

# 2 Great fire of London

## What happened in the Great Fire of London?

In 1666, the summer was especially hot meaning that the buildings were dry, the ground was dusty and the River Thames was running low.

On Saturday 1st September, in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane, no one had made sure that the fire in the stone oven had been put out.

On Sunday 2nd September, the fire had started to spread. No one knows exactly how it started and historians still debate this today.

The fire spread quickly because of the strong wind, the materials that the houses were made from and the fact that the houses were close together.

On Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th September, the fire was out of control and buildings such as St Paul's Cathedral caught fire.

People fled their homes and travelled in carts and by boat.

On Wednesday 5th September, more buildings were pulled down and buckets of water from the River Thames were used to put out the fire.

Fewer than 10 people died in the fire.



## What changed because of the Great Fire of London?

By the time the fire was put out, 400 streets, 13,000 houses and 87 churches had been destroyed.

In 1668, new rules were put in place so that buildings were made from brick and stone and built further apart.

St Paul's Cathedral was rebuilt and can be seen in London today.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade was formed.

Led to insurance companies which will help you to rebuild a new home.

It is illegal to have a thatched roof in London today – there is only one building which has special permission.



Samuel Pepys



Paulina Pepys



Thomas Farriner

## How do we know about the Great Fire of London?

A man called Samuel Pepys kept a diary that helped us to learn about The Great Fire of London.

Artists have painted pictures based on written descriptions.

We have artefacts (objects from the time) that give us clues.

## What was life in London like at the time?

At the time, London was a large city where lots of people lived.

1666 was during the Tudor period and the city of London looked very different to how it does today.

Buildings were made from wood, straw and pitch (all of which caught fire easily)

Buildings were very close together

There was no electricity to light or heat homes, so fire was an essential part of life. It was used for heating, cooking and light.

Men and women were treated differently.

