



The Great Fire of London

The Great Fire of London is one of the most well known (1) disa□ter□ in London's history. It started with just one spark in the (2) □ous□ of a baker on Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666 and came to an end on 5th September, lasting four days.

During this period, most of the shops and houses in London were built from wood and as the streets of London were very (3) n□rro□, the houses were built close together. Furthermore, the area surrounding Pudding Lane was home to (4) s□vera□ warehouses that stored rope, timber and oil. This meant they were highly (5) fl□mm□bl□, and the fire quickly spread between the closely built buildings. This was compounded by the fact that it was a windy morning, which caused the hot (6) □mbers to be blown from roof top to roof top.

The (7) r□gin□ blaze spread to the east, west and north of London.

Fortunately, the buildings on the south of the River (8) Tha□e□ were spared from the damage because the fire was unable to spread across London Bridge.

As the fire continued on its path of (9) des□ruct□on, the smoke could be seen from afar as Oxford, such was the (10) s□veri□y. Many frightened people gathered as many of their (11) bel□ngi□gs as they could carry and tried to board boats to flee to safety. Others found safety in fields outside of London where they took (12) shel□e□ in shacks and tents.

In a bid to stop the fire, Londoners tried to fight it with buckets of water but the (13) m□gnit□de of the fire ensured their efforts were ineffective.



Test L (continued)

Other attempts to control the (14) bl z included using long fire hooks to pull down any houses that sat in the direct path of the fire to create fire-breaks, hence (15) depr vin the fire of fuel. These efforts also proved to be futile because pulling down the houses this way was very time

(16) con um ng, and in the meantime the wind blew the fire across the fire-breaks.

On the third day of the fire, Tuesday 4th September, (17) g npow er was used to blow up houses and buildings in another bid to prevent the fire from spreading further. This effort, combined with the wind dropping and changing direction, allowed the people of the city to gain

(18) con r l of the blaze. The fire was eventually

(19) exti g ishe and all that remained was the aftermath of the

(20) nfer o.

The damage caused by the fire was extensive and a third of London was destroyed with some places (21) sm ulde ing for months. 373 acres of the city had been burned, Newgate and Ludgate prisons were reduced to ashes and St Paul's Cathedral was (22) rui e . Even its lead roof had been (23) m lte .

(24) chu che and 44 halls were burned down. In addition, 100,000

people were made (25) h mel ss and the cost of the damage was

extensive. It took 50 years to (26) rebu l the burned area of the city.

Following the Great Fire, new (27) regul ti ns were put in place to prevent it ever happening again. Narrow streets became a thing of the past and all houses were required to be made with (28) bri or stone instead of wood. Thatch roofs were also (29) f rb dden and had to be substituted with slate or tile. The (30) Gre Fire of 1666 changed London forever.

- 45