

Why did the fire spread so quickly?

- The way the houses were built
 - Out of wood
 - They were very close together
- the lack of an organised firefighting service
- The hot, dry weather; the strong wind



Samuel Pepys

An **eyewitness**, Samuel Pepys wrote a recount of the fire in his famous diary. **Extracts** from his diary help us to learn more about the fire, what was done to stop it, and what happened afterwards.



King Charles II

Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire he made a decree that houses must be built apart and from stone not timber.

Chronology

2nd September 1666	3rd September 1666	4th September 1666	5th September 1666	6th September 1666
Fire broke out in a bakery on Pudding Lane in the early hours of the morning.	People started to leave the city, many by boat on the Thames	The Fire was so great it could be seen as far away as Oxford. St Paul's Cathedral destroyed.	The wind calms down and the fire stops spreading	Fire finally extinguished



Year One and Two History The Great Fire of London



The Great Fire of London started in the early hours of the morning of 2nd September 1666, in a baker's shop in Pudding Lane. By 5th September the fire had destroyed more than **13,000 houses and buildings**, including **87 churches** and the famous **St Paul's Cathedral**.

How was London different after the fire?

- Many people were left without homes and many left the city
- The first fire service was set up one year later.
- St Paul's was rebuilt by the architect Christopher Wren
- The city was rebuilt with wider streets in stone.



flammable	Something easily set on fire
timber	Wood used to build houses
ember	A small piece of burning wood
extinguished	To put out
architects	People who design buildings
eyewitness	A person who was at an event and describes it to others
diary	A book where people write down the events of their day
extract	A short passage