

Timeline

2nd September 1666 - 1:30 am:	A fire starts in Thomas Farynor's bakery on Pudding Lane in the middle of the night. The fire probably came from the oven.
2nd September 1666 - 7 am	Samuel Pepys wakes up and finds out that the fire has already burnt down 300 houses!
3rd September 1666	People try to put the fire out using leather buckets of water and then by pulling down houses with fire hooks. They hope this will make a fire break but the fire keeps on spreading
4th September 1666	St Paul's Cathedral burns down.
6th September 1666	The Fire of London finally stops but many people are left homeless because their houses burnt down.

Great Fire of London 1666

The Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666 and lasted for 5 days. The weather in London was hot and it hadn't rained for 10 months. Houses in London were mainly built from wood, straw and pitch which are flammable, especially when it is dry. The houses were also very close together, so the fire could easily spread. People used fire to cook and for light.



The fire spread because:

- The materials the houses were made of were flammable
- The houses were very close together
The weather was very hot and dry
- There was a strong wind which helped the fire to spread

Key Vocab

Pitch	A tar like substance that protects wood from water damage
Bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold
Diary	A personal record of life's events
Eye witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it
Source of fire	Where it started
Evidence	Anything that you see, experience, read, or are told that causes you to believe that something is true or has really happened.
Source of evidence	Where the evidence came from
River Thames	The main river which runs through London
St. Paul's Cathedral	One of the largest churches in the world. It is located within the City of London on Ludgate Hill, the City's highest point
Firebreak	An area of land that has had plants, trees or buildings removed to stop the spread of a fire
Monarch	A person who reigns over a kingdom or empire
Monument	a structure (as a building, stone, or statue) made to keep alive the memory of a person or event

Samuel Pepys

Samuel started to write, around 1660, about the things he did and who he saw. He lived in London. Samuel's diary tells us about ordinary things, like going to the coffee house and what he ate for dinner.



He kept his diary safe because he didn't want other people to read it. Some of his diary was written in a secret code.

Samuel wrote about two of the most important events to happen in London. The things he wrote about help us to understand everyday life at that time and what living through them was really like.

First, there was the Great Plague of 1665, an illness which killed thousands of people living in the capital city of London.

Pepys also saw the Great Fire of London in 1666. It destroyed 13,000 houses. He wrote about how it started and of watching it spread, hoping his own things didn't catch fire.

His diary is one of most important sources of evidence about the fire.

How did they try to stop the fire?

Buildings were pulled down with fire hooks to create a fire-break
People used simple firefighting equipment, including buckets of water
The River Thames stopped the fire spreading to the south



What happened afterwards?

King Charles II decided he wanted to rebuild London and improve it

New rules were put in place that said buildings had to be made of stone and brick

The London Fire Brigade was set up

A monument was built to remember what happened and the people who died



London's Burning

London's burning, London's burning. Fetch the engines, fetch the engines. Fire Fire, Fire Fire! Pour on water, pour on water.



St. Paul's Cathedral