

# Hungerford

## Diary of Key Events

- 1066-1154 The Normans**  
**1066-1087 William I**  
1086 Domesday Survey. Kintbury, Eddington, Leverton, Inkpen, Denford, Avington, Inglefol, Charlton included, but not Hungerford.
- 1087-1100 William II**  
**1100-1135 Henry I**  
1103-18 First written mention of "Hungerford".
- 1135-1154 Stephen**  
1147 First written mention of a church at Hungerford (probably existed well before this date)
- 1154-1485 The Plantagenets**  
**1154-1189 Henry II**  
1170 Burgesses of Hungerford used a 'common seal'.  
**1189-1199 Richard I**  
**1199-1216 John**  
1200 Probable period of new town layout.
- 1216-1272 Henry III**  
1228 Survey of Savernake Forest mentions leper house at Hungerford.  
1232 Priory of St John established on 'Bridge Street' island.  
1241 Town call a 'borough' for the first time.
- 1272-1307 Edward I**  
1273 Chantry of Blessed Virgin Mary mentioned.  
1275 'Pons de Hungreford' mentioned.  
1275 Two water mills in the town.  
1296 First mention of a market.
- 1307-1327 Edward II**  
1325 Robert de Hungerford founded Chantry of Holy Trinity.
- 1327-1377 Edward III**  
1334 Hungerford still taxed as a 'rural community'.  
1340 John of Gaunt born.  
1348-50 The Black Death.  
1350 A swan costs 4s 0d; a lark cost 1d.  
136- Probable date of the old 'Courte House'  
1361 Town Fair mentioned  
1362 John of Gaunt's wife Blanche inherits Lancastrian estates.  
1366 Earliest mention of Hungerford in Duchy records.
- 1377-1399 Richard II**  
**1399-1413 Henry IV**  
**1413-1422 Henry V**  
**1422-1461 Henry VI**  
1446 "Town" and "Borough" mentioned in grant to Lord Hungerford.  
1450 Possible date of the first Town Hall?
- 1461-1483 Edward IV**  
**1483 Edward V**  
**1483-1485 Richard III**  
**1485-1603 The Tudors**  
**1485-1509 Henry VII**  
1494 Denne Myll (Dun Mill) mentioned.  
1537 Bear Inn Landlord gives evidence against highwayman.  
1541 Bear Inn passed to Henry VIII's wives.
- 1547-1553 Edward VI**

- 1548 Priory of St. John dissolved by Henry VIII.
- 1553 Lady Jane Gray**
- 1553-1558 Mary I**
- 1565 Probable date of Great Fire (north end of town )
- 1580-1600 Renaissance: late 16<sup>th</sup> century**
- 1558-1603 Elizabeth I**
- 1568-1611 Long wrangle with Duchy over status of townsmen.
- 1600's Two fairs and three markets annually.
- 1601 Queen Elizabeth's coachman died and buried here.
- 1603-1714 The Stuarts**
- 1603-1625 James I**
- 1607 Second Town Hall built.
- 1617 Debate with Duchy finally settled by Feoffment.
- 1625-1649 Charles I**
- 1599-1641 Van Dyck
- 1642-1646 First Civil War**
- 1643 First Battle of Newbury.
- 1644 Second Battle of Newbury.
- 1648 Second Civil War**
- 1649-1660 Comonwealth**
- 1650 Tea introduced to Britain
- 1653 Dr. Sheaff founded Free Grammar School.
- 1654 John Evelyn visited.
- 1660-1685 Charles II**
- 1668 Samuel Pepys visited.
- 1685-1688 James II**
- 1685-1750 Johann Sebastian Bach – German composer
- 1685-1759 George Frederick Handel – German composer
- 1686 White Hart mentioned.
- 1687 New clock bought for “Clock House” in Town Hall for £10. Clockwinder John Tubb.
- 1688 Meeting of William of Orange and James II Commissioners.
- 1688-1702 William & Mary**
- 1695-1851 Window Tax (£5.00 per year per window over 6)
- 1702 Fire pump bought for ? £17 (or maybe £27) – see Constables accounts
- 1702-1714 Anne**
- 1703-1791 John Wesley
- 1707 Act of Union: England and Scotland forms Great Britain.
- 1714-1837 The Georgian Period**
- 1714-1727 George I**
- 1715 Fire in Hungerford mentioned in Constables accounts
- 1718 Lime trees planted around the pond in the High Street
- 1718-1720 First inoculation against smallpox
- 1722 Thomas Guy opens Guy's Hospital
- 1727-1760 George II**
- 1727-1788 Thomas Gainsborough – English landscape and portrait painter.
- 1728-1779 James Cook – English voyager. *Endeavour, Resolution, and Adventure*. Discovered New Zealand 1770.
- 1730 First experiments with gas street lighting (see 1801)
- 1733 Gate and rails at southern limits of town.
- 1738 Charles Wesley founded Methodist Church
- 1740 Bridge Street made.
- 1744 Newbury-Marlborough Turnpike Acts.
- 1750 Tea and coffee houses popular in Britain
- 1750 Bow Street runners – early “police” force.
- 1751 William Hogarth “*Gin Lane*”, “*Beer Street*” etc. 1697-1764

- 1751-1816 Richard Sheridan – British dramatist and MP, writer of comedies. Drury Lane Theatre.  
 1752 Reform of the Calendar  
 1753 Hardwick Marriage Act – all (except Jews and Quakers) must marry in Anglican church  
 1757-1827 William Blake – English artist and poet  
 1758-1805 Horatio, Lord Nelson. Died on “*The Victory*”
- 1760-1820 George III**  
 1765 First canal opened  
 1768 Royal Academy founded.  
 1770 John Radcliffe opens infirmary in Oxford  
 1775-1851 Joseph Turner – English landscape painter, impressionist, watercolour, then oils. 25,000 paintings.  
 1776-1837 John Constable – English landscape painter  
 1779 First ironbridge built – Abraham Derby  
 1781 Britain lost American colonies after 8 year war  
 1783 First manned hot-air balloon flight  
 1784-1850 Brick Tax  
 1786 Third Town Hall built.  
 1788 First meeting to consider Western Canal.  
 1788-1824 Lord Byron – English romantic poet  
 1792-1822 Percy Bysshe Shelley - poet
- 1795-1840 The Regency Period**  
 1796 William Jenner performs first vaccination  
 1798 Western Canal opened to Hungerford.  
 1800 Georgian period: age of consent 14 yrs for boys, 12 yrs for girls  
 1801 First Congregational Church built.  
 1801 Act of Union – United Kingdom: Britain with Ireland (until 1920)  
 1801 General Enclosure Act  
 1801 Gas street lighting becomes widely used – extracted from coal.  
 1805 Battle of Trafalgar  
 1805 Pond in High Street filled in.  
 1807 First Slave Trade Act – first attempt to abolish the slave trade  
 1807 Old Wesleyan Chapel in Church Lane built.  
 1810 Kennet and Avon Canal fully opened.  
 1811 Vaccination in Hungerford: Mr Major and Mr Barker vaccinating  
 1811 Enclosure Act for Hungerford received Royal Assent 25.5.1811  
 1814 George Stephenson’s first steam locomotive to haul coal from mines.  
 1814 National School built.  
 1814-16 New Church of St Lawrence built.  
 1815 3,700 miles of canal in use  
 1815 Battle of Waterloo, where Duke of Wellington defeated Napoleon’s army. 16,000 died.  
 1816 First bank in Hungerford.
- 1820-1830 George IV**  
 1829 Sir Robert Peel organised civilian police force  
 1829 *The Rocket* wins £500 prize for fastest locomotive. Liverpool & Manchester Rwy.
- 1830-1837 William IV**  
 1830-31 Reform Riots locally - Tannery windows smashed.  
 1832 Great Reform Bill passed – shifted power from landed aristocracy. Dinner given for 1,800 poor persons.  
 1833 Slavery finally abolished.  
 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act: Hungerford Union formed. 21 parishes, 150 sq. miles, 19,042 people  
 1834 Tolpuddle martyrs arrested for joining trade union. Transported to Australia.  
 1836 Height of coaching era 200 coaches weekly on Bath Road.
- 1837-1901 The Victorian Period**  
**1837-1901 Victoria**

- 1837 Turnstiles erected in Little Church Lane.  
 1837 More than 20,500 miles of turnpike roads in use.  
 1839 Royal Berkshire Hospital opened  
 1840 New Congregational Church built.  
 1842 Westfield House School established.  
 1845 Canals virtually extinct.  
 1845 Hungerford Gas Company registered.  
 1845 Enclosure Act  
 1847 Railway opened to Hungerford terminus station.  
 1847 New workhouse opened off Cow Lane.  
 1848 By now only three coaches weekly on Bath Road.  
 1852 Kennet and Avon Canal bought by GWR.  
 1858 Night School established.  
 1862 Railway extended west to Devizes.  
 1863 Little Church Lane turnstile replaced by posts.  
 1864 Primitive Methodist Chapel built.  
 1868 St Saviours Church built.  
 1869 Wesleyan Chapel built.  
 1870 New Town Hall and Corn Exchange built.  
 1874 Railway converted to standard gauge.  
 1877 Last year canal made a profit.  
 1879 Restoration of St Lawrences completed.  
 1884 Old Grammar School in Croft closed.  
 1891 First steam fire engine.  
 1892 First fire station built in Charnham Street.  
 1894 Boundary changes bringing Charnham Street into Hungerford.  
 1896 Second railway bridge over High Street.  
 1899 St John's Mission Hall built.  
 1900 Church House built.
- 1901-1910 The Edwardian Period.**  
**1901-1910 Edward VII**  
 1901 Church House club formed.  
 1903 Water Works company formed.  
 1907 School added to Primitive Methodist Chapel.  
 1908 Formation of Town & Manor Charity, under Charity Commissioners.  
 1909 New drainage scheme.
- 1910-1936 George V**  
 1910 New steam fire engine.  
 1910 New 'council' school built in Fairview Road.  
 1910 Visit of King George V to Chilton.  
 1914 Post Office built.  
 1915 180 Company A.S.C.. MT. stationed in Hungerford.  
 1920 Widening of Bridge Street: Dedication of War Memorial.  
 1921 Sports ground opened in The Croft.  
 1924 Motorised fire engine 'John of Gaunt'.
- 1936 Edward VIII**  
**1936-1952 George VI**  
 1944 General Eisenhower addressed American troops on Common.  
 1948 George VI and Queen Elizabeth passed through Hungerford.
- 1952- Elizabeth II**  
 1952 Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip passed through the town.  
 1960 Fire destroyed James Mill.  
 1963 John of Gaunt Secondary School opened.  
 1964 Swimming pool opened.  
 1964 Railway station demolished.

- 1966 Third railway bridge over High Street.
- 1967 Library opened in Church Street.
- 1968 New fire station in Church Street built.
- 1970 Steam Fairs on the Common in aid of Corn Exchange restoration
- 1971 Railway accident demolished signal box.
- 1971 M4 Motorway opened.
- 1974 Local government re-organization: first Mayor of Hungerford.
- 1974 Re-opening of Kennet and Avon Canal to Hungerford.
- 1978 New bells hung in St Lawrence's Church.
- 1981 Hungerford twinned with Ligueil.
- 1987 Hungerford shooting tragedy.
- 2008 New library and council office opened in Church Street