



**SELECT LIST OF
POST-WAR
EVENTS
&
DEVELOPMENTS
IN BRITAIN**

1945-1959

DATE	EVENT
1945	General Election: Clement Atlee became Prime Minister of the Labour government,
1945 - 1954	<p>RATIONING: After war was declared in September 1939, the British government had to cut down on the amount of food it brought in from abroad as German submarines started attacking British supply ships. There was a worry that this would lead to shortages of food supplies in the shops so the British government decided to introduce a system of rationing.</p> <p>Rationing made sure that people got an equal amount of food every week. The government was worried that as food became scarcer, prices would rise and poorer people might not be able to afford to eat. There was also a danger that some people might hoard food, leaving none for others.</p> <p>Every person in Britain was given a ration book. They had to register and buy their food from their chosen shops. When people wanted to buy food, the items they bought were crossed off in their ration book by the shopkeeper. The three or four shopkeepers and merchants in Brundall would have complied by these rules and would have known their local regular customers well. After the war the system continued until 1954. By this time the British public were tired of queuing and austerity. Here are some of the different types of items that were rationed.</p> <p>CLOTHING:</p> <p>The era of “Make do and mend” clothing ended in 1949. Shoes and boots were in short supply for civilians throughout war and immediately afterwards. Many people wore uniforms of some kind, even if in voluntary service.</p> <p>PETROL: This ended in 1950</p> <p>Contd...</p>

	<p>COAL: It is difficult for anyone who was not alive at the time to understand how significant coal rationing was, as almost all domestic heating was from coal fires, hot water was from coal fired boilers or coppers and many people were still cooking on coal fired kitchen ranges. Industry, too, was powered by coal.</p> <p>FOOD:</p> <p>Bread: Rationing started in 1946!</p> <p>Milk: 3 pts per head per week in 1939 was increased to 5 pts in 1951.</p> <p>Tea: Ended 1952</p> <p>Sugar, confectionery and eggs: Ended 1953</p> <p>Meat and cheese: Ended 1954</p> <p>All food rationing ended 4th July 1954</p>
<p>1946</p>	<p>Implementation of the 1944 Education Act</p> <p>The evacuation of three million working-class children from the big cities to the countryside during WWII, including Brundall and surrounding villages, forced people of all backgrounds to recognise the nation's poor educational provision. It highlighted many social inequalities in society.</p> <p>Until this Act was passed, children were only entitled to a free Elementary School education up to the age of 14. Now, all children had access to free secondary education at Grammar, Secondary Modern or Technical schools up to the age of 15. However, attendance at Grammar school became dependent on a child passing the 11-Plus exam.</p> <p>The Act required the provision of school meals, free milk, medical and dental treatment, and various support services including transport and clothing grants.</p> <p>An extensive national school re-building and improvement programme began immediately after the war.</p>
<p>1946</p>	<p>The 'Biro' went on general sale. By 1949 it was outselling fountain pens.</p>

1947

Town & Country Planning Act

The Act established that planning permission was required for land development; ownership alone no longer conferred the right to develop the land. To control this, the Act reorganised the planning system from the 1,400 existing planning authorities to 145 (formed from county and borough councils), and required them all to prepare a comprehensive development plan. These local authorities were given wide-ranging powers in addition to approval of planning proposals; they could carry out redevelopment of land themselves, or use compulsory purchase orders to buy land and lease it to private developers. They were also given powers to control outdoor advertising, and to preserve woodland or buildings of architectural or historic interest – the beginning of the modern listed building system.

“The 1947 system had a radical heart. By nationalising development rights, the Act gave the majority of the power to decide planning applications to local councils, creating the biggest shift in power between landowning interest and the ordinary citizen in British history.”

“Despite its major contribution to the fabric of our nation, planning is now disparaged by politicians, business and communities. Many of the issues 1947 solved are now a confused mess, like how to deal with strategic housing growth sustainably. Heavily deregulated and underfunded, the notion of public interest planning focused on sustainable development is effectively dead in England. It seems that as a nation we will have to relearn why 1947 is so important to us and why its principals are as relevant and vital to our society as they were 70 years ago.”

Hugh Ellis, Head of Policy, Town and Country Planning Association 2017

“The Rise and Fall of the 1947 Planning System”

1948

Nationalisation of Britain's infrastructure

This included the Railways, Gas, Electricity, Steel, Coal, Ports, Civil Aviation and the Road system (the latter was a temporary measure.)

The aim of public ownership was to rebuild the country's resources and economy after years of devastation and hardship and to create a more equal society.

RAILWAYS

This was followed by the "modernisation plan" of 1955. It included electrifying the main lines, replacing steam locomotives with diesel models, renewing the track and closing certain smaller lines.

Freight and other cargo was still carried on the canals, but by now they were owned by the railway companies, until the 1950s.

The canals the Railways owned were also transferred into a new British Transport Commission. The new commission focused on encouraging commercial traffic to the waterways, but with the construction and opening of new roads, e.g. motorways in 1959, and legislation, such as the Clean Air Act 1956 affecting the coal carriers using the waterways, this stance could not be sustained.

Note:

THE POST OFFICE had always been a government service.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS had been nationalised by the General Post Office (GPO) in 1912.

1948

The National Health Service was founded on 5th July.

Hospitals, GP surgeries, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, opticians and dentists available to all free of charge. In June 1948 the Central Office of Information sent a letter to every household with the message:

“It will provide you with all medical, dental and nursing care. Everyone - rich or poor, man, woman or child - can use it or any part of it. There are no charges, except for a few special items. There are no insurance qualifications. But it is not a “charity”. You are all paying for it, mainly as tax payers, and it will relieve your money worries in time of illness.”

Prescription charges and dental charges were subsequently introduced

Before 1948 patients were generally required to pay for their health care or they paid into various insurance or friendly society schemes. Some GP's charities could sometime offer support to those in most need.

Hospital services: The municipal and the voluntary hospitals were brought together in a single system in which all staff was salaried. Organisation was based upon 14 Regional Hospital Boards that oversaw local hospital management committees. The teaching hospitals were directly responsible to the Ministry of Health 'for they served the nation, not the locality.'

Family doctors, dentists, opticians and pharmacists were self-employed under a contract for services from an Executive Council. The family doctor acted as gate-keeper to the rest of the NHS, referring patients where appropriate to hospitals or specialist treatment and prescribing medicines and drugs. However the GPs had been stretched by the war, as younger doctors were away, and their pay, status and morale was low. In 1955 some money was made available to GPs to develop group practices, the beginning of a major development. Dental services consisted of check-ups and all necessary fillings and dentures. Eye tests were provided by ophthalmic opticians on production of a GP referral note. Pharmacists provided over the counter remedies and dispensed the GP's prescriptions.

Local authority health services were managed by a Medical Officer of Health, who had lost command of municipal hospitals but still ran immunisation and maternity clinics, provided community nurses to support to the family doctors and oversaw the control of infectious diseases. There was a school dental service and a special priority service for expectant and nursing mothers and young children. A major innovation, health centres in the community, had been planned but few were built. These were to be premises with accommodation and equipment to enable family doctors, dentists, nurses, chiropodists and others to work together to provide a range of services on the spot. There were also to be specialist ear clinics at which patients could get an expert opinion and, if needed, a hearing aid.

1948	Invention of the Long Playing Record , also known as the LP.
1948	The first supermarket in Britain was opened by the London Co-operative Society. It followed the lead of American food stores. No supermarkets had opened in Norwich even by the late 1950s.
1950	The Shops Act: This allowed only shops selling a restricted list of products (newsagents, off-licences) to be open on Sundays.
1951-1964	General Election: Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of the Conservative government, followed by Anthony Eden, Harold Macmillan and Alec Douglas-Home until 1964.
1953	Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II
1955	BBC local TV transmissions BBC begins local TV transmissions from its mast at Talconeston, South Norfolk ITV: Britain's first commercial television channel is launched.
1955	River Boards: Following the 1948 legislation, these were fully established with responsibilities for land drainage, fisheries and river pollution. They were partly nominated by county councils and county borough corporations, and partly appointed by the government. They were replaced by twenty-seven river authorities on 1 April 1965.
1956	The first nuclear power station opened to produce electricity at Calder Hall, Cumbria.
1956	The Clean Air Act This introduced a number of measures to reduce air pollution. Primary among them was compulsory efforts towards the use of smokeless fuels, especially in high-population 'smoke control areas' to reduce smoke pollution and sulphur dioxide from household fires. The Act also included measures that reduced the emission of gasses, grit, and dust from chimneys and smoke-stacks. This Act affected which industries were encouraged by Norwich City to re-locate there. It was also the beginning of the end for Thorpe Power Station.
1957	The first computer was delivered to Norwich City Council.

1959	<p>Silicone micro chip (or integrated circuit) patented in the USA.</p> <p>A microchip, smaller than a fingernail, contains computer circuitry called an integrated circuit. The invention of the integrated circuit stands historically as one of the most important innovations of mankind. Almost all modern products use chip technology. Today, microchips are used in smart phones that allow people to use the Internet and have a telephone video conference. Microchips are also used in televisions, GPS tracking devices, identification cards as well as medicine, for the speedier diagnosis of cancer and other diseases.</p>
1959	<p>BBC's first television news bulletin for the eastern region from St Catherine's Close, Norwich was broadcast on 5 October.</p>
1959	<p>ITV Anglia Studios had its opening broadcast on 27th October from the Agricultural Hall building (later Anglia House), Norwich.</p>

1960s – 1970s

1960	Conservative government in power under Prime Ministers Harold Macmillan and Alec Douglas Home until 1964.																																			
1962	Invention of LED lighting																																			
1963	East Anglia University established.																																			
1963	“The Beeching Report”: <i>The Reshaping of British Railways</i> recommended a vast reduction and of the railway network. It recommended some 60,000 miles of track should be closed. Economic recovery of the country and the end of petrol rationing had led to such rapid growth in car ownership and use that road transport was seen as the future. Holiday and coastal resorts were severely affected by the closures. The report recommended closing almost all services along the coasts of East Anglia apart from Norwich to Great Yarmouth. The East Suffolk line was saved through public appeal.																																			
1963	Greenshield Stamps introduced by supermarkets to encourage sales.																																			
1964	General Election: Harold Wilson became Prime Minister of the Labour government until 1970.																																			
1965	<p>The first national building regulations were published in England and Wales. These introduced limits on the amount of energy that could be lost through certain elements of the fabric of new houses e.g. walls, loft spaces and windows.</p> <p>Changes in u-values over the years: The table below shows the u-values required by Building Regulations for each building component in each decade. Building Regulations actually change more frequently than that (about every 5 years or so and each part of the regulations may be updated at a different time) but it gives a good guide to what has happened over the last 50 years. Highlighted cells indicate the first time the U-Value requirement for a component was strengthened.</p> <p>Building Regulations U-Value minimum standards 1970 – 2016:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>1970</th> <th>1980</th> <th>1990</th> <th>2000</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2013 (2016 amended)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wall</td> <td>1.6</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>0.60</td> <td>0.45</td> <td>0.30</td> <td>0.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ceiling</td> <td>1.5</td> <td>0.68</td> <td>0.40</td> <td>0.35</td> <td>0.20</td> <td>0.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Floor</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>0.51</td> <td>0.22</td> <td>0.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Window/door</td> <td>4.8</td> <td>4.8</td> <td>4.8</td> <td>3.1</td> <td>2.0</td> <td>1.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2013 (2016 amended)	Wall	1.6	1.0	0.60	0.45	0.30	0.18	Ceiling	1.5	0.68	0.40	0.35	0.20	0.13	Floor	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.51	0.22	0.13	Window/door	4.8	4.8	4.8	3.1	2.0	1.4
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1965	The Race Relations Act banned racial discrimination in public places and the promotion of hatred on the grounds of ' <i>colour, race ethnic or national origins</i> '. The government was criticised for failing to address vital areas where discrimination was most prevalent, namely employment and wider aspects of acquiring accommodation. This led to the passing of the 1968 Race Relations, which outlawed discrimination within employment, housing and advertising.
1965	British Petroleum (BP) was first to strike oil in the North Sea
1965	Cigarette advertising banned from British television
1966	First credit card issued by Barclays Bank. First cash machine in 1967.
1967	First colour television in Britain broadcast on 1 st July by the BBC. It presented the Wimbledon Championships.
1967	The Sexual Offences Bill. The Act decriminalised homosexual acts between two men over 21 years of age in private in England and Wales.
1968	Gypsies and travellers legislation: Local authorities were required to provide sites for gypsies and travellers following reports of persecution. The Gypsy Council had been founded in 1966.
1969	The USA Apollo 11 mission landed man on the moon: On July 20 American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first humans ever to land on the moon. About six-and-a-half hours later, Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon. As he took his first step, Armstrong famously said, " <i>That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.</i> "
1969	First solar power station opened in France.
1970	Equal Pay Act: This prohibited any less favourable treatment between men and women in terms of pay and conditions of employment.
1970	Chronically Sick and Disabled Act: This required local authorities to register disabled people and publicise services for them.

1970	General Election: Edward Heath became Prime Minister of the Conservative government.
1970	The pocket calculator is invented in Japan
1971	Britain changed over to decimal currency 15th February Prior to 1971, there were 12 pennies to the shilling and 20 shillings to the pound. There were guineas, half crowns, threepenny bits, sixpences and florins. This old system of currency, known as pounds, shillings and pence or LSD, dated back to Roman times when a pound of silver was divided into 240 pence, or denarius, which is where the 'd' in 'LSD' comes from. (LSD: librum, solidus, denarius).
1971	First single chip computer developed.
1972	School leaving age was raised to 16 years.
1973	First hand held cell phone developed.
1974-1979	General Election: Harold Wilson became Prime Minister of the Labour government, followed by James Callaghan until 1979.
1975	Sex Discrimination Act: This guaranteed minimum standards for equality on grounds of gender.
1976	Race Relations Act: This guaranteed minimum standards for equality on grounds of race.
1976	Apple produced one of the first home computers.
1978	The first time a barcode was used in a supermarket in the UK
1979	General Election: Margaret Thatcher was Britain's first woman to become Prime Minister and leads the Conservative government.

1980s-1990s

<p>1980-1997</p>	<p>Conservatives were in government under Margaret Thatcher, followed by John Major from 1990 until 1997.</p> <p>Privatisation policies were put into action during this period for the Railways, Gas, Electricity, Steel, Coal, Ports, Civil Aviation, Telecommunications, Water and Sewerage.</p> <p>By 1990, more than 40 UK state-owned businesses employing 600,000 workers had been privatised. Over £60 billion of state assets were sold, and the share of employment accounted for by nationalised industries fell from 9% to under 2%. The objectives of privatisation were to make the privatised firms more efficient, increase labour productivity and proper regulation of the industries and increase share ownership in society.</p>
<p>1980s</p>	<p>Sony Walkman produced the first portable player for recorded music.</p>
<p>1981</p>	<p>The government introduced a programme to put a computer into every school.</p>
<p>1982</p>	<p>ITV is split into several regional companies. Channel 4 launched.</p>
<p>1983</p>	<p>Breakfast TV introduced.</p>
<p>1983</p>	<p>CDs are launched by Sony and Philips Corporations</p>
<p>1984</p>	<p>The Building Act: More power given to the government to enforce building regulations.</p>
<p>1985-1986</p>	<p>Link cash machine network set up merged with Matrix in 1989. All cash machines consolidated in 2000.</p>
<p>1986</p>	<p>Corporal punishment abolished in schools. GCSEs replaced O and A levels</p>
<p>1987</p>	<p>The Great Storm devastated the British natural landscape. Thousands of ancient trees are felled.</p>

1988	Introduction of the National Curriculum; Testing at 7, 11 and 14. Creation of Ofsted to oversee it.
1989	The World Wide Web invented by English scientist Tim Berners-Lee
1989	Sky TV launched. In 1990 it merged with British Satellite Broadcasting to become BSkyB.
1990	Break up of the Central Electricity Generating Board in 1990 meant that ownership and operation of the National Grid in England and Wales passed to National Grid Company plc, later to become National Grid Transco, and now National Grid plc. Despite different arrangements in Scotland, the National Grid Plc continued to be the transmission system operator for the whole of the British Isles.
1993-1994	Half UK adults hold a debit card by this time and use a cash machine.
1994	Sunday Trading Act was passed, permitting an unrestricted range of products to be sold by, for example, supermarkets and DIY stores. The Act made it legal for large retailers to open their stores on Sundays. Supermarkets, for example, were restricted to a maximum of six hours.
1995	First supermarket loyalty card launched by Tesco. This allowed computerised research into customer's purchases. It could collect raw data on what people were buying and turned it into profitable information. Other supermarkets followed.
1995	Disability Discrimination Act: This ended state and business discrimination against disabled people.
1997	Channel 5 launched.
1997	Wi-Fi became the universal standard for wireless internet by agreement of all the electrical companies.
1994 - 1997	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change emerged in 1994 which set up the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 which made many countries commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

1997

General Election: Tony Blair became Prime Minister of the Labour government following a landslide victory.

2000-2020

2000-2010	Labour government in power under Prime Minister Tony Blair, followed in 2007 by Gordon Brown until 2010.
2000	The Millennium is celebrated universally. The Dome is constructed and opened to the public in London.
2000	The Postal Services Act: The businesses of the Post Office were transferred in 2001 to a public limited company called <i>Consignia plc</i> , quickly renamed <i>Royal Mail Holdings plc</i> which was under total control of the government. It set up rules for licensing private commercial postal service operators, created an industry regulator and a consumer watchdog.
2001	iPod MP3 technology developed.
2002-2003	Chip and pin system payment introduced.
2003	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, pushed forward by the European Union, called for the UK to introduce a standardised methodology to assess energy performance in buildings, improvement of buildings by the implementation of minimum performance standards and a rating system for constructed buildings.
2004	First sample of atom thick graphene produced as a heat and electrical super conductor.
2004	The Civil Partnership Act: Same-sex couples would have the same rights and responsibilities as married heterosexual couples in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.
2007	The iPhone was launched by the Apple corporation. Up to then mobile phones were generally geared toward business people and enthusiasts who saw them as an invaluable tool for staying organised, corresponding over email, and boosting their productivity. Apple's version took it to a whole other level enabling users to play games, watch movies, chat, share content and stay connected.

2007	Energy Performance Certificate introduced: All homes would now be labelled with an energy score to represent how energy efficient the property is. The introduction of the Code for Sustainable Homes certification would also lead the path towards zero carbon. Also formation of the UK Green Building Council to support the construction and property industry in a sustainable built environment.
2007	TV switched over from analogue to digital reception.
2008	Climate Change Act: Labour brought in targets: 80% carbon emissions by 2050. Also included were carbon budgets to keep us on track to 2050, the setting up of the Committee of Climate Change and also the Zero Carbon Hub to support the design and development of zero carbon homes in the UK.
2008	Planning Policy Statement published by the Labour government requiring all councils in England and Wales to enforce 10% renewable energy generation for commercial developments over £1000m, as well as to improve energy efficiency standards over and above those required by the building regulations.
2010	The iPad tablet launched by the Apple corporation. The iPad has been gradually introduced into many primary schools.
2010	Feed in Tariffs: The market in the UK for the installation of renewable energy sources, especially domestic Solar PVs, was boosted with the introduction of Feed in Tariffs, a generous financial incentive for renewable technologies by the secretary of energy and climate change at the time. This was cut back by the new coalition government.
2010	General Election: David Cameron became Prime Minister of the Conservative government, in coalition with the Liberal Democrats.
2012	Britain hosts the Olympic Games in London.
2013	BBC iPlayer launched.
2013	The Royal Mail is privatised and floated on the stock exchange on 15 th October.
2014	Same-sex marriage becomes legal in England and Wales.

2015	Code for Sustainable Homes withdrawn by the new coalition government. A new strategy to streamline the planning system, protect the environment, support economic growth and assist locally-led decision-making was under review.
2016	Referendum on EU membership held across Britain on 23 rd June. The majority voted to leave. Prime Minister David Cameron resigned and Teresa May was elected by the Conservative party as new leader and Prime Minister.
2017-2019	General Election: Teresa May returned as Prime Minister of the Conservative government. She resigned in June 2019 and was replaced in July 2019 by new leader and Prime Minister Boris Johnson.
2016-2017	British banknotes changed from paper to plastic.
2018	The first statue of a woman was erected in Parliament Square: Suffragette Millicent Fawcett.
2018	UK Sugar Tax came into force, affecting the content of commercially manufactured soft drinks especially.
2018	Supermarket Iceland was the first major retailer to announce the end of plastic packaging for its own branded products by end of 2023.
2018	Extinction Rebellion was established as a global environmental movement. Its hourglass logo indicated time was running out for the planet.
2019	School children went on strike across the world to protest about the escalating climate crisis.
2019	General Election: Boris Johnson won a landslide victory to continue as Prime Minister of the Conservative government.
2020	Britain officially left the European Union 31 st January.