

Living in 1960s Britain - Timeline

1960

The United States of America enters the Vietnam War.

NASA's space probe, Pioneer 5 is launched into orbit between Earth and Venus.

The Beatles perform their first public performance at the Indra club in Hamburg, Germany.

1961

John F. Kennedy is sworn in as the 35th President of the United States, succeeding Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Ham the Chimp becomes the first ape in space, climbing to a distance of 157 miles above Earth in the Mercury-Redstone 2 Launch Vehicle.

George Blake, a British spy found guilty of working as a double agent for the Soviet Union, is imprisoned for 42 years.

Construction begins on the Berlin Wall, with the purpose of restricting movement within Berlin and forming a solid boundary between East and West Germany.

American involvement in the Vietnam War begins officially, as helicopters and four-hundred U.S. personnel land in Saigon.

1962

Prime Minister Harold Macmillan dismisses one third of his Cabinet in what the press dubs the 'Night of the Long Knives'.

The Beatles release their first single, "Love Me Do".

"Dr. No", the first ever James Bond film, premieres in United Kingdom cinemas.

The South African government arrests Nelson Mandela in Howick and charges him with incitement to rebellion.

1963

The Big Freeze of 1963 begins, with temperatures reaching as low as -16C (3.2F) in places. The ice and snow finally starts to thaw in early March.

The Beatles release their first album, "Please Please Me".

70,000 marchers arrive in London from Aldermaston, to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

The Great Train Robbery of 1963 takes place in Buckinghamshire. £2.6 million is stolen, but thirteen men are later convicted and jailed for the crime.

Alec Douglas-Home succeeds Harold Macmillan as Prime Minister.

U.S. President John F. Kennedy is shot dead in Dallas.

"I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "I Saw Her Standing There" are released in America, marking the beginning of full-scale 'Beatle-mania'.

1964

The Beatles arrive at New York City's JFK International Airport, receiving a reception from a mass of screaming fans. This is the first occurrence of "Beatlemania" in the United States.

BBC Two begins broadcasting in the United Kingdom.

Nelson Mandela and seven others are sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa and sent to the Robben Island prison.

The 1964 Summer Olympics are held in Tokyo.

The House of Commons votes to abolish the death penalty for murder in Britain.

1965

Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in for his full term as U.S. President.

The State funeral of Sir Winston Churchill takes place with the largest assembly of statesmen in the world until the 2005 funeral of Pope John Paul II.

The Beatles perform the first stadium concert in the history of rock, playing at Shea Stadium in New York.

The Post Office Tower opens in London.

A seventy miles per hour speed limit is imposed on British roads.

1966

The Rubber Soul album by The Beatles goes number 1 and stays at the top position for 6 weeks.

Georges Pompidou is re-appointed the French Prime Minister and forms a new government.

Harold Wilson, leader of the Labour party, wins the British general election.

USSR's Luna 10 becomes the first spacecraft to orbit the Moon.

The White House Conference on Civil Rights is attended by 2,400 people.

England beat West Germany 4-2 to win the FIFA World Cup.

Queen Elizabeth II officially opens The Severn Bridge.

In Aberfan, South Wales, 116 children and 28 adults are killed as a coal waste heap slid and engulfed a school.

Both America and USSR sign a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons in outer space.

1967

The Beatles release "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band", nicknamed "The Soundtrack of the Summer of Love".

BBC Two transmits tennis coverage from Wimbledon in colour. This is the first time that television is broadcast in colour in the United Kingdom and a full colour service begins on the channel from 2nd December.

BBC Radio One, BBC Radio Two, BBC Radio Three and BBC Radio Four are all launched.

	The Concorde is unveiled in Toulouse, France.
1968	Queen Elizabeth II appoints Cecil Day-Lewis as British Poet Laureate.
	The Beatles' album Magical Mystery Tour goes to number 1 in the charts.
	At the age of 87, Jeannette Rankin, a congresswoman from Montana, leads some 5,000 women on a march in Washington D.C. to protest the Vietnam War.
	Elvis Presley receives a gold record for the album How Great Thou Art.
	The My Lai massacre occurs; one of the most controversial incidents of the Vietnam War, in which 400 unarmed Vietnamese civilians are killed.
	Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral takes place, and he is buried in Atlanta.
	The Northern Ireland Prime Minister Terence O'Neill meets the British Prime Minister Harold Wilson for talks about Northern Ireland.
	The Beatles' White Album goes to number 1 in the charts and stays there for 9 weeks.
1969	Richard Milhous Nixon succeeds Lyndon Baines Johnson as the 37th President of the United States of America.
	The Beatles give their last public performance, on the roof of Apple Records.
	The Boeing 747 takes-off on its maiden flight.
	Prince Charles is invested with the title 'Prince of Wales' at Caernarfon in a televised ceremony.
	Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the Moon.
	Regular colour television broadcasts begin on BBC One and ITV.
	John Lennon returns his MBE medal in protest to the British government's support of the war in Vietnam.