



What happened on your birthday?

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1 January

- 1752 Becomes the first day of the year in England
- 1772 First travellers cheques issued, in USA
- 1808 USA bans the import of slaves
- 1829 First full-page advertisement appears in a newspaper
- 1850 First picture postage stamps issued, in Australia
- 1875 Midland Railways abolished second class, leaving just first and third
- 1891 First old age pensions paid, in Germany
- 1909 Payment of first state old age pensions paid in Britain
- 1912 Post Office takes over National Telephone Company
- 1931 Third party insurance becomes compulsory for motorists
- 1939 Formation of Hewlett Packard
- 1947 Coalmines are nationalised
- 1948 Railways are nationalised
- 1960 France introduces new franc worth 100 old francs
- 1970 Age of majority is reduced from 21 to 18
- 1973 UK, Irish Republic and Denmark join the European Community
- 1984 American telephone company AT&T is broken into 24 companies
- 1993 European Union single market comes into existence
- 1999 Eleven states of European Union adopt the euro as their currency
- 2012 New 5p and 10p coins of nickel-plated steel are issued

2 January

- 1893 First commemorative postage stamps issued, in USA
- 1917 Royal Bank of Canada takes over Quebec Bank
- 1957 Merger of stock exchanges in San Francisco and Los Angeles
- 1974 Some museums introduce admission charges
- 1993 First "booze cruise" to France to buy drink at lower tax rates

3 January

- 1831 Formation of first building society in USA
- 1958 Netherlands nationalises its banks
- 1977 Roy Jenkins becomes President of the European Economic Community
- 1984 Launch of FT-SE 100 index with a base of 1000
- 1988 Margaret Thatcher becomes longest serving prime minister of 20th century

4 January

- 1910 First sitting of juvenile courts in Britain
- 1928 State pensions are increased to ten shillings (50p) a week
- 1936 US magazine Billboard publishes first charts of popular music
- 1965 Leo Fender sells his guitar company to CBS for \$13 million
- 1972 Hewlett Packard introduces the first hand-held calculator
- 1972 Rose Heilbron becomes the first woman High Court judge
- 1980 USA imposes a grain embargo on USSR
- 1999 Euro starts trading as a currency
- 2011 Rate of VAT rises to 20%

5 January

- 1066 Death of Edward the Confessor
- 1797 First top hat worn in London
- 1926 First payment of war widows' pensions
- 1930 Stalin declares that all Russian farms are collectives
- 1965 Prince William of Gloucester becomes first royal to enter commerce
- 2008 John Lafferty becomes Britain's first blind full-time judge

6 January

- 1908 Pearson family buy *The Times*
- 1916 House of Commons votes in favour of conscription
- 1974 First professional football matches played on a Sunday
- 1980 President Carter authorises \$1.2 billion in federal loans to save Chrysler
- 1992 Inland Revenue issues statement of practice SP1/92 on Lennartz accounting for VAT
- 2009 iTunes announces that 6 billion songs have been downloaded from its website

7 January

- 1782 Bank of North America starts trading, becoming the first US commercial bank
- 1909 Date of first pilot's licence in UK
- 1958 Chancellor and two Treasury ministers resign in protest at prime minister's spending plans
- 1964 Leyland Motor Corp defy US ban on Cuban trade by selling 450 buses
- 1965 Kray brothers are held in custody for demanding money with menaces
- 1993 Ford unveils the Mondeo
- 2011 David Chaytor, Labour MP, is imprisoned for falsifying his expenses

8 January

- 1889 Herman Hollreith is given first patent for an electric tabulating machine
- 1925 First time that there is a choice of radio programme: news or a weather report
- 1932 Archbishop of Canterbury forbids remarriage of divorcees in church
- 1940 First food rationing introduced in second world war

- 1982 AT&T is divested of its 22 Bell Systems companies in USA
- 1987 Dow Jones index tops 2000 for first time
- 1992 British Steel announces closure of Ravenscraig plant in Scotland
- 1996 Labour's women-only shortlists are ruled illegal

9 January

- 1799 Income tax is introduced in Britain as a temporary measure to raise funds to fight Napoleon
- 1934 Price of butter is reduced to 10d (4.2p) a pound
- 1957 First television detector van introduced
- 1965 Release of James Bond film *Goldfinger*
- 1973 Pop group Pink Floyd finishes recording *Money*
- 1975 Beatles dissolved as a partnership by the High Court
- 1986 Kodak discontinues instant cameras after losing patent case with Polaroid
- 2001 iTunes becomes available
- 2008 Death of John Harvey-Jones, chairman of ICI and business adviser
- 2011 Twitter bans celebrity endorsements of consumer products

10 January

- 1491 First copyright granted, for a work in Venice
- 1843 First telegram sent
- 1940 Pitman issues its first explanatory sheet for shorthand
- 1979 Prime minister Jim Callaghan flies back to Britain, denying there is any crisis
- 1990 Time Warner is created from a merger
- 2001 Wikipedia goes online

11 January

- 1569 Start of first recorded lottery in England, at west door of St Paul's Cathedral
- 1759 Formation of first life insurance company, in Pennsylvania
- 1858 Birth of Henry Selfridge, founder of department store
- 1917 Government issues war loan securities
- 1967 *Cathy Come Home* is shown on television, leading to rethink on homelessness
- 1989 Flotation announced for Abbey National
- 1993 British Airways pays Virgin £3 million for compensation for dirty tricks
- 2015 World leaders parade in Paris in *Je Suis Charlie* protest

12 January

- 1927 Government cuts the pay of postal workers
- 1948 First full-size supermarket opens in Britain, Co-op in Manor Park
- 1948 US Supreme Court orders Oklahoma to admit a black girl to law school
- 1959 Berry Gordy borrows \$800 to found Motown record company
- 1966 Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) declares independence from Britain
- 2010 First major criminal trial without a jury in 400 years: £1.75m hold-up at Heathrow

13 January

- 1913 First sickness and maternity benefits are paid from national insurance
- 1943 Government decrees that all school uniforms must be grey or blue, to save dye
- 1958 Civil servant Irene Ferguson becomes a man and gets an immediate pay rise
- 1976 Denis Healey asks IMF for a £1 bn loan
- 1994 Westminster Council's sale of council houses is held to be illegal

14 January

- 1941 Government takes sweeping powers to control food prices
- 1963 French leader Charles de Gaulle blocks UK membership of Common Market
- 1992 Bank of Credit and Commerce International goes into liquidation
- 2000 Dow Jones reaches a new peak of 11722.98 on height of dot.com mania
- 2012 Death of Lesley Strathie, chief executive of HMRC

15 January

- 1926 Board formed to co-ordinate electricity supplies in a grid
- 1957 Egypt nationalises all British and French banks
- 1967 Britain enters first round of talks to join European Community
- 1971 Decimal coins are introduced in UK
- 1971 High Court rules in *Bridge House (Reigate) Ltd* that extension of sewer is not plant. The decision is appealed
- 1971 High Court rules in *Philippi v CIR* on surtax avoidance. The case is appealed
- 2003 US Supreme Court case *Eldred v Ashcroft* on extension of copyright
- 2013 HMV Group goes into administration

16 January

- 1861 Otis is given a patent for a steam elevator
- 1863 President Lincoln signs Emancipation Bill freeing slaves in rebel states
- 1903 Exhibition shows first fully enclosed four-seater car
- 1913 Colour film is demonstrated in London
- 1917 Danish West Indies is sold to USA for \$25 million
- 1920 Inaugural meeting of League of Nations, boycotted by USA
- 1920 USA 18th amendment takes effect banning sale of liquor
- 1979 High Court rules that playing records in a shop is a copyright performance
- 1981 Greece joins EEC
- 1992 High Court rules in *Lewis v Walters* on when a lease is a wasting asset
- 2008 Start of lengthy litigation on the legality of bank charges
- 2013 UK branches of Blockbuster go into administration

17 January

- 1648 Long Parliament passes vote of no confidence in Charles I leading to civil war
- 1968 British Motor Corporation and Leyland announce merger to form British Leyland

- 1975 Closure of Imperial Typewriters
- 2000 Announcement of merger to form GlaxoSmithKlein
- 2011 Apple shares lose 7.5% value when Steve Jobs takes sick leave

18 January

- 1919 Formation of Bentley Motors
- 1923 German mark plunges to 112,000 for £1
- 1967 Premier of film *Fistful of Dollars*
- 1972 Completion of successful negotiations to join Common Market (later European Union)
- 1973 Eleven Clay Cross councillors are surcharged for not increasing council house rent
- 1991 Eastern Airlines closes after 62 years because of financial problems

19 January

- 1912 Merger agreed between London General Omnibus Company and London Underground Electric Railways
- 1932 Hoover decides to build a factory in Pinner, Middlesex
- 1976 Beatles turn down \$30 million offer to perform live
- 1986 Spread of first known computer virus, called Brian
- 1993 IBM announces then record for a corporate loss, \$4.97 billion
- 2012 Kodak files for bankruptcy under chapter 11 in USA

20 January

- 1934 Formation of Fuji Photo Film Co Ltd
- 1964 Trial starts of Great Train Robbers
- 1971 First strike by postmen
- 1972 Unemployed exceeds one million

21 January

- 1980 Gold reaches then record of \$850 an ounce
- 1981 First De Lorean car produced in Northern Ireland
- 2000 Court of Appeal rules that Equitable Life must pay same bonuses on all policies, forcing the company into insolvency

22 January

- 1889 Formation of Columbia Phonograph Company
- 1924 Labour party wins its first general election
- 1947 Meat ration is reduced from 1s 2d to 1 shilling a week
- 1974 Spain allows the peseta to float
- 1993 Eddie George is appointed Governor of the Bank of England
- 2013 Prime minister David Cameron announces plans for in/out referendum on EU

23 January

- 1964 USA ratifies 24th amendment prohibiting use of poll taxes in elections

- 1967 Milton Keynes is founded as a new town
- 1968 Birmingham law courts say they will dismiss staff who wear miniskirts
- 1977 Inland Revenue prepares a list of pop stars to investigate for tax
- 2002 Vodafone announces it has 100 million customers

24 January

- 1848 Gold is discovered in California
- 1869 Patent issued for an engine that runs on gas
- 1916 US Supreme Court rules that federal income tax is legal
- 1965 Death of British statesman Sir Winston Churchill
- 1984 First Apple Macintosh goes on sale
- 2012 National debt reported to have reached £1 trillion

25 January

- 1916 High Court rules in *Gresham Life Assurance Society Ltd v A-G* that an inspector cannot make an agreement on what income is taxable
- 1918 Meat is banned for two days a week as part of meat rationing
- 1921 First women jurors for a divorce trial are sworn in
- 1923 Germany attacks French troops seizing German assets as war reparations
- 1955 Government announces plans to pay women civil servants the same as men
- 1956 First television money price: £1,024 won on *Double Your Money*
- 1974 First major North Sea oil find announced by BP
- 1981 Four Labour politicians sign Limehouse Declaration leading to formation of SDP
- 2005 Bill Gates makes world record donation of \$750 million for vaccines for world's children

26 January

- 1788 First British convicts arrive in Australia
- 1920 High Court rules in *McLaughlin v Bailey* on the taxation of stud fees. The case went to the Court of Appeal.
- 1940 Women's groups meet government to demand equal pay for women munitions workers
- 1968 National Provincial and Westminster Banks merge to form National Westminster
- 1983 Release of Lotus 1-2-3 software for IBM-compatible computers
- 1995 Cadbury Schweppes buys Dr Pepper and Seven Up

27 January

- 1915 High court rules in *Gundry v Dunham* tax case. It goes to appeal
- 1916 Law is passed to introduce conscription
- 1930 Women civil servants vote in favour of compulsory retirement on marriage
- 1948 Doctors threaten to boycott new National Health Service
- 1970 High court rules in *General Reinsurance v Tomlinson* on taxation of reinsurance

28 January

- 1707 First paid-for advertisement in publication

- 1878 First full-time telephone operator starts work
- 1896 First conviction for speeding: C W Powell charged with exceeding 2 mph
- 1918 High Court rules in *Rotunda Hospital v Coman* that letting a room was trading. Upheld on appeal
- 1918 High Court rules in *Malcolm v Lockhart* that service fees for a stallion is a taxable trade
- 1998 Ford announces a buyout of Volvo

29 January

- 1728 First performance of Gay's *Beggar's Opera*
- 1841 Post Office starts selling postage paid envelopes
- 1886 Patent is given to Karl Benz for first successful petrol-driven car
- 1927 Opening of Park Lane Hotel, first hotel where each room has private bathroom
- 1963 General de Gaulle of France vetoes Britain joining Common Market
- 2012 Queen becomes Britain's longest reigning monarch

30 January

- 1649 Execution of king Charles I
- 1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany
- 1969 High Court bans 13 trouble makers from London School of Economics

31 January

- 1913 Court of Sessions rules in *Darngavil Coal Co v Francis* on tax allowability of hire purchase
- 1966 Britain bans trade with Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe)
- 1971 Radio licences are abolished
- 1983 Wearing seat belts becomes compulsory in Britain
- 1992 Trading floor of London Stock Exchange is used for last time
- 1994 BMW announces purchase of Rover cars
- 1995 President Clinton invokes emergency powers to make \$20 billion loan to Mexico
- 2006 Alan Greenspan retires as chairman of US Federal Reserve after 19 years
- 2011 Liverpool football club pays record £50 million to buy Fernando Torres
- 2012 Fred Goodwin, director of Royal Bank of Scotland, is stripped of his knighthood

1 February

- 1865 Abraham Lincoln signs 13th amendment abolishing slavery
- 1910 First labour exchanges open in Britain
- 1915 Passports require photographs
- 1923 France puts a cordon round Ruhr to stop Germany moving goods to avoid paying war reparations
- 1923 German mark plunges to £1 = 220,000 M
- 1944 Clothing restrictions relaxed, allowing turn-ups on trousers, lined pockets, double-breasted suits and pleated skirts
- 1949 Clothes rationing ends

- 1956 Birth of Inland Revenue clerk Lucy Irvine whose subsequent island sojourn with Gerald Kingsland is made into film *Castaway* where she is played by Amanda Donohoe
- 1973 Women are allowed on the floor of London Stock Exchange
- 1974 Great Train Robber Ronald Biggs is arrested
- 1984 Announced that the decimal halfpenny will be demonetised
- 2011 Citigroup gain control of record company HMV
- 2017 Death of Ken Morrison, son of supermarket founder

2 February

- 1880 First import of frozen meat into Britain
- 1942 Children are given free cod liver oil
- 1955 Government announces plans to build a motorway network
- 1998 Standard and Poors 500 index closes above 1000 for first time

3 February

- 1690 First paper money issued in USA, in Massachusetts
- 1942 Government rules that a suit must not cost more than £4 18s 8d
- 1983 Unemployed reaches record 3,224,715
- 1989 BT announces closure of chatlines after a 12-year old girl tried to kill herself after running up a £2,400 bill
- 2005 Aftah Ahmed becomes first person in Britain to be sentenced by mobile phone. He was given a community service for a bankruptcy offence. He was delayed in traffic

4 February

- 1918 Westminster Bank is formed when London County and Westminster take over Parr's Bank
- 1971 Rolls-Royce declares itself bankrupt and is subsequently nationalised
- 1974 Miners vote to strike, widely seen as ending Heath government

5 February

- 1921 Germany protests at reparations bill for first world war demanded by allies
- 1923 Lloyd's Bank takes over Cox's Bank
- 1953 End of sweet rationing
- 1958 It is announced that Mayfair will be the first street to have parking meters
- 1967 Dr Emil Savundra appears on David Frost show being frivolous about the crash of his insurance company. He is arrested five days later
- 1982 Lake Airways goes bust
- 1989 Launch of Sky Television
- 1996 Start of first privatised train service
- 2009 Bank base rate reduced to then record of 1.0%
- 2010 Three Labour MPs are charged with theft for their expense claims

6 February

- 1918 Royal Assent given to bill granting votes to wives aged 30, first women's votes
- 1952 Death of George VI. Accession of the Queen
- 1976 Lockheed admits it paid \$1.1 million to Prince Bernhard of Netherlands

7 February

- 1906 First Labour MPs elected to Parliament in general election
- 1924 Helena Normanton becomes first woman barrister to practise at Old Bailey
- 1934 Court of Appeal finds in favour of Duke of Westminster in tax avoidance case
- 1946 Re-introduction of food rationing
- 2002 Announced that the average house price in Britain is now more than £100,000

8 February

- 1933 Hoover starts selling carpet cleaners
- 1951 King George VI gets a 10% pay rise, first in his reign
- 1966 Start of Laker Airways
- 1988 First Red Nose Day held for Comic Relief

9 February

- 1909 Court rules that a woman is not entitled to a divorce when her husband leaves her
- 1927 Morris Motors buys Wolesley Motors
- 1937 Price of cheapest television set falls from 95 guineas to 60 guineas (£63)
- 1942 Introduction of soap rationing
- 1944 King George VI and Queen join miners for a one shilling lunch
- 1962 Stock exchange opens in Taiwan
- 1972 State of emergency declared as miners strike

10 February

- 1840 Marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert
- 1923 German central bank starts large-scale selling of gold in desperate effort to support mark
- 1942 First presentation of a gold disc, to Glenn Miller for *Chattanooga Choo Choo*
- 1966 Watney's increases price of beer by a penny to 1s 8d
- 1998 First conviction for hate crime in cyber space
- 2004 Coca-Cola starts selling Desani tap water. It is withdrawn after five weeks

11 February

- 1531 Henry VIII is recognised as supreme head of Church of England
- 1905 Prince and Princess of Wales attend Motor Show to help end prejudice against cars
- 1916 First concert by Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, first orchestra funded by tax
- 1974 Petrol prices rises to 52p a gallon
- 1993 Queen announces she will pay income tax

2010 Football manager Harry Redknapp appears in court on charges of tax evasion. He is acquitted

12 February

1937 Price of petrol rises by halfpenny to 1s 7d a gallon

1943 Creation of charity Nuffield Foundation

1969 High Court rules in *Jones v Shell Petroleum Co Ltd* on management expenses and double taxation relief. Case is appealed

1970 Court of Appeal rules in *B S C Footwear Ltd v Ridgway* on stock valuation. Case is appealed

2010 Court of Appeal upholds BA's decision to sack a Christian worker for wearing a cross

13 February

1914 Formation of American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) to collect royalties

1978 Anna Ford becomes Britain's first female newsreader

2012 Rangers Football Club goes into administration over unpaid tax

14 February

1924 Founding of computer company IBM

1929 Al Capone murders seven gangsters in Chicago

1946 IBM introduces first calculator with a memory

1980 Government halves benefits paid to strikers

2002 For first time, a robot presses the button to open New York Stock Exchange

2006 Britain agrees to droit de suite, royalty payment to artists

15 February

1916 Imports of paper and tobacco are banned

1928 Death of Herbert Asquith, prime minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer

1965 The Beatles record *Ticket to Ride*

1971 Britain adopts decimal currency

1980 Middle management of British Steel pass vote of no confidence in senior management

16 February

1659 First known cheque drawn on a British bank

1921 Unemployed benefit increased from 15 shillings to 18 shillings a week

1937 Britain halts all aid to Spain during its civil war

1937 Invention of nylon

1972 Start of miners strike, leading to confrontation with Heath government

2010 Robert Gaines-Cooper loses tax case in Court of Appeal about residence

17 February

1920 Police told they will be given cars to use

- 1972 Volkswagen produce 15,007,034th Beetle, beating Ford Model T record
- 1978 Inflation falls to 9.5%, first time in single figures for five years
- 2008 Government nationalises Northern Rock

18 February

- 1948 Doctors vote 85% against formation of National Health Service
- 1949 Millionth ton of food airlifted into Berlin during Soviet blockade
- 2011 New guidelines allow mixed race adoptions

19 February

- 1916 National Savings certificates go on sale
- 1964 Half a ton of Beatles wigs are exported from UK to USA
- 1968 Home Office launches campaign *Watch Out! There's A Thief About*
- 1973 Court of Appeal rules on *Turner v Follett* on tax liability of a gift of shares
- 1982 De Lorean cars goes into receivership
- 2009 Vantis is appointed joint receivers of Stanford International Bank Ltd. Non-payment for this work pushes Vantis into administration 16 months later

20 February

- 1896 First screening of a film before a paying audience
- 1939 Nylon stockings go on sale in US for \$1.15 a pair
- 1950 Government freezes all civil service wages
- 1951 Birth of Gordon Brown, British prime minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer
- 1968 Law passed to end free school milk, and increase national insurance
- 1969 Lloyd's of London says it will admit women members from 1970
- 1973 Court of Appeal rules in *Arranmore Investments* on error or mistake tax relief

21 February

- 1943 Birth of Paul Kirchhof, German tax expert
- 1956 Duke of Edinburgh launches his award scheme
- 1960 All businesses in Cuba are nationalised
- 1964 First issue of £10 notes since the war
- 2000 Jamelia issues record *Money*

22 February

- 1819 USA buys Florida from Spain
- 1879 Opening of Woolworth in USA, first mixed goods store. Nothing costs more than 5 cents
- 1881 Thomas Edison and Graham Bell form Oriental Telephone Company
- 1980 Israel announces the shekel will replace pound as currency

23 February

- 1883 Alabama becomes first US state to enact an antitrust law against monopolies
- 1916 Government asks wealthy families to release servants to fight in war

- 1924 Britain agrees to accept 5% of Germany's war reparations, rather than 26%
- 1954 IBM announces it has invented a transceiver capable of transmitting data down a telephone line
- 1995 Dow Jones index finishes above 4000 for first time

24 February

- 1865 Tennessee abolishes slavery
- 1902 London Post Office opens first public telephone exchange
- 1909 Formation of Hudson Motor Car Company
- 1938 First nylon product, toothbrushes, go on sale in UK
- 2010 Announced that there have been 10 billion downloads from iTunes

25 February

- 1913 USA introduces federal income tax
- 1915 Court of Sessions rules in *Grahamston Iron Co v Crawford* that a company cannot claim tax relief for trade association levy
- 1918 Meat, butter and margarine are rationed
- 1919 First tax on petrol, one cent a gallon in Oregon
- 1923 French occupy more of Rhine and tighten blockade to seize more German goods to pay war reparations
- 1928 First television licence granted, in USA
- 1946 Announced that London has only one week's supply of coal
- 1964 The Beatles record *Can't Buy Me Love*
- 1967 Birth of rogue trader Nick Leeson
- 1988 Government announces plans to privatise electricity companies
- 1994 Granada takes over Weekend Television in hostile bid

26 February

- 1829 Birth of Levi Strauss, American clothes designer
- 1918 Labour party commits itself to mass nationalisation
- 1993 Bomb goes off under World Trade Center, New York
- 1995 Barings Bank collapses because of losses by Nick Leeson
- 2002 System of congestion charging in London is approved

27 February

- 1900 Formation of Labour party
- 1976 Post Office ends Sunday collections and Saturday afternoon openings
- 2007 Stock markets fall in "Chinese correction" as China revises its growth figures

28 February

- 1919 Court of Appeal rules in *Rotunda Hospital v Coman* that letting of hall for entertainment by hospital was trading income. Upheld by House of Lords
- 1966 Cavern Club, Beatles home in Liverpool, closes with debts of £10,000

2007 Death of Charles Forte, English hotelier

29 February

1924 Second reading of bill to give votes to all women over 21

1936 President Roosevelt signs bill banning loans to countries at war

1 March

1943 USA rations shoes to three pairs a year to save leather

1947 International Monetary Fund comes into existence

1966 Announced that Britain will switch to decimal currency in 1971

1968 Law restricts rights of Commonwealth citizens to come to UK

2011 European Court says it is illegal to consider a person's sex for insurance premiums

2 March

1861 Serfdom is abolished in Russia

1925 Austria adopts the schilling as its currency

1972 Start of power cuts during miners strike

3 March

1884 US Supreme Court rules that paper money may be issued

1902 US Supreme Court rules that financial futures are illegal speculation

1916 Court of Appeal rules in *R v CIR ex parte Newmarket Division of Suffolk* that an under-age jockey could be personally assessed for income tax

1918 Russia signs peace deal, surrendering territory and paying reparations

1923 French occupy ports of Mannheim to keep German goods to pay war reparations

1938 Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia

1942 Board of Trade bans long skirts, turn-ups, sleeve buttons and double-breasted coats to save cloth during war

1943 King George VI is discovered working in a munitions factory

1964 Beeching Report announces mass closure of railway lines

1971 Court of Appeal rules in *Lupton v Cadogan Gardens Development Ltd* on entitlement to leased assets

1988 Liberal Democrats formed from merger of SDP and Liberal parties

4 March

1763 First known printed cheque

1927 Price of a four pound loaf of bread is reduced to nine pence.

1945 Princess Elizabeth (now Queen) starts wartime work as an army driver

1955 Burnham Committee recommends that women teachers are paid same as men

1967 First North Sea gas is pumped ashore

1968 Clearance of first British cheque written in decimal currency

- 1971 High Court rules in *Hasloch v CIR* on tax on bonus issue of shares with redemption of preference shares
- 1971 Rolling Stones announce they are moving to France to avoid high UK tax rates
- 1972 First football pools win of more than £500,000

5 March

- 1885 First performance by Stock Exchange Orchestra and Choral Society
- 1923 USA introduces its first old age pensions
- 1933 President Roosevelt declares a bank holiday and freezes financial transactions to try to end depression
- 1942 Civil service removes pencil sharpeners for wartime saving on pencils
- 1971 High Court rules in *CIR v Anderson* on whether life assurance policy has been varied
- 1971 High Court rules in *Restorick v Baker* on family allowances
- 1976 Value of pound falls below \$2 for first time
- 1989 Time Inc and Warner Communications announce merger plans
- 2012 Allen Standord found guilty of £7 billion fraud

6 March

- 1926 Birth of Alan Greenspan, American economist
- 1930 First retail sales of frozen foods, in USA
- 1933 US banks ordered to close while they are examined for liquidity
- 1984 Start of miners strike, that leads to bitter confrontation
- 1987 Car ferry *Herald of Free Enterprise* capsizes at Zeebrugge

7 March

- 1916 Founding of BMW motor company
- 1918 In Russia, Bolsheviks change name to Communist party
- 1936 German troops enter Rhineland in defiance of Versailles Treaty
- 1946 British Medical Association sets up a fund to fight proposals for National Health Service
- 1971 Postal strike ends, after 47 days
- 1988 Bank of England ends attempt to peg sterling to deutschmark

8 March

- 1921 Allied troops occupy Germany in effort to enforce collection of reparations
- 1946 Bananas arrive in Britain for first time since 1939
- 1974 End of three-day working week ordered by Heath government
- 2011 Teacher Steve Whiteley wins £1.4 million with £2 stake in largest Tote pay-out

9 March

- 1973 Court of Session rules in *MacTaggart Scott & Co Ltd v CIR* on a shortfall in a distribution
- 1989 Archbishop Marcinkus is sacked as head of scandal-ridden Vatican Bank
- 2000 Creation of Nupedia, which becomes Wikipedia

10 March

- 1495 First known mention of marmalade, on a cargo list
- 1876 First telephone conversation: Alexander Graham Bell calls in his assistant Thomas Watson
- 1916 Government calls for less extravagance in women's clothing as part of war effort
- 1935 Hitler renounces Versailles Treaty
- 1944 Government issues proposals to allow women to continue teaching after marriage
- 1981 Budget that raises taxes during recession, defying Keynesian theory
- 1993 Death of Cyril Northcote Parkinson, creator of Parkinson's Law

11 March

- 1901 Start of first regular haulier business
- 1916 Birth of Harold Wilson, British prime minister
- 1919 Allies agree temporary food relief to stop Germans starving
- 1940 Start of meat rationing
- 1985 Mohammed al-Fayed buys Harrods store
- 1988 English pound notes cease to be legal tender
- 2010 Three Labour MPs, Elliot Morley, David Chaytor and Jim Devine, appear in court on theft charges relating to their expenses
- 2011 Paul Di'Anno, former lead singer of Iron Maiden, sent to prison for nine months for falsely claiming £45,000 in benefits

12 March

- 1830 US Supreme Court rules that state loan certificates are unlawful
- 1933 Some US banks are allowed to reopen after six days' examination for liquidity
- 1935 House of Lords starts to hear appeal in *Duke of Westminster v Inland Revenue* on tax avoidance
- 1970 First time 18-year olds vote in British election: by-election in Bridgwater
- 1971 High court rules in *Beattie v Jenkinson* on taxation of short-term gains
- 1979 Start of European Monetary System, precursor to euro
- 1993 BBC scraps soap opera *El Dorado*
- 2010 Accountants PwC qualify accounts of Blockbuster as a going concern

13 March

- 1918 School leaving age is raised to 14
- 1921 House of Lords rules in *R v CIR re Dr Barbado's* on charity's claim to relief on investment income when that investment was passed to resolve dispute with next of kin
- 1947 Government bans midweek sport to boost productivity
- 1961 White fivers cease to be legal tender
- 1973 High court rules in *United Friendly Insurance Co Ltd v Eady* on when expenses relief may be claimed
- 1986 The Sun headline: Freddie Starr ate my hamster. He hadn't

14 March

- 1489 Queen of Cyprus sells her kingdom to Venice
- 1934 Prices of eggs falls to 6d a dozen, lowest price since 1914
- 1938 Germany invades Austria
- 1940 Glenn Miller pays just \$4.88 income tax, explaining many musicians owe him money
- 1984 Abolition of tax relief for life assurance premiums

15 March

- 1812 Luddites attack wool processing plant in West Yorkshire
- 1900 USA joins the gold standard
- 1909 Opening of first branch of Selfridge's
- 1927 Price of petrol falls to 1s 4½ a gallon
- 1933 Hitler proclaims the Third Reich
- 1949 Clothes rationing ends
- 1972 High court rules in *Macpherson v Hall* on identification rules for taxing short-term gains
- 1972 High court rules in *McMann v Shaw* on taxation of compensation for loss of office
- 1975 Death of shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis
- 2012 European court rules that dentist need not pay copyright on background music

16 March

- 1888 First recorded sale of a motor car
- 1904 First issue of a book of postage stamps
- 1917 Abdication of Tsar of Russia
- 1958 Bishop of Woolwich says that mothers who work are enemies of family life
- 1963 Death of Lord Beveridge, who wrote report to reform welfare state

17 March

- 1337 Creation of first dukedom: Edward made Duke of Cornwall
- 1703 First illustrated advertisement in a British newspaper: for chocolate
- 1845 Patent issued for rubber band
- 1931 State of Nevada legalises gambling
- 1942 Government announces fuel rationing
- 1952 Government Utility scheme for consumer goods ends
- 1960 New £5 note goes into circulation
- 1971 BBC and Performing Rights Society go to copyright tribunal in dispute on fees
- 1992 HSBC formally agrees takeover of Midland Bank
- 2010 Sian Williams offers to read BBC News in the nude after losing a case for tax relief on clothing

18 March

- 1858 Birth of Rudolf Diesel, German motor inventor
- 1915 Government calls up women to work in factories while men are fighting
- 1926 Cash on delivery parcel service is introduced

- 1949 Eire proclaims itself the Republic of Ireland
- 1963 Performing Right Society fixes copyright fee for bingo at 15p a session
- 1968 US Congress repeals provision requiring banks to have a gold reserve
- 1980 Margaret Thatcher says Britain will withhold Britain's VAT payments if EEC does not agree budget rebate
- 1999 First Internet downloads offered, by a French company
- 2003 Government recognises British Sign Language as an official language
- 2008 Details are published of Paul McCartney's £24 million divorce from Heather Mills

19 March

- 1850 Founding of American Express
- 1940 First known prosecution for ration busting. Woman fined £75 for buying 140 weeks' worth of sugar
- 1941 Government orders mass production of vegetable sausages sold at 8d a pound
- 1945 Hitler orders destruction of German infrastructure
- 1973 High court rules in *Clark v Follett* whether land sale was a trade
- 2005 Death of John De Lorean, car maker
- 2017 Prime minister gives two years' notice that Britain is leaving the EU

20 March

- 1602 Issue of first known share certificate: Dutch East India Company
- 1715 Ordered that the salary of composer Bach at Weimar should be the same as the Kappellmeister
- 1819 Burlington Arcade opens in London
- 1935 House of Lords finishes hearing case *Duke of Westminster v Inland Revenue* on tax avoidance scheme
- 1937 Announced that new coinage for George VI will include a 12-sided threepence
- 1946 Women are allowed to become diplomats provided they do not marry
- 1976 Kidnapped heiress Patty Hearst is found guilty of bank robbery with her kidnapers
- 1991 Michael Jackson is paid \$18 million advance for his album *Dangerous*

21 March

- 1916 Imports of pianos, motors and spirits are banned as wartime measure
- 1923 Scientists say that smoking is healthy as nicotine forms anti-bacterial agents
- 1934 High court gives its ruling on *Duke of Westminster v Inland Revenue* on tax avoidance

22 March

- 1765 Stamp Act imposes stamp duty on American colonies
- 1851 First known advertisement for stamp collectors
- 1972 House of Lords rules in *Helical Bar Ltd* on tax consequences of a change of accounting date
- 1972 House of Lords rules in *Pearlberg v Varity* that there was no injustice in issuing a tax assessment when the taxpayer can appeal against them

- 1973 Counter-Inflation Act becomes law
- 2003 Start of US and UK invasion of Iraq

23 March

- 1857 First escalator installed in a department store, in New York
- 1923 Irish Free State imposes 33.3% duty on British goods
- 1971 High Court rules in *Owen v Burden* on tax allowability of attending a conference. Decision was appealed
- 1992 Death of Friedrich Hayek, Austrian economist

24 March

- 1603 Accession of James VI of Scotland as James I of England on death of Elizabeth I
- 1920 Court of Appeal rules in tax case *Beford College v Guest*
- 1922 Birth of Theo Albrecht, founder of Aldi supermarkets
- 1926 Opening of first Safeway store, in Maryland
- 1947 Birth of English entrepreneur Alan Sugar
- 1955 Judge criticises Musicians Union for banning musicians playing for less than full fee for prompting bankruptcy of bandleader Harry Bence
- 1977 Liberals agree a pact to keep Labour government in power
- 1981 Great train robber Ronnie Biggs is kidnapped from Brazil

25 March

- 1300 Date that Dante descends to the Inferno in *The Divine Comedy*
- 1751 Last occasion that this date was the first day of the year
- 1807 First occasion that passengers pay a fare to travel on a train
- 1920 Court of Appeal rules in *Pole Carew v Craddock* that a tax exemption granted in 1790 could be applied to income tax
- 1957 Formation of European Economic Community (EEC)
- 1970 High Court rules in *Shell Petroleum Co Ltd v Carr* on overspill relief
- 2013 European Union agrees a \$10 billion bail-out for Cyprus

26 March

- 1885 First legal cremation in Britain, unknown woman at Woking
- 1928 Then record number of 5 million shares traded on New York Stock Exchange
- 1939 First commercial oil find in Britain, Eakring in Nottinghamshire
- 1945 Death of David Lloyd George, British prime minister
- 1969 High Court rules in *Thomson v Gurneville Securities Ltd* on dividend stripping. Case is appealed
- 2005 Death of James Callaghan, British prime minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer

27 March

- 1912 Birth of James Callaghan, British prime minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer
- 1948 Cheese ration is cut by half an ounce to 1½ ounces a week

- 1961 First women traffic wardens start work, in Leicester
- 1964 Conviction of Great Train Robbers
- 1968 High Court rules in *Lupton v FA & AB Ltd* on dividend stripping. Case is appealed
- 1972 High Court rules in *Bamford v ATA Advertising* on tax allowability for money stolen by a director
- 1972 High Court rules in *Lucas v Cattell* on tax allowability for home telephone
- 1995 Murder of Maurizio Gucci, Italian fashion businessman

28 March

- 1933 Hitler orders Germans to boycott Jewish shops
- 1944 Government votes to give women teachers the same pay as men
- 1964 Radio Caroline starts broadcasting as first pirate radio station
- 1965 American civil rights march where Martin Luther King makes *I Have A Dream* speech
- 1972 High Court rules in *Coren v Keighley* on netting off consideration for land
- 1973 High Court rules in *Redditch Electro-Plating Co Ltd v Ferrebe* on whether payment to partners was directors' remuneration
- 1979 Labour government loses vote of confidence and resigns

29 March

- 1871 Opening of Royal Albert Hall, London
- 1939 End of Spanish civil war with Franco as leader
- 1940 Metal strips introduced into Bank of England pound notes
- 1968 Rolls-Royce wins £150 million order for RB2-11 engines from Lockheed. It leads to collapse of both companies
- 1971 High Court rules in *Ball v Johnson* that an employer prize for passing an examination is a taxable benefit
- 1972 High Court rules in *James v Pope* on wilful default for tax
- 1988 Plans are announced for skyscrapers at Canary Wharf
- 1993 William Foust is sacked for fiasco when Hoover offer free flights to USA in marketing
- 1999 Dow Jones index exceeds 10,000 for first time
- 2010 Alistair Darling, Vince Cable and George Osborne take part in Radio 4 debate for chancellor and shadow chancellors

30 March

- 1971 High Court rules in *Clayton v Gothorp* on tax for discharge of employee loan
- 2002 Death of Queen Mother
- 2012 George Galloway defies 200-1 odds to win by-election for Respect party

31 March

- 1911 Bill introduced to limit shopworkers to 60 hours a week
- 1924 Formation of Imperial Airways, first national British airline
- 1946 Reported that 10 million radio licences have been issued
- 1957 End of diesel rationing

- 1986 Greater London Council abolished
- 1990 Massive poll tax demonstration in Trafalgar Square

1 April

- 1680 Issue of first prepaid postage stamps, penny stamps in London
- 1918 Formation of Royal Air Force
- 1930 Abolition of Poor Law guardians
- 1933 Nazi government of Germany seizes bank accounts of all Jews
- 1938 Britain renounces treaty to resume building battleships
- 1947 Public Morality Council says artificial insemination is adultery
- 1947 School leaving age raised to 15
- 1948 Nationalisation of electricity industry
- 1949 Opening of Tokyo Stock Exchange
- 1966 Formation of British Airports Authority
- 1966 Labour wins general election giving Harold Wilson a bigger majority
- 1971 Britain lifts all restrictions on citizens owning gold
- 1971 High Court rules in *Thurgood v Slarke* on nature of neglect in tax
- 1973 Value added tax is introduced
- 1974 Many councils disappear in major reform of local authorities
- 1989 Charges introduced for eye tests
- 1989 Community charge (poll tax) is introduced in Scotland
- 1998 Stradivarius violin sells for £947,500, then record for a musical instrument
- 1999 Death of Jesse Stone, who wrote song *Money Honey*
- 2005 London congestion charge rises from £5 to £8

2 April

- 1792 Establishment of United States mint
- 1919 Court of Appeal rules in *Williams v Singer* on taxation of overseas income of UK trust paid to non-resident beneficiary. Case is appealed
- 1976 British Rail sacks 27 employees for refusing to join a trade union
- 1987 Britain gives Japan three weeks to open financial markets to Britain or it will expel Japanese banks

3 April

- 1860 Start of Pony Express in USA
- 1930 Announcement of merger between Rover, Lanchester and Standard car companies
- 1947 Formation of private medical company BUPA
- 1948 President Truman approves Marshall Plan for \$5 billion aid to 16 countries
- 1998 Dow Jones Index exceeds 9,000 for first time
- 2000 Microsoft is found to have breached antitrust law in dealings with competitors

4 April

- 1812 President Madison imposes 90-day ban on US trade with UK

- 1877 First permanent installation of a telephone line, in Massachusetts
- 1949 Formation of NATO
- 1950 Customs search transatlantic liner in Liverpool and find it full of nylon stockings
- 1968 Assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King
- 1975 Founding of Microsoft

5 April

- 1834 *The Times* report that trade unions are boycotting Watney's brewery because it will not employ trade unionists
- 1966 Shell announces a significant oil discovery off Great Yarmouth
- 1976 Death of Howard Hughes, reclusive millionaire
- 1992 Death of Sam Walton, founder of Wal Mart
- 2010 Apple iPod goes on sale

6 April

- 1865 Founding of German chemical company BASF
- 1909 First credit unions formed, in USA
- 1917 USA joins first world war
- 1944 Introduction of Pay As You Earn (PAYE)
- 1948 Increase in tax on investment income
- 1955 Anthony Eden becomes prime minister
- 1960 Dr Beeching asked to look at UK railway system
- 1988 Abolition of Schedule B income tax, and housekeeper allowance
- 1989 Abolition of dock labour scheme, introduced in 1947
- 1990 Introduction of separate taxation of wives
- 1996 Abolition of Schedule C income tax
- 2010 Employment tribunal holds that a Christian nurse was fairly dismissed for wearing a cross

7 April

- 1770 Birth of William Wordsworth, poet and tax surveyor
- 1739 Death of Dick Turpin, highwayman
- 1860 Birth of Will Keith Kellogg, founder of breakfast cereal company
- 1891 Death of P T Barnum, American showman
- 1924 First defeat of first Labour government, on rent restrictions
- 1930 AA issues its millionth badge
- 1938 Nazi government of Germany seizes Rothschild Bank
- 1941 Wartime budget raises basic rate of income tax to 50%
- 1947 Death of Henry Ford, US car maker
- 1948 Founding of World Health Organisation
- 1986 Amstrad buys the rights to Sinclair Computers
- 2005 MG Rover car company goes into receivership

8 April

- 1801 Opening of first shop with plate glass window
- 1895 US Supreme Court holds that unapportioned income tax is unconstitutional
- 1908 Harvard University decides to form Harvard Business School
- 1933 Germany orders all non-Aryan officials to retire
- 1943 USA bans changing jobs, and increasing prices or wages, as a wartime measure
- 1985 Rupert Murdoch buys 25% of Twentieth Century Fox film company

9 April

- 1902 Incorporation of London Underground Electric Railway Company
- 1969 Sikh workers win right to wear turbans rather than hard hats on building sites
- 1992 Conservatives under John Major win general election
- 2002 National Lottery is rebranded as Lotto
- 2010 Petrol reaches 120p a litre

10 April

- 1710 Introduction of first copyright law in Britain
- 1919 High Court rules in *College of Preceptors v Jenkins*
- 1992 IRA explodes bomb at Baltic Exchange
- 2001 Tesco becomes first supermarket with annual takings above £1 billion

11 April

- 1855 First pillar boxes in London
- 1919 High Court rules in *Cowan v Seymour* on tax of payment to company secretary who acted as liquidator. Went to appeal
- 1954 Most boring day of 20th century according to an analysis of news events
- 1972 Roy Jenkins resigns as Labour deputy leader in protest at European referendum
- 1989 Members of Abbey National vote in favour of conversion to bank

12 April

- 1908 Asquith becomes prime minister
- 1921 Ford announces it is now making one million cars a year
- 1943 Purchase tax raised to 100% on luxury items
- 1989 Hundreds of jars of Heinz baby food is removed when glass is found in one
- 2009 Marks and Spencer reduces its 90-day return policy to 35 days

13 April

- 1919 Price of petrol rises to 3s 6d a gallon
- 1921 Lloyd's takes over Fox, Fowler & Co, the last English bank allowed to issue banknotes
- 1973 Court of Appeal rules in *R v Patel* on implications of a forged document in a tax case

14 April

- 1899 Registration of world's oldest number plate, issued in Munich as 1

- 1912 Sinking of *Titanic* during night of 14/15 April
- 1931 First issue of *Highway Code*
- 1934 In Italy, Mussolini cuts salaries of bachelors, and increases their tax by 50%
- 1991 Dow Jones index closes above 3000 for the first time

15 April

- 1793 First issue of Bank of England £5 notes
- 1892 Founding of General Electric Company
- 1919 High Court rules in *Turton v O'Brien*
- 1923 First public showing of moving pictures to a paying audience
- 1929 Copyright in *Peter Pan* is donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital
- 1942 As a wartime measure, embroidery is banned on women's underwear and nightwear
- 1947 Packet of 20 cigarettes price increased in Budget from 2s 4d to 3s 4d
- 1964 Ronald Biggs is found guilty of Great Train Robbery

16 April

- 1919 Court of Appeal rules in *Earl Howe v CIR* that life assurance premiums are not annual payments
- 1970 Newly formed National Westminster Bank starts trading
- 1971 Actress Penny Brahms contests husband's will in which she is leaving one shilling and four nude photographs of herself
- 2010 Goldman Sachs is charged with \$1 billion fraud

17 April

- 1956 Premium bonds are announced
- 1958 First parking tickets are issued
- 1986 Treaty formally ends war between Netherlands and Scilly Isles of 1651

18 April

- 1932 Introduction of business reply-paid envelopes
- 1949 Bob-A-Job week introduced by scouts
- 1968 London Bridge is sold to an American tycoon for £1 million

19 April

- 1661 Introduction of postmarks
- 1933 USA leaves gold standard
- 1967 Formal deed of partnership is executed for The Beatles

20 April

- 1937 Budget introduces national defence contributions, a new tax
- 1939 Government announces plans for a new Ministry of Supply
- 1952 Cheese ration is cut to one ounce a week

21 April

- 753 BC Founding of Rome
- 1926 Birth of The Queen
- 1947 Government says retailers must replace bad eggs given in rations
- 2010 Pearl and Dean, cinema advertising company, is sold for £1

22 April

- 1662 Formation of Royal Society
- 1833 First bus service by a mechanical vehicle
- 1864 USA mints first \$2 coin
- 1918 Abolition of penny post
- 1980 Unemployed reaches 1½ million

23 April

- 1850 Death of William Wordsworth, poet and tax collector
- 1924 Issue of first commemorative postage stamp, for Great Exhibition
- 1940 Purchase tax introduced as temporary wartime measure. Replaced by VAT in 1973
- 1968 First issue of decimal 5p and 10p coins
- 1983 First issue of £1 coins

24 April

- 1947 Government bans use of coal and gas fires until September
- 1975 Government gives £1.4 billion to British Leyland, nationalised car maker
- 1975 Unemployed reaches 1 million for first time
- 1981 IBM launches first personal computer
- 1990 Michael Milken pleads guilty to six offences relating to junk bonds

25 April

- 1901 New York becomes the first territory to require cars to have number plates
- 1928 First occasion that the Budget is broadcast
- 1938 First football pools
- 1943 Easter occurs on the last possible date. It will next happen in 2038
- 1946 Loaves are reduced by four ounces and brewing by 15% to save grain
- 1948 Milk ratio is increased from 2½ pints to 3½ pints a week
- 2012 Britain officially slips into double dip recession

26 April

- 1938 Income tax is raised to 5 shillings in the pound
- 1948 Introduction of GCE as new school exam
- 1956 Archbishop of Canterbury says premium bonds “debase the nation’s spiritual currency”
- 1971 Royal Ascot allows women to wear hot pants provided the overall effect is “satisfactory”
- 2010 Customers awarded £20 million in damages for burns from sofas made in China

27 April

- 1937 Golden Gate Bridge opens in San Francisco
- 1944 Government bans all overseas travel
- 1972 Five of Oxford's 24 all-male colleges agree to admit women
- 1992 Betty Boothroyd becomes first woman speaker of House of Commons
- 2003 Major Ingram and Tecwen Whitlock are found guilty of cheating on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*

28 April

- 1789 Captain Bligh and 17 men colonise Pitcairn Island after mutiny on The Bounty
- 1920 Court of Appeal rules in *McLaughlin v Bailey* on taxation of stallion fees
- 1925 Britain rejoins the gold standard
- 1947 Television and radio programmes resume after two months restriction to save energy
- 1961 Announced that Britain has applied to join European Common Market
- 2003 Launch of iTunes paid-for music download service
- 2004 Dixons announces closure of third of its shops because of poor sales

29 April

- 1874 Formation of Cremation Society to legalise cremation of human remains
- 1909 Lloyd George introduces controversial People's Budget, imposing taxes on landowners
- 1993 Lloyd's insurance market announces radical reorganisation after £6 billion in losses

30 April

- 1925 Formation of Distillers whisky group
- 1927 Opening of International Tobacco Exhibition in London; surgeons say no risk in smoking
- 1935 Price of petrol rises to 1s 6d a gallon
- 1945 Hitler commits suicide
- 1962 Comedian Peter Cook bails out *Private Eye* from financial difficulties

1 May

- 1707 Scotland and England unite as Great Britain
- 1876 Queen Victoria is declared Empress of India
- 1930 Cotton industry says it has been hit by declining sales of petticoats
- 1940 Postage for letters increased to 2½d (about 1p)
- 1949 Nationalisation of gas industry
- 1952 TWA introduces tourist class on airline. Other airlines follow
- 1961 Betting shops are made legal
- 2004 Ten states join European Union simultaneously

2 May

- 1670 Formation of Hudson Bay Company
- 1711 Authorised Version of the Bible goes on sale for ten shillings
- 1917 King asks citizens to eat a quarter less bread and avoid flour in pastry to help war effort

- 1918 General Motors acquires Chevrolet Motor Company
- 1933 Germany bans trade unions
- 1967 Government announces that Britain will apply again to join European Common Market
- 1990 In largest mugging, Nicholas Lane is robbed of bearer bonds worth £292 million
- 1997 Labour wins general election. Tony Blair becomes prime minister

3 May

- 1943 All women aged between 18 and 45 are ordered to do part-time work
- 1961 Estate agent Suzy Lamplugh disappears in London. She was presumed dead in 1994
- 1996 Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance insurance companies announce merger
- 2000 Datapoint, pioneering computer company files for bankruptcy
- 2012 Aviva shareholders vote against plans for a £2.7 million pay deal for executives

4 May

- 1896 First edition of *Daily Mail*
- 1904 Charles Roll and Henry Royce agree to start making cars
- 1916 Government extends conscription to married men
- 1926 Start of general strike
- 1966 Doctors given pay rise to £4,000 a year
- 1971 Court of Appeal rules in *Bridge House (Reigate) Ltd v Hiner* that extension of a sewer is not plant
- 2001 Merger agreed between Halifax and Bank of Scotland to form HBOS

5 May

- 1700 William Penn starts monthly meetings for black people seeking emancipation
- 1908 US judge rules that moving pictures are within copyright law
- 1971 1½ million workers protest against Industrial Relations Act
- 1971 House of Lords rules in *Jones v Shell Petroleum Co Ltd* on management expenses and double taxation relief
- 1975 Radio-controlled beepers become available
- 1980 SAS storm Iranian embassy in London to free 20 hostages
- 2000 Ken Livingstone is elected first (independent) mayor of London
- 2005 Labour wins general election for unprecedented third time

6 May

- 1569 First recorded lottery in England: at west door of St Paul's Cathedral
- 1840 First sale of adhesive postage stamps for general use: penny blacks
- 1910 Death of Edward VII and accession of George V
- 1953 Birth of Tony Blair, Scottish born British prime minister
- 1960 US Civil Rights Act is signed into law
- 1965 Parliament votes to nationalise the steel industry
- 1971 High Court rules in *Horton v Young* on taxation of travel from home to work
- 1994 Opening of Channel Tunnel
- 1997 Bank of England is given authority to set interest rates

- 1999 First elections for Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly
- 2010 General election leads to coalition government. David Cameron becomes prime minister

7 May

- 1840 Start of first known stamp collection
- 1908 Budget introduces first old age pensions at 5 shillings (25p) a week
- 1935 House of Lords finds in favour of Duke of Westminster in tax avoidance case
- 1945 Germany unconditionally surrenders
- 1956 Health minister refuses to condemn smoking as he does not believe it is harmful
- 1973 Release of Pink Floyd's record *Money*
- 1998 Apple Computers unveil the iMac

8 May

- 1660 Parliament declares that Charles II is king as it restores monarchy
- 1886 First production of Coca Cola
- 1945 Formal end to war in Europe
- 1947 Death of Henry Selfridge, founder of department store
- 1961 Tony Benn is banned from Commons because of his inherited peerage
- 2007 Dixons and other stores say they will no longer sell cassettes
- 2007 Power devolved in Northern Ireland with Ian Paisley as first minister

9 May

- 1671 Thomas Blood dresses as a clergyman and tries to steal crown jewels
- 1800 Birth of John Brown, anti-slavery campaigner
- 1896 First British motor show: Horseless Carriage Exhibition in London
- 1949 Opening of first self-service laundrette in Britain
- 1951 Government agrees reduction in age for old age pension from 70 to 65 for men, and from 65 to 60 for women
- 1972 House of Lords rules in *Fleming v Associated Newspapers* on tax allowability of entertaining
- 1992 United Nations adopts convention on climate change
- 1996 Dame Shirley Porter and five officers from Westminster Council surcharged £31.6 million
- 2010 Harrods is sold for £1.5 billion
- 2012 Clinton's Cards goes into administration

10 May

- 1774 Louis XIV becomes King of France
- 1869 Formation of first UK bicycle company: Coventry Machinists Co
- 1908 First known occasion that Mothers Day is observed in church
- 1922 Dr Ivy Williams becomes first woman barrister
- 1940 Winston Churchill succeeds Neville Chamberlain as prime minister
- 1943 First British air hostesses start work

- 1967 Road Safety Act becomes law. It introduces breath tests
- 1975 Beatles' company Apple Records is dissolved
- 2007 Tony Blair announces his resignation as prime minister

11 May

- 1931 Bankruptcy of Austria's largest bank, Creditanstalt. Triggers financial crisis
- 1938 Price of refrigerators is reduced to £22
- 1946 Government sets up special team to deal with backlog of 50,000 servicemen divorces
- 2000 One billionth person on planet is born, it is estimated
- 2010 David Cameron becomes prime minister

12 May

- 1926 End of general strike
- 1935 Founding of Alcoholics Anonymous
- 1971 Court of Appeal case *Fleming v Associated Newspapers* on entertaining expenses. Case is appealed
- 1999 Scottish Parliament sits for the first time
- 2003 Maximum holding of premium bonds increases from £20,000 to £30,000
- 2005 Malcolm Glazer acquires Manchester United for £790 million
- 2010 George Osborne becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer

13 May

- 1680 First fire insurance policies issued in Britain
- 1865 Last battle in American civil war
- 1913 Oxford University offers a diploma in business studies
- 1920 House of Lords rules in *Rotunda Hospital v Coman* held that a hospital was trading for tax purposes when it let a building for entertainment
- 1942 Government postpones plans for fuel rationing in face of protests
- 1966 Kinks record *Sunny Afternoon* about a man who loses his property to the taxman
- 1993 Britain abandons income-related fines for criminal offences
- 2010 First open hearing in Court of Protection

14 May

- 1931 Bank of England reduces lending rate to 2.5%, lowest for 22 years
- 1939 Sam Goldwyn buys out Charlie Chaplin and others to control United Artists film studio
- 1948 State of Israel comes back into existence
- 1955 Formation of Warsaw Pact by eight Communist states
- 1957 End of emergency petrol rationing
- 1969 Court of Appeal rules in *Lupton v FA & AB Ltd* on dividend stripping. Case is appealed
- 1975 Frank Sinatra wins libel case against BBC for allegations linking him to the mafia
- 1984 Australia introduces the one dollar coin
- 2009 *Question Times* has record audience of 3.8 million when all questions were about MPs' expenses and the MPs were openly booed and jeered

15 May

- 1252 Pope Innocent IV authorises the torture of heretics
- 1911 US Supreme Court orders the break-up of Standard Oil in an antitrust case
- 1930 First air hostesses start work, in Iowa, USA
- 1939 Theatre managers agree with Equity trade union to pay actors £2 10s a week
- 1952 Meat ration increased to 1s 2d a week
- 1973 Prime minister Edward Heath makes “unacceptable face of capitalism” speech about Lonrho
- 2011 Dominique Strauss-Kahn, IMF chairman, is arrested for alleged sex with a chambermaid

16 May

- 1843 Licence issued for first telegram service
- 1928 Panic selling at start of Wall Street Crash
- 1952 House of Commons votes in favour of equal pay for women
- 1967 French President de Gaulle vetoes British membership of European Common Market for a second time
- 1972 Chancellor of the Exchequer says that Customs cannot distinguish between a child’s skirt and a miniskirt for tax purposes
- 1972 First financial derivatives market opens, in Chicago
- 1988 US Supreme Court rules that police do not need a warrant to sort through garbage

17 May

- 1861 First known package holiday: Whitsun Men’s Excursion to Paris
- 1877 First use of a telephone switchboard
- 1909 White firemen in Georgia, USA, go on strike in protest at hiring blacks
- 1918 Rationing laws relaxed to allow meat to be eaten every day
- 1920 House of Lords rules in *Williams v Singer* on overseas income of UK trust paid to non-resident beneficiary
- 1971 Court of Appeal rules in *Phillips v CIR* on surtax avoidance
- 1976 Abba records *Money Money Money*
- 1990 World Health Organisation removes homosexuality from its list of diseases

18 May

- 1804 Napoleon is declared Emperor of France
- 1920 Oxford University gives women professors same status as men
- 1980 Mount St Helen erupts in Washington, killing 57 and causing \$3 billion damage
- 2004 Alan Greenspan is appointed as chairman of US Federal Reserve for unprecedented fifth term

19 May

- 1657 First classified advertisement in a newspaper
- 1898 Postcards may be legally sent through post
- 1902 Women win a court battle allowing them to serve behind a bar in Glasgow

- 1939 TUC votes not to oppose conscription
- 1970 Government announces plan to bail out Rolls-Royce
- 1991 USSR formally ceases to exist

20 May

- 1588 Spanish Armada sets sail to invade England
- 1818 Birth of William Fargo, founder of Wells Fargo traffic service
- 1942 US Navy signs up first black recruit
- 1948 Twenty civil servants are suspended for holding communist or fascist views
- 1988 Pubs allowed to stay open to 11pm
- 1993 House of Commons approves Maastricht Treaty creating European Single Market
- 2007 Record charitable donation: \$7.41 billion from a Sheik to an educational foundation

21 May

- 1840 New Zealand is declared a British colony
- 1920 Government proposes a car tax
- 1927 First employee shareholding scheme introduced: by Southern Railways

22 May

- 1961 First telephone box where caller pays on hearing pips
- 1990 Microsoft releases Windows 3.0
- 2012 Serious Fraud Office accused of incompetence in court for raid on Vincent Tchenguiz

23 May

- 1913 Edison invents a telephone recorder
- 1934 Gangsters Bonnie and Clyde are shot dead in ambush
- 1956 Report says that self-service shops encourage housewives to spend more
- 1979 Pop musician Tom Petty files for bankruptcy
- 2009 Archbishop of Canterbury warns against humiliating MPs in expenses scandal

24 May

- 1898 First journey made by an articulated lorry
- 1918 New York is allowed to hire black waiters because of war labour shortage
- 1954 IBM announces it has developed a computer for office use
- 1965 Government announces that Britain is to switch to metric system

25 May

- 1915 Formation of wartime coalition government
- 1927 Ford Motor Co stops production of Model T for Model A
- 1967 Enoch Powell MP calls Britain the "sick man of Europe"
- 1986 Five million people form a human chain in USA to raise funds for homeless
- 1994 Camelot wins contract to run National Lottery
- 2012 High Court rules that the football creditor rule does not discriminate against HMRC

26 May

- 1865 End of American civil war
- 1908 First major oil strike in Middle East, in what is now Iran
- 1932 House of Lords rules in *Donoghue v Stevenson*, snail in ginger beer case
- 1939 Bill becomes law introducing conscription
- 1950 End of petrol rationing
- 1970 England football captain Bobby Moore (falsely) held for theft of a bracelet
- 1971 Court of Appeal rules in *CIR v Brown* on surtax on securities
- 1976 Harold Wilson's retirement honours list gives peerage to his secretary Marcia Williams
- 1999 Opening of Welsh Assembly

27 May

- 1863 Broadmoor Asylum is open for criminally insane
- 1955 Conservatives win general election. Anthony Eden is prime minister
- 1993 Norman Lamont is sacked as Chancellor of the Exchequer
- 2015 Seven executives of football body FIFA are arrested for fraud

28 May

- 1759 William Pitt the Younger becomes prime minister
- 1945 Capture of William Joyce, last man to be tried for treason in Britain
- 2010 Apple iPad goes on sale in Britain
- 2010 Start of London bicycle hire scheme

29 May

- 1871 First bank holiday in Britain
- 1902 Opening of London School of Economics
- 1922 Horatio Bottomley MP is jailed for fraud
- 1928 Merger of Chrysler and Dodge motor companies
- 1962 Shares lose £1 billion, biggest one day fall since 1929
- 2002 Vodafone reveals record loss of £13.5 billion

30 May

- 1939 First woman fellow appointed to a male Oxford college
- 1946 Bread rationing introduced
- 1980 EEC (now EU) agrees to a budget rebate for Britain

31 May

- 1678 Godiva Procession instituted in Coventry. It lasted to 1960
- 1902 End of Boer War
- 1929 General election again returns a hung parliament
- 1941 First US food ship arrives in London
- 1961 James Meredith, first black student at Mississippi University is escorted by federal marshals

- 2010 BP shares lose £6.5 million as company fails to stop leak in Gulf of Mexico
- 2012 US democrat candidate John Edwards is cleared of election fund fraud

1 June

- 1874 Pullman carriages introduced on trains
- 1880 Installation of world's first telephone box, in Connecticut, USA
- 1920 High Court rules in tax case *Shaw v Lichfield Conduit Land Trustees*
- 1935 Britain introduces driving test and L-plates
- 1946 Issue of first television licences
- 1950 Price of petrol increases to 3 shillings (15p) a gallon
- 1957 First draw of premium bonds
- 1966 AA increases its annual subscription from 2 guineas to 3, first increase since 1905

2 June

- 1868 First TUC conference of trade unions
- 1920 High Court rules in *Meeking v CIR* on annuity to reimburse tax
- 1932 First British train to have a buffet car
- 1941 Introduction of clothes rationing
- 1953 Coronation of the Queen
- 1962 Opening of Britain's first legal casino
- 1992 Denmark votes against Maastricht Treaty

3 June

- 1920 High Court rules in *Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Trustees v Ryall* that a Roman Catholic school was a charity
- 1942 Government announces nationalisation of coal mines
- 1956 Third class rail travel is abolished
- 1976 Sterling falls to a new low of \$1.73

4 June

- 1832 Great Reform Bill becomes law
- 1961 Price of a packet of 10 cigarettes rises to 1s 9d
- 2009 European elections. UKIP come second. BNP win two seats

5 June

- 1723 Baptism (and possible date of birth) of Adam Smith, Scottish economist
- 1924 Government stops Poplar Council paying outdoor relief to striking dockers
- 1931 German Chancellor warns that its banking system is on the point of collapse
- 1933 USA leaves the gold standard
- 1940 Government bans all strikes
- 1947 Start of Marshall Aid where USA provides food to European countries
- 1975 Britain votes in a referendum to stay in EEC (now EU)

6 June

- 1882 Hague Convention establishes three-mile limit for territorial waters
- 1925 Founding of Chrysler Corporation
- 1932 USA introduces first petrol tax, 1 cent per US gallon
- 1936 Opening of Gatwick Airport
- 1939 Enrolment of first war conscripts
- 1978 Californians voted directly for Proposition 13 that drastically reduces taxes

7 June

- 1923 Federation of British Industries is given a royal charter
- 1927 Co-operative movements merges with Labour party
- 1935 Stanley Baldwin becomes prime minister
- 1955 First transmission of TV programme, *The \$64,000 Question*
- 1960 First hearing aids issued by National Health Service
- 1962 First broadcast of *Steptoe and Son* about rag and bone men
- 1972 Pink Floyd starts recording *Money*
- 1979 Chuck Berry is charged with three counts of tax evasion
- 2001 Labour party under Tony Blair wins second consecutive general election

8 June

- 1912 Incorporation of Universal Pictures
- 1923 Parliament votes to allow women to divorce husbands for adultery
- 1929 Britain rearranges Germany's war debt to extend payments to 1988
- 1988 Comedian Ken Dodd is charged with tax offences. He is acquitted

9 June

- 1549 Book of Common Prayer adopted in England
- 1650 Harvard becomes the first corporation in USA
- 1898 British government leases Hong Kong from China for 99 years
- 1915 Government creates Ministry of Munitions
- 1972 High Court rules in *Turner v Follett* on tax liability for a gift of shares. Case is appealed
- 1998 Ronettes appear in court in case against Phil Spector for non-payment of royalties

10 June

- 1727 Death of king George I
- 1908 Law passed to introduce old age pensions paid by state
- 1930 Trade union protest at women taking men's jobs
- 1942 Economist John Maynard Keynes is given a peerage
- 1963 In Profumo affair, osteopath Stephen Ward is refused bail when charged with living off immoral earnings
- 1971 USA ends its trade embargo with China

11 June

- 1509 Henry VIII marries Catherine of Aragon, first wife
- 1644 Invention of the barometer
- 1975 First oil pumped ashore from North Sea oilwells
- 1987 General election gives Margaret Thatcher third consecutive win

12 June

- 1381 Start of Peasants Revolt
- 1860 Founding of State Bank of Russian Empire
- 1897 Birth of Anthony Eden, British prime minister
- 1921 End of Sunday postal collections, though later briefly revived
- 1933 King opens World Economic Conference
- 1965 Announced that The Beatles have been given MBEs
- 1973 High Court rules in *re McMeekin* on capital gains tax for property held by official assignees in bankruptcy
- 1983 Michael Foot resigns as leader of the Labour party

13 June

- 1900 Start of Boxer Rebellion in China to remove foreign influences
- 1920 US Post Office rules that children may not be sent by post
- 1922 Austria announces that it is bankrupt
- 1928 Harrods buys the retailer D H Evans
- 1955 First diamond mine found in Russia
- 1972 High Court rules in *Law v Coburn* on when interest was paid
- 2002 Royal Mail drops the name Consignia

14 June

- 1906 Law is passed banning women from contact sports
- 1914 High Court gives ruling in tax case *Bartlett v CIR*
- 1933 Germany bans Jews from representing country in 1936 Olympics
- 1934 Germany imposes a six-month moratorium on loan repayments
- 1941 USA orders freezing of all German and Italian assets
- 1951 First commercial computer starts service, at US Census Bureau
- 1955 Founding of Association of British Travel Agents, ABTA
- 1972 High Court rules in *Speck v Morton* on post-cessation income of property
- 1972 House of Lords rules in *Banning v Wright* on payment for amending a lease
- 1978 Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey says that being attacked by Conservative opposite Sir Geoffrey Howe was like "being savaged by a dead sheep"
- 1982 Argentine forces surrender on Falklands

15 June

- 1215 King John agrees to Magna Carta
- 1381 Beheading of Wat Tyler, leader of Peasants Revolt

- 1911 IBM is incorporated as Computing Tabulating Recording Corporation
- 1919 First transatlantic air flight, by Alcock and Brown
- 1933 Plans are drawn up to stabilise world currencies
- 1945 Family allowance is introduced at five shillings for second and subsequent children
- 1945 Wartime coalition government is formally ended
- 1972 High court ruling on *Holland v Groghegan* on the termination of an employment right
- 1988 Financier Peter Clowes is arrested for fraud
- 2002 Accountant at Arthur Andersen found guilty of obstructing justice by shredding Enron documents

16 June

- 1903 Ford Motor Company is formed
- 1909 First commercial sale of an aeroplane
- 1939 Whole town of Littlehampton is offered for sale
- 1948 First hijacking of an aeroplane
- 1972 High Court rules in *Waller & Hartley Ltd* on Schedule F avoidance scheme
- 2010 BP cancels dividend over fears of costs for Gulf of Mexico spill

17 June

- 1908 Start of first regular use of a motorised mail van, in Argyllshire
- 1939 Last public guillotining in France
- 1947 Government proposes a flat rate of £10 car tax
- 1970 Decimal currency postage stamps go on sale
- 1972 Five operatives are attested at Watergate Hotel, start of President Nixon scandal

18 June

- 1583 First life insurance policy written
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo
- 1919 High Court rules in *Fergusson v Noble* that police clothing allowance is taxable
- 1923 German inflation: £1 = 600,000 marks
- 1970 Conservatives win election. Edward Heath becomes prime minister
- 1983 European Community agrees British rebate
- 2012 Jimmy Carr is revealed as user of K2 tax avoidance scheme

19 June

- 1566 Birth of James I
- 1829 Establishment of Metropolitan Police
- 1918 High Court rules in tax cases *John Hood & Co Ltd v Magee*; *Corcoran v Judge*; and *Paul v Governors of the Godolphin and Latymer Girls School*.
- 1918 Wartime general rationing is introduced
- 1960 Jaguar takes over Daimler car company
- 1999 Release of film *Beggars and Choosers*
- 2009 Release of iPhone 3GS that allows music downloads on mobile phones

20 June

- 1789 Start of French revolution
- 1837 Death of William IV. Accession of Queen Victoria
- 1932 Benelux customs union is created
- 1936 Formation of Building Societies Association
- 1948 British Dental Association tells dentists not to join NHS
- 1963 Beatles finish recording album *With The Beatles*. One track is *Money (That's What I Want)*
- 1968 Premier of Cliff Richard film *Two A Penny*
- 1992 Estonia changes its currency from rouble to kroon
- 1996 Trading starts in shares of Railtrack

21 June

- 1377 Death of Edward III
- 1948 Deutschmark becomes official currency of West Germany
- 1948 First vinyl records go on sale
- 1967 Birth of Pierre Omidyar, founder of eBay
- 1971 Britain restarts negotiations for EC membership, this time successfully
- 2012 Jimmy Carr apologises for using tax avoidance schemes

22 June

- 1377 Richard II becomes king
- 1772 Slavery is outlawed in Britain
- 1923 President of Germany describes inflation as desperate as £1 = 622,000 marks
- 1940 Germany forces France to surrender in same coach that France surrendered in 1918
- 1970 Methodist Church allows women to become ministers
- 1972 High Court rules in *Robson v Dixon* on commuting expenses of a pilot
- 1973 Release of George Harrison's album *Living In A Material World*
- 2010 George Osborne delivers his first Budget

23 June

- 1894 Birth of king Edward VIII
- 1912 Birth of Alan Turing, British mathematician and code breaker
- 1919 High Court rules in *Board of Conservators of the Severn Fishery District v O'May* that a fishery board was not trading
- 1927 Trade Disputes Bill is passed to limit trade union power
- 1930 Neville Chamberlain becomes leader of Conservative party
- 1960 First broadcast of radio programme *Music While You Work*
- 1971 High Court rules in *Ball v National & Grindlays Bank Ltd* on allowability of paying for employees' children's education
- 1986 First email programme is developed. called LISTSERV
- 1988 Nestle buys Rowntree company

2016 Britain votes in a referendum to leave the European Union

24 June

- 1701 Act of Settlement
- 1825 Birth of W H Smith, founder of bookshops and stationers
- 1877 Formation of St John's Ambulance Brigade
- 1919 High Court rules in *Stocker v CIR* on annual payments from a will trust
- 1943 Engineering union calls for introduction of PAYE
- 1947 Milk ration cut by half a pint to 2 pints a week
- 1948 Start of Berlin airlift as Russia blockades West Berlin
- 1980 Unemployed reaches 1.6 million, highest since war
- 1990 Church of England ordains first women priests

25 June

- 1876 First public demonstration of a telephone
- 1918 High Court rules in *Benyon v Ogg* that a colliery was trading when it sold surplus wagons for a profit
- 1934 Britain imposes 25% duty on German goods in retaliation for debt moratorium
- 1998 Microsoft issues Windows 98 operating system
- 2012 Death of Sir David Money-Coutts, last family member of Coutts Bank

26 June

- 1830 Death of George IV. Accession of William IV
- 1913 Emily Dawson is first woman to become a magistrate
- 1917 King orders royal family to drop all German titles, and adopt Windsor as house name
- 1925 Release of Charlie Chaplin film *The Gold Rush*
- 1945 Fifty countries sign a treaty to create United Nations
- 1957 Medical Research Council says there is a link between smoking and lung cancer
- 1962 Brian Epstein forms NEMS Enterprises to manage Beatles and other pop musicians
- 1972 Founding of computer company Atari

27 June

- 1615 Date of earliest British document that mentions drinking tea
- 1938 All Jews are given 14 days' notice to leave their jobs in Austria
- 1967 Installation of first bank cash dispenser, Barclays Bank in Enfield
- 2007 Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown becomes prime minister
- 2012 Barclays Bank is fined £291 million for fixing LIBOR

28 June

- 1911 First chartered aeroplane flight across Atlantic
- 1948 Government uses emergency powers to use troops to beat a dock strike
- 2007 Jacqui Smith becomes first woman home secretary

29 June

- 1801 Figures from first census are published
- 1804 Parliament approves Act allowing for fare-paying passengers on trains
- 1871 Trade unions are given first legal recognition in England
- 1892 First conviction secured on fingerprint evidence
- 1905 Formation of Automobile Association (AA)
- 1920 High Court rules in *McKenna v Herlihy* that grazing rights are taxable income
- 1925 South Africa bans black people from holding a skilled job
- 1966 Introduction of Barclaycard
- 1977 French singer Charles Aznavour is fined 3 million French francs for breaching exchange control regulations
- 2010 Vantis, tax accounting firm, is put into administration

30 June

- 1921 Communist party formed in China
- 1940 Germany invades Guernsey
- 1944 Opening of Bretton Woods conference on currency
- 1947 Further series of ration cuts. Newspapers limited to four pages
- 1969 Nigeria bans Red Cross flights to starving Biafrans
- 1980 Sixpence ceases to be legal tender

1 July

- 1690 Battle of the Boyne, in Ireland
- 1817 Gold sovereign becomes legal tender for £1
- 1837 It becomes a legal requirement to register births, marriages and deaths
- 1910 Founding of Black and Decker tool company
- 1911 Parliament passes Shops Acts giving shopworkers half-day off in early closing
- 1916 Coca-Cola introduces a contoured bottle to make imitation difficult
- 1940 Government asks women to wear flat heels to conserve wood
- 1948 First Oxfam shop opens
- 1967 First colour television broadcast in UK
- 1968 EEC removes last customs barriers between members states
- 1999 Scottish Parliament is opened by the Queen

2 July

- 1850 Death of Sir Robert Peel, British prime minister and founder of police force
- 1865 Salvation Army comes into being
- 1962 Opening of first Wal Mart store
- 1964 Civil Rights Act becomes law in USA, ending racial segregation
- 2005 Eight simultaneous concerts for *Make Poverty History* campaign

3 July

- 1886 Karl Benz unveils world's first petrol-driven vehicle

- 1954 End of meat rationing
- 2012 Bob Diamond stands down as chairman of Barclays following LIBOR fixing scandal

4 July

- 1631 First employment agency opens
- 1892 Date is celebrated twice by Samoa when it crosses international date line
- 1916 High Court rules in *Eyres v Finnieston Engineering Co Ltd* that a company cannot claim a tax deduction for director dividends on grounds that it was their remuneration
- 1920 Birth of Anthony Barber, Chancellor of the Exchequer
- 1941 Start of coal rationing
- 1967 Homosexual acts between consenting adults are decriminalised
- 2012 Completion of Shard building in London, 87 floors and cost of £1.5 billion

5 July

- 1687 Publication of Newton's *Philosophie Naturalis Principia Mathematica*
- 1817 Gold sovereigns are first issued
- 1865 First speed limit introduced in Britain. Vehicles must be preceded by man with red flag
- 1948 Start of National Health Service
- 1951 Announcement that transistor has been invented
- 1956 Clean Air Act becomes law
- 1971 High Court rules in *Blausten v CIR* on power of settlement. Case is appealed
- 2006 Death of Kenneth Lay, chairman of Enron, while awaiting charges
- 2009 Deutsche Bank stockbroker Anjool Malde leaps to his death on being found to have sent prank messages

6 July

- 1189 Death of Henry II. Accession of Richard I
- 1553 Death of Edward VI. Accession of Mary I
- 1785 USA adopts the dollar as its currency
- 1882 First newspaper to use a box number in its advertisements
- 1926 Sale of Food Bill introduced to make packages a standard size and ban short-selling
- 1939 Last Jewish enterprises are closed in Germany
- 1971 High Court rules in *CIR v Greaces* on postponed dividends
- 1988 Piper Alpha oilfield explodes in North Sea killing 165 workers

7 July

- 1307 Death of Edward I. Accession of Edward II
- 1891 Patent issued for travellers cheques
- 1943 Government says it is considering introducing Pay As You Earn
- 1985 Band Aid concert organised by Bob Geldof
- 2005 Bombs explode on London Underground and on a London bus
- 2008 Church of England General Synod votes to allow women bishops

8 July

- 1889 First edition of *Wall Street Journal*
- 1918 High Court rules in *Williams v Singer* on overseas income of UK trust paid to a non-resident beneficiary
- 1918 National Savings Stamps go on sale
- 1932 Dow Jones index hits record low of 41.22
- 1942 Actor Cary Grant marries Woolworth's heiress Barbara Hutton

9 July

- 1915 High Court rules in *CIR v St Giles and St George Commissioners* on discovery assessments
- 1919 High Court rules in *Earl Howe v CIR* on insurance premiums paid under covenant. Case is appealed
- 1916 Birth of Edward Heath, British prime minister
- 1920 Germany finally accepts disarmament clauses in Versailles Treaty
- 1932 Allies suspend all war reparations from Germany
- 1947 Princess Elizabeth (later the Queen) becomes engaged to Prince Philip of Greece
- 1968 Monopolies Commission vetoes merger of Barclays, Lloyd's and Martin's Banks
- 1971 High Court rules in *CIR v Babcock & Wilcox* on profits tax and double taxation relief

10 July

- 1040 Lady Godiva rides naked on horseback through Coventry in a tax protest
- 1842 First full page advertisement in a newspaper
- 1931 Bentley Motors goes into receivership
- 1950 End of soap rationing
- 1951 It is reported that the average British housewife works a 15-hour day
- 1994 David Tredinnick MP and Graham Riddick MP are suspended for taking cash to ask questions in Parliament

11 July

- 1929 Britain refuses to grant asylum to Trotsky
- 1949 Transport and General Workers Union bans fascists and communists from holding office
- 1966 Jaguar and BMC announce their merger
- 1972 Court of Appeal rules in *Willingale v Islington Green Investment Company* on close company deductions

12 July

- 1909 USA passes 17th amendment to introduce income tax
- 1984 Robert Maxwell buys *The Daily Mirror*
- 1987 FT-SE 100 index falls to record low of 978.7

13 July

- 1778 First advertisement published by a building society
- 1898 Marconi is given a patent for the radio

- 1914 Performing Rights Society is formed
- 1920 London County Council bans foreigners from most council jobs
- 1923 Law passed banning alcohol sales to anyone under 18
- 1955 Ruth Ellis is last woman to be hanged in Britain
- 1962 Harold MacMillan sacks Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Cabinet ministers in "night of the long knives"
- 1971 High Court rules in *W M Robb Ltd v Page* on whether a factory was stock
- 1979 Flying Lizards release record *Money*
- 2009 Court of Appeal rules that pre-nuptial agreements may be considered in divorces

14 July

- 1877 First telephone line laid between two buildings
- 1926 Announcement of formation of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
- 1939 Government guarantees that all new mothers will be able to buy milk at 2d a pint
- 1949 Sugar ration reduced. Sweet rationing re-introduced
- 1970 High Court rules in *Lupton v Cadogan Gardens Development Ltd* on entitlement to leased assets. Case is appealed.
- 1972 Court of Appeal rules in *Heather v PE Consulting* on whether tax deductions are allowed for expenses of buying shares for employees
- 2006 Bow Street Magistrates Court closes after 271 years

15 July

- 1912 Introduction of national insurance
- 1916 Incorporation of Boeing as Pacific Aero Products
- 1948 Alcoholics Anonymous hold first meeting in Britain
- 2011 Couple wins £161 million in European lottery

16 July

- 1867 Patent issued for reinforced concrete
- 1935 First parking meters in world, in Oklahoma
- 1940 French Jews are stripped of their citizenship
- 2011 News International takes out full page advertisements apologising for phone hacking

17 July

- 1829 First regular bus service in Britain, Marylebone Road to Banks for one shilling
- 1858 Salvage of Lutine Bell which now hangs in Lloyd's of London
- 1892 Kier Hardy becomes first elected Labour MP
- 1945 Start of Potsdam Conference with leaders Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill
- 1955 Opening of Disneyland in California
- 1968 High Court rules in *re Lynall* on value of unquoted shares. Case is appealed
- 1995 Nasdaq Index closes above 1000 for first time

18 July

- 1892 Birth of Thomas Cook, founder of travel agency
- 1950 Birth of Richard Branson, founder of Virgin companies
- 1955 First sale of commercially produced nuclear energy
- 1974 Britain abolishes the Pay Board and statutory incomes policy
- 2003 Body of David Kelly is found, triggering Hutton Report on Iraqi weapons
- 2005 First time evidence given to British court by video link

19 July

- 1695 First known lonely hearts advertisement
- 1971 Second tower of World Trade Center is topped out
- 1989 *Panorama* TV programme accuses Dame Shirley Porter of gerrymandering in Westminster Council
- 2001 Jeffrey Archer imprisoned for four years for perjury

20 July

- 1885 Professional football becomes legal in England
- 1937 Death of Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of long distance radio
- 1940 Government bans buying and selling new cars
- 1945 Local authorities are given the power to requisition empty homes
- 1966 Government imposes a freeze on wages and prices
- 1971 House of Lords rules in *Greenberg v CIR* on dividend strips
- 2001 G7 becomes G8 when Russia joins

21 July

- 1925 Teacher John Scopes is fined \$100 in USA for teaching evolution
- 1974 Police national computer starts operating
- 1984 First known death by robot, worker is crushed at factory
- 1994 Tony Blair becomes leader of Labour party

22 July

- 1910 His Master's Voice registers its trademark of a dog and gramophone
- 1919 High Court rules in *Jones v CIR* on whether payments for patents are capital
- 1946 Bread rationing is introduced
- 1963 Enquiry announced into activities of Peter Rachman and other landlords
- 1974 Government takes over Harland and Wolff shipyard
- 1980 Unemployed reaches 1.9 million, highest since 1939

23 July

- 1912 British Medical Association asks doctors to oppose medical insurance in National Insurance Act
- 1919 High Court rules in *Hudson's Bay Co v Thew* on whether a company is taxable in unpaid interest

- 1958 Creation of first life peers
- 1982 Coroner records verdict of suicide for banker Roberto Calvi found hanged from bridge
- 1993 House of Commons approves Maastricht Treaty on a vote of confidence

24 July

- 1778 Invention of the duplicator
- 1935 First British greetings telegram. An addition 3d is charged for a gold envelope
- 1936 Start of speaking clock service
- 1985 Launch of Amiga computer
- 2000 BP adopts new starburst logo, replacing shield
- 2003 Major Ingram is ordered to resign commission for cheating on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*

25 July

- 1888 First known instance of touch typing being used
- 1909 First Channel crossing by aeroplane. British Customs rule that aeroplane is a boat
- 1917 Canada introduces a “temporary” income tax
- 1968 Barclay’s Bank takes over Martin’s Bank

26 July

- 1790 Start of first steamboat service: Delaware River
- 1803 First public railway in Britain: for moving beer in Wandsworth
- 1887 Legal decision in *Yarmouth v France* on what is plant
- 1941 Japan freezes all American and British assets
- 1945 Allies tell Japan to surrender or face destruction
- 1945 Labour wins landslide in general election. Clement Attlee becomes prime minister
- 1956 Unveiling of ERNIE, computer to draw premium bond numbers
- 1956 President Nasser of Egypt seizes control of Suez Canal
- 1963 Launch of first geostationary satellite
- 1978 Birth of Louise Brown, first “test tube baby”

27 July

- 1830 Start of French Revolution
- 1888 Bicycles are allowed on British roads
- 1922 Germany announces that it is suspending payment of war reparations
- 1942 Start of sweet rationing
- 1959 Study shows average male worker earns £13 2s 11d a week
- 1967 Sexual Offences Act becomes law, generally legalising homosexual acts
- 2009 Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs is freed from prison

28 July

- 1586 First potatoes arrive in Britain
- 1916 Imports of opium and cocaine are banned

- 1922 First broadcast advertisement, in USA
- 1945 Japan rejects allies' surrender terms
- 1961 Tony Benn's election win is quashed because he has a peerage
- 1967 Formation of British Steel Corporation
- 1989 *Pravda* makes unprecedented attack on Russian government's economic reforms

29 July

- 1588 Britain defeats Spanish armada
- 1948 End of bread rationing
- 1969 Court of Appeal rules on *re Lynall* on value of unquoted shares. Case is appealed
- 1972 Start of national dock strike
- 1980 Government announces plans to create enterprise zones

30 July

- 1863 Birth of Henry T Ford, American car maker
- 1909 Birth of Cecil Northcote Parkinson, deviser of Parkinson's Law
- 1936 Monopoly board game goes on sale
- 1946 New divorce law gives decree absolute after six weeks rather than six months
- 1970 High Court rules in *CIR v Brown* on security transactions, and in *Fleming v Associated Newspapers* on entertaining expenses. Both cases are appealed
- 1971 High Court rules in *Pritchard v Arundel* on shares given to accountant for taking up post as company director
- 1992 ICI announces it is to be split into two companies

31 July

- 1635 First postal service in Britain
- 1942 Pleasure motoring is banned
- 1950 Sainsbury's opens first self-service store
- 1961 Ireland becomes first non-founder country to apply to join EEC (now EU)
- 1965 Cigarette advertising on television is banned
- 1968 Beatles close Apple boutique giving away all its stock
- 1969 (Pre-decimal) halfpenny ceases to be legal tender

1 August

- 1714 Death of Queen Anne. Accession of George I
- 1793 France introduces kilogram as first metric weight
- 1834 Slavery abolished in British empire
- 1883 Parcel post starts in Britain
- 1946 Formation of British European Airways (BEA)
- 1951 USA ends all tariff preferences for Communist countries
- 1975 Signing of Helsinki Accord, respecting European borders and human rights
- 2007 EMI record business sold to private equity firm

2 August

- 1100 Death of William I. Accession of Henry I
- 1894 Estate duty is introduced in Britain
- 1898 First motor coach excursion in Britain
- 1930 Italy allows Vatican to issue its own currency
- 1989 Government announces privatisation of water industry

3 August

- 1554 First known use of sealing wax
- 1881 Death of William George Fargo, co-founder of Wells Fargo traffic service
- 1902 First parcel posted from UK to USA
- 1938 Germany bans Jews from attending higher education
- 1944 German forces start to leave Channel Islands

4 August

- 1900 Birth of Queen Elizabeth, wife of George VI and mother of the Queen
- 1914 Britain declares war on Germany
- 1916 USA buys Danish Virgin Islands for \$25 million
- 1930 First supermarket opens, in USA
- 1959 Barclays is first bank to order a computer

5 August

- 1620 Mayflower leaves Plymouth for USA
- 1861 USA introduces income tax as a temporary measure to pay for civil war
- 1897 First moving picture advertisement: Admiral Cigarettes
- 1981 President Reagan sacks 11,359 air traffic controllers on strike
- 2008 Closure of oldest beach ride: Margate donkeys, started in 1790
- 2010 BP finally seals leaking oil in Gulf of Mexico

6 August

- 1806 End of Holy Roman Empire on abdication of Francis II
- 1844 First UK press telegram, announcing birth of Prince Alfred, son of Queen Victoria
- 1889 Opening of first hotel where each room had its own bathroom
- 1901 First cinema opened in Britain, at Islington
- 1921 Germany imposes huge tax increases to fund war reparations
- 1943 British Medical Association opposes creation of National Health Service
- 1945 Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima
- 1987 SDP votes to merge with Liberals. SDP leader David Owen resigns
- 1991 Announcement of ideas for a worldwide web

7 August

- 1839 First railway excursion, Whitby to Gromont for raise funds for church
- 1888 Patent issued for revolving door

- 1917 Lloyd George attacked in Parliament for selling honours
- 1923 In one day, German mark falls from £1 = 9m marks to £1 = 15m marks.
- 1925 Summer time introduced
- 1930 Unemployment exceeds two million
- 1993 Buckingham Palace is opened to visitors
- 2007 BNP Paribas ends withdrawal from three hedge funds, citing evaporation of liquidity.
This is now seen as an early warning of the banking crisis

8 August

- 117 Hadrian becomes Roman emperor
- 1588 Defeat of Spanish armada
- 1834 Workhouses are introduced for the poor
- 1899 First road haulage, two tons of chemical take eight days to travel 184 miles
- 1919 Death of F W Woolworth, founder of store
- 1924 Germany introduces Reichsmark to end crisis from collapse of old mark
- 1963 Great train robbery
- 1963 Rolling Stones record *Money (That's What I Want)*
- 1969 Aircraft makers Handley Page call in the receivers
- 1974 Government announces introduction of wealth tax and capital transfer tax
- 1974 Richard Nixon resigns as US president

9 August

- 1892 Edison is given a patent for a two-way telegraph
- 1907 End of scout camp at Brownsea Island leads to formation of scouts movements
- 1945 Second atomic bomb is dropped, on Nagasaki, ending war with Japan
- 1946 Formation of Arts Council of Great Britain
- 1965 Singapore becomes an independent country
- 1973 Petrol coupons are stockpiled on fear of oil crisis

10 August

- 1897 Founding of Royal Automobile Club (RAC)
- 1911 MPs vote to give themselves salaries
- 1952 Founding of European Coal and Steel Community, part of what becomes EU
- 1961 Britain makes first (unsuccessful) attempt to join EEC (now EU)
- 1985 Michael Jackson acquires rights to Lennon-McCartney compositions

11 August

- 1911 Parliament Act and Official Secrets Act become law
- 1968 Last steam train runs in Britain as part of normal train service
- 1975 British Leyland is nationalised

12 August

- 1908 Start of production of Model T Ford, world's first production car

- 1930 Birth of George Soros, Hungarian-born investor
- 1965 Elizabeth Lane becomes the first woman to be a High Court judge
- 1981 Model 5150 IBM PC goes on sale with a base price of \$1,565

13 August

- 1624 First stamp duty imposed on legal and financial documents
- 1960 Price of beer rises to 1s 7d (about 7p) a pint
- 1961 East Berlin is sealed with barbed wire at start of Berlin Wall
- 1964 Last hangings in Britain
- 1967 Release of the film *Bonnie and Clyde* about bank robbers
- 2010 Announced that the Audit Commission is to be closed

14 August

- 1248 Building work starts on Cologne Cathedral. Finished 632 years later in 1880
- 1888 Patent issued for electricity meter
- 1903 Driving licences become compulsory, though there is no test
- 1909 First aeroplane passenger in Britain
- 1967 "Pirate" radio stations Caroline and London make their last broadcasts
- 2006 Pop singer Boy George forced to sweep streets of New York as punishment for drug offences

15 August

- 1057 Death of Macbeth, King of Scotland
- 1842 First regularly constituted detective force in Britain
- 1899 First known road haulage contract
- 1947 End of British rule of India
- 1971 USA ends conversion of dollars to gold, in effect ending Bretton Woods agreement

16 August

- 1922 First licence issued to use a franking machine for post
- 1925 Premier of Charlie Chaplin film *The Gold Rush*
- 1939 Announced that everyone will have an identity card in the war

17 August

- 1877 First telephone exchange opens, in Connecticut, USA
- 1896 Gold is discovered in Klondike River
- 1936 Price of a loaf of bread increases to 8½d, dearest for six years

18 August

- 1227 Death of Genghis Khan, founder of Mogol Empire
- 1904 Birth of Max Factor, Polish founder of cosmetic company
- 1940 Death of Walter Chrysler, American car maker
- 1959 Launch of the Mini car

19 August

- 1908 Harvard University announces opening of Graduate School of Business
- 1936 Birth of David Quayle, co-founder of stores B & Q
- 1946 Footballers threaten to go on strike for a weekly wage of £7
- 1989 Poland becomes first European to abandon Communism
- 1998 Russia defaults on short-term bonds. Rouble loses 70% of its value

20 August

- 1918 Strike by 20,000 policemen in London. Last proper police strike
- 1985 Amstrad launches PCW 8256 word processor, significant step in home computing
- 2001 Price of lager reaches £2 a pint
- 2012 Asil Nadir found guilty of stealing £5.5 million from Polly Peck in 1993

21 August

- 1902 Founding of Cadillac, car makers
- 1911 Mona Lisa stolen. Returned in 1913
- 1914 First flag day held in Britain
- 1976 Britain's first firewoman appointed
- 2002 Bank of England reissues £5 because numbers rub off previous issue
- 2006 Change in postal rates to reflect size as well as weight

22 August

- 1862 Belgium signs a commercial treaty with Britain
- 1938 First automatic gear car manufactured
- 1988 Pubs allowed to stay open all day

23 August

- 1939 Germany and Russia promise not to go to war
- 1971 Pound allowed to float freely for first time since 1944
- 2010 Tesco opens Britain's first drive-through supermarket

24 August

- 79BC Mount Vesuvius erupts drowning Pompeii in ash
- 1931 Coalition government replaces Labour government. Ramsay MacDonald remains prime minister
- 1937 GEC produces first television set for sale at less than £50
- 1995 Microsoft releases Windows 95 operating system

25 August

- 1888 Founding of Scottish Labour Party
- 1939 All national treasures are moved to safe keeping during war
- 1940 Luftwaffe starts bombing London

- 1946 Reported that the black market is thriving in chocolate, nylons and perfume
- 1958 Midland Bank announces it will be first bank to offer personal loans

26 August

- 1898 First commercial use of radio: a lighthouse identifies ten ships
- 1928 May Donoghue finds remains of snail in her ginger beer, prompting the leading case *Donoghue v Stevenson* [1932]
- 1936 First experimental broadcast of television
- 2010 Blockbuster reports that it is filing for bankruptcy in USA

27 August

- 1859 Drilling of first commercially-productive oil well, in Pennsylvania
- 1889 Celluloid film is marketed for first time
- 1900 Start of first long-distance coach service: London to Leeds for 2 guineas
- 1932 First three-letter number plates fitted to cars, in London
- 1947 Austerity measures include ban on pleasure motoring and foreign holidays
- 1980 Unemployment reaches 2 million for first time since 1935
- 2012 Samsung loses \$12bn in value after Apple wins a patent dispute

28 August

- 1207 Liverpool is created a borough by King John
- 1922 First radio commercial, a 10-minute talk on apartments in New York
- 1952 Government lets council tenants buy their homes
- 1959 Survey shows that average household spends £1 8s 1d (£1.40) a week on food

29 August

- 708 First copper coins minted in Japan
- 1833 Factory Acts restrict use of child labour in British factories
- 1945 Allied troops occupy Japan

30 August

- 1860 First trams in Britain
- 1930 Birth of American investor Warren Buffet
- 1980 Polish workers at Gdansk shipyard, Poland, win concessions from Communist government

31 August

- 1422 Death of Henry V. Accession of Henry VI, aged 9 months
- 1900 Coca-Cola goes on sale in Britain
- 1916 Launch of Ford Model T, for \$250
- 1960 East Germany closes its border with West Germany

1 September

- 1670 Start of trial of William Penn for preaching a Quaker sermon
- 1711 Birth of William IV
- 1921 Nine councillors from Poplar are arrested for failing to set a rate
- 1939 Television is closed down for war in case enemy can track its signals
- 1946 First professional football matches since 1939
- 1972 Clifford Irving is jailed for 30 months for fake autobiography of Howard Hughes
- 1989 Privatisation of water companies

2 September

- 1666 Start of Great Fire of London
- 1789 Establishments of US Treasury
- 1945 Japan surrenders
- 1963 Alabama governor George Wallace orders a high school to be sealed to prevent black pupils attending
- 2001 Iain Duncan Smith becomes leader of Conservative party for two years

3 September

- 1752 This date to 13 September does not exist because of change from Julian to Gregorian calendar
- 1912 Opening of world's first canning plant
- 1939 Britain declares war on Germany
- 1953 First woman Cabinet minister, Florence Horsbrugh, minister of education
- 1973 TUC expels 20 trade unions for registering under Industrial Relations Act 1971
- 1995 Founding of eBay

4 September

- 1888 Patent for camera that uses rolls of film
- 1957 Entire military division deployed in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA to ensure that nine black students can attend school
- 1957 Wolfenden Report says homosexual activity between consenting adults should be legal
- 1998 First broadcast of TV quiz show *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*
- 2003 Opening of Bullring, Birmingham, Europe's biggest shopping centre

5 September

- 1698 Russian Tsar Peter the Great imposes a tax on beards
- 1934 Hitler declares that the Third Reich will last 1,000 years. It lasts 12
- 1944 Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands sign a customs union
- 1995 eBay starts trading, as AuctionWeb

6 September

- 1852 Opening of first free public lending library, in Manchester
- 1923 Germany currency collapses to £1 = 20 million marks

- 1949 Allies release most German assets back to German control
- 1968 GEC announces £892 million takeover of English Electric

7 September

- 1762 Issue of first life insurance policies based on life expectancy
- 1915 TUC votes to oppose conscription
- 1936 New stamps depicting Edward VIII go on sale
- 1976 Paul McCartney buys the rights to Buddy Holly songs
- 1998 Incorporation of Google
- 2008 US government bails out Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae mortgage lenders

8 September

- 1157 Birth of Richard I
- 1906 Introduction of "carriage return" on typewriters
- 1969 Equity changes contract so theatre indemnifies actors and actresses who are fined for appearing nude on stage
- 1983 NHS is obliged to use contract labour for cleaning if cheaper than in-house staff
- 1989 GEC and Siemens buy Plessey for £2 billion

9 September

- 1839 First glass plate photograph taken
- 1948 End of rationing for footwear and furnishing fabrics
- 1950 End of soap rationing
- 2013 TSB is reborn as a bank in hivedown from Lloyds

10 September

- 1067 Death of Lady Godiva, who rode naked through Coventry in tax protest
- 1897 First conviction for drink-driving: George Smith fined £1 for driving taxi after 3 pints of beer
- 1963 American Express card launched in Britain
- 2007 Death of Anita Roddick, founder of Bodyshop
- 2015 Queen becomes longest reigning queen in world history

11 September

- 1217 First written treaty, between England and France
- 1938 Birth of Eddie George, governor of Bank of England
- 1949 Milk ration cut from 3 pints to 2½ pints a week
- 1962 Commonwealth leaders say they oppose Britain joining Common Market (now EU)
- 1973 Last Wolesey car comes off production line
- 1983 SDP votes to merge with Liberal party
- 1989 Hungary accepts East Germans without visas, leading to collapse of Berlin Wall
- 2001 Terrorist attack on World Trade Center, New York

12 September

- 1910 First woman police officer, in Los Angeles
- 1923 German currency continues collapse to £1 = 600 million marks
- 1958 First microchip: Texas Instruments put five components on a piece of germanium
- 1960 MOT tests introduced
- 1973 Government authorises construction of Channel Tunnel
- 2012 Remains of Richard III found buried in car park in Leicester

13 September

- 1857 Birth of Milton Hershey, American chocolate bar manufacturer
- 1948 Government increases starting pay for nurses from £145 to £200 a year
- 1968 British banks announce they will close on Saturday mornings

14 September

- 1321 Violinists in France form a union to insure against health risks
- 1752 This date immediately follows 3 September on change of calendars
- 1946 Chancellor of the Exchequer has his cigarette case stolen from 11 Downing Street
- 1951 Opening of Europe's largest oil refinery, in Fawley, England
- 1961 Opening of first Mothercare shop
- 2003 Sweden decides not to adopt the euro as its currency
- 2007 First run on British bank in over 100 years, at Northern Rock
- 2012 Start of trial of Kwene Adoboli for gambling away \$12 billion of bank UBS' funds

15 September

- 1830 First fare-paying passengers on a steam train
- 1871 Establishment of first mail order business
- 1923 German central bank raises interest rates to 90% to curtail economic collapse
- 1931 Invergordon Mutiny, a Royal Navy strike against wage cuts
- 1947 Government starts to spend gold reserves to buy imports
- 1960 Traffic wardens start work in London
- 1973 Announced that foreign cars now outsell British cars in UK

16 September

- 1386 Birth of Henry V
- 1861 Start of Post Office Savings Bank
- 1910 Australian Treasury given power to issue its own currency to replace British pound
- 1928 Donoghue is admitted to hospital with gastro-enteritis after finding famous snail in ginger beer bottle
- 1968 First and second class post is introduced
- 1981 Liberal party votes to merge with SDP
- 1992 Black Wednesday. Pound is forced out of Exchange Rate Mechanism.

17 September

- 1909 Asquith threatens a showdown with the House of Lords if it votes down his Budget
- 1941 Potato price reduced to 1d a pound to encourage people to eat them
- 1959 First sale of film rights for television: BBC buys rights to 20 Hollywood films
- 1964 Premier of James Bond film *Goldfinger*

18 September

- 1933 Germany decrees that only Nazi members may work as doctors
- 1936 Reported that a family now needs £6 a week to live above poverty line
- 1949 Pound is devalued from £1 = \$4.03 to £1 = \$2.80
- 2008 US Treasury Secretary Hank Poulson meets legislators to ask for a \$700 billion bail-out to save US economy

19 September

- 1839 Birth of George Cadbury, English chocolate maker
- 1935 Germany strips Jews of German citizenship
- 2012 Ornate granite grave revealed for Jimmy Savile. It is removed 19 days later

20 September

- 1258 Consecration of Salisbury Cathedral
- 1931 British currency comes off the gold standard
- 1962 750 federal marshals protect James Meredith, first US black to attend university
- 1967 Launch of QE2
- 1969 ATV buys Northern Songs, which publishes Beatles' songs
- 2010 Disc jockey Chris Moyles tells listeners BBC has not paid him since July

21 September

- 1327 Death of Edward II (murdered). Accession of Edward III
- 1904 It is reported that a reliable car can now be bought for less than £200
- 1909 Catholic Truth Conference says that socialism is an evil
- 1915 Stonehenge is sold for £6,000
- 1998 eBay becomes a public company

22 September

- 1547 Earliest known policy of marine insurance
- 1908 First applications received for old age pensions
- 1931 Britain leaves the gold standard
- 1943 Government starts selling a PAYE guide for 2d
- 1955 Start of independent television (ITV). First advert is for Gibbs SR toothpaste
- 1980 Creation of Solidarity trade union in Poland, which leads to end of Communism

23 September

- 1518 Royal College of Physicians is first professional body to introduce entry examinations

- 1924 Birth of Donald Ryan, who pioneered while-you-wait shoe repair and key cutting
- 1985 Rupert Murdoch buys the rest of Twentieth Century-Fox Film
- 2010 Blockbuster files for bankruptcy in USA

24 September

- 1853 First provincial newspaper in Britain: *Northern Daily Times* in Liverpool
- 1943 Sir John Anderson becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer
- 1959 Rolls-Royce launches its Phantom V for £8,905

25 September

- 1897 First bus service using petrol vehicles: in Bradford
- 1928 Founding of Motorola company
- 1947 President of Board of Trade deploras fashion for longer skirts when material is scarce
- 1957 Nine black children finally go to school in Arkansas, surrounded by 1,000 paratroopers
- 1972 Norway votes not to join European Union

26 September

- 1879 First British train service to have a diner car
- 1923 Germany declares a state of emergency to deal with currency crisis
- 1940 USA imposes an embargo on selling scrap metal to Japan
- 1955 First broadcast of television quiz programme *Double Your Money*
- 1968 End of censorship in British theatres
- 1977 Launch of Freddie Laker's Skytrain, significantly reducing price of air travel
- 1995 Major publishers withdraw from net book agreement, last vestige of retail price maintenance
- 2010 Ed Miliband becomes leader of Labour party

27 September

- 1825 First time a steam locomotive pulled a passenger train
- 1919 First post-war food rationing introduced, to beat a strike
- 1939 Income tax rises to then highest rate of 7s 6d in the £ (37.5%)
- 1946 Government announces that cupro-nickel will replace silver in coins
- 1949 Tax on company profits rises from 25% to 30%
- 1993 Labour party approves "one member one vote" system
- 2010 IMF backs Britain's plans to improve the economy

28 September

- 1618 World's first pawn shop is opened, in Brussels
- 1894 Opening of Marks penny bazaar. It becomes Marks & Spencer
- 1953 Ford reveals the Anglia and Prefect models
- 1958 France votes to adopt new constitution proposed by Gen de Gaulle
- 1989 Sony buys Columbia pictures

29 September

- 1399 Abdication of Richard II
- 1899 Birth of Billy Butlin, holiday cap entrepreneur
- 1916 John D Rockefeller becomes first dollar billionaire
- 1920 First domestic radio sets go on sale in USA, costing \$10
- 1938 Munich Agreement allows Germany to annex Sudetenland
- 1947 Government bans Midlands from using power one day a week
- 1976 Britain asks IMF for a loan of \$3.9 billion
- 2008 Dow Jones falls a record 777.68 points in one day after collapse of Lehman Brothers

30 September

- 1672 First known music concert to make admission charge
- 1901 First law to require cars to have number plates, in France (disputed by Belgium)
- 1913 Death of Rudolf Diesel, inventor of engine
- 1922 Telephone toll exchange is set up in London
- 1929 First experimental transmission of television
- 1939 First wartime home regulation: every home must have a stirrup pump
- 1939 Germany invades Poland, leading to second world war
- 1965 Elizabeth Lane is first woman to become a High Court judge
- 1980 Israel replaces pound with shekel as its currency
- 1982 Closure of telegram service

1 October

- 1207 Birth of Henry III
- 1792 Money orders introduced in Britain
- 1870 Introduction of postcards and halfpenny post
- 1880 Founding of Edison Lamp Works, first manufacturer of light bulbs
- 1908 Ford Model T goes on sale in USA for \$825
- 1936 BBC starts regular television broadcasts
- 1959 Labour party to promises to abolish purchase tax if elected. It doesn't
- 1961 Last steam train on London Underground
- 1973 Chancellor Denis Healey says he will tax rich "until the pips squeak"
- 1995 Metric sizes become compulsory for packaged food
- 2009 Supreme Court replaces House of Lords as final court

2 October

- 1839 First time that a letter with adhesive stamp is sent by post
- 1950 Introduction of Legal Aid
- 1970 Neil Young releases album *After The Goldrush*
- 1991 Release of Microsoft Money software

3 October

- 1914 First national flag day in England: Belgian Relief Fund

- 1959 First trial of postcodes, in Norwich
- 1980 Occupants of council houses are allowed to buy them at a discount
- 1990 Reunification of Germany
- 2008 George W Bush signs Act allowing \$700 billion purchase of bank assets

4 October

- 1883 Orient Express train service starts
- 1921 Germany imposes 100% import duty to pay war reparations
- 1926 First showing of a talking movie to a paying audience
- 1942 Hitler orders occupied countries to make up food shortages caused by allied blockade
- 1957 First man-made object in space: Sputnik I
- 1966 Government introduces a freeze on prices and incomes

5 October

- 1917 Chequers country house given to nation for use by prime minister
- 1936 Jarrow March on London demanding jobs
- 1962 Lyons Maid merges with two other ice cream companies to challenge Wall's
- 1967 First time that a majority decision has been allowed in a criminal trial
- 1980 British Leyland launches the Metro

6 October

- 1891 Death of W H Smith, British bookseller
- 1927 New York Stock Exchange starts trading foreign shares
- 2000 Last Mini produced by Longbridge

7 October

- 1806 Patent issued for carbon paper
- 1912 First transaction on Helsinki Stock Exchange
- 1913 World's first production line: Ford cars in Michigan
- 1920 First women admitted to Oxford to study for full degrees
- 1938 German Jews are ordered to surrender their passports
- 1956 Death of Clarence Birdseye, inventor of frozen foods

8 October

- 1877 First advertisement for telephones, in Connecticut
- 1935 Clement Attlee becomes leader of Labour party
- 1967 Death of Clement Attlee, British prime minister
- 1974 Franklin National Board collapses due to fraud and mismanagement

9 October

- 1924 Ramsey MacDonald asks king to dissolve parliament of first Labour government
- 1939 Parliament introduces Prices of Food Bill to prevent wartime racketeering
- 1940 Winston Churchill becomes leader of Conservative party

- 1946 First electric blanket made, sold for \$39.50
- 1947 Bacon ration is reduced to one ounce a week
- 1978 Eric Morley given £200,000 golden handshake on resigning from Miss World
- 1988 Lester Piggott is given parole from sentence for tax offences
- 1995 Death of prime minister Lord Hume
- 1995 Lloyds Bank and TSB announce merger
- 2007 Nil rate band may be transferred between spouses

10 October

- 1842 First sale of an insolvent railway, Clarence Railway in Durham
- 1887 Birth of William Morris, later Lord Nuffield, founder of car making company
- 1903 Formation of suffragette movement
- 1930 TWA is formed from the merger of three airlines

11 October

- 1899 Start of Boer War
- 1950 First licence issued for colour television, in USA
- 1955 Introduction of 70mm film. First film is musical *Oklahoma!*
- 1974 Labour party wins second general election of the year with a small majority

12 October

- 1537 Birth of Edward VI and Lady Jane Grey
- 1823 Charles Macintosh starts selling raincoats
- 1866 Birth of Ramsey MacDonald, first Labour prime minister
- 1936 Start of Channel train ferry from Dover to Dunkirk
- 1937 Lord Nuffield endows new Oxford college with £1 million
- 1948 First Morris Minor comes off production line
- 1949 East Germany becomes a Communist state
- 1961 New, smaller ten-shilling note goes into circulation
- 1973 Spiro Agnew resigns as US vice-president over tax scandal
- 1988 Sports Aid goes into liquidation with debts of £2.3 million
- 1999 World population said to be 6 billion

13 October

- 1915 It becomes illegal to buy a round of drinks
- 1925 Birth of prime minister Margaret Thatcher
- 1930 Nazi gangs attack Jewish shops in Germany
- 1984 IRA explode bomb at Grand Hotel, Brighton during Conservative conference
- 1993 Bell Atlantic Corp announces plans to buy TeleCommunications Inc for \$21 billion

14 October

- 1066 William I becomes King after Battle of Hastings
- 1612 First newspaper advertisement published, in France

- 1633 Birth of James II
- 1918 High Court rules in tax case *Hancock v General Reversionary and Investment Co Ltd*
- 1920 High Court rules in tax case *C de J Andrews v CIR*
- 1962 Start of Cuban missile crisis
- 1969 50p coin goes into circulation
- 1971 Court of Appeal rules that Council of Law Reporting is a charity for tax purposes
- 2002 eBay buys PayPal
- 2003 Death of world's oldest person: Elizabeth Israel, allegedly 128 years 260 days
- 2010 Death of Benoit Mandelbrot, Polish mathematician
- 2011 Death of Frank Cassell, English economist
- 2012 Euro jackpot win of £148 million after 14 rollovers

15 October

- 1927 Oil is discovered in Iraq
- 1964 Labour wins general election after 13 years of Conservative government
- 1970 Creation of Department of Trade and Industry

16 October

- 1829 Opening of first hotel with bathrooms (not en suite)
- 1861 Pony Express delivery service announces its closure
- 1923 Founding of Disney Corporation
- 1964 Harold Wilson becomes prime minister
- 1987 Southern England hit by freak hurricane

17 October

- 1660 Ten people who signed Charles I's death warrant are publicly hung, drawn and quartered
- 1895 First motoring offence: John Knight fined 2s 6d for not having a locomotive licence
- 1902 Manufacture of first Cadillac
- 1934 Germany introduces tax cuts for large families
- 1956 First nuclear power station in Britain, Calder Hall
- 1972 Queen becomes first monarch to visit a Communist country: Yugoslavia
- 1989 Worldwide ban on sale of ivory is agreed

18 October

- 1386 Founding of Germany's oldest university: Ruprecht Karl University
- 1920 Government bans hoarding of food to beat miners' strike
- 2001 Cleaner throws away £5,000 art work by Damien Hirst, assuming it was junk

19 October

- 1216 Death of King John
- 1914 Pub closing time brought forward from 11pm to 10pm, as a war measure
- 1987 Stock market crash

- 1989 Court overturns £600,000 damages against *Private Eye* to murderer's wife Sonia Sutcliffe
- 2009 Reported that national debt plus PFI commitments now exceeds £2 trillion

20 October

- 1915 Government allows women to become bus and tram conductors
- 1953 Ford Popular car sells for £390, making it cheapest four-cylinder car
- 1971 Court of Appeal rules in *Owen v Burden* on costs of attending a conference
- 2005 David Cameron becomes leader of Conservative party

21 October

- 1422 Henry VI of England and Charles VII are both declared King of France
- 1879 First record of invention of incandescent electric light
- 1958 First women peers take their seats in House of Lords
- 1966 Aberfan pit disaster. A tip slips killing 116 children and 28 adults at school
- 1971 House of Lords rules in *Lupton v FA & AB Ltd* that dividend stripping is not trading
- 2002 Three peers suspended from House of Lords for fiddling expenses
- 2011 St Paul's Cathedral closes because of anti-capitalist protests outside

22 October

- 1921 German government resigns as economic crisis deepens
- 1924 Government bans preservatives in food
- 1958 Government ends compulsory arbitration in industrial disputes
- 1971 Court of Appeal rules in *Blausten v CIR* on power of settlement
- 1979 Government announces that insider dealing is to be a criminal offence

23 October

- 1897 First use of a motorised mail van
- 1918 House of Commons votes that women may become MPs
- 1933 Opening of first Lyons corner shop, specialising in mass catering
- 1945 Income tax is reduced from wartime high of 50% to 45%
- 1963 Lord Home renounces peerage to sit in House of Commons
- 1972 Access cards introduced in UK
- 1984 News bulletin by Michael Buerk on Ethiopia triggers Band Aid and Live Aid
- 2001 Auditors Arthur Andersen allegedly start shredding Enron documents

24 October

- 1927 Announced that cars now outnumber horse-drawn vehicles, with one car for every 26 people
- 1929 Wall Street Crash
- 1938 USA establishes a minimum wage
- 1939 First sale of nylon stockings: in Wilmington, Delaware, USA
- 1945 Norwegian leader and Nazi collaborator Vidkun Quisling is shot for treason
- 1945 United Nations formally comes into being

2003 Last commercial flight of Concorde

25 October

- 1415 Battle of Agincourt
- 1662 Charles II sells Dunkirk to France for £400,000
- 1760 Death of George II. Accession of George III
- 1839 First publication of Bradshaw's railway timetable
- 1932 Police pay is cut by 5%, following previous 5% cut
- 1942 Icing on cake is banned as wartime measure. Shops use cardboard
- 1949 Price of petrol rises from 2s 0½d to 2s 3d (about 11p) a gallon
- 1961 First edition of *Private Eye* magazine
- 1983 Release of Microsoft Word
- 1988 Lloyds becomes first bank to pay interest on current accounts

26 October

- 4004BC Creation of universe at 9am, according to Bishop Ussher in 1654
- 1922 Death of George Cadbury, English chocolate maker
- 1926 Belgium adopts belga as new currency to provide economic stability
- 1951 Conservatives win general election. Churchill returns as prime minister
- 1986 Deregulation of bus services in Britain
- 1989 Nigel Lawson resigns as Chancellor of the Exchequer in protest at Alan Walters

27 October

- 1923 France occupies German Rhineland to secure war reparations
- 1967 French leader General de Gaulle vetoes Britain's application for Common Market
- 1971 It is disclosed that 63% of American offices banned hot pants, and 5% miniskirts
- 1971 House of Lords rules in cases *Hinchliffe*, *Crabtree* and *Lynall* on valuation of shares for tax purposes
- 1986 Big Bang, package of reforms to Stock Exchange
- 1991 First free elections in Poland
- 1995 Broadcasting licence awarded to Channel 5
- 2010 Car from *Goldfinger* is sold for £2.9 million

28 October

- 1880 *Nature* magazine makes first suggestion that individuals can be identified by fingerprints
- 1886 Statue of Liberty is unveiled in USA
- 1931 Conservatives win 437 seats in general election, routing Labour
- 1938 Dupont announces the invention of nylon
- 1939 Germany orders all Jews to wear a yellow star of David
- 1943 House of Lords rules that savings from housekeeping belong to the husband
- 1955 Birth of Bill Gates, billionaire founder of Microsoft
- 1965 Final reading of bill that ended hanging as a punishment

- 1965 Pope announces that Roman Catholics no longer hold Jews responsible for the death of Jesus
- 1971 House of Commons votes in favour of joining the Common Market

29 October

- 1618 Sir Walter Raleigh is executed for treason
- 1863 Founding of British Red Cross
- 1914 British government starts round-up of aliens as a wartime measure
- 1945 Ballpoint pens go on sale. In New York they cost \$12.50 each
- 1948 Publication of bill to nationalise iron and steel industry
- 1964 Star of India jewel is stolen from American Museum of National History in New York
- 1966 Black people are allowed to join British army
- 2011 Death of Jimmy Savile, English disc jockey, later found to be a child abuser

30 October

- 1057 Death of Lady Godiva, who famously rode nude through Coventry in protest at tax plans of her husband Leofric, Earl of Mercia
- 1736 First known list of members compiled for a club that owned its own premises: Whites of London
- 1823 Death of Samuel Cartwright, inventor of the power loom
- 1947 Founding on General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
- 1957 Government announces plans to let women join House of Lords
- 1971 Ian Paisley founds Democratic Unionist Party
- 2000 Last day on which there were no humans in space

31 October

- 1910 Number of motor buses in London equals number of horse-drawn buses
- 1913 High Court rules on statutory exemption to tax in *Duke of Argyll* case
- 1922 Mussolini becomes prime minister of Italy
- 1935 Government announces plans to build a new airport at Gatwick
- 1950 Teachers' salaries increased to £630 a year for men; £504 for women
- 1951 First zebra crossings in Britain
- 1966 All BMC car factories are closed because of a strike about redundancies
- 1971 Bomb explodes at top of Post Office Tower in London

1 November

- 1695 Formation of Bank of Scotland
- 1765 Stamp Act takes effect in USA
- 1838 First prepaid stamped envelopes go on sale: in Australia
- 1848 First railway bookshop opened, by W H Smith
- 1898 First pensions paid in British Empire: in New Zealand
- 1916 First company to reduce working hours to 40 a week: Endicott Johnson, New York
- 1922 Introduction of radio licence at 10 shillings

- 1926 Betting tax introduced for on-site horse races
- 1929 Petrol price is reduced to 1s 7d (less than 8p) a gallon
- 1932 First use of a petrol pump with a price indicator
- 1939 Announced that butter and bacon are to be rationed
- 1947 Benelux customs union formed between Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg
- 1956 Premium bonds go on sale
- 1961 Racial segregation is banned at all US interstate transport facilities
- 1968 Publication of bill to reduce voting age from 21 to 18
- 1976 Abba release their record *Money Money Money*
- 2002 Theft trial of royal butler Paul Burrell collapses when Queen confirms his alibi

2 November

- 1896 First motor insurance policy written in Britain
- 1903 First edition of *Daily Mirror*
- 1917 British issue Balfour Declaration promising Jewish homeland in Palestine
- 1926 Formation of Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), which became biggest UK company
- 1943 It is announced that PAYE will apply to all wage earners
- 1954 End of wartime scheme of issuing licences to builders
- 1959 First section of M1 motorway opened, between junctions 5 and 18
- 1960 Court rules that *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is not obscene
- 1982 Start of Channel 4 television

3 November

- 1911 First Chevrolet cars are offered for sale
- 1937 Police seize Jewish bank accounts in Danzig
- 1962 First known use of the term "personal computer"
- 1971 Court of Appeal rules in *Odeon Associate Cinema* on whether repairs are capital or revenue
- 1989 Issue of prospectus for water privatisation
- 2004 Tesco starts selling mortgages

4 November

- 1470 Birth of Edward V
- 1879 Patent granted for cash register
- 1919 Court of Session rules in *North British & Mercantile Insurance v Easson* that discounts on premiums is not a management expense
- 1931 Herbert Samuel succeeds Lloyd George as leader of Liberal party
- 1948 Government ends restrictions on manufacturing fountain pens, cutlery and other items
- 1978 Bakers ration bread to end panic buying
- 1984 Formation of Dell Computers, as PCs Ltd
- 1988 Lord Chancellor Lord MacKay expelled from Free Presbyterian Church for attending a Catholic funeral

5 November

- 1605 Gunpowder plot to blow up Parliament, led by Guy Fawkes
- 1909 Opening of first branch of Woolworth's
- 1927 First automatic traffic lights in Britain
- 1935 Monopoly games go on sale
- 1965 Purchase tax rules changed so that miniskirts do not avoid tax as children's clothing
- 1969 Farm workers' wages increased to minimum of £13 3s a week

6 November

- 1717 The composer Bach is arrested in Weimar for demanding his release from employment
- 1917 Bolsheviks seize government buildings in takeover of Russia
- 1923 More than 1000 shops are looted in anti-semitic riots in Berlin
- 1958 Lord Chamberlain ends ban on plays about homosexuals
- 1972 Government imposes 90-day freeze on wages, prices and rents

7 November

- 1888 Announced that a photographic method has been developed using celluloid film
- 1917 Bolsheviks led by Lenin take over government of Russia
- 1944 Franklin D Roosevelt elected US president for record fourth term
- 1950 First football pools win of more than £100,000
- 2000 Unsuccessful attempt to steal Millennium Star diamond from Millennium Dome
- 2007 Petrol reaches price of £1 a litre

8 November

- 1701 Date believed to be publication of first provincial newspaper, *Norwich Post*
- 1887 High Court rules in personal injury case *Yarmouth v France* which is used as definition of "plant" for tax purposes
- 1917 Russia adopts Communism
- 1923 Beer Hall Putsch in Munich where Hitler tries to take over German government
- 1947 Potato ration reduced to three pounds a week
- 1963 Sir Alec Douglas Home wins by-election, allowing him to become prime minister
- 1965 Act becomes law that ends hanging as a punishment
- 1967 Radio Leicester becomes first local radio station in Britain
- 1968 Arrest of Bruce Reynolds, the last Great Train Robber to be arrested
- 1974 Covent Garden fruit market moves to new premises after 300 years

9 November

- 1769 Founding of first co-operative society in Britain: Weavers Society, Ayrshire
- 1908 Britain's first woman mayor: Elizabeth Anderson for Aldeburgh, Suffolk
- 1917 High Court rules in *Brooke v CIR* on supertax for non-resident separated wife
- 1938 Kristallnacht when German residents smash windows of Jewish shops
- 1940 France dissolves all trade unions and employment organisations
- 1966 Flooding in Venice destroys many art masterpieces

- 1973 Six Watergate burglars are sentenced. Scandal leads to resignation of President Nixon
- 1989 East Germany opens all border points
- 1999 Free television licences are announced for people over 75

10 November

- 1683 Birth of George II
- 1812 Earl of Liverpool becomes prime minister
- 1938 Jews are given 48 hours to leave Munich or be sent to a concentration camp
- 1983 Microsoft launches Windows operating system
- 2001 China is admitted to World Trade Organization after 15 years of negotiation

11 November

- 1675 First known use of infinitesimal calculus
- 1887 First illustrated newspaper advertisement: for knitting machine
- 1918 Armistice signed to end first world war
- 1921 First poppy day
- 1936 Prime minister Stanley Baldwin refuses to meet Jarrow job marchers
- 1947 Government refuses to give extra potato ration to vegetarians
- 1965 Rhodesia unilaterally declares independence from Britain

12 November

- 1886 Horse kicks Yarmouth and breaks his leg, triggering court case *Yarmouth v France* which is the basis of tax definition of "plant"
- 1911 Birth of Chad Varah, English priest and founder of The Samaritans
- 1920 Court of Session rules in *Sweet v Macdiarmid* on interest following court award
- 1926 Miners end their six-month strike which led to general strike
- 1971 Court of Appeal rules in *re Martin* that a lack of explanation on source of funds is sufficient for late assessment on grounds of suspected fraud
- 1990 Tim Berners-Lee publishes a formal proposal to set up worldwide web
- 1998 Merger of car makers Daimler and Chrysler
- 2004 Abbey National is taken over by Santander

13 November

- 1312 Birth of Edward III
- 1896 First extended trial of a petrol car in Britain
- 1927 First automatic telephone exchange in Britain: Holborn, London
- 1939 First bombs land in Britain during second world war
- 1945 General de Gaulle is elected President of France
- 1947 Hugh Dalton resigns as Chancellor of the Exchequer when part of his Budget is leaked
- 1970 Court of Appeal rules in *Hinchcliffe v Crabtree* on share valuation. Case is appealed
- 1973 State of emergency is declared as power workers and miners start strike
- 1980 Denis Healey becomes deputy leader of Labour party
- 1994 First passengers travel through Channel Tunnel

- 2011 Italy choose a prime minister and Cabinet with no elected politicians
- 2017 Government launches an MOT reminder service

14 November

- 1482 First known reference to a carpet
- 1847 First telegram service between two cities: stock market prices from London to Manchester
- 1922 First British news broadcast
- 1972 Down Jones index finishes above 1000 for first time
- 1972 High Court rules in *Pegler v Abell* about taxation of a retirement allowance
- 2002 General Synod votes to allow divorcees to remarry in church
- 2007 First trains go through the Channel Tunnel
- 2017 Steve Lamey is sacked as head of Student Loan Company

15 November

- 1708 Birth of William Pitt the elder, British statesman
- 1837 First publication of Pitman's shorthand
- 1923 Germany introduces a new currency worth 1 billion marks
- 1971 High Court rules in *Royal Bank of Canada* on tax avoidance by transferring assets abroad
- 1971 Intel releases first microprocessor, the Intel 4004
- 1972 Kidney donor cards introduced
- 2017 Supreme Court rules that Scottish plans for minimum unit price for alcohol is legal

16 November

- 1914 Policewoman's uniform is standardised. They no longer design their own uniforms
- 1917 Court of Session rules in *Malcolm v Lockhart* on stallion fees. Case is appealed
- 1928 Then record 6.6 million shares traded on New York Stock Exchange
- 1931 Prince of Wales launches a "Buy British" campaign
- 1966 Film *Cathy Come Home* shown on television. Leads to review of homelessness law
- 1988 *The Sun* agrees to pay £100,000 to charity for publishing private picture of the Queen
- 2004 Television cameras experimentally allowed into Court of Appeal
- 2011 British Airways stops issuing Air Miles

17 November

- 1558 Death of Mary I. Accession of Elizabeth I
- 1869 Opening of Suez Canal
- 1914 Income tax is doubled to 2s 4d in the pound to pay for the war
- 1923 German Central Bank says it will not accept deposits after 22 November 1923
- 1959 Preston and Renfrew Airports allowed to sell duty-free goods
- 2017 Nationwide offers first lifetime mortgages to borrowers aged between 55 and 84

18 November

- 1477 First printed book in Britain other than the Bible

- 1904 Gold is discovered in Rhodesia
- 1936 Edward VIII visits poor area in Wales and says “something must be done”
- 1968 Pound is devalued from £1 = \$2.80 to £1 = \$2.40
- 1981 IBM introduces its first personal computer
- 1993 White rule officially ends in Rhodesia

19 November

- 1600 Birth of Charles I
- 1901 Telephone system for London is completed
- 1954 First automatic toll machines installed, in New Jersey
- 1959 Announced that the £10 note is to be reintroduced
- 1959 Archbishop of Canterbury says that adultery should be a criminal offence
- 1970 Court of Appeal rules in *Banning v Wright* on taxation of lease payments
- 1987 Fire at Kings Cross station kills 30 people
- 1998 Start of impeachment hearing against President Clinton
- 2007 James Mason and Peggy Clark become oldest couple to marry in UK at 93 and 84

20 November

- 1272 Edward I is proclaimed King of England
- 1888 Patent is issued for time-card clock
- 1890 Pope Leo XIII issues encyclical on slavery in missions
- 1924 Birth of Benoit Mandelbrot, Polish mathematician
- 1931 New law introduces 100% duty on imports
- 1931 Rolls-Royce buys Bentley Motors
- 1959 European Free Trade Area (EFTA) comes into existence
- 1970 Ten-shilling note is demonetised
- 1972 High Court rules in *Sargent v Evans* on allowability of farmer’s overseas trip
- 1985 Microsoft releases Windows 1.0
- 1992 Windsor Castle catches fire
- 2012 Last typewriter made in Britain

21 November

- 1626 First newspaper to contain both news and advertisements, in Netherlands
- 1922 Ramsay MacDonald becomes leader of Labour party
- 1967 Britain is hit by an outbreak of foot and mouth disease
- 1989 House of Commons is televised for first time
- 2017 Robert Mugabe resigns as president of Zimbabwe after 37 years

22 November

- 1718 Death of Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard the Pirate
- 1808 Birth of Thomas Cook, travel agent
- 1910 American financiers have a private meeting widely believed to help found the Federal Reserve

- 1923 German banks refuse to accept any more deposits as economic crisis worsens
- 1928 First Bank of England £1 and 10-shilling notes go into circulation
- 1963 Assassination of President Kennedy
- 1979 Mortgage rates increased to record 15%
- 1990 Margaret Thatcher decides not to contest second leadership election

23 November

- 1552 Opening of first girls boarding school
- 1646 First British newspaper to include advertisements
- 1852 First British pillar boxes, opened on Jersey
- 1859 Birth of American outlaw Billy the Kid
- 1889 Installation of first juke box, in San Francisco
- 1949 Labour government decides not to nationalise industrial assurance companies
- 2017 Certificates of tax deposit are no longer issued

24 November

- 1868 Opening of Smithfield meat market
- 1939 British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) formed from merger of two airlines
- 1951 Austin and Morris car companies agree to merge
- 2009 Supreme Court rules against Office of Fair Trading in case about bank charges
- 2017 Tax-free childcare is extended to children under 6

25 November

- 1835 Birth of Andrew Carnegie, American industrialist
- 1876 First advertisement in Britain for gift coupons
- 1894 World's first motor show, held in Paris
- 1932 Actors' union Equity decides to operate a closed shop from 1933
- 1971 High Court rules in *Crisp Malting Ltd v Bourne* on company succession
- 1984 Band Aid records *Do They Know It's Christmas*

26 November

- 1908 Birth of Charles Forte, English hotelier
- 1935 Clement Attlee becomes leader of the Labour party
- 1940 Bananas in effect become unavailable in UK. Short supplies of oranges, lemons and onions
- 1947 Government announces plans to nationalise the railways
- 1963 Share prices record then record rise of \$15 billion for one day
- 1968 Race Relations Act comes into force, strengthening 1965 Act
- 1983 Brinks Matt robbery when £26 million is stolen in gold bars
- 1989 B & Q starts a campaign defying laws restricting Sunday trading
- 1991 Tesco, Asda and Safeway say they will defy laws on Sunday trading

27 November

- 1902 US president Roosevelt declares that skin colour is no bar to any office in USA
- 1914 First women police officers in Britain
- 1976 Production of four millionth Mini car

28 November

- 1660 Twelve meet to form what becomes the Royal Society
- 1905 Founding of Sinn Fein, Irish political party
- 1908 Court of Appeal rules that trade unions may not fund Labour party
- 1919 Nancy Astor is elected as first woman MP
- 1969 Court of Appeal rules in *Jones v Shell Petroleum Co Ltd* on management expenses and double taxation relief
- 1990 John Major becomes prime minister
- 2017 Court of Appeal rules in *Smith v Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust* on cohabitee's right to bereavement damages

29 November

- 1916 Government says it will seize vacant land for food production
- 1937 Germany says parents who are not Nazis will lose their children
- 1942 Coffee is rationed
- 1945 First computer calculation on a general purpose electronic computer
- 1962 France and UK agree to develop Concorde aeroplane
- 1971 High Court rules in *Thompson v Salah* on short-term gains in land
- 1974 Prevention of Terrorism Act becomes law
- 1975 First time Microsoft name is used for Bill Gates' company
- 1984 Short rotation coppices are taxed as trades and not as woodlands

30 November

- 1016 Death of King Edmund Ironside
- 1874 Birth of Sir Winston Churchill, English statesman
- 1909 House of Lords vetoes People's Budget, triggering a constitutional crisis

- 1918 Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia created from former Hapsburg empire
- 1931 EMI record company formed from merger of His Master's Voice and Columbia
- 1936 Crystal Palace destroyed by fire
- 1968 Trade Descriptions Act becomes law
- 1972 Royal Navy ships protect British trawlers fishing for cod off coast of Iceland
- 1979 Prime minister Margaret Thatcher demands rebate of Britain's contribution to Europe
- 1989 Lord Aldington wins records £1.5 million libel action against Tolstoy
- 1999 Completion of Exxonmobil merger, making it world's largest company

1 December

- 1135 Death of Henry I. Accession of Stephen
- 1834 Slaves of British Cape Colony are freed, leading to rebellion by Boers
- 1919 Nancy Astor takes seat as first woman in House of Commons
- 1942 Publication of Beveridge Report on reform of social security
- 1942 Start of petrol rationing
- 1966 First issue of special Christmas stamps
- 1970 High Court rules in *Horton v Young* on travel between home and work. Case is appealed
- 1972 High Court rules in *Barry v Hughes* on definition of education
- 1986 DTI starts investigation into alleged share manipulation by Guinness
- 1990 Two part of Channel Tunnel meet under the sea
- 1993 Ferranti goes into receivership
- 1998 Exxon announces a \$37.7 billion deal to buy Mobil
- 2003 It becomes an offence to use a mobile phone while driving
- 2009 EU Lisbon Treaty comes into effect
- 2010 Supreme Court rules that MPs are not protected by privilege in relation to their expenses

2 December

- 1620 First English newspaper: Corrant Out of Italy
- 1697 Opening of rebuilt St Paul's Cathedral
- 1852 Napoleon is declared Emperor of France
- 1901 Gillette patents the safety razor
- 1929 First telephone boxes in Britain, 22 in London
- 1943 Announced that 10% of all conscripted men between 18 and 25 will work in the mines, known as Bevin Boys
- 2001 Enron files for world's biggest bankruptcy
- 2017 Treasury announces it will refund VAT on X Factor's charity single

3 December

- 1591 First known policy of fire insurance
- 1753 Birth of Samuel Crompton, English inventor of the spinning mule
- 1795 Birth of Sir Rowland Hill, pioneer of British postal service

- 1909 Various duties cease to be collected because of constitutional crisis of People's Budget. King dissolves Parliament and calls a general election
- 1915 Court of Session rules in *Schulze v Bensted (No 1)* that trustees' interest is taxable
- 1920 Rudyard Kipling wins £2 damages when his poem *If* is used in advertisement
- 1929 President Hoover makes a speech when he makes first reference to "Great Depression"
- 1969 High Court rules in *Helical Bar Ltd* on tax consequences of changing accounting date
- 1971 High Court rules in *Graham v White* on whether a job had a public nature
- 1984 Privatisation of British Telecom
- 1989 US President Reagan and Russian President Gorbachev announce end of cold war
- 2010 Former Labour MP David Chaytor pleads guilty to expenses fraud of £20,000

4 December

- 705 Death of King Aldfrith of Northumbria
- 1154 Nicolas Breakspear becomes Pope Adrian IV, the only English pope
- 1708 Organist Effler is given a small pension at Weimar as an "old sick servant". He is succeeded by an organist called Bach
- 1934 Return train fares are reduced to one penny a mile
- 1948 Austin, Ford, Morris, Roots and Vauxhall agree to standardise car parts
- 1957 Government rejects Wolfenden Report which proposes legalising homosexual acts between consenting adults
- 1971 Montreux Casino burns down during a Frank Zappa concert. The event is remembered in the song *Smoke On The Water* by Deep Purple
- 1988 Flotation of British Steel

5 December

- 1766 First sale by auctioneers Christie's
- 1899 Death of Sir Henry Tate, English businessman and founder of art gallery
- 1933 Prohibition ends in USA
- 1948 End of jam rationing
- 1958 Opening of first British motorway: 8½ miles of M6
- 1958 First telephone call on STD: Queen calls Lord Provost of Edinburgh
- 1969 High Court rules in *Hinchcliffe v Crabtree* on valuing shares. Case was appealed
- 1978 Britain decides not to join EEC's new Economic Monetary System
- 1988 Post Office allows shops to sell stamps

6 December

- 1421 Birth of Henry VI
- 1877 First replayable sound recording: Edison recites *Mary Had A Little Lamb*
- 1921 Creation of Irish Free State
- 1926 Mussolini imposes a tax on Italian bachelors
- 1944 Queen Mary thanks women for their war work
- 1994 Orange County, USA, files for bankruptcy after losses on derivatives
- 2017 RAF bans Chancellor from using aircraft because of unpaid bills

7 December

- 1736 First fire insurance company formed, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 1783 William Pitt the younger becomes Britain's youngest prime minister at 24
- 1916 David Lloyd George becomes head of wartime coalition government
- 1923 General election ends in stalemate
- 1930 First television advertisement, for furs in USA
- 1941 Japan launches Pearl Harbor attack on USA
- 1955 Clement Attlee resigns as Labour leader and is made an earl
- 1972 High Court rules in *J H & S (Timber) Ltd v Quirk* on transfer of losses to subsidiary
- 2017 Value of a bitcoin exceeds \$20,000

8 December

- 1542 Birth of Mary, Queen of Scots
- 1765 Birth of Eli Whitney, inventor of cotton gin which made growing cotton profitable
- 1971 High Court gives ruling in *Coalite v Chemical Products* on tax on sale of know-how
- 2017 New insolvency laws introduced for LLPs

9 December

- 1886 Birth of Clarence Birdseye, American inventor of deep-frozen food
- 1920 Court of Appeal rules in *R v CIR re Dr Barnado's* on income from estates in administration. Case is appealed
- 1970 Court of Appeal rules in *Helical Bar* on tax consequences of changing accounting date
- 2004 Start of trial in France for pop singer Florent Pagny for tax evasion. She tells the story in her hit song *Ma Liberte de Penser*
- 2011 UK vetoes EU treaty on eurozone because of its effect on the City

10 December

- 1902 Opening of Aswan Dam across the Nile in Egypt
- 1915 Ford makes its one millionth car
- 1971 High Court rules in *Heather v PE Consulting* on tax allowability of expenses of buying shares for employees

11 December

- 1911 National Insurance Act receives Royal Assent
- 1961 Start of Viet Nam war
- 1971 Death of Mac McDonald, founder of McDonald's fast food chain

12 December

- 1917 House of Lords rules in *Brooke v CIR* on liability of non-resident on UK income
- 1925 Opening of first motel, in California
- 1938 Germany confiscates all property of Jews
- 1955 Patent issued for hovercraft

- 1969 High Court rules in *Banning v White* on nature of payment for amending lease. Case is appealed
- 1988 *The Sun* pays £1 million to Elton John for statements about his private life

13 December

- 1476 First book printed in Britain using movable type
- 1961 The Beatles sign management contract with Brian Epstein
- 1973 Start of three-day week because of miners' strike

14 December

- 1861 Death of Prince Albert, consort to Queen Victoria
- 1895 Birth of George VI
- 1960 Formation of OECD
- 1971 High Court rules in *Hewitt v CIR* on surtax on dividends
- 1978 Government abandons policy of blacklisting firms that breach pay regulations
- 2017 European court rules that VAT scheme for Avon Cosmetics is legal

15 December

- 1915 High Court rules in *re Healey* on assessability of minor. Case is appealed
- 1919 Court of Appeal rules in *Cowan v Seymour* on payment to liquidator in winding up
- 1941 Government orders scrap metal collections to be quadrupled
- 1952 George Jorgenson is first person publicly to admit having a sex change operation
- 2017 It is no longer possible to pay tax at a Post Office

16 December

- 1835 New York Stock Exchange is destroyed by fire
- 1959 Merger announced between Hawker Siddeley and de Havilland aircraft companies
- 1980 Death of Col Sanders, American fast food entrepreneur
- 1995 European court rules that footballers may transfer freely between EU states
- 2009 Banks announce that cheques will be phased out by 2018. They change their minds

17 December

- 1676 First fire insurance policy where holder pays premiums
- 1849 First sale of a bowler hat
- 1903 First aeroplane flight: Wright Brothers fly Kitty Hawk for 850 feet
- 1954 Formation of British Petroleum company, later BP

18 December

- 1865 USA passes 13th amendment, abolishing slavery
- 1878 Invention of electric light is announced
- 1933 Newfoundland reverts to being British colony to avoid financial collapse
- 1969 Court of Appeal rules in *Greenberg v CIR* on dividend strips. Case is appealed
- 1970 Court of Appeal rules in *Parkin v Cattell* whether properties can be trading stock

1971 US dollar is devalued for only second time in its history

19 December

1154 Henry II accedes to throne

1932 Start of BBC World Service

1991 Temporary raising of stamp duty threshold to £250,000

20 December

1910 Second general election of year results in dead heat and does not resolve crisis

1912 Doctors vote against providing medical insurance under National Insurance Act

1971 High Court rules in *Moore v Mackenzie* on valuation of stock

2017 Damian Green resigns as first secretary of state for misleading parliament

21 December

1118 Thomas Becket becomes Archbishop of Canterbury

1804 Birth of Benjamin Disraeli, British prime minister

1844 Opening of first Co-operative store to pay dividends, in Todd Lane

1935 Germany forces all Jewish doctors to resign

1964 US premier of James Bond film *Goldfinger*

2004 Armed gang steals £20 million from Northern Bank in Belfast

2017 All DWP helplines become free to use

22 December

1913 Three people are arrested for stealing painting *Mona Lisa*

1939 Women munitions workers demand same pay as men

1942 Caterers are banned from increasing prices at Christmas

1962 Start of big freeze. There is frost every day until 5 March 1963

1965 Introduction of national speed limit of 70 mph

2003 Parmalat is accused of falsifying its accounts

23 December

1732 Birth of Richard Arkwright, inventor of spinning machine

1913 Establishment of US Federal Reserve

1947 Demonstration of first practical transistor

2003 World Trade Organization becomes an agency of United Nations

24 December

1167 Birth of King John

1582 First time that water is piped to a private residence in Britain

1814 Formal end to war between USA and England

1906 First radio broadcast, in Massachusetts

1969 Birth of Ed Miliband, Labour leader

1988 Pan American jet blown up over Lockerbie in Scotland, killing 270 people

25 December

- 336 First known celebration of Christmas on this day
- 1066 Coronation of William the Conqueror
- 1818 First performance of *Silent Night*, the most widely recorded Christmas song
- 1914 Commanders are concerned when German and British forces celebrate Christmas together
- 1932 George V makes first Christmas Day broadcast by a monarch
- 2007 iTunes notes that a record 20 million tunes were downloaded in one day

26 December

- 1659 Long Parliament reforms in Westminster
- 1791 Birth of Charles Babbage, British mathematician and developer of first computer
- 1933 Patent issued for FM radio
- 1959 First known charity walk
- 2004 Tsunami hits India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand

27 December

- 1703 Methuen Treaty gives Portuguese wines preference in importation
- 1989 Romania abandons communism
- 2001 China and USA normalise trade relations

28 December

- 1694 Death of Mary II. William III then reigns alone
- 1903 First UK driving licence issued
- 1918 First time women vote in a British election
- 1939 Food rationing is extended to sugar and meat
- 2000 US retailer Montgomery Ward closes after 128 years

29 December

- 1170 Thomas Becket murdered in Salisbury Cathedral
- 1766 Birth of Charles MacIntosh, Scottish inventor of waterproof fabric
- 1867 First time ticker tape is used by a brokerage house
- 1940 City of London is bombed
- 1975 Sex Discrimination Act becomes law

30 December

- 1672 First known public concert
- 1904 Post Office accepts telegrams to be wired to ships at sea
- 1919 First woman Bar student is admitted
- 1942 Insurance companies attack Beveridge proposals on welfare state
- 1971 Release of James Bond film *Diamonds Are Forever*
- 1999 FT-SE 100 index hits 6930.2. It takes 17 years to regain that height

31 December

- 1600 Royal charter given to British East Indian Company
- 1881 First electric advertising sign, in Kings Cross
- 1951 USA concludes Marshall Plan of providing help to Europe
- 1960 Last call-up papers as conscription ends in UK