Back in The 1940s

IN THE NEWS

1940: The Battle of Britain took place from July to October with Hitler unable to defeat the incredible RAF despite outnumbering the British aircraft.

The night bombing raids on London began in September. The *Blitz* continued until the following May.

1941: On December 7th Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The United States entered WW2 by declaring war on Japan within 24 hours. Britain joined them with the declaration.

1942: The Germans were defeated at the Battle for the city of Stalingrad late in the year. This was a major turning point in WWII as they retreated westward from then on until their eventual surrender three years later.

The first American servicemen arrived in Britain in January.

1943: The RAF 617 Squadron successfully completed *Operation Chastise* in the early hours of 17th May. German Dams in the Ruhr valley were breached in one of the war's most memorable raids. It became known as *The Dambusters*.

In a breakthrough in medicine, Selman Wakeman discovered Streptomycin and coined the term *antibiotic*.

1944: The 6th June was D-Day. The invasion (Operation Overlord) started with allied forces totalling 155,000 in all crossing the English Channel to land in Normandy signalling the start of the end of the war in Europe.

1945: The War is over! Japan surrenders unconditionally to bring an end to World War 2. On August 14th V. J. Day is celebrated.

US President Franklin. D. Roosevelt dies, and Harry S. Truman is sworn in as President.

1946: The United Nations is formed.

After seven years, the BBC resumed their broadcasts in June, with a re-airing of the Mickey Mouse cartoon that had been the last programme shown on TV before it closed down.

1947: India gained independence from Britain, resulting in the country partitioning into India and Pakistan.

Princess Elizabeth married Phillip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh.

1948: The NHS was created in July. Created by the National Health Service Act of 1946. The World Health Organisation (WHO) was also established.

1949: EDSAC, the first programme-storing computer runs its first programme at Cambridge University.

UK Prime Ministers:
Neville Chamberlain 1937 -1940
Winston Churchill 1940 - 1945
Clement Attlee 1945 -1951

US Presidents:
Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933 - 1945
Harry S. Truman 1945 - 1953

World Population:
1943: 2.330 Billion
1948: 2.265 Billion

UK Population:
1943: 48.26 Million
1948: 49.40 Million

AVERAGE COST

	1943	1948
House	£600	£1,650
Yearly income	£210	£300
New Car	£315	£590
Gallon of fuel	1/-10d	2/-
Sugar 1lb	5d	5d
Loaf of bread	5d	5d
Pint of milk	2½d	3d
Postage Stamp	2½d	2½d

Most Popular Baby Names
MARGARET, MARY, JOHN & WILLIAM

INNOVATION

1942: Duct Tape, Instant Coffee 1944: Kidney Dialysis machine 1946: Microwave Oven, Tupperware 1947: First aeroplane to break the speed of sound, the Frisbee 1948: First Transistor radio of any kind - Bell Laboratories, 33 RPM records, Morris Minor, First Supermarket 1949: 45 RPM records, Volkswagen Beetle Type 1, Aerosol spray

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Virtually all sport stopped during wartime

Football: In the second half of the decade, LIVERPOOL, ARSENAL and then PORTSMOUTH twice won the First Division
DERBY COUNTY 1946, CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1947, MANCHESTER UNITED 1948, WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS 1949 were F.A Cup Winners

Golf: Major championship winners in 1940 JIMMY DEMARET: US Masters LAWSON LITTLE: US Open BYRON NELSON: US PGA
British Open: 1946 SAM SNEAD 1947: FRED DALY 1948: HENRY COTTON 1949: BOBBY LOCKE

Boxing: 1941: JOE LOUIS won the Heavyweight title beating Billy Conn

Cricket: 1945: Some first class Cricket matches took place: Top Batsman: LEN HUTTON Most Wickets; DICK POLLARD

County Cricket: MIDDLESEX & YORKSHIRE dominated post-war 1940s

Tennis: Wimbledon: TED SCHROEDER, BOB FALKENBURGH and BUDGE PATTY were winners as LOUISE BROUGH won in 1947, 1948 and 1949

ENTERTAINMENT

1940: Rebecca, The Mark of Zorro 1941: How Green Was My Valley 1942: Casablanca, Citizen Kane 1943: For Whom The Bell Tolls 1944: Meet Me in St. Louis 1945: The Bells of St. Mary's 1946: It's A Wonderful Life 1947: Welcome Stranger 1948: The Snake Pit 1949: The Third Man

IN THE CHARTS ...

Top Artists: Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra, Al Dexter and his Troopers, The Mills Brothers, Nat King Cole, Peggy Lee, Dinah Shore, Doris Day, Bing Crosby, The Andrews Sisters, Vera Lynn, The Ink Spots, Perry Como, Vaughn Monroe, Louis Armstrong, Jimmy Dorsey and his Orchestra, Harry James and his Orchestra, Guy Lombardo and his Orchestra,

Top Hits: 1940: A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square 1941: Pennsylvania 6-5000 1942: White Christmas 1943: Paper Doll 1944: Swinging on A Star 1945: There, I've Said it Again! 1946: To Each His Own 1947: Open The Door Richard 1948: Buttons and Bows 1949: A-You're Adorable

OSCAR WINNERS:

1940: Robert Donat, Vivien Leigh 1941: James Stewart, Ginger Rogers 1942: Gary Cooper, Joan Fontaine 1943: James Cagney, Greer Garson 1944: Paul Lucas, Jennifer Jones 1945: Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman 1946: Ray Milland, Joan Crawford 1947: Frederic March, Olivia De Havilland 1948: Ronald Coleman, Loretta Young 1949: Laurence Olivier, Jane Wyman

LITERATURE: Raymond Chandler: *Farewell, my Lovely 1940* Graham Greene: *The Power and the Glory 1940* Agatha Christie: *The Body in The Library 1942* TS Elliot: Poetry: *Four Quartets 1943* C.S. Lewis: *Perelandra 1943* Philip Marlowe: *The Lady in the Lake 1943* Agatha Christie: *Death Comes as the End 1944* Robert Penn Warren: *All The King's Men 1946* Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire 1947* Agatha Christie: *The Rose and the Yew Tree 1948* George Orwell: *1984 1949*

WHO WE LOST: *1940: Scott FitzGerald 1941: Amy Johnson, Virginia Woolf 1942: John Barrymore 1943: Beatrix Potter1944: Glenn Miller 1945: David Lloyd George 1946: H.G. Wells, W.C. Fields 1947: Henry Ford 1948: Mahatma Gandhi. Orville Wright 1949: Richard Strauss*