summer and winter solstices. Knowing these dates would have been important to a society dependent on agriculture as they could be used to calculate the best times for planting and reaping crops etc.

## 55BC - AD410

[Timeline](#)[Books](#)[DVDs about Rome](#)[Roman Legionnaire](#)[3D Exhibition](#)[Hide](#)

## Timeline

## Year

## BC

- 55** Julius Caesar mounts his first expedition to Britain with two legions. The expedition ends inconclusively and Caesar returns to Gaul.
- 54** Caesar mounts his second British campaign. This time he takes four legions and some cavalry, resulting in the surrender of Cassivellaunus, who promises to pay annual tribute to Rome.
- 44** Julius Caesar is assassinated by Brutus, Cassius and other conspirators. Civil war rages and Octavian, the great-nephew and adopted heir of Caesar, succeeds as Emperor.
- 34 26** Octavian plans three expeditions to Britain but none take place due to events elsewhere in the Empire.

## AD

- 40** Caligula organises a campaign against Britain, but the legions never actually leave Gaul.
- 41** Caligula is assassinated and Claudius is acclaimed emperor.
- 42** Verica, king of the pro-Roman Atrebateans is ousted by Togodumnus and Caratacus of the Catuvellaunian tribe and flees to Rome.
- 43** On the orders of Claudius, the Romans invade Britain with four legions led by Aulus Plautius; *II Augusta*, *IX Hispana*, *XIV Gemina* and *XX Valeria*. The landing was unopposed, but the Romans fought a running battle against Celts mounted in chariots led by Togodumnus and Caratacus. The Celts are defeated at a decisive battle on the River Medway, during which Togodumnus is killed and Caratacus forced to flee to Wales. Claudius himself leads the victorious Roman army into Camulodunum (Colchester) and bestows the honour of Client Kingdoms on the Icenii from Norfolk, and the Brigantes in the north.
- 43 47** Plautius follows up the capture of Camulodunum with the subjugation of lowland Britain; Flavius Vespasianus (Vespasian), the future emperor, and *Legio II Augusta* is sent south-west to subdue the hostile Belgae and Durotriges. *Legio IX Hispana* goes north and *Legio XIV Gemina* advances north-west into the Midlands, and then on into Gloucestershire. *Legio XX Valeria* is held in reserve at Camulodunum.
- 47** Aulus Plautius is recalled to Rome and is replaced as governor by Ostorius Scapula, who instigates the disarmament of all British tribes, quells the resulting revolt led by the Icenii and sends troops into Wales to fight against Caratacus and his allies the Silures.
- 51** Caratacus is defeated by Ostorius Scapula and escapes north-east to the Brigantes, whose queen, Cartimandua promptly hands him over to the Romans. Caratacus is taken in chains to Rome and displayed before Claudius where he shows such dignity that he is spared the traditional death by strangulation and allowed to live with his family in Rome.
- 54** Claudius is poisoned by his wife Agrippina and her son Nero becomes emperor.

- 60** Prasutagus, king of the Icenii dies, dividing his kingdom and wealth between his two daughters and Rome. The Romans demand it all and when Prasutagus' wife, Boudicca, complains she is publicly flogged and her daughters are raped.
- 61** Boudicca leads the Icenii, the Trinovantes and other British tribes in revolt destroying the major towns of Camulodunum , Verulamium (St. Albans) and Londinium (London) before being finally defeated by Suetonius Paullinus in a pitched battle in the Midlands.
- 69** *The Year of the Four Emperors.* Following the death of Nero, Rome again entered into a period of civil war during which three men Galba, Marcus Salvius Otho and Lucius Vitellius. The eastern legions, being unhappy with the choice of Vitellius, proclaimed Vespasian as emperor. The eastern army marches into Italy and defeats the forces of Vitellius outside Cremona.
- 78** Vespasian appoints Gnaeus Julius Agricola as governor of Britain. Agricola's first campaign in North Wales concludes with the defeat of the Ordovices and the conquest of Anglesey.
- 79** Agricola advances northwards advancing by the western route from Chester and York. He secures North-west England by building a network of forts.
- 80** Agricola advances by the eastern route as far north as the Tay.
- 81** Agricola establishes the Forth-Clyde line during his fourth campaign season, by building a line of forts.
- 82** Agricola advances along the west coast of Caledonia (Scotland). He considers a plan to invade Hibernia (Ireland) but does not action it.
- 83** Agricola advances through coastal areas around and to the north of the Tay, with the co-operation of the British Fleet. A cohort of auxiliary Usipi mutinies and sails around the north coast of Britain.
- 84** Agricola advances to the Moray Firth, but, after the decisive victory over the Caledonian tribes at *Mons Graupius*, he is ordered back to Rome by Domitian where he receives triumphal regalia.
- 86** *Legio II Adiutrix* is withdrawn from Chester in Britain and posted to Dacia.
- 90** A period of consolidation where Caledonia is abandoned and many of the forts and fortresses in England and Wales are rebuilt in stone.
- 107**

*Legio XX Valeria Victrix* return to Chester.

Legionary fortress at *Isca Silurum* (Caerleon) is rebuilt in stone.

Legionary fortress at *Deva* (Chester) rebuilt in stone

Legionary fortress at *Eburacum* (York) rebuilt in stone.

- 117** The Brigantes tribe of north Britain rise in revolt.
- 122** Britain is visited by the Emperor Hadrian who brings with him *Legio VI Victrix* to replace the Ninth legion at York. The construction of Hadrian's Wall from the Tyne to the Solway is started.
- 138** A revolt of the Brigantes is crushed.
- 139**
- 139** The Antonine Wall is built.
- 142**



- 155** The Brigantes tribe revolt again but are defeated by governor Gaius Julius Verus. He orders the Antonine Wall to be abandoned and re-establishes Hadrian's Wall as the border.
- 180** Another revolt in North Britain is suppressed by governor Ulpius Marcellus.
- 184**
- 196** Northern tribes take advantage of the withdraw of troops from Britian by governor Clodius Albinus and cause serious problems.
- 197** Governor Virius Lupus restores order in Britain, and rebuilds many forts.
- Britain is divided into two provinces: the Romanised *Britannia Prima* in the south, and the military *Britannia Secunda* in the north.
- 208** Emperor Septimius Severus and his sons Caracalla and Geta arrive in Britain.
- 209** Severus and Caracalla attack and defeat the Caledonian tribes in central Scotland.
- 211** Severus dies at York. All Roman troops are withdrawn from Scotland to Hadrian's Wall.
- 212** Geta is killed by Caracalla at Rome. Caracalla extends Roman citizenship to all free-born provincials.
- 286** Carausius, the commander of the British fleet, revolts and claims title to the Empire of Britain and North Gaul.
- 287**
- 289** Carausius defeats Maximian in Northern Gaul.
- 293** Constantius is appointed Caesar in the West and captures Boulogne from Carausius. Carausius is murdered by his minister Allectus who takes control of Britain.
- 296** Constantius crosses the Channel with a large force and defeats Britain Allectus who is killed.
- 306** Constantius, with his son Constantine, campaign in Scotland. Constantius dies at York and Constantine is hailed Caesar in the West by the troops of *Legio VI Victrix*.
- 343** Constans campaigns in Britain and pacifies the Scottish tribes.
- 360** Emperor Julian sends Lupicinus to Britain as governor to repel raids by the Scots and Picts.
- 367** Saxons, Picts and Scots attack Britain.
- 369** Count Theodosius restores the situation in Britain. The Scots and Picts are repelled, Hadrian's Wall is rebuilt, and signal stations are built along the north-east coast.
- 383** Magnus Maximus, the governor of Britain, revolts, defeats the forces sent by Gratian, and takes control of Gaul and Spain.
- 388** Maximus is defeated and killed by Theodosius.
- 407** Constantine III, removes most of the troops from Britain in order to conquer Gaul.
- 410** The Visigoths capture Rome. Honorius informs Britain to 'look to its own defences'.

[Julius Caesar](#)

[Boudicca](#)

[Forts](#)

[Hadrian's Wall](#)

[Road Map](#)

The Roman period of Britain really began in AD43 with the invasion by the Emperor Claudius. Before that [Julius Caesar](#) had mounted two expeditions to Britain but never stayed, his only intention being to enhance his reputation by preventing aid being given to the Gauls by the Britons.

Julius Caesar had this to say about the Celts in Britain:

'all Britons paint themselves with woad, which turns the skin a bluish-green colour; hence their appearance is all the more horrific in battle. They grow their hair long, and shave every part of their body except the top of the head and the upper lip.'

Roman rule extended for a period of about 400 years.

After the invasion there followed a rapid conquest of southern Britain, during which there was a major uprising by the Iceni tribe under the leadership of [Queen Boudicca](#). She was subsequently defeated by governor Suetonius Paullinus in a pitched battle somewhere in the Midlands.

There followed a period of consolidation and it was not until Agricola was made governor that the expansion north was continued. By AD84 the Romans had advanced in Caledonia as far north as the Moray Firth. After a victory against the Caledonians at Mons Graupius Agricola was ordered to return to Rome. The gains in Caledonia were abandoned and the border was moved south again.

There was a brief revolt by the Brigantes tribe in AD117 followed by the building of [Hadrian's wall](#) in AD122. After this there were several more uprisings by the Brigantes and another wall, the Antonine wall, was built north of Hadrian's. In AD211 all Roman troops were withdrawn from Caledonia back to Hadrian's wall.

The north continued to be troublesome on and off until, in AD367, a combined attack by Picts, Scots and Saxons overran Hadrian's wall and caused some major problems for the Romans who had to divert troops from elsewhere in Europe to control the situation.

Finally in AD407 Constantine III took most of the troops from Britain to conquer Gaul and in AD410 Honorius is said to have informed Britain to 'look to its own defences', ending nearly 400 years of Roman occupation..



The Roman Legions included many craftsmen and specialists amongst their ranks.



- Interactive -

[A map of the Roman Empire](#)

The Legions were what enabled Rome to conquer most of the known world. As well as being able to fight, the legionnaires were also specialists or craftsmen including:

surveyors, builders, stone masons, carpenters, medics, cooks, bakers and others.

This allowed the legions to build the many [forts](#) and [roads](#) in Britain, all of which helped them control the territory, encouraged trade and helped make Britain a wealthy and safe place to be.

The Romans were great engineers;

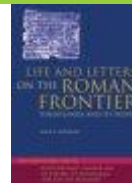
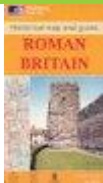
- they built [roads](#) throughout Britain
- built bridges from wood or stone where necessary
- carved out whole hillsides in search of metals and precious stones
- built towns and cities at key locations
- built aqueducts to carry water over great distances to supply the cities
- constructed sewers to take the waste away from the cities



Bridges were built wherever a natural obstacle, like a river, needed to be crossed.

The Romans arrived in Britain to exploit its wealth. To do this they had to establish law and order and introduce a sophisticated system of government to be able to manage and control the territory. This resulted in the south of Britain enjoying a period of peace and prosperity that would last for over 300 years.

## Books



## Julius Caesar

[Back to the Top](#)



[Read more - Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain](#)

Gaius Julius Caesar was born in 100BC to a family that claimed descent from the Trojan prince Aeneas; he went on to become a very successful Roman politician and general. It was Caesar that conquered Gaul and led the first Roman military expedition to Britain.

During the civil war between Marius and Sulla it was perceived that Caesar was a supporter of Marius and he had to leave Rome to avoid being killed by supporters of Sulla. After the civil war Caesar joined the army rather than return home and served in Asia. He finally returned to Rome after Sulla's death in 78BC and turned to a career in advocacy, at which he made a name for himself as a great speaker.

Whilst at the island of Rhodes Caesar was recalled to the army to deal with some small scale incursions into Rome's Asian territory. When he returned to Rome he was elected military Tribune and then elected Quaestor for 69BC. In 59BC Caesar was elected senior Consul of the Roman Republic and shortly after he was appointed as Proconsular Governor of Transalpine Gaul for a term of five years, which was extended for another five years in 55BC (could the first expedition to Britain have had anything to do with this?).

Caesar wanted to make an impact and, in 58BC, promptly started the Gallic Wars, in which he conquered the whole of Gaul and made two expeditions to Britain in 55BC and 54BC. In 50BC Caesar was ordered to return to Rome and disband his army because his term as Proconsul had finished. Caesar didn't trust the Senate, led by his old ally Pompey, and feared that he would be prosecuted; so in 49BC with one legion he crossed the river Rubicon, the border between Gaul and Roman territory, and started another civil war. Caesar decisively defeated Pompey and his allies and pursued Pompey to Egypt, where he found him murdered.

There he met queen Cleopatra, fell in love with her and had a son, Caesarion.

Caesar returned to Rome - he was awarded many tributes and honours and started to initiate reforms of all kinds. He also made his will declaring that his adopted son, Octavian, was to be his heir. Caesar was distrusted by many members of the Senate because they thought that he wanted to become king. On March 15th (Ides of March) 44BC Caesar was assassinated by a group of Senators. This led to another civil war between Mark Anthony (Caesar's chief general) supported by Cleopatra and Octavian (Caesar's adopted son). Octavian was victorious and was proclaimed emperor. Mark Anthony, Cleopatra and her son Caesarion all died. So ended the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire began.

## Boudicca

[Back to the Top](#)

Boudicca was married to King Prasutagus of the Icenii tribe that lived around present day Norfolk. When Prasutagus died in AD60 Rome annexed his kingdom and plundered its wealth. When Boudicca complained she was flogged and her two daughters were raped.

At the time the Governor of Britain, Suetonius Paullinus, and the majority of the Roman army was busy attacking the Druids at Anglesey. Boudicca took advantage of this and led the Icenii and several other local tribes in revolt. Before Suetonius could return to face Boudicca her army had burned down the capital Colchester, St Albans and London, and also defeated part of the ninth Legion from Lincoln sent to put down the revolt.

When Suetonius finally met the Celts, somewhere in the Midlands, he faced a massive army supposedly about 200,000 strong. Undaunted by such numbers Suetonius chose a strong defensive position with his flanks protected from attack by woods and prepared his forces: one and half legions (XIV *Gemina*, and part of XX *Valeria Victrix*) plus some auxiliaries totalling about 10,000 men.



The Celts showed little imagination in their battle plan and attacked in the normal Celtic fashion as one huge group. The Roman troops were well disciplined and trained and knew exactly how to deal with this type of attack. They held their line and then started to push the Celts back so that they became a seething mass, most of whom could not get near the Romans. The Celts had brought their families to watch and they were at the back of the army with their wagons and horses. As the Celts were pushed back on to these wagons they became disorganised and found it almost impossible to escape. The battle turned into a massacre as the Romans sensed victory. Boudicca fled the battle field and, with her two daughters, later committed suicide by taking poison.

Suetonius took an awful revenge on the Icenii and brutally put down the rebellion. It was only when a tax official realised that there was going to be a financial disaster, and reported it back to Rome, that Suetonius was ordered to stop.

The outcome of the revolt was that Rome took a much more lenient approach in dealing with the Celts.

## Forts

[Back to the Top](#)

Where ever the Roman legions went they would always make a defensive camp for the night . Usually this was rectangular in shape and consisted of a wooden palisade on top of a mound made from earth surrounded

by a ditch. This camp would have two roads running through it connecting four entrances.

This same layout was used for the permanent forts and fortresses that the Romans built around Britain. The early forts were made from wood and turf and later ones were made of stone. A fort was usually occupied by a Cohort of auxiliaries and a legion would normally be stationed in a fortress. The best known fortresses in Britain are at Isca Silurum (Caerleon), Deva (Chester) and Eboracum (York). Lincoln and Colchester were also used as bases for the legions during the very early years of the roman occupation.

### [Chester Fortress](#)



### A Roman Fort

Home to about 500 auxiliary soldiers

Many towns grew up around these forts

[Larger Interactive Image](#)

Each Fort would have:

- a headquarters building
- a commanders house
- a Granary or two
- workshops
- stores
- barrack houses
- a bathhouse either inside the fort or more often outside to avoid the possibility of a fire inside the fort

Some would also have

- a stable
- a hospital

The buildings and entrances were in more or less the same position in every fort or fortress so that somebody visiting any one of them could easily find their way around.

Agricola built many forts to protect the territory he had conquered during his term as Governor of Britain. The forts were secure bases from which the troops would perform their daily duties such as patrols, they were never primarily intended to be defended from the walls - Roman troops were trained to fight in the open and preferred to do this even when outnumbered.



- Interactive -

[Inside a granary](#)

When the Hadrian came to power in AD117 his strategy was to consolidate the empire around the gains made by his predecessor Trajan.



He decided that the the river Rhine would be the frontier in northern Europe and in eastern Europe it would be the river Danube. In Britain there was no natural geographic feature that was suitable to form a boundary; so he ordered that a wall be built from coast to coast to control the movement of the northern tribes in and out of the Empire.

[Read more about Hadrian's wall.](#)

Road Map

[Back to the Top](#)



## AD410 - AD1066

[Timeline](#)[Books](#)[3D Exhibition](#)[Hide](#)

## Timeline

## Year

## AD

- 410** Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> century Britain had been under attack from sea born raiders across the North Sea. In desperation the Celtic Britons wrote to the Roman emperor Honorius pleading for protection but his reply was simply 'look to your own defenses' as the Romans withdrew their Legions to prop up their crumbling empire elsewhere.
- Slowly, over the next 20 years, the invaders (Angles and Saxons) began to form small tribal settlements, these settlements gradually expanded into kingdoms across Britain.
- 430** Anglo Saxons start to settle in Britain. Vortigern invites Saxon mercenaries to fight for him against the Picts in the North.
- 450** AD450 is an approximate date for when Saxon mercenaries and raiders began settling permanently in Britain this is known ***Adventus Saxonum*** or 'coming of the English'.
- 500** The Celtic Britons under a leader called Ambrosius Aurelianus tried desperately to resist the Anglo Saxon invaders but they were by now under increasing pressure from raiders on all fronts. However, around AD500, the Saxon invasion was halted for almost 50 years when their principal warlord Aelle was decisively beaten by the British at the Battle of Badon Hill (believed to be somewhere in Somerset).
- 550** By the AD550 the Saxons had expanded their settlements into Northumbria, The Angles from East Anglia had moved westwards into the Midlands
- 615** In AD577 Cealwin the King of Wessex mounted a major campaign against the British which enabled him to control what is now Gloucestershire, Somerset and Oxfordshire.
- In circa AD615 Aethelfrid finally defeated the Celtic British and the remnants were exiled to the far reaches of the country in Cornwall, Wales and Scotland.

Now there were five established Anglo Saxon kingdoms in Britain:-

- ***Northumbria***

Angle territory meaning 'land North of the Humber', the territory stretched north as far as the Firth of Forth and west to the Irish Sea

- ***Mercia***

Angle kingdom extending across the whole of the Midlands

- ***East Anglia***



Angle kingdom stretching across East Anglia

- **Wessex**

'West kingdom of the Saxons' originated in what is now Hampshire and Wiltshire

- **Kent**

named after the Cantiaci a Celtic tribe who inhabited the area before their expulsion by the Anglo-Saxons

Once the British had been defeated the warrior kings of the Anglo Saxon kingdoms all attempted to become the most powerful. Mercia, Northumbria and Wessex pursued this position over a number of years with the power shifting from one kingdom to another.

**793** The first Viking attack took place in AD793 when the monastery at Lindisfarne was attacked and plundered.

**825** King Egbert of Wessex defeated the Mercians in battle at Ellendun (near Swindon) giving him undisputed power and the position of overlord of all the English kings.

**865** In AD865 the Vikings 'Great Army' landed in East Anglia capturing vast areas and by AD875 the kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria had been overrun and only the kingdom of Wessex remained under Anglo Saxon rule.

**878** Wessex attacked by the Vikings in AD878 and its Saxon King Alfred was forced to flee to the Somerset marshes to avoid defeat.

Alfred managed to re-group his forces and continued the war against the Vikings slowly pushing them northwards.

**899** Alfred died in AD899 but his sons and grandsons carried on the struggle to defeat the Vikings

**954** Eric Bloodaxe, the ruler of York (or Jorvik as it was known) was finally defeated in battle in AD954 and by AD955 the Viking leadership had been removed.

**955** Alfred's grandson Eadred became the ruler over a united England.

**955 – 1066** This unity did not last long though and by the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century renewed Viking and Danish raids were being recorded and extensive Viking settlements became established in what is now northeast England, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Norfolk.

King Aethelred, recorded in history as the 'unready', tried to buy off the Danes with vast amounts of silver known as Danegeld. This policy proved to be a waste of silver as the Danish leader Sweyn invaded England forcing Aethelred to flee to Normandy.

On Sweyn's death Aethelred attempted a comeback but the Danes renewed their attack under Cnut (better know to us as Canute). Aethelred died and his son Edmund Ironside, to pacify the Vikings, divided the kingdom between himself and Cnut.

Cnut immediately assassinated Edmund to become sole ruler and to reinforce his claim he married Aethelreds widow, Emma of Normandy.

On Cnut's death the country fell into confusion as the country was divided into a number of Earldoms under the overall control of a weak King, Edward the Confessor.

[The English](#)

[Alfred The Great](#)

[Burhs](#)

[Vikings](#)

[Harold Godwinson](#)

The period following the withdrawal of the Roman legions from Britain is generally known as the Dark Ages, simply because there is little known about it.

The age is characterised by a continual struggle between warring factions, including invaders from Germany and Scandinavia, finally resulting in a unification of England under one ruler around the end of the first millennium.

For almost 500 years Rome had kept at least three Legions and numerous auxiliary troops in Britain. This was to ensure that the wealth of Britain (tin, copper, iron and wool etc.) were available exclusively to Rome and not the surrounding barbarian tribes.

Immediately after the Legions had departed the ownership of the land (and wealth) was bitterly fought over by the native Celtic-Britons, Picts from the North, Scots from Ireland and increasingly by the Germanic tribes across the North Sea; mostly Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians from Denmark and Northern Europe.



An Anglo-Saxon boat would have been about 25m long and could carry around 40 people. It was driven by oars and did not have a sail.

In the north the Britons were being attacked by the Picts and, to prevent this, a warlord called Vortigern or 'great leader' hired mercenaries from Saxony to defend against the threat. Following his success in stopping these raids he became acknowledged as the most powerful ruler among the kingdoms in Britain. The most famous of these mercenaries were Hengist and Horsa and when Vortigern failed to pay them they rebelled and formed their own kingdoms.

The Anglo-Saxons continued to settle in Britain and, as their territory expanded, they became more and more at odds with the native Celtic-Britons culminating in a power struggle that, by AD600, eventually gave the Anglo-Saxons control of the southern, eastern and midland parts of lowland Britain. The Anglo-Saxon language and culture was slowly adopted until the native language and culture of the Celtic-Britons only persisted in Cornwall and Wales. This was the period that gave rise to the legend of King Arthur who was one of the leaders of the Briton resistance against the Anglo-Saxons.

Even though the Anglo-Saxons had been successful in defeating the Britons there was little unity amongst them; the Jutes controlled the Isle of Wight, Kent and parts of Hampshire, the Saxon tribes controlled Sussex, Essex and Wessex and the Angles controlled East Anglia, Northumbria and Mercia.



An Anglo-Saxon cinerary urn used for keeping the ashes of the dead in.



[Migration of the Anglo-Saxons](#)

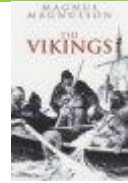
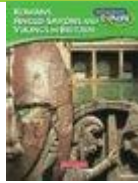
Gradually Northumbria became the major power and, by the beginning of the 7th century, nearly became established as the ruler of the whole of Anglo-Saxon England. But, by the second half of the century, the Mercians gained the upper hand over Northumbria; Essex and East Anglia became subject states by AD670. Wessex and the other kingdoms were also forced to accept Mercian rule and by AD760 Offa, the greatest of the Mercian leaders, felt that he could call himself "King of all England".



Viking silver "Twist" ring

After the death of Offa's successor in AD821 the King of Wessex embarked on a series of campaigns that would eventually bring the whole of England under his rule. The Wessex line of succession, broken only by a brief period of Viking rule, would last until the death of Edward the Confessor in AD1066.

## Books



## The English

[Back to the Top](#)

The Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians that migrated to Britain after the Roman occupation became known as the "English". They mainly came from areas in and around Denmark. The process of migration probably began before AD410, when the Romans left, and continued on for several centuries after.



A Saxon peasant - the Saxon culture was mainly rural

There were many possible reasons why these peoples left their homes to risk their lives sailing across rough seas in small boats to a foreign land:

- they may have been pushed out by other people moving in to their lands
- the lands may have not been as productive as they once were
- the population may have increased such that some had to move away
- armed war-bands may have been attacking their villages making people move to somewhere they thought was safer
- some people may have looked for trade or work in other lands

We do know that some Saxons were employed by the Britons as mercenaries to fight the Picts and other raiders, and we also know that trade existed between Britain and Europe. So it was probably a mix of all these reasons and maybe others; whatever they were, the "English" came to Britain, they stayed and they prospered.

The Early Anglo-Saxon buildings in Britain were simple timber constructions with thatched roofs. Saxon life was based around agriculture and there was a preference to settle in small towns away from the old Roman cities, each having a main hall surrounded by huts for the townsfolk to live in.

The Anglo-Saxon army was known as the *Fyrd*, which was comprised of men who were called up to fight for the king in times of danger.

The *Fyrd* was led by the nobles called *Thegns* who were well armed with swords and spears but the rest of the *Fyrd* were armed only with weapons such as farm implements, clubs and slings.

The later Anglo-Saxon army included a class of professional soldiers called *Huscarls* (Household troops) that were loyal to the King or *Earl*.

The early religion was pagan based on the worship of a number of gods similar to that of the northern Europeans. Organised Christianity later replaced paganism and led to the establishment of a unified Church based on the Roman model.



The axe was the favorite weapon of the Saxon Huscarls. The blade is made of high carbon steel that created fearsome injuries in battle.

## Alfred the Great

[Back to the Top](#)

Alfred was the King of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex from AD871 to AD899 and, after defeating the Vikings, he was the first king of Wessex to call himself the King of England. Alfred was born around AD849 and was the fourth son of King Ethelwulf of Wessex. In AD858 Ethelwulf died and the two elder sons briefly succeeded him. In AD866 the third eldest, Ethelred, became King and it was he and Alfred who had to fight the Danish armies invading Wessex.

Despite a brilliant victory at Ashdown in AD871 the war went badly for Wessex and, after receiving mortal wounds at the battle of Merton in AD871, Ethelred died leaving Alfred as successor to the throne. After another Wessex defeat at Wilton peace was made with the Danish invaders and they focused on other parts of England.

The peace lasted until AD876 when the Danes, under a leader called Guthrum, resumed the war. There was an attack on Wareham and Exeter and in January AD878 the Danes suddenly attacked Chippenham where Alfred had been spending Christmas. Alfred and a small party were lucky to escape and made their way to the stronghold at Athelney in the Somerset marshes. From here Alfred rallied his army and surprised Guthrum at Edington, Wiltshire, where he secured a complete victory. The Danes were chased back to their camp where they eventually surrendered and agreed to peace terms known as the Treaty of Wedmore.

In 886 Alfred negotiated a treaty that agreed the partition of England along Watling Street, the old Roman road. To the West was ruled by the Saxons and to the East the Danes ruled what became known as the "Danelaw".

Alfred recognised that economic prosperity was dependent on security and, to defend the kingdom against further attacks, he reorganized the *fyrd*, established a network of fortified towns and created a strong fleet - this is considered to be the creation of the English Navy.

Alfred promoted education and learning and was personally involved in translating Latin works into Anglo-Saxon, including books by Bede. He was also a patron of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

Alfred died in October, AD899, and was buried in Winchester. Alfred is the only King of England to be known as "the Great", because of the successes against the Danes and the social and economic reforms he made.

## Burhs

[Back to the Top](#)

When the first Viking raids took place they were more often than not aimed at the trading centres of the Saxon kingdoms. These centres were not well defended and were easy prey for the aggressive raiders. To address this weakness trading was gradually moved to defended centres known as *Burhs*.

During his reformation of the English defences Alfred embarked on a policy of establishing a systematic network of Burhs across his kingdom described in a record known as the *Burghal Hidage*. In times of trouble the locals would use them as a place of refuge. The burhs were located such that no place in England was more than 20 miles away from one and many were located on rivers to prevent the Viking raiders rowing up them to attack inland settlements. Old fortifications were used where possible; the old Roman coastal fort at Porchester is a classic example of existing works being converted for use as a Saxon refuge.

The *burhs* were connected by roads specifically maintained for use by the army. These roads enabled Alfred to quickly gather sufficient forces from several burhs to defeat an invading force and over time the burhs became the communication and administrative centres of the kingdom.

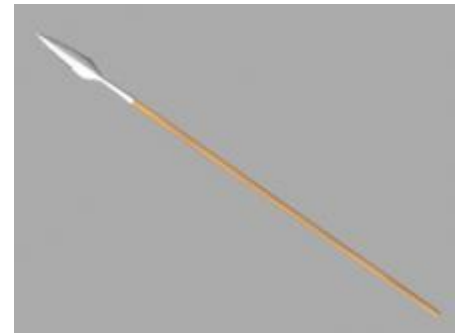
## Vikings

[Back to the Top](#)

Strictly speaking there were no people that knew themselves as Vikings. Viking was simply a term for an activity that we would describe as raiding. Most of the Vikings, or raiders, would know themselves as Danes, Norwegians or Swedes, referring to the place from which they had originated. The English often referred to them simply as "Northmen". Nor was their exploration, raiding and conquest limited to the British Isles; they established colonies as far away as Greenland, Iceland and on the eastern seaboard of North America. They sailed the Mediterranean coasts of North Africa and the Vikings known as "The Rus" conquered parts of modern Russia and even challenged the might of the Eastern Roman Emperors.



Viking society was violent; there was no unified church, single monarchy or centralised government, which meant that there were few laws other than those that the local warrior chiefs and kings could maintain themselves, more often than not by the use of the sword.



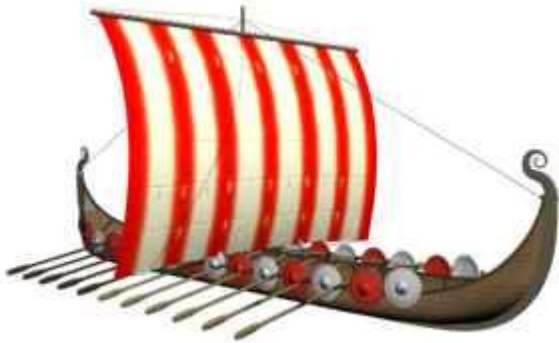
The first raid on Britain was recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles as being in AD789, followed by raids on the monasteries at Lindisfarne in AD793 and Iona in AD795. These early raids would have been by small war-bands led by independent local chieftains or rich adventurers. As the most powerful leaders of the "Northmen" established themselves as overlords in their own regions two things happened:

- some of the lesser landowners and chieftains moved to other lands, like England, to continue their independent lives;
- the war-bands became bigger and more organised, until around AD800/900 they could number thousands and be called armies.

The spear was the basic Viking weapon rather than the sword. The most common use was for hand to hand fighting but they could be used to throw as well. The pole would have been about 2m long and made of ash.

In Viking society women were the equal of men and had responsibility for the supervising the household thralls (slaves) and servants in their daily tasks. When the men were away, sometimes for months or even years, it was the masters wife that held complete authority over the family and estates. Women had legal rights too, they could divorce their husbands and even claim half the family property. It wasn't unknown for a women to bear arms and be involved in the fighting.

The usual Scandinavian dwelling was a rectangular longhouse made from wood, although other materials such as stone and turf could be used in places where wood was not available. It was rarely more than 5 metres wide but could be anywhere between 16 and 50 metres long and had a pitched roof. There was only one door at one end and, to conserve heat, there were no windows.



The Scandinavians had been seafarers long before the Viking period. As the Ice age ended and the glaciers retreated, people slowly began to re-colonise the North; criss-crossed with fjords and rivers the ideal method to get from place to place was by boat, and so began the long evolution of that most famous icon of Viking culture, the longship.

The longship was what gave the Vikings the ability to strike fast and be long gone before any response could be made by the local defence force. Long and slim, it could be rowed at about 8 knots and, from around the 8th century on, sailed at about 20 knots. The shallow draft gave the Vikings the opportunity to penetrate deep inland; up rivers where previously the population thought that they were safe from pirate attacks.

A [Viking Longship](#). Having a keel made it much stronger than the earlier Saxon boats and the addition of a sail gave it the speed and endurance that was essential to take the Vikings on their awesome journeys across the northern seas and oceans.

[More](#)

These Northmen were not just raiders and pirates, they were also explorers, farmers, craftsmen, fishermen, blacksmiths, merchants and traders. They established colonies and settled wherever they went, some notable locations being the city of York, the region of Normandy in France, Greenland and Iceland. They were capable of producing exquisite works of jewellery and were just as sophisticated as their Saxon counterparts.



## Harold Godwinson

[Back to the Top](#)

During the reign of Edward the Confessor a family called the Godwins gained a great deal of power. Godwin was the Earl of Wessex, which made him the second most powerful man in England after the king.

Edward had spent a lot of his early life in Normandy and had been heavily influenced by the Latin culture there. When he ascended to the throne in 1043 he brought with him many Norman advisors and clergy, much to the annoyance of the English and Danish nobility.

In 1051 Godwin and his family were exiled when he refused to punish the townsfolk of Dover after they had caused a riot with some of Edward's Norman relatives. The next year Godwin returned with an armed group of followers and forced the king to restore him to his former position. On Godwin's death his second son, Harold, succeeded him as Earl of Wessex and proceeded to acquire even more wealth and power for the family.

Edward died in 1066 without a male heir and Harold Godwinson had himself crowned King of England the next day. Harold was related to many English and Scandinavian royalty including King Ethelred, the elder brother of Alfred the Great, and Harold Bluetooth, a King of Denmark and Norway. Harold, however, was not the only claimant to the English throne. Ten years earlier Harold had been shipwrecked in Normandy, France. He had supposedly sworn an oath to William Duke of Normandy to support him in his claim for the English throne on the death of Edward. Another claimant was Harald Hardrada of Norway, supported by Harold's

younger brother Tostig.

The question of who would be King was to be decided on the battlefield.

Harald and Tostig landed with an army in Yorkshire in 1066 and defeated the local Earls at the battle of Fulford near York. King Harold marched to meet the invaders and, at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, comprehensively beat the Vikings once and for all.

Harold's celebrations were cut short however as he learnt that Duke William of Normandy had landed in southern England unhappy that Harold had broken his oath.

## AD1066 - AD1450

[Buy from the Medieval Shop](#)[Timeline](#)[Books](#)[History Store](#)[3D Exhibition](#)[Hide](#)**Timeline****Year****AD**

- 1066** The Battle of Hastings
- William of Normandy defeats King Harold at the Battle of Hastings
- After defeating Harold, William marched to London and crowned himself King on Xmas Day 1066
- 1072** The rebel leader Hereward the Wake stops his struggle against Norman invasion and surrenders to William
- 1078** William commissions work on what is now known as The Tower of London
- 1085** Perhaps recognised as William's greatest achievement The Domesday Book is commissioned to record who owns what in Norman England.
- 1087** On the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1087 William dies, his second son William is crowned William II (William Rufus - redfaced)
- 1095** The English rebel under the Earl of Northumberland but is defeated easily by William II
- 1100** William II is killed in a hunting accident in the New Forest, his younger brother Henry seizes the throne and is crowned Henry I
- 1135** Henry I died in 1135 and left the throne to his daughter Matilda. Matilda was in Normandy at the time and her cousin Stephen claimed the throne for himself.
- 1139** Matilda lands with an army in Britain to reclaim her throne from Stephen
- 1141** Stephen is captured by Matilda at the Battle of Lincoln and marched to London to take the crown, however the people rebelled against her and she was forced to flee. Stephen was released when exchanged for Matilda's half brother Robert, captured by Stephens forces.
- 1153** Civil War between Matilda and Stephen finally ends when they sign the Treaty of Winchester
- 1154** Stephen dies in October 1154, Matilda's son Henry was crowned Henry II
- 1170** Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury (Henry's former chancellor and friend) opposed many of Henry's reforms particularly those in the clerical courts and for this he was exiled but in 1170 he returned. Henry was not happy with this and asked 'will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?'

Four knights took Henry at his word and murdered Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral, Henry was declared a murderer whilst Thomas Becket was revered as a martyr



- 1173** William I of Scotland invaded Northumbria but was captured by Henry's forces and was imprisoned in the French castle of Falaise where Henry forced William to declare that the English king was superior to the Scottish king. The English moved garrisons into all the major Scottish castles eg Edinburgh and Roxburgh.
- 1189** Henry dies and his son Richard is crowned Richard I. Although recorded as a great English king 'Coeur de Lion' when he came to the throne he spoke no English, had French parents and only spent 6 months in England after he took the throne.

Richard was the only king to participate in the Crusades when he joined the Third Crusade (or holy war) against the Moslem Turks. His army defeated the Turks at Acre and peace was arranged so the Christians could enter Jerusalem.

- 1199** On his way home he was shipwrecked and held hostage by Duke Leopold of Austria and then Emperor Henry VI. On his release he found his brother John had caused problems with France and in his attempts to regain control died whilst besieging the castle at Chalus in France.

On his death his brother John took the throne.

- 1204** John was unable to defend Normandy and lost control to French King Philip Augustus in August 1204.
- 1214** Following the loss of Normandy it was only a matter of time before the rest of the lands in France fell and in 1214 John's army was defeated by Philip Augustus at the Battle of Bouvines.
- 1215** Magna Carter or 'great charter' was an attempt by John to stop the barons rebelling about the heavy taxes he levied on them. The document is a list of grievances and is the first document to limit royal rights.

The document worked for 3 months or so before the rebel barons broke the charter and civil war commenced.

- 1216** John's French disasters continued when the French invaded in 1216 aided by rebel barons. John however died of dysentery in October 1216.

John's son was pronounced successor and Henry III took the throne and immediately reinstated the Magna Carta. This move enabled the barons to pledge their allegiance to Henry and concentrate on defeating the French, this they achieved in 1217 at the battles of Lincoln and Sandwich.

- 1236** In 1236 we see reference made to 'parliament' taken from the French word to speak
- 1245** Henry instructs French architects to start construction of Westminster Abbey
- 1254** Two knights from each shire were chosen and they held their first council meeting
- 1259** Henry finally relinquishes any claim to lands on the continent at the Treaty of Paris in 1259
- 1264** Simon De Montfort, Earl of Leicester became dissatisfied with Henry's management of finances and he and a number of other rebel barons launched a revolt eventually capturing the King and his son (later Edward 1) at Lewes in Sussex.

Quarrels broke out amongst the rebel barons and Edward managed to escape raise a royal army with which he defeated and killed De Montfort at the Battle of Evesham in 1265.

Henry never recovered following his release and Edward began to run the country in Henry's

name.

- 1272** Henry dies and Edward becomes king
- 1283** St Paul's Cathedral (the original one eventually destroyed in the Great Fire of London) was completed in 1283
- 1297** Edward 1 was determined to extend his rule over Scotland and the Scots took an instant dislike to his policies. Edward's response was to invade Scotland forcing Scotland's King John to abdicate and English officials taking over.
  -
- 1305** William Wallace a Scottish landholder's son raised an army to overthrow these officials. His tactics were initially successful against the better trained English army, defeating them at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297 but Edward 1 managed to defeat him at Falkirk in 1298.

Wallace began a guerilla campaign against the English evading capture for a further 7 years until he was betrayed and captured by the English. He was taken to Westminster and found guilty of being a rebel to the English crown. He was executed on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1305.

- 1306** The Earl of Carrick, Robert Bruce broke his allegiance to Edward 1 and declared himself King of Scotland at Scone on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1306. Robert was forced into hiding by the English but managed to defeat them in 1307 at the Battle of Loudon Hill.
  -
- 1307** In the same year Edward 1 died, his last instruction to his son was to finish the conquest of Scotland.

Edward II was not like his father and was generally considered incompetent relying on the advice of his favourites particularly Piers Gaveston. He slowly began to lose strongholds captured by his father and the barons began to raise concerns over his leadership.

- 1312** The barons execute Gaveston at Kenilworth and Edward II wife Isabella leaves him with her lover Roger de Mortimer and the future Edward III
- 1314** Edward II met Robert Bruce's forces at the Battle of Bannockburn where the Scottish won an historic victory, Edward fled and this sealed the end of any English ideas of controlling Scotland.
- 1320** The Declaration of Abroath was a document produced by the Scottish lords to the Pope complaining of the English atrocities against the Scottish people and declaring 'as long as a hundred of us remain alive, we shall never, on any conditions, be subjected to English rule'.
- 1327** Isabella and Roger de Mortimer return to England and murder Edward II. Although Edward III is pronounced King he is still only a teenager and Isabella and Roger de Mortimer control the country.
- 1328** Edward III accepts Scotland's right to full independent status
- 1330** The nobles supporting Edward III arrest Mortimer and execute him. Isabella is allowed to retire and Edward assumes full control.
- 1337** In 1337 England still held Gascony in France and Edward III still claimed the French throne this led the French to commence the Hundred Years War. The English had early success at Crecy in 1346 and Poitiers in 1356. But as war continued to drag on the English power in France gradually began to wane after 1360 and by 1370 virtually all of English possessions in France were lost.

**1348** The bubonic plague which, as sweeping across Europe finally arrived in England in 1348. The disease termed The Black Death and was carried by fleas which, lived on the fur of rats.

Although there are no official records it is believed, that up to a third of the population could have been affected.

**1377** Edward III dies and is succeeded by his grandson Richard II who was only 10. A Regency Council was set up to administer the government until 1380.

Unfortunately Richard's style of government did not sit well with the aristocracy and he came under attack in Parliament.

**1381** The war with France meant high taxation and this caused more and more tension between the peasantry and the lords. In 1381 revolts broke out in the south east after the poll tax was introduced. They converged on London where they executed ministers and sacked buildings.

After the peasant leader Wat Tyler was executed Richard II intervened promising many concessions including abolition of serfdom.

**1399** In 1399 whilst Richard II was in Ireland one of his exiled enemies Bolingbroke returned to London and seized the crown in Henry IV's name, this was a largely successful and popular coup although many thought this new Lancastrian dynasty had no right to the throne.

Henry later murdered Richard II in Pontefract in 1400

**1403** The Percy family rebelled against Henry following the murder of Richard but Henry Percy was killed by the king in Shrewsbury in 1403. His father the Earl of Northumberland was also - defeated by Henry IV at Branham Moor in 1408.

**1413** Henry also came under further pressure from Parliament as the Lancastrians began to change the Royal council and mismanage royal funds.

**1413** Henry V takes the throne and begins to make new claims on the French throne.

**1415** Henry V defeats a much larger French army at Agincourt and by 1419 the whole of Normandy was under English control.

**1422** Henry V dies and Henry VI becomes King of both England and France even though he was only one.

**1436** Henry VI comes of age and assumes control of the throne.

[Hastings](#)

[A boy's tale](#)

[The Normans](#)

[William the Conqueror](#)

[Bayeux Tapestry](#)

[Doomsday](#)

[Castles](#)

[Religion](#)

[The Feudal System](#)

[Manor Houses](#)

The period began with a battle for the English throne: William, Duke of Normandy vs. Harold Godwinson for the Saxons. The outcome was a clear victory for the Normans and England became the subject of the newly crowned William I and his barons.

For the nearly 400 years there was a succession of Kings and Queens that extended (and lost) English rule into France, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.



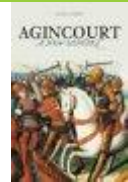
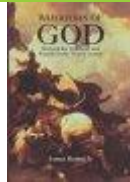
The Castle was an icon of Medieval England and Europe. They were usually situated at a position of significant strategic importance, such as a river crossing. They were intended as a refuge for the local lord and his retinue and as a base for local military operations.

Castles consisted of:

- a motte on which stood a keep where the lord and his family lived
- a bailey - an area adjacent to the keep that was enclosed by a wall often surrounded by a ditch or moat filled with water.

Early castles were made of wood - they weren't all that secure but they were cheap and relatively easy and quick to build. Later castles were of stone and could enclose huge areas of land such as at Dover Castle in Kent. Networks of castles were used to control the locals with great success, superb examples being the ones in North Wales located at Caernarfon, Conwy, Beaumaris, Rhuddlan and Denbigh amongst others.

## Books



## Hastings

[Back to the Top](#)

On 14th October 1066 two rival armies faced each other near the town of Hastings on the south coast of England: on one side were the Saxons led by King Harold II, on the other the Normans led by Duke William of Normandy. The battle they fought was one of the most significant events in English history and had far reaching consequences for the nation that came into being as a result.

- Why did the battle happen?

When Edward the Confessor died in 1066 he had no heir to continue as king. There were several powerful people that wanted to be King of England and each had their own reason or excuse for being it:

- Earl Harold Godwinson - Harold was the Earl of Wessex and was descended from the brother of King Alfred the Great as well as several of the Danish kings that had ruled England over previous years. After the King, the Earl of Wessex was the most powerful man in Anglo-Saxon England. Harold declared that, on his death bed, Edward had specified him as successor to the English throne. As Harold was in England and close to the King and his council he was in the best position to claim the throne when Edward died in January 1066.
- Duke William of Normandy - William was related to Edward. Edward had spent much of his early life in exile in Normandy and had many friends and family there. Whilst Edward was King Harold Godwinson had been shipwrecked in Normandy and was taken to William, who treated him well, and the two became friends. William later announced that Harold had sworn an oath to support him in his claim for the English throne.
- King Harald Hadrada - Harald was a Norwegian king who claimed descent from some of the earlier Scandinavian Kings of England and he used this link to support his claim for the English throne. Harald also had an alliance with Tostig Godwinson who had fallen out with his brother Harold.

There were actually three battles in 1066. Harald Hadrada and Tostig landed with a Viking army in Yorkshire and defeated the local Earls at the Battle of Fulford. Harold Godwinson marched north and defeated Harald

and Tostig at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. Then Harold marched south again to face William, who had landed with his army near Hastings.

These battle happened simply because each claimant wanted the power and wealth that came with the Kingship, they were even prepared to die for it.

- Where did the battles take place?



On September 28th 1066 William landed near a place called Hastings on the south coast of England. The first thing he did was build a wooden castle. Then he started to ravage the local countryside to encourage Harold to do battle.

Harold had been busy in the North. Harald and Tostig had defeated the northern Earls Edwin and Morcar and were resting their army near York. Harold responded by marching 200 miles north in 5 days to surprise Harald and in a hard fought battle defeated him at a place called Stamford Bridge. The Norwegians had arrived in about 300 to 500 hundred boats, but so many of their men had been killed that they only needed 24 boats to return home. The battle however had also been costly to Harold. Nevertheless, on hearing that William had landed, he immediately set off south again with his army.

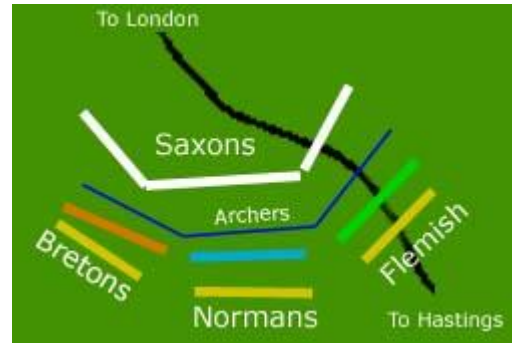
The two armies met on October 14th at a place called Senlac hill, about 6 miles inland from Hastings, near the modern village of Battle (named after the event).

- What happened during the battle?

Despite being depleted and tired from the battle at Stamford Bridge Harold was determined to defeat the Normans. The Saxons formed a Shield Wall at the top of Senlac Hill, their intention being to defend it. The front line consisted of heavily armed Huscarls and Thegns, behind them were the lesser Thegns and the Fyrd armed with whatever they could find. The position was well suited to defence as the Normans had to approach up a fairly steep hill before they could engage in battle.

William arranged his infantry in a line with his Normans in the middle and his allies on either flank. There was a line of archers in front of the infantry and the cavalry was lined up behind them.

The battle opened with the opposing armies shouting taunts at each other. Then the Normans advanced and the archers started to shoot arrows into the Saxon line. This had little real effect as the shield wall protected the Saxons from the arrows. The Saxons did not have any archers and this caused Williams archers to stop as they relied on arrows being shot back to re-supply them.



The Norman infantry and cavalry then engaged the shield wall but found it impossible to break it. When a group of allied cavalry retreated some members of the Saxon shield wall chased them down the hill but, once out in the open, they were soon slaughtered. The Normans recognised this as being a weakness of the Saxon line and deliberately started to attack and retreat from the Saxon line, each time drawing more Saxons out in to the open, where they were quickly killed.

At one point it was feared that William had been killed but he took off his helmet and rode up and down the Norman ranks to let them know he was still alive.

The Saxon line slowly thinned down as the front line was replaced by men from the less well armed second line. It was late in the afternoon when the Norman archers resumed their attack, this time aiming higher over the shield wall. This was when Harold is said to have received an arrow in his eye, which killed him. Another story says he was cut down by Norman knights. Whichever is true, Harold was killed at this time and the Anglo-Saxon army lost faith and began to retreat. Harold's personal bodyguard carried on fighting around his dead body until the last man, but by nightfall William's army was victorious.

- What happened after the battle?

William stayed around Hastings for two weeks in the hope that the Saxon nobility would offer submission to him, but none came. So he assembled his army and marched on London. By the time he arrived the English lords had lost their appetite for battle and reluctantly submitted to him. William was crowned king on Christmas Day 1066 at Westminster Abbey.



The most experienced and loyal troops available to Harold at Hastings were his Huscarls. They were few in number having recently taken heavy losses at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and during the forced march south to Hastings.

Their principle weapon would have been the long war axe, which they would have been highly effective against the Norman horses. It required two hands to use and it would have been necessary for others in the shield wall to protect the axe bearer whilst he was engaged in combat.

"The Normans have invaded our lands and are making us pay heavy taxes taking all our wealth. They defeated our King Harold at a battle in the south near Hastings and built castles all over the country to keep us Saxons in order. We Northumbrians and Mercians don't want these unfair Norman laws or this new king called William; he's become known as 'the Conqueror' but we know he is really William the 'Bastard'. Our lords have called us to fight and we are going to York with our Viking friends to attack the castles the Normans have built there. This armour's very heavy but the older men say it will protect me; I hope so. I'm feeling very strange, sort of sickly in my belly - I don't know if I will be scared when the fighting starts, but I'm really excited at the moment."



The Saxons did indeed attack and defeat the Normans at York, we don't know what happened to the boy; if he survived the battle then life shortly after would have been immensely difficult for him. The attack on York was just one event in a general uprising against William in 1070 by the Anglo-Saxons and their Viking allies. William's response was swift and decisive; he marched north and laid waste large areas of Cheshire, Yorkshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire to such an extent that in some places human habitation was impossible for generations afterwards. This became known as the "Harrying of the North". William then entrusted these territories to his most reliable nobles and even gave some of them extra-special powers, in particular Cheshire was made a Palatinate effectively giving its Earl, Hugh Lupus, royal powers and privileges.

## The Normans

[Back to the Top](#)

The Normans came from a part of France called Normandy. They had origins in Scandinavia; Vikings who had settled in Normandy as part of a deal with the King of France. Over the years they had accepted the Latin culture and Christianity, adopted eastern bureaucracy and implemented good financial planning. Edward the Confessor had spent much of his early life in exile in Normandy whilst the Danish King Cnut ruled in England and during this time he had become accustomed to the Norman way of life. When William and his Normans came to England they brought with them a sound government, which combined with their strong leadership unified the country and eventually led to a national identity.

## William the Conqueror

[Back to the Top](#)

William was born in 1027AD, the illegitimate son of Robert, Duke of Normandy. William succeeded his father as Duke of Normandy when he was only 7 and there were several failed attempts by competitors to replace him. At the age of 15 he was knighted by the King of France and by 19 he was successfully managing his own affairs and dealing with his difficult lords. In 1047 at the Battle of Val-ès-Dunes, near Caen, William finally defeated the rebellious Norman Barons to take full control of Normandy.

William had virtually been promised the English throne by Edward the Confessor when he had asked William for Norman support to defeat his father in law Earl Godwin in 1051. William was furious when Godwin's son Harold took the crown in 1066 on the death of Edward.



Norman Coat of Arms

William organised an expedition to England to take the crown by force. He landed on the south coast near Hastings and defeated the Saxon army commanded by Harold, who was killed in the fighting. William was crowned at Westminster Abbey soon after but had to spend a lot of time and effort controlling the Saxon people who were unwilling to accept his rule.

[Read more](#)

## Bayeux Tapestry

[Back to the Top](#)

The Bayeux Tapestry is a visual depiction of the conflict between Duke William of Normandy and Harold Godwinson, King of England over the right to wear the English Crown.

Tradition has it that the tapestry was commissioned and created by William's wife Queen Matilda and her ladies, and is sometimes referred to as "La Tapisserie de la Reine Mathilde" - Tapestry of Queen Matilda. However it is now considered to have been produced on the order of Bishop Odo, William's half brother.





## AD1450 - AD1603

[Buy from the Tudor Shop](#)[Timeline](#)[Books](#)[History Store](#)[Junior 3dHistory-Tudors](#)[3D Exhibition](#)[Hide](#)**Timeline****Year****AD**

- 1450** In 1450 Richard, Duke of York challenged the government failed and then succeeded in taking control in 1452 when Henry went mad. Henry VI's allies under Queen Margaret and the Duke of Somerset continued to oppose the Duke of York when the King regained his sanity
- 1453** The end of the Hundred Years war, the English are driven out of France as they run out of men and money to continue the fight
- 1455** The Duke of York defeats the Lancastrians at St Albans
- 1460** The Yorkist's led by the Earl of Warwick seized London in 1460 and captured Henry VI. The Duke of York claimed the throne but was only recognised as heir to the throne. He marched north but was killed in battle at Wakefield.
- The Lancastrians marched on Northampton, defeated the Earl of Warwick and liberated the now mad again King Henry.
- 1461** The Yorkist's declared the Duke of York's son Edward as King Edward IV and he defeated the Lancastrians just outside York in April 1461 leaving Henry VI and other Lancastrians as fugitives.
- 1470 – 1471** The conspiracies continued and the Earl of Warwick fled to France where with Lancastrian allies and the French King Louis they backed Warwick in an attempt to regain the throne. This he managed and ruled in Henry VI's name leaving Edward to flee to Holland.
- Edward returned in 1471 and defeated Warwick at Barnet and the Lancastrians at Tewkesbury. By now all the leading Lancastrians were dead including Edward, Prince of Wales and Henry VI who was in the Tower of London.
- 1483** Edward IV dies suddenly, leaving his brother Richard Duke of Gloucester as regent for the young Edward V.
- However, Richard had his own plans and he captured the young Edward, claimed the throne and is then thought to have had his nephews murdered in the Tower of London, though some think that this was done at the command of the Lord Thomas Stanley, Henry Tudor's stepfather.
- 1485** The murder of the young princes focused opposition to Richard and they looked to the last Lancastrian leader Henry Tudor to lead an invasion force against the King.
- In 1485, at Bosworth Field, Richard was defeated and killed by Henry's forces under the

command of the Earl of Oxford.

Henry claimed the throne by right of conquest and was proclaimed King Henry VII on the field of battle.

- 1486** Henry helped heal the rift between the Houses of Lancaster and York finally in 1486 when he married Elizabeth of York daughter of Edward IV
- 1503** James IV of Scotland marries Margaret daughter of Henry VII
- 1509** Henry VII dies and is replaced by one of England's most colourful kings Henry VIII who is perhaps best remembered for marrying six times in his attempt to produce a male heir to the throne.

His six wives were: -

1. Katherine of Aragon – married in 1509 and divorced in 1533
2. Ann Boleyn – married in 1533 (while still married to Katherine) and beheaded in 1536 accused of adultery
3. Jane Seymour – married in 1536 died after childbirth in 1537
4. Ann of Cleves – married in 1540 and divorced the same year
5. Catherine Howard – married in 1540 and beheaded in 1542 again accused of adultery
6. Catherine Parr – married 1542 she survived Henry who died in 1547

**1513** James IV of Scotland invaded England in 1513 where he met and was heavily defeated and killed by the Earl of Surrey at the Battle of Flodden Field.

**1536 – 1540** Henry VIII dissolved all the remaining monasteries making him highly unpopular as they played a central part in peoples lives

**1547 – 1553** On Henry's death in 1547 his son (by Jane Seymour) became King Edward VI at the age of nine. Government was first entrusted to Duke of Somerset and later the Earl of Warwick

**1553** Edward died at the age of 15 in 1553, Lady Jane Grey was nominated by Edward VI as his successor as he claimed his half sisters Mary and Elizabeth were illegitimate.

Mary did not take kindly to this and began a rebellion in Norfolk claiming herself Queen, her support grew and she took the throne in 1553, Lady Jane Grey was executed.

**1553 – 1558** Mary was the daughter of Katherine of Aragon and was determined to return England to Catholicism. Mary married Phillip II of Spain. Mary had 300 people burnt at the stake for heresy including Archbishop Cranmer of Canterbury.

In France, England lost it's final possession, Calais in 1558

**1558** Elizabeth I, the daughter of Anne Boleyn, took the throne on Mary's death in 1558

**1559 – 1587** Mary was married to Francis, King of France in 1558 and before her marriage she signed away Scotlands sovreignty declaring that if she died before her husband, Scotland would come under

control of the French crown.

Luckily for Mary, in 1560 Francis died and his mother Catherine De Medici forced Mary to return to Scotland which, she had not visited since the age of 5.

On her return she was immediately embroiled in a conflict re religion in Scotland, Mary was actively Catholic in private but didn't oppose the Protestant religion.

Her major problem was her choice of husband, Henry Lord Darnley (her cousin) was not like by many Scottish noblemen and this issue was brought to a head when Mary married Darnley in 1565. This also upset Queen Elizabeth.

In March 1566 Scottish nobles broke into Queen Mary's private chambers and killed her Italian secretary. Although Mary tried her best to reconcile the nobles, things only got worse and on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1567, Darnley now King Henry of Scotland was strangled and blown up in a house near Edinburgh.

Mary married again 3 months later to another unpopular suitor James, Earl of Bothwell (even though he was suspected of killing Darnley !). The nobles raised an army to challenge Mary who surrendered to them. She was imprisoned in Lochleven Castle and on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1567 was forced to abdicate, her one year old son James was crowned James VI.

Mary did manage to escape Lochleven 11 months later and raised an army but she was heavily defeated at the Battle of Langside in May 1568. Mary fled south and asked Queen Elizabeth to help her escape but Elizabeth instead had her imprisoned for the next 19 years.

In 1587 Mary was executed in Fotheringhay Castle after being found guilty of treason, she was 44 years old.

**1569 – 1586** Elizabeth was under almost constant threat from her opponents who tried to replace her with Mary Queen of Scots. In 1569 the Duke of Norfolk was imprisoned in the Tower, in 1571 the Ridolfi Plot, in 1583 the Throckmorton Plot and finally in 1586 the Babington Plot were all uncovered and all had the same aim - to replace Elizabeth with Mary and re-establish Catholicism across England.

**1578 – 1580** In 1577 Francis Drake left Plymouth on a 3 year voyage that took him round the world, he was knighted on board the Golden Hind by Queen Elizabeth in April 1581.

**1588** Spain declared war on Elizabeth in 1585 when Spain became angry over her support for the Dutch Protestant rebellion against Philip of Spain and her authorisation of raids to be carried out on Spanish trade and colonies.

In 1588 Philip launched the Spanish Armada: 130 ships and 19,00 troops against England. The Armada harboured in Calais prior to their attack. This allowed the English under the command of Admiral Howard and his lieutenants Sir Francis Drake and John Hawkins to send fireships into the Spanish ships inflicting heavy damage. Further damage was inflicted in a battle near Gravelines.

Weather conditions then conspired against the Spanish and they were forced to return to Spain via Scotland and Ireland, many of the ships were shipwrecked in the storms as they battled their way back to Spain. Further attempts were made in 1596 and 1597 but these too were stopped by storms.

**1603** Queen Elizabeth I, the last of the Tudors died in Richmond Palace on 24 March 1603. She refused to name her successor but James VI of Scotland was crowned James I of England

[Battle of Bosworth](#)

[Henry VIII](#)

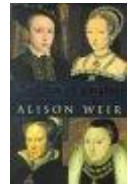
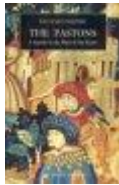
[Mary and Elizabeth](#)

[Armada](#)

[Build a Tudor House](#)

This was an age where England was dispossessed of her territories in France and subject to an internal dispute between the two most powerful houses in England over the the right to rule the country.

The eventual outcome was an amalgamation of the houses of Lancaster and York embodied in the Tudors: a succession of rulers that were to oversee some of the most dramatic events in English History, the most notable being the split with the church in Rome and the attempted invasion of England by Phillip of Spain's Armada.



## The Battle of Redemore, Bosworth - 22nd August 1485

The Battle of Redemore, or more commonly known as Bosworth Field, was fought between Henry Tudor, the Lancastrian claimant to the the throne, and King Richard the Third, last of the Plantagnet kings.

Although not the last battle of the Wars of the Roses it traditionally marks the end of the medieval period and the beginning of the Tudor period. The battle is considered to be one of the most important in English history. It is significant in that it was the last battle in which an English King died and was the last time a charge of mounted knights took place on English soil. After the battle Henry claimed the throne by right of conquest so it could be said that this was the last time that England was conquered.



[click for more](#)

Henry landed with 2000 French mercenaries at Milford Haven in Wales on 7th August. He marched north east gathering support and arrived at Atherstone on the evening of 20th August with a force of around 5,000. In addition to this force Henry was counting on support from his step father Lord Thomas Stanley and Thomas' brother Sir William Stanley who between them commanded about 6,000 men. The Stanleys had swapped sides repeatedly throughout the Wars of the Roses but at this time they remained non-committal, probably because Lord Strange, a son of Thomas Stanley, was held hostage by Richard.

Richard assembled his forces at Leicester; he was determined to give battle and on the 21st the royalist army moved west and camped the night around Ambion Hill near Sutton Chaney. Richard mustered about 9,000 to 10,000 men organised in two battles: the Vanward under the Duke of Norfolk and the Rearward under the Earl of Northumberland. Richard also had the use of a significant amount of artillery but was denied the opportunity to use them to much effect.

Early on the morning of the 22nd Richard deployed his troops just south west of Ambion hill and awaited the arrival of Henry's rebel army.



Henry's force was under the command of the Earl of Oxford, who was to demonstrate a brilliant tactical move that threw the Royalist army into confusion and exposed Norfolk's rear to attack by Sir William Stanley. Henry would not know until the last minute whether the Stanleys would take his side or not.

[Click the map above for an interactive re-enactment of the battle](#)

Richard recognised the threat to Norfolk's position and immediately attacked Henry in person who had moved forward to meet Sir William.

As Richard engaged Henry's lifeguard, killing his standard bearer, Sir William's troops entered the fray forcing Richard into the marsh where he was killed fighting hard to the bitter end.

Triumphant, Henry moved to a local high spot, now called Crown Hill, where it is said that Richard's crown was placed upon his head by Lord Thomas Stanley.

It is unsure if the Stanleys always intended to fight on Henry's side or whether Sir William just took the opportunity to ensure the fight ended in their favour. Certainly Lord Thomas did not take any active part in the battle, but they were in the perfect positions to allow Oxford to attack Norfolk's flank. It is worth noting that when Richard threatened to execute Lord Strange Lord Thomas replied that he had other sons. Was he referring to his step-son Henry?

Regardless of whether the battle was decided by the treachery of the Stanleys or by the brilliance of the Earl of Oxford the outcome was the same; Henry Tudor was crowned King Henry VII of England. He married Elizabeth of York to unite the houses of Lancaster and York and established a dynasty that would preside over some of the most important events in English history.

## Henry VIII

Coming Soon

## Elizabeth and Mary

Coming Soon

## Armada

The Spanish Armada was sent to England in 1588 by King Philip II of Spain. The objective of the Armada was to escort the Duke of Parma's army across the English Channel so that it could defeat the English, replace Queen Elizabeth I and restore the Catholic church to power.

## AD1603 - AD1714

[Timeline](#)[Books](#)[History Store](#)[3D Exhibition](#)[Hide](#)

## Timeline

**Year****AD**

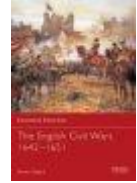
- 1603** James I (James VI of Scotland) ascends to the throne of England.
- 1605** Gunpowder Plot
- 1611** King James' Bible
- 1620** Mayflower Sails
- 1641** Start of the Irish Rebellion
- 1642** Start of the English Civil War
- 1649** Charles I surrenders and is executed
- Start of Cromwell's commonwealth ending in 1660
- 1660** Charles II is invited to take the throne.
- 1665** Plague sweeps the country
- 1666** The Great fire of London
- 1685** Monmouth rising - ends 1688
- 1688** The Glorious Revolution - William and Mary
- 1690** Battle of the Boyne
- 1692** The Glencoe Massacre
- 1694** The founding of the Bank of England
- 1702** Queen Anne ascends to the throne
- 1707** The Act of Union
- 1708** Jacobite uprising
- 1712** The first steam engine
- 1714** Queen Anne dies

[The Pilgrim Fathers](#)[Great Fire of London](#)

Elizabeth I died in 1603. She had never married and she had no children. James VI of Scotland, the son of Mary Queen of Scots, was Elizabeth's nearest relative and so became James I of England, combining the thrones of England and Scotland.

The age of the Stuarts lasted just over 100 turbulent years - Civil war, several uprisings and plots, a great plague and the Great Fire of London were amongst the most notable events that took place during that time.

Scientific discovery continued with distinguished people like Isaac Newton contributing to the knowledge of mankind. Architect Christopher Wren produced some outstanding works including his masterpiece, St. Paul's Cathedral.



### Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers

[Back to the Top](#)

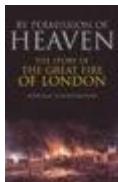
On the death of Queen Elizabeth 1st, James 1st became king and immediately installed the Protestant faith as the one true religion for England and Scotland all other religions were discouraged or barred..... [More](#)

### The Great Fire of London

[Back to the Top](#)



On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1666, a fire started in Thomas Farynor's (the official baker to King Charles II) shop in Pudding Lane, London. It appears Thomas Farynor forgot to douse the fires in his bakers oven and some embers set light to some firewood nearby. By one o'clock in the morning the building was engulfed by flames, Farynor and his family escaped by climbing through a window onto the roof and across the rooftops. His maid unfortunately didn't make it out of the burning building and she became the first person to die as a result of the fire.





From Farynor's shop, the flames spread to the Star Inn on Fish Street Hill. The closely packed buildings made of timber and pitch ignited quickly and the strong winds swiftly spread the fire down to warehouses by the River Thames which were packed with goods which ignited easily e.g. oil, spirits, straw and hemp.

The fire now became uncontrollable spreading half way across the old London Bridge (luckily a gap caused by a previous fire prevented the fire making it across the river and devastating the south bank as well!)

The fire continued to rage the following day destroying Fleet Street, the Old Bailey and Newgate, reports said that the stones in St Paul's exploded due to the extreme heat. Although there were laws in force forcing the various parishes to provide buckets and ladders in case of fire much of the equipment had been left to rot and was totally inadequate for what they were facing.

By now there was little else to do but to tear down the houses to make gaps or fire breaks so the fire couldn't get any further. Eventually gun powder had to be used as it was taking too long to pull down the houses by hand.

For 3 more days the fire raged before it finally began to burn itself out near Holborn Bridge but just as people thought the worst was over, the fire flared up again. The Duke of York ordered more buildings to be destroyed to prevent Whitehall from going up in flames, finally it was brought under control.

The fire which lasted 5 days devastated over 400 acres of medieval London, leaving 87 churches (including St Paul's cathedral) 50 livery halls and 13,200 houses destroyed. Amazingly only 6 people were reported killed by the fire although it is thought this figure isn't totally accurate.



On the plus side the fire did help destroy the rat population which transmitted the bubonic plague which killed thousands the previous year. However for those that had lost their possessions in the fire they were now reduced to a life of poverty. Some tents were provided around Moorfields and St George's fields whilst others built what shelters they could.

The fire spread so easily because the houses were made mostly of wood.

Following the great fire the old wooden structures were replaced by brick built buildings and paved the way for the first fire brigades to be employed. Sir Christopher Wren re-built St Paul's to what we know today in addition to 49 new churches and also the memorial to the fire.



## AD1714 - AD1818

[Timeline](#)[Books](#)[3D Exhibition](#)[Hide](#)

## Timeline

## Year

## AD

- 1714** George I crowned King of England.
- 1715** The Jacobite revolt under the 'Bonnie Prince Charles'
- 1717** Foundation of the Freemasons
- 1727** George II crowned King of England
- 1753** British Museum Established
- 1760** George III crowned King of England
- 1764** James Hargreaves invents the Spinning Jenny
- 1768** Captain Cook's Voyage to Australia and New Zealand
- 1772** Slavery Outlawed in England
- 1773** Parliament passes the Tea Act
- 1775** Start of the American War of Independence. Ends in 1783
- 1789** Start of the French Revolution, ends in 1799.
- 1796** Smallpox Vaccination started
- 1808** Peninsular Wars. Wars against Napoleon in Spain. Ends in 1814
- 1811** Ludite Riots begin
- 1819** Queen Victoria is born.
- 1820** George IV crowned King of England
- 1825** Stockton to Darlington railway opened
- 1826** The first photograph is taken.
- 1829** Scotland Yard Created
- 1830** William IV crowned King of England
- 1831** Cholera epidemic
- 1832** Reform Act
- 1834** Slavery is banned in all of the British colonies.

**1835** The Engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel starts to build the London to Bristol railway for GWR. It is finished in 1841.

**1837** William IV dies

During the Hanoverian or Georgian period the British Empire expanded with the conquests of Canada and India. The Napoleonic wars ended with Britain virtually having Naval supremacy on a global scale.

The Agricultural and Industrial revolutions gave the newly established Great Britain an unprecedented advantage allowing her almost global domination of World trade.

Even so this new Global Super Power status did not prevent the American colonies from declaring independence and successfully establishing the United States of America.

Discovery and technological innovation continued at a fantastic pace with great individuals such as Captain Cook charting the Oceans and Cartwright and Hargreaves inventing the power loom and spinning Jenny.

## AD1819 - AD1901

[Timeline](#)[Books](#)[3D Exhibition](#)[Hide](#)


## Timeline

## Year

## AD

- 1837** Queen Victoria is crowned.
- Charles Dickens publishes his first novel *Pickwick Papers*.
- 1840** Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert.
- The Penny post service is introduced.
- 1844** Potato famine in Ireland.
- 1845** Brunel builds the S.S. Great Britain, the first steamship driven by propeller.
- 1847** *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte is published.
- Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte is published.
- 1848** "Communist Manifesto" is published by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels.
- 1851** Great Exhibition of 1851 at the Crystal Palace.
- 1853** Crimean war starts. Ends in 1856
- 1859** 'Origin of Species' is published by Charles Darwin.
- 1861** Prince Albert dies of typhoid fever aged 42.
- 1867** A new law is introduced by Disraeli so that all taxpayers can now vote.
- 1868** The last shipment of convicts to Australia sets sail from England.
- 1877** Telephones, invented by Alexander Graham Bell, are commercially available.
- Thomas Edison invents the phonograph.
- 1879** Zulu War begins.
- Electric light-bulb invented by Edison.
- 1885** Karl Benz builds the first automobile.
- 1888** The murderous Jack the Ripper terrorises the East End of London.
- 1901** Marconi transmits a radio signal across the Atlantic.

Queen Victoria dies.



During the Victorian period Britain achieved great economic growth which, in turn, supported the expansion of the Empire. However there was a cost for all this. The divide between the classes grew and the poor suffered. The new factories required people to work in them and conditions, especially for the young, were far from being ideal.

Not everybody was eligible to vote, and those that were had their own reasons to keep Britain the way it was. Even so it was a time of great change with lots of exiting new inventions and advances in technology, medicine, education and other things.

## AD1901 - AD....

The bloodbath that was the 20th Century saw an unprecedented level of violence in the First and Second World Wars, with millions being killed. Ironically this was the catalyst for massive technological and cultural innovation and advancement.

There was a rapid acceleration of the industrial revolution; air transport was transformed by the invention of the Jet engine and rocket propulsion enabled men to be sent to the moon.

Cultural advances included the establishment of the welfare state and the right for women to vote. Advances in communications included radio and television and personal computers.

WW1

No Man's Land



[www.3dhistory.co.uk](http://www.3dhistory.co.uk)

No Man's Land