**British history time line**

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| **Year** | **What happened** |
| **700,000 BC** | People migrate to 'Britain' from Europe.  Britain is joined to Europe (no sea in between)  Date of earliest human tools found on Suffolk coast. |
| **25,000 BC**  **ICE AGE** | Northern Europe and most of modern Britain is plunged into a deep Ice Age |
| **12,000 BC** | Beginning of the end of the Ice Age Re-colonization of Britain by home sapiens. |
| **6,000 BC** | **Britain becomes an Island.** The land bridge joining Britain to Europe flooded as the sea level rose |
| **3,000 BC**  **STONE AGE** | Britain begins: farming people arrive from Europe. |
| **2,100 BC**  **BRONZE AGE** | **First metal workers** People learn to make bronze weapons and tools. Introduction of cremation of the dead and burials in round barrows.  **Beaker culture** - their name is thought to originate from the distinctive beakers that accompanied their burials. They were farmers and archers. They lived in round huts (similar to the Celts) with a low stone wall for a base. The roof was made of thatch, turf, or hides |
| **750 BC**  **IRON AGE** | Iron replaces bronze as most useful metal.  **Population about 150,000.** |
| **43 AD**  **ROMANS BRITIAN** | **Romans invade and Britain becomes part of the Roman Empire** |
| **401 - 410** | The Romans withdraw from Britain: Anglo Saxons migrants begin to Settle |
| **450 AD**  **ANGLO- SAXONS BRITIAN** | First invasions of the Jutes from Jutland, Angles from South of Denmark and Saxons from Germany. **Britain is divided up into the Seven Kingdoms** of Northumbria, Mercia, Anglia, Wessex, Essex, Sussex and Kent |
| **516 AD** | he Battle of Mount Badon: Britons under an unknown leader defeat the Angles and Saxons |
| **793 AD**  **VIKING BRITIAN** | First recorded Viking attack happens in Dorset, Vikings attack the monastery of Lindisfarne, Northumbria |
| **843 AD** | **Kingdom of Scotland** formed Some sources suggest that around 843 AD the kingdom of the Scots and the Picts was amalgamated, and that from this date historians can speak of a 'kingdom of Scotland'. |
| **867 AD** | The Vikings kill rival kings of Northumbria and capture York **The city became Yorvik, the Viking capital in England.** |
| **886 AD** | **England is Divided** Alfred, King of Wessex, agrees a treaty with Vikings to divide England The Saxons retain the west, while the east (between the Thames and Tees rivers) was to be Viking territory - later known as the '**Danelaw**' - where English and (Danish) Vikings were equal in law. |
| **973 AD** | **Edgar is crowned king of England at Bath,** 14 years after taking power Edgar ruled England from 959 to 975 AD, but it was not until 973 AD - two years before his death - that he organised a solemn coronation and anointing. |
| **975 AD** | **Edward**, oldest son of Edgar crowned King of England.  He was not popular and was treacherously murdered at Corfe in Dorset three years later. |
| **1042** | August: Edward the Confessor (Edward II) becomes king of England |
| **1055** | **Westminster Abbey** is completed |
| **1055** | 6 January: Edward the Confessor dies and is succeeded by **Harold Godwinson** Harold, earl of Wessex, was crowned king of England on 6 January 1066. He was immediately faced with powerful threats from William, duke of Normandy, and Harold Hardrada, king of Norway, both of whom laid claim to the English throne. |
| **1066**  **NORMANS** | King Harold was killed in the Battle of Hastings, making William the Conqueror the new Norman king5 25 December: William of Normandy is crowned king William I of England |
| **1070** | **First Norman stone castle** is built in Wales The Normans quickly advanced into Wales, using castles to subdue the surrounding countryside. |
| **1078** | Work starts on The Tower of London |
| **1085** | **The Domes day Book** is compiled, a complete inventory of Britain It was the most complete record of any country at that time and remains a legally valid document. |
| **1087** | 26 September: **William II** is crowned at Westminster Abbey William Rufus, second son of William the Conqueror |
| **1096** | Oxford University is founded |
| **1100** | 5 August: **Henry I** is crowned in Westminster Abbey |
| **1110** | 25 July 1110 Henry I of England marries his daughter Matilda to the German emperor, Henry V. She was only eight years old. |
| **1135** | 22 December **Stephen** (Henry's nephew) is crowned king after the death of Henry I in Normandy instead of Matilda. Many considered a woman unfit to rule and further resentment was generated by her marriage into the Anjou family in 1127. |
| **1154** | 19 December Henry II, the first 'Plantagenet' king, accedes to the throne He was not only king of England, but also ruled over most of Wales, Normandy, Anjou, Gascony and other parts of France (acquired through his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine). Henry, son of Empress Matilda, established stability after civil war between his mother and her rival Stephen. He asserted his authority over the barons and enforced law and governance. Regular financial rolls of government began in his reign. |
| **1189** | 6 July: Henry II dies and is succeeded by his son **Richard I** |
| **1199** | Richard I dies and is succeeded by his brother John |
| **1215** | Civil War |
| **1216** | 28 October: **Henry III** is crowned king of England |
| **1245** | Henry III begins to rebuild Westminster Abbey The first abbey at Westminster was built by Edward the Confessor in the 1040s in the Romanesque style. Henry III ordered the rebuilding of the abbey in a Gothic style, with a central shrine to honour Edward the Confessor. |
| **1272** | 20 November: Henry III dies and is succeeded by his son **Edward** He was crowned Edward I in August 1274. |
| **1282 - 1283** | **Edward I conquers Wales**. Llywelyn ap Gruffyd, the country's last prince is killed |
| **1296** | **Edward I invades Scotland** and takes the Stone of Destiny from Scone to Westminster |
| **1301** | Edward I makes his eldest son, also Edward, prince of Wales, a title the eldest son of the English monarch continues to take to this day. |
| **1307** | 7 July: Edward I dies and is succeeded by his son **Edward II** Two years after Edward's accession, he married Isabella, daughter of the French king. |
| **1321-1322** | Civil War |
| **1336** | September: Isabella invades England and overthrows Edward II Edward II's wife, Isabella, had left England for France in 1325 on the pretext of helping to settle a dispute over territory. But she had been badly treated by Edward's favourites, the Despensers, and declined to return. Instead, she remained in Paris, where she found a lover, Roger Mortimer. In 1326, she returned to England with a large force, whereupon the king's supporters deserted him. Edward was captured, as were the Despensers who were executed in the autumn of the same year. |
| **1327** | 20 January: Edward II is murdered and **Edward III** becomes king Edward II abdicated in favour of his son. He was later murdered at Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire on the orders of Isabella and her lover, Roger Mortimer. Isabella and her lover Mortimer ruled while her son Edward III was in his minority (too young). |
| **1330** | Edward now 17 assumes Royal Powers, arrests and executes Mortimer and puts his mother under life time house arrest. |
| **1348 - 1349** | **The Black Death** (bubonic plague) arrives in England and kills nearly half of the population |
| **1377** | 22 June: Edward III dies and is succeeded by Richard II Edward III's eldest son, Edward the 'Black Prince', had died in 1376, so the succession passed to Edward's grandson, Richard II, who was only 10 years old. In the first part of his reign, because he was so young, the country was ruled by his uncle, **John of Gaunt** whose son Henry Bolingbroke eventually murdered Richard and became king as Henry IV. |
| **1381** | 15 June: **Peasants' Revolt** In the aftermath of the catastrophic Black Death, agricultural workers were in demand but landlords were reluctant to pay higher wages or allow migration for work. Coupled with heavy taxation and an unpopular government, it caused an uprising. The rebels converged on London. The Tower of London was stormed and prominent individuals were executed. After rebel leader **Wat Tyler** was killed, Richard II successfully defused the situation by promising concessions. Reprisals followed instead. |
| **1399** | 30 September: **Henry IV** is proclaimed king of England |
| **1413** | 20 March: Henry IV dies and is succeeded by his son, **Henry V** |
| **1415** | 25 October: Henry V defeats the French at the **Battle of Agincourt** |
| **1422** | 31 August: Henry V dies suddenly, leaving his son **Henry VI,** who was less than a year old and now king of England and France under the terms of the Treaty of Troyes (1420). He is today still **the youngest ever king of England.**  England was ruled by a Regency Council. In France, the king's uncle, John, Duke of Bedford, gradually extended English control. Henry VI of England was crowned king of France in Paris in December 1431. |
| **1437** | Henry VI assumes power as king of England Henry VI, who had acceded to the throne before his first birthday, was now considered old enough to rule for himself. |
| **1455** | 22 May: Civil War: The War of the Roses begin with first **Battle of St Albans** York was then driven out by Henry VI's wife, Margaret. York marched on London and defeated Henry's supporters (the Lancastrians) at St Albans. This relatively small battle marks the beginning of a civil war between two branches of the royal family - York and Lancaster - that lasted intermittently until 1485.  The Duke of York was the main figure on the Yorkist side and Margaret, Henry's queen, took charge of the Lancastrian cause. |
| **1461** | 29 March: Lancastrians are defeated at Towton and **Edward IV** (Duke of York's son) is proclaimed king. Henry VI and Margaret flee to Scotland. Edward was crowned in June 1461. |
| **1470** | 30 October 1470 **Henry VI** is briefly restored to the throne |
| **1471** | 4 May 1471 Yorkists defeat the Lancastrians and kill Edward, Prince of Wales and heir of Henry VI. Henry VI himself survived little more than a fortnight after the battle. He was murdered, probably in the Tower of London, on 21 May 1471. **Edward IV** was king of England again. |
| **1483** | 9 April: Edward IV dies and is succeeded by his 12-year-old son, **Edward V** Edward’s uncle, his father’s brother Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was named protector. Gloucester met the new king on his journey to London and when they reached the capital, lodged him in the Tower of London with his younger brother, also called Richard. In June the boys were declared illegitimate. It was alleged that their father's marriage to their mother, Elizabeth Woodville, had been invalid. |
| **1483** | July 1483 **Richard III** becomes king and the 'Princes in the Tower' disappear Both his nephews, the 12-year-old Edward V and his brother, were not seen alive after this time. They had been imprisoned in the Tower of London and were presumed murdered, although it is not clear who was responsible. |
| **1485** | 22 August Henry Tudor defeats Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth |
| **1485**  **TUDORS** | **30 October: Henry Vll crowned at Westminster Abbey** |
| **1486** | January: Henry VII marries Elizabeth of York, uniting the two houses and ending the Wars of the Roses. |
| **1497** | John Cabot sailed from Bristol aboard the 'Matthew' and discovered North America |
| **1509** | 21 April: Henry VII dies and is succeeded by his younger son **Henry VIII** Two months after he became king, he married his brother's Spanish widow, Catherine of Aragon. |
| **1513** | 9 September: James IV of Scotland is defeated and killed at the **Battle of Flodden Field**. While Henry VIII's forces were campaigning against the French king Louis XII, James IV of Scotland invaded England. |
| **1521** | June: Henry VIII meets Francis I of France at the **'Field of the Cloth of Gold'** The first meeting of Henry VIII and Francis I of France took place just outside the English-held town of Guines near Calais, France. In a fortnight of ceremonies and entertainments, the English and French kings attempted to outshine each other with extravagant clothes and jewels, lavish tents and spectacular feasts, jousts and games. |
| **1533** | 25 January: **Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn**, following divorce from Catherine of Aragon |
| **1534** | Henry VIII forms the 'Church of England’. Henry is confirmed as **'Supreme Head of the Church of England**' following a parliamentary Act of Supremacy |
| **1536** | The Laws in Wales Acts of 1535 and 1542 attempted to regularise the relationship between the two nations, by introducing the English legal system in Wales. English became the official language of administration. |
| **1536** | Henry VIII's second wife Anne Boleyn is executed even days after the execution of his second wife, Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII marries **Jane Seymour**. |
| **1537** | 2 October: **A male heir, Edward, is born** to Henry VIII and Jane Seymour Henry was shattered by her death shortly after Edward's birth. |
| **1542** | Mary, Queen of Scots lays claim to the English throne |
| **1545** | The French attempt to invade England. 20 July 1545 The Mary Rose sinks in Portsmouth harbour. |
| **1547-1553** | 28 January: Henry VIII dies and is succeeded by nine-year-old **Edward VI** Many new schools and colleges founded. |
| **1553-1558** | 19 July: **Mary I**, daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, becomes queen Mary was the first woman to be crowned monarch of England in her own right. A devout Catholic, she was determined to halt the growth of Protestantism initiated by her father, and return England to Roman Catholicism. |
| **1558** | **17 November 1558** Elizabeth I begins her 45 year reign |
| **1570** | Sir Francis Drake sets sail for his first voyage to the West Indies |
| **1585-1604** | England and Spain at war |
| **1587** | **8 February 1587** Queen Elizabeth I executes Mary, Queen of Scots |
| **1588** | The Armada fleet of Philip II of Spain attempts to invade England, but is defeated |
| **1600** | First British involvement in the Indian continent - East India Company formed. **Population of Britain just over 4 million.** 10% of the population lived in towns. |
| **1603**  **STUARTS** | **24 March 1603** Queen Elizabeth I died. King James of Scotland becomes the first Stuart king of England. James's accession meant that the three separate kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland were now united, for the first time, under a single monarch. |
| **1604** | August - James I ends the war with Spain. The long war with Spain had continued intermittently for 20 years. England and Spain were now at peace for the next 50 years. James styles himself as **King of Great Britain** |
| **1605** | 5 November - Gunpowder Plot to assassinate James I is discovered **Guy Fawkes** is thwarted when he tried to blow up Parliament. |
| **1606** | The Union Flag is adopted as the National Flag |
| **1607** | First permanent British colony in North America. Jamestown in Virginia, founded by Captain John Smith |
| **1620** | August - The **Pilgrim Fathers** set sail for New England from Plymouth, aboard the 'Mayflower' to escape religious persecution in England. |
| **1624-1630** | War with Spain |
| **1625** | 27 March - James I dies and his son Charles I accedes to the throne  14 May - Barbados comes under British control Captain John Powell landed in Barbados in 1625 and claimed the island as a British Caribbean colony. |
| **1626-1629** | War with France |
| **1629** | **Charles I dissolves parliament** and begins 11 years of personal rule |
| **1642** | 22 August- **Civil War** begins as Charles I raises his standard at Nottingham |
| **1643** | 25 September - Parliamentarians enter into an alliance with the Scots |
| **1646** | 5 May - Charles I surrenders to the Scots |
| **1649** | 30 January - **Charles I is executed** at Whitehall, London |
| 1649 - 1660 | **No monarch** England became a Republic for eleven years from |
| **1660** | Restoration of the Monarchy under **King Charles II** |
| **1664 - 1665** | 29 May - The Great Plague of London killed more than 100,000 people died. By the time the epidemic finished in December 1665, a quarter of the capital's inhabitants had perished. |
| **1666** | Great Fire of London **raged from 2 - 5 September destroying two-thirds of the city** |
| **1677** | 4 November - **Mary Stuart marries William of Orange**, Charles I's grandson Mary Stuart was the elder daughter of Charles II's brother, James, Duke of York (James II). Her marriage in 1677 to the Dutch Protestant Prince William of Orange, himself the grandson of Charles I, strengthened William's claim to the English throne. |
| **1685** | 6 February 1685 Charles II dies and his brother **James II** accedes to the throne |
| **1687-1688** | **James II** suspends parliament indefinitely, **James II** attempts to re-catholicize England 10 June - Birth of a Catholic male heir, James Edward Stewart sparks popular outrage. Many of James II's opponents, furious that their Catholic king now had a male heir, denounced the infant as an imposter, and claimed that the baby had been smuggled into the queen's bedroom in a warming-pan. |
| **1688-1689** | **The Glorious Revolution** - the overthrow of King James the II, the crowning of William of Orange and his wife Mary II, and the final recognition of parliament supremacy. 13 February **William of Orange (William II)** and his wife **Mary II** proclaimed king and queen. 16 December **English Bill of rights 1689.** From now on England's monarchs ruled in partnership with Parliament. |
| **1694** | December 1694 Mary dies, leaving William III to rule alone William III's wife Mary died at the age of 32 leaving no children. |
| **1702** | 8 March - William III dies and his sister-in-law **Anne accedes to the throne** William III died two weeks after being thrown from his horse when it tripped over a molehill in Hyde Park, London. |
| **1707** | **England and Scotland officially became one country - Great Britain** The Scottish parliament was dissolved and England and Scotland became one country - Great Britain. Act of Union between Scotland and England- part of the Union flag story |
| **1714** | 1 August - Anne dies and **George I** accedes to the throne Anne, the last Stuart monarch, died at Kensington Palace in London aged 49. None of her children survived her, so under the terms of the Act of Succession of 1701 she was succeeded by George, Elector of Hanover, who was proclaimed as George I. He was the first of the Hanoverian monarchs. |
| **1721-1742**  **GEORGIANS** | Sir Robert Walpole becomes the first Prime Minister |
| **1727** | 11 January George I dies and is succeeded by his son George II |
| **1739** | 19 October Britain declares war on Spain |
| **1743** | 27 June George II becomes the last British monarch to take part in a battle when he commanded the British Army at the Battle of Dettingen |
| **1756- 1763** | May 1756 The Seven Year War with France begins |
| **1757** | First canal in Britain is completed |
| **1760** | 25 October George III succeeds his grandfather George II |
| **1769-1770** | James Cook becomes the first European to land on New Zealand. James Cook 'discovers' the south east coast of Australia, landing in Botany Bay |
| **1771** | 'Factory Age' begins with the opening of Britain's first cotton mill |
| **1775** | 18 April American War of Independence begins |
| **1776** | America declares independence from Britain on July 4 1776 |
| **1780's** | Industrial Revolution begins |
| **1783** | Steam powered cotton mill invented by Sir Richard Arkwright |
| **1787** | 13 May First fleet of convicts sails to Australia |
| **1789** | 14 July French Revolution begins with the storming of the Bastille |
| **1793** | 1 February Britain goes to war with France  War continued until the final defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. |
| **1796** | Edward Jenner invents a vaccination against small pox |
| **1800** | 1 January Act of Union creates the United Kingdom  Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and Ireland were formally joined under the Act of Union to create the United Kingdom in 1801. |
| **1805** | 21 October Lord Nelson defeats Napoleon at the Battle of Trafalgar |
| **1807** | 25 March Britain abolishes the slave trade |
| **1829** | June 1829 - Robert Peel set up the Metropolitan Police force |
| **1830** | 26 June George IV dies and is succeeded by his brother William IV |
| **1831** | October - Riots break out over the parliamentary Reform Bill |
| **1832** | 4 June Great Reform Act changes parliamentary representation  The Great Reform Act made important changes to parliamentary constituencies and extended the franchise (those allowed to vote), but did not introduce parliamentary democracy or a secret ballot. |
| **1833** | Factory Act restricts work hours for women and children  Under the terms of the act, mill owners were required to show that children up to age 13 received two hours of schooling, six days per week. 31 July Parliament passes a bill to abolish slavery in the British empire |
| **1834** | The Poor Law set up workhouses, where people without homes or jobs could live in return for doing unpaid work. |
| **1837**  **VICTORIANS** | William IV died and his niece Victoria became Queen at the age of 18 |
| **1837** | Houses of Parliament built |
| **1838** | 1 August: Slavery is abolished in the British empire  In 1834, slaves in the British empire started a period of 'apprenticeship', during which they were obliged to work without pay for their former owners. When the apprenticeship period ended in 1838, over 700,000 slaves were freed in the British Caribbean. Plantation owners received about £20 million in government compensation for the loss of their slaves. The former slaves received nothing. |
| **1839 - 1842** | Britain defeated China in the Opium War and made China sign the Treaty of Nanking. Britain was given Hong Kong. |
| **1840** | February 6 - Britain claims New Zealand as a colony to head off proposed French settlements. June: Vaccination for the poor is introduced |
| **1842** | Assassination attempt on Queen Victoria by John Francis |
| **1844** | The Factory Act stops children between 8 and 13 working more than 6.5 hours a day. |
| **1845 - 1849** | Ireland suffered the Great Potato Famine when entire crops of potatoes, the staple Irish food, were ruined. The famine was a consequence of the appearance of blight, the potato fungus. About 800,000 people died as a result of the famine. A large number of people migrated to Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia. |
| **1850s** | The first post boxes were built and **Workhouses** opened to try to help the poorest people who had no money. In return for their labour, the workers were given a bed and basic food. |
| **1854 -1856** | Crimean War  The Crimean War was fought between the Russians and an alliance of the British, French and Turks who feared Russian expansion in the Balkans. |
| **1858** | The British Parliament passed the Government of India Act, ending the rule of the East India company and bringing India under British rule. November 1 - Queen Victoria is crowned Empress of India. |
| **1861** | Death of Prince Albert from Typhoid |
| **1863** | The first underground railway is opened in London. The foundation of the Football Association |
| **1872** | First FA Cup Final |
| **1876** | Scotsman Alexander Bell invented the telephone Primary education was made compulsory |
| **1878** | The first public electric lighting in London, replacing the old gas lamps, which had to be lit by hand every evening. |
| **1880** | The Education Act makes compulsory schooling for all children between 5 and 10. |
| **1883** | January - Britain takes complete control of Egypt. |
| **1883** | First electric railway |
| **1887** | Britain establishes the colony of Nigeria in Africa. |
| 1887 | The invention of the gramophone |
| 1891 | Free education for every child aged 5-13 |
| 1901 | Queen Victoria died. Her son, Edward VII, became King. Population of Britain 40 million |
| **1902**  **MODERN BRITIAN** | Britain defeats Dutch settlers in Boer War in South Africa |
| **1908** | 27 April: Olympic Games opens at White City in London  They featured 22 nations, 110 events and more than 2,000 athletes. 27 October: Parliament approves old age pensions  New legislation gave a weekly means-tested pension of a maximum of five shillings to all those aged over 70. |
| **1910** | 6 May: Edward VII dies and is succeeded by George V |
| **1911** | December 191: National Insurance Act  A contributory scheme of health insurance is introduced for those in employment, which provided payment for medical treatment. |
| **1912** | 15 April: 'Titanic' sinks with the loss of 1,503 lives |
| **1914 - 1918** | First World War 4 August 1914: Britain declares war on Germany in response to the invasion of Belgium  Compulsory military service and food rationing introduced |
| **1918** | 6 February: Limited numbers of women are given the vote for the first time. 11 November: World War One ends when Germany signs an armistice  that brought the fighting on the Western Front to a halt at 11am on 11 November 1918. |
| **1919** | 1 December 1919 Lady Astor becomes the first woman to take her seat in parliament. 23 December Exclusion of women from many jobs is made illegal. Women could now become magistrates, solicitors and barristers. |
| **1920** | Women at Oxford University are allowed to receive degrees  Although women had been able to attend degree level courses, they could not receive degrees until 1920. Republic of Ireland gains independence. 26 January: John Logie Baird gives the first public demonstration of television. It was not until after the World War Two that television became widely available. |
| **1927** | 1 January: British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is created |
| **1928** | 7 May: All women over the age of 21 get the vote.  30 September: Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin |
| **1936** | 20 January: George V dies and is succeeded by Edward VIII .10 December: Edward VIII abdicates in order to marry Wallace Simpson  Edward VIII wished to marry American Wallis Simpson. Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin advised him that the British people would not accept her because she was a divorcee. Faced with losing the woman he loved, Edward chose instead to abdicate. On 11 December, he broadcast his decision to the nation. He married Wallace Simpson in France in June 1937. They became the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. |
| **1937** | 12 May 1937 George VI, Edward VIII's younger brother, the Duke of York, is crowned king. 29 December: New constitution makes Ireland a republic in all but name |
| **1939 - 1945** | The Second World War 3 September 1939: Britain declares war on Germany in response to the invasion of Poland |
| **1940** | 10 May: Winston Churchill becomes prime minister of the coalition government.  May: Butler Act creates free secondary education to the age of 15 |
| **1945** | 8 May: Britain celebrates the end of war on Victory in Europe Day.  15 August: Victory over Japan Day marks the end of World War Two |
| **1947** | 15 August: India gains independence from Britain |
| **1948** | Post-war immigration from the Commonwealth begins. Post-war immigration from the Commonwealth begins. 29 July: Olympic Games open at Wembley Stadium in London. Fifty nine nations took part, but the defeated powers of Germany and Japan were excluded.  18 April: Republic of Ireland comes into being |
| **1952** | 6 February: Elizabeth II succeeds her father, George VI |
| **1953** | 25 April: Watson and Crick publish their discovery of the structure of DNA |
| **1957** | 6 March: Ghana becomes the first British colony in Africa to gain independence |
| **1965** | 12 July: Comprehensive education system is introduced.  8 November: Death penalty is abolished. The death sentence for treason and piracy with violence remained on the statue books until 1998 when they were abolished by the Crime and Disorder Act. |
| **1973** | 1 January: Britain joins the European Economic Community. |
| **1978** | 25 July: World's first test-tube baby is born in Oldham |
| **1979** | 3 May: Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first woman prime minister |
| **1982** | 2 April Falklands War  Argentina invades the British territory of the Falkland Islands |
| **1984** | 12 March: 12-month 'Miners' Strike' over pit closures begins |
| **1989** | Tim Berners-Lee invents the World Wide Web |
| **1991** | Gulf War |
| **1992** | 6 May: Channel Tunnel opens, linking London and Paris by rail |
| **1994** | 1 July: Britain hands Hong Kong back to China, after more than 150 years of British rule |
| **1997** | 31 August: Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car crash in Paris |
| **1999** | Welsh national assembly and Scottish parliament |
| **2000** | Britain celebrates the new millennium |
| **2001** | Foot-and-mouth disease wreaks havoc on rural Britain. Islamic terrorists crash aircraft on targets in New York and Washington .Britain joins the US in strikes on Taleban-controlled Afghanistan |
| **2003** | Britain joins the US in an invasion of Iraq. The Second Gulf War |
| **2005** | Kyoto Protocol on measures to control climate change comes into force Suicide bombers kill 52 people on London's transport system  Civil partnerships give same-sex couples legal rights |
| **2008** | The financial crisis which began in 2008 plunged the UK into a deep and long recession |
| **2011** | March-September - Britain plays a prominent part in the international intervention in the conflict in Libya. |
| **2012** | Britain hosts the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics to widespread international acclaim. |
| **2013** | The Duchess of Cambridge gives birth to a son George, who is third in line to the throne after the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge. The House of Commons votes to block UK military involvement in Syria in a political embarrassment for the government. |
| **2017** | Islamist attacks in Manchester and London leave a total of 30 people dead. |
| **2018** | Diplomatic row breaks out with Russia over poisoning of ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in Salisbury, for which Britain blames the Kremlin. |
| **2019** | Boris Johnson wins convincing majority at snap general election. Britain leaves the European Union. |
| **2020** | Corona Virus affects the world |