

## KEY PEOPLE

### Anglo-Saxons

- **The Church** became powerful after the Synod of Whitby in 664 and made things more lenient and introduced Trial by Ordeal.
- **Ethelred II from 978 – 1016** – defended England from Vikings by allying with Normans and increased power of king in enforcing laws.

### Normans

- **William the Conqueror** – Became king of England in 1066 after winning the Battle of Hastings. He was a Normans who had to take control of a Saxon country so he introduced Church courts and laws, the Mund, the crime of killing a Norman, the forest laws and used mutilation and hanging more often.
- **The Church** – They had their own courts which couldn't use the death penalty, used trial by combat and could offer the neck verse (benefit of the clergy) and the right of sanctuary.

### Middle Ages

- **Henry II** – He became king in 1154 and had to restore power to the king and law and order after the 25 year Anarchy where England was a war with itself and the nobles and the Church became all powerful. So he introduced the Assizes and Constitutions of Clarendon (common law), extended the use of grand juries, introduced petty juries, the king's bench, royal writs, travelling juries, Eyres and country gaols. He also tried to crush church courts by appointing his friend **Thomas Beckett** to head of the Church as Archbishop but.....this didn't work out and Henry II inadvertently got Beckett killed.....
- **Richard I** – introduced the position of the coroner who was like a detective who was brought in to investigate and deal with suspicious murders.
- **Edward I** – Made being Jewish a crime in 1290 and introduced being hung drawn and quartered for treason to crush Scottish and French rebels.
- **Edward III** – 1361 Justices of the Peace Act – This introduced the new role of Justices of the Peace. JPs were local landowners who were given the power to hear less serious crimes. They held their own Quarter Sessions courts four times a year. Eventually they took over the work of the hundred courts and the sheriffs' courts. Edward III made playing football a crime in 1349 as it interfered with archery practice.
- **John Wycliffe** – His followers were the the Lollards and they questioned transubstantiation, thae power of the Pope, indulgencies and the use of latin in the bible. This lead to the Heresy Laws of 1384, 1401 and 1404.
- **Robin Hood** – This was a character that emerged in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. He was a made-up outlaw and showed what people thought and wanted. They wanted money from the rich, brotherhood to have a poke at the sheriff and authority. However, outlaws were not friendly, they were vicious people who attacked the church and the poor, used violent tactics and stole goods and clothes from those that really needed them.

### Tudors and Stuarts 1500-1700

- **Henry VII** – Won the Wars of the Roses for the Lancastrians at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 and banned private armies and increased taxes which helped increase the number of beggars and vagabonds
- **Henry VIII** – king from 1509 – 1547. He used the death penalty more than anyone else and caused centuries of problems between Catholics and Protestants by breaking from the

Catholic church and changing the official religion of England to Protestantism in 'the Reformation' with the Oath of Supremacy in 1534. He also closed the monasteries which meant beggars had nowhere to go and caused the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536. He made witchcraft a crime in 1542.

- **Edward VI** – He changed the law by introducing the Vagrancy Act in 1547 stating that any person found begging even once would be made a slave for two years and get branded on the forehead with a letter V (for Vagabond)
- **Mary I** – Repealed the Oath of Supremacy and executed 283 Protestant including Archbishop Cramner by burning them at the stake.
- **Elizabeth I** – She became queen in 1558. She passed various laws that ordered each district or parish to provide money for the poor. She passed the Act of Supremacy in 1559 and ended recusancy. However, after her excommunication in 1570 she started cracking down on Catholics. Queen Elizabeth I in 1601 when she backed the first official Poor Law. This new law stated that each area should tax the wealthy local people and use the money to provide work and support for the old and sick. The law still maintained that anyone who refused to work should be whipped and then put into a House of Correction. She also distinguished between minor and major witchcraft.
- **James I** – He annoyed the Catholics at the Hampton Court Conference by failing to make things better for them and was the target of the gunpowder plot in 1605. He also declared that all witchcraft laws should be enforced.
- **Charles I** – King who was beheaded at the end of the English Civil War
- **Charles II** – Came back to be king in 1660, repealed all of Cromwell's laws and gave a charter to the Royal Society in 1662 which brought in scientific thought to the forefront of public life and led to a decline in the belief in witches.
- **Robert Aske**: Leader of the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 and was hung in chains in York
- **Robert Catesby** – the leader of the gunpowder plot who was a fierce Catholic who had been involved in the Essex Rebellion in 1601. He was killed at the skirmish at Holbeche house on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- **Guy Fawkes** – He was the explosives expert in the Gunpowder plot who was caught with the barrels on November 4<sup>th</sup>, was tortured and gave the name John Johnson. He was hung drawn and quartered.
- **Oliver Cromwell** – Lord Protector of England from 1649 until 1658. He introduced the Puritan laws to save the souls of England by making them work, keep the Sabbath holy and not do sinful things like celebrating false holidays etc.
- **Charles II** – He set up The Royal Society was set up and there was a huge increase in scientific discovery and development. This explained a lot of witch activity and partly led to the end of this craze.
- **Matthew Hopkins** – In East Anglia the worst case of Witch hunting hysteria took place. The hunts were run by Matthew Hopkins, the Witchfinder general, and his assistant **John Stearne**. In 1645 there were 36 witch trials just in Essex. The trials stopped in 1646. He died in 1647.
- **Thomas Harman**: Wrote a book about the different types of beggars like kitchen morts, priggers, prancers and baretop tricksters in 1567.
- **Ruth Osborne** – Died whilst on trial for witchcraft during 'swimming' in Tring in 1751.
- **Jonathon Wild** – He was alive between 1683-1725. He was known as the most successful thief taker of his time and in 1718 he gave himself the title of 'Thief Taker General of Great Britain and Ireland'. His gang would perform a robbery and he would keep the goods stolen. He would then wait for the newspapers to report the crime, and then claim that his 'agents' had recovered the stolen goods and would return them for a reward. He was said to have caught 60 thieves. He was hanged and executed for his illegal activities in Tyburn in 1725.

## 1700 – 1900

- **George II** - witchcraft Act in 1723 witchcraft was seen as fraud and was responsible for the Waltham Black Act.
- **William Pitt the Younger** – late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century Tory Prime Minister, responsible for lowering income duties and thus ending the smuggling epidemic.
- **Hawkhurst Gang** - Smuggling gang from Kent headed by Arthur Gray and Thomas Kingsmill – were caught and hanged in 1748 and 1749 after being successful since 1735.
- **Henry Hunt** – He was a great political speaker and in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century his political meetings calling for the right to vote, criticise the government and lower food prices and led to some violent protest. He was the Head speaker people had gathered to see at St Peter's Fields in Manchester in 1819 – the Peterloo massacre.
- **Black Harry** robbed pack-mule trains. He was eventually caught and executed at Wardlow Mires after being caught by the Castleton Bow Street Runners.
- **Dick Turpin** – He was an English highwayman whose exploits were romanticized following his execution in York for horse theft. He is also known for a fictional 200-mile (320 km) overnight ride from London to York on his horse Black Bess. Turpin's involvement in highway robbery followed the arrest of the other members of his gang in 1735. He then disappeared from public view towards the end of that year, only to resurface in 1737 with two new accomplices, one of whom he may have accidentally shot and killed. Turpin fled from the scene and shortly afterwards killed a man who attempted his capture. Later that year he moved to Yorkshire and assumed the alias of John Palmer. While he was staying at an inn, local magistrates became suspicious of "Palmer", and he was arrested as a horse thief, "Palmer" was imprisoned in York Castle. Turpin's true identity was revealed by a letter he wrote to his brother-in-law from his prison cell, which fell into the hands of the authorities. He was executed on 7 April 1739.
- **Sir Robert Peel** – He became Home Secretary in 1822 and was instrumental in police and prison reform. In terms of prison reform he helped pass the 1823 Gaols Act, made prisons clean, separate and working in the 1830s and starting building new prisons like Pentonville. In terms of the Police he managed to set up a police force in 1829 because of the taxes from the French War, the fear of protest after the French Revolution and Peterloo and the fear of crime after the end of the French Wars in 1815. This is why policemen are sometimes known as bobbies or peelers!
- **John and Henry Fielding** - realised that London needed more men on the streets whose job it was to prevent crime, and thus they came up with three new ideas:  
In 1749 they founded the Bow Street Runners. These Runners were initially paid by a form of reward system, but after 1792 they were paid by the government. They were based in London and would chase criminals and give evidence in court. In 1763 they set up a Horse Patrol to deal with highwaymen. However, money ran out after 18 months and another Horse Patrol did not start until 1805, In 1772 they began to publish the Hue and Cry news-sheet, a listing of crimes and criminals sent across the country and put up in town marketplaces. In the 1800s this became the Police Gazette, published to inform people of crimes and to offer rewards for information
- **John Howard** – He was appointed High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, he was appalled by conditions in the county prison. He toured Britain and Europe in the 1770s and 1780s to try to discover better ways of running prisons. He called for prisoners to have Christian teaching, work and decent food, plus visits from chaplains and doctors. He also wanted prisons to be cleaned and prison guards to be paid. As a result of his work, Parliament passed the 1774 Gaol Act, which suggested ways of improving health and sanitation. However, most gaolers ignored this. The significance of John Howard was because later reformers built on his work and took it forward

- **Elizabeth Fry** - Fry was, was motivated by her Christian faith. In Newgate Prison, London, Fry found women and children living in conditions of violence and disease, and she was determined to show God's love to them and try to reform them. She set up education classes and treated the prisoners with kindness and respect. She also suggested rules and the prisoners voted on them. In 1825 Fry published her ideas on how to improve prisons. This spread her ideas and helped to change attitudes
- **Jack the Ripper** – He killed the canonical 5 brutally on the streets of Whitechapel in London in 1888 between August and November for example he stabbed Martha Trabham 36 times. His case showed the problems of a new police department with a lack of technical expertise and manpower with outdated methods and the problems of catching criminals in a large industrial city – particularly the crime ridden and poverty stricken areas like East London.
- **Lord Liverpool** – Prime Minister during the Peterloo Massacre and helped pass the Six Acts.
- **George Loveless** – Head of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.
- **Sir Edmund du Cane** – Made prison conditions much harsher in the 1865 Prison Act.
- **Joshua Jebb** – The man who designed Pentonville Prison in 1842.
- **Oscar Wilde** – Irish writer of the Picture of Dorian Gray and the Importance of Being Earnest who wrote about the intolerable conditions in Pentonville Prison in 1898.
- **Thomas Kingsmill** – Leader of the Hawkshurst smuggling gang killed in 1749.
- **Arthur Gray** - Leader of the Hawkshurst smuggling gang killed in 1748.

## Twentieth Century

- **David Lloyd George** – Prime Minister who put a maximum sentence on Conchies of 10 years during WWI.
- **Alexander Patterson** – Head of prisons largely responsible for the reform of youth offender punishment in the Criminal Justice Act in 1948.
- **Roy Jenkins** - Home Secretary in Wilson's Labour government who was partly responsible for the end of the death penalty in 1965.
- **Derek Bentley** – He was executed in 1953 after a failed appeal against his conviction for the murder of PC Sydney Miles in 1952. It was his accomplice **Christopher Craig** that had killed the policeman, however Craig was 16 and thus got prison time whereas the 19 year old Bentley was executed. This showed the problems of judges having the power over life and death and inflexible laws that could lead to the death penalty, campaigns at Wandsworth prison by public protesters, debates in parliament and an extensive media campaign against the death penalty. His case was very important in the eventual ending of the death penalty in 1965.
- **Ruth Ellis** (9 October 1926—13 July 1955) was the last woman to be executed in the United Kingdom after being convicted of the murder of her lover, David Blakely – a rich racing driver she had met as a night club hostess. She was hung in 1955 but her composure and courtesy in court made people think twice about the death penalty.
- **Timothy Evans** – He was wrongly executed for the murder of his wife in 1950 after confessing under the stress of her death. She had actually been killed by John Christie who had killed her whilst pretending to carry out an illegal abortion of Timothy and his wife's unborn baby. He was killed despite huge holes in his story which changed several times and he was posthumously pardoned in 1965.
- **Margaret Thatcher** – Key player in making neighborhood watches popular in the 1980s.

## Whitechapel

- **Charles Booth** – social reformer who issued a report of the East end London between 1889 and 1903 and concluded that 35.7% of the population of Whitechapel were dying of poverty.
- **Dr Barnado** – Doctor who took in orphans from disease outbreaks. When he was taken to a roof top by Jim Jarvis (one of the Barnado boys and shown the number of poor orphans, he set up an orphanage in 1870 for boys, and later added one for girls – 100 in total each with 85 kids.
- **George Peabody** – an American investor who created the Peabody Estate, 11 new blocks of flats, on the site of a former slum under the auspices of the –1875, Parliament passed the Artisans' Dwellings Act. It opened in 1881 with 286 new flats.
- **Sir Charles Warren** - Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police In 1886. He was seen as pro Middle and Upper Class and the enemy of the working class – the population of whitechapel. This was confirmed when Charles Warren sent in the army to control protesters in Trafalgar Square – an event that came to be known as Bloody Sunday 1887 – he seemed to enjoy it. He also erased racist slogans off of the wall at Eddowes murder scene.
- **Elizabeth Gibb** – first woman murdered in Whitechapel in 1888 on New Years Day.
- **Frederick Abberline** – Head of the CID in the Jack the Ripper Case.
- **PC Alfred Long of CID** – discovered the apron of Eddowes with blood and faeces.
- **Rees Llewellyn** - a local doctor, examined the bodies and worked out the Ripper was left handed and must have anatomy skills so local slaughterhouses and hospitals were searched.
- **Barnaby and Burgho** – Blood Hound sniffer dogs who were working well but the police didn't pay the owner so he withdrew their help.
- **Queen Victoria** - sent two telegrams with practical advice for the Ripper case. This made the police light dark passages, search for the murderer's clothes and cattle and passenger ships
- **Elizabeth Long** - claimed to have talked to Dark Annie just before her death but this didn't fit the coroner's timeline.
- **Dr Wynne Baxter** - told the investigators to focus on motive and skills which led them to look more closely at butchers and veterinary surgeons.
- **John Pizer** - nicknamed 'Leather Apron,' Manchester Gazette had him up for the Ripper murders but he had solid alibis for the Dark Annie and Polly murders.
- **Marth Tabram** - possible Ripper murder by being stabbed 19 times on August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mary Ann Nicholls (Polly)** – First of the canonical 5 murdered on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Her throat had indeed been slashed with a long bladed knife and her stomach had been cut open.
- **Annie Chapman (Dark Annie)** – Second of the Canonical 5 killed on September 8<sup>th</sup>. A doctor called to the scene wrote that 'the body was terribly mutilated and the throat deeply severed'. Some of Annie's internal organs had been placed over her shoulder.
- **September 30<sup>th</sup> – 'Long Liz' Stride** - One of the double murders on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Ripper was disturbed before being able to do much.
- **Catherine 'Katie' Eddows** – Second of the double murders on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Police found graffiti near the body of Catherine talking about the Jews, but they washed it off. Bits of her blood-soaked clothing were nearby and her kidney, bits of her ear and nose were gone.
- **November 9<sup>th</sup> – Mary Kelly** – Last of the canonical 5. Only one found inside on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The police found Mary's clothes neatly folded on a chair. Her body had been cut open and her organs placed around the room and her face had been hacked to pieces.