

The Great Fire of London 1666—Autumn Year 2

When and where did the fire start?

The fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666.

Why did the fire spread?

It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily. Houses were built too close together and there was no organised fire brigade.

How did they fight the fire?

They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks. How did the fire stop? The fire burned for 4 days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.

How many people died?

6 people died as a result of the fire. Thomas Farriner's maid was the first person to die because she was too scared to jump from the burning building.



Key Vocabulary

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| Bakery | A place that makes bread, cakes, etc. |
| London | The capital city of England and the United Kingdom |
| St Paul's Cathedral | A very large church in London. A new St Paul's Cathedral was built after the fire. |
| Diary | A book that people write about their lives in. |
| Firebreak | A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings. |
| River Thames | Many people got a boat on the River Thames to escape the fire. |
| Eye-witness | A person who has seen something and can give a description of it |
| Embers | Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire |
| Fire-hooks | Giant hooks used to pull down houses. |

Key People



Samuel Pepys



Thomas Farriner



King Charles II

Samuel Pepys One of the ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.

Thomas Farriner An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.

King Charles II Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a law that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.

St. Paul's Cathedral before the fire.



St. Paul's cathedral nowadays, rebuilt after the fire.



Monday 3rd September 1666

The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

Tuesday 4th September 1666

St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.

Timeline of Events

Sunday 2nd September 1666

The fire starts at 1 a.m.

Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his **diary**.

Wednesday 5th September 1666

The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

Thursday 6th September 1666

The fire is finally put out.

Thousands of people are left homeless.