

# History - The Great Fire of London.



The famous 'Great Fire of London' started on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1666 in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane. The baker was called Thomas Farriner.

The fire lasted for 5 days.



In 1666, most of London's buildings were made from wood. They were also packed tightly together in narrow rows.



Fire services never used to exist so citizens had to try and put the fire out! They used leather buckets filled with water and axes.

After 'The Great' fire, more people were given jobs as fire fighters. There were lots of small teams of fire fighters at first. A man called Nicholas Barbon started 'The Fire Office' in London. Fire fighters were given a badge. If a fire started they were called to put it out. Today we have a national fire service. Everyone can call on them in an emergency.



Today both men and women can work in the emergency services.

Samuel Pepys recorded the events in his diary.



On Wednesday The Duke of York (the future King James II) ordered that houses be destroyed using gunpowder ahead of the fire to stop the fire from spreading even further. This plan succeeded and by Thursday, the fire had been extinguished.

## Vocabulary

**Samuel Pepys** - famous for the diary he kept for almost ten years. Because of this diary we now know lots of information about historical events and what life was like in 17<sup>th</sup> century London.

**Thomas Farriner** - his bakery on Pudding Lane was where the fire started.

**London** - London is the capital and largest city of England and the United Kingdom.

**River Thames** - is a river that flows through southern England including London.

**Chronological order** - ordering events in the sequence in which they happened.

**Century** - a period of a 100 years.

**Fire fighter** - someone that is trained in fighting fires.

**Emergency** - a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action.