

1950S SPEED HISTORY TIMELINE

1950

January 4 Britain asked the US for a stockpile of atomic weapons. **6** Britain officially recognised Chairman Mao's China. **10** The Russian delegate Malik walked out of the UN Security Council over Nationalist China being represented. Labour PM Clement Attlee called an election on February 23. **11** **The trial of Timothy Evans of 10 Rillington Place, Notting Hill, for the murder of his daughter began at the Old Bailey. Evans was duly found guilty and sentenced to death. In the meantime the local serial killer John Christie continued to haunt the pubs and cafes of Ladbroke Grove.** **12** 60 seamen were drowned when the HMS Truculent submarine sinks in the Thames. **13** Carol Reed's 'The Third Man' by Graham Greene starring Orson Welles premiered. **14** The US told its consular staff to leave China. **16** The West German government announced that food rationing would end. **19** Chairman Mao recognised Ho Chi Minh's North Vietnam. **21** George Orwell (Eric Blair), the author of '1984', died of tuberculosis aged 46. Berkeley University announced the discovery of the 93rd element Berkelium. **22** Chinese premier Chou En-Lai arrived in Russia for talks with Stalin. **24** Freddie Mills lost the world light-heavyweight title to Joey Maxim. **25** State department official Alger Hiss was sentenced to 5 years in prison for perjury in a prelude to the anti-communist McCarthy witchtrials. **26** India became a republic. **27** 8 western countries signed the NATO defence plan. **29** 1,500 people died in a series of earthquakes in Iran. **31** US President Truman gave the go-ahead for development of the Hydrogen Bomb. Stalin recognised North Vietnam.

February 1 Russia called for Emperor Hirohito of Japan to be tried as a war criminal. **2** The US said it would renew the Berlin airlift if Russia did not relax land access restrictions. **3** The British-based nuclear scientist Klaus Fuchs was arrested for spying. **7** Britain and the US recognised the monarchist regimes in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. The exiled King Leopold III of Belgium refused to abdicate. **8** The French National Assembly approved legalising strikes and collective bargaining. **9** Senator Joe McCarthy claimed that the US state department had been infiltrated by communists. **14** Rioting broke out in black townships around Johannesburg in South Africa. **15** Stalin and Mao formed a mutual defence alliance. **20** The government froze civil service wages. **21** The British/US businessmen/spies Sanders and Vogeler were jailed in Hungary. **24** Attlee's Labour were narrowly returned to power in the election. US naval attaché Eugene Karp was murdered on the Orient Express in Austria. **26** The Scottish singer/comedian Harry Lauder died. **28** The National Assembly restricted the sale of Coca-Cola in France.

March Russia announced that it had an atomic bomb. **3** The Russian spy Klaus Fuchs was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Alaska became the 49th state of the USA. **8** The RAF retired the last Lancaster bomber. Rover produced the first gas-turbine car. **9** **Timothy Evans of 10 Rillington Place was hanged for the murder of his daughter. This was subsequently seen as a miscarriage of justice that played a large part in the abolition of the death penalty.** Labour's majority was reduced to 6. **12** 80 rugby fans died in a plane crash near Cardiff. **14** Doris Lessing's 'The Grass Is Singing' was published. **16** Seretse Khama was allowed to return to Bechuanaland. **18** Roger Bannister broke the mile record with 4 minutes 1.48 seconds. **19** The writer Edgar Rice Burroughs died. **21** Only 46% of households in Britain had bathrooms. **22** Plans for Corby new town in Northamptonshire were announced. **29** Attlee suffered his first Commons defeat in a vote on fuel. **30** President Truman denounced Senator McCarthy for sabotaging US foreign policy. **31** Thor Heyerdahl's 'The Kon-Tiki Expedition' was published.

April 1 The UN adopted a plan to split Jerusalem. **3** The German composer Kurt Weill died. **4** Plans were announced for the 6th atomic research centre at Aldermaston in Berkshire. Customs seized smuggled nylon stockings with a black market value of £80,000 in Liverpool. **5** Police clashed with communist demonstrators in Paris. India and Pakistan agreed a bill of rights for minorities to curb Hindu/Muslim clashes following partition. **8** The Russian ballet dancer Vaslav Nijinsky died. **11** Russia shot down a US bomber over Latvia. **18** The price of a gallon of petrol went up to 3 shillings in the budget. **24** King Abdullah of Jordan annexed Arab Palestine. **27** Australian prime minister Menzies banned the communist party. **29** Arsenal beat Liverpool 2-0 in the cup final, and Portsmouth became league champions. The Eagle comic featuring Dan Dare was launched.

May 1 The 'South Pacific' musical won a Pulitzer prize. **3** The new HMS Ark Royal was launched from Birkenhead. **7** 80 people died in a train crash at Patna in India. **8** French intelligence reported that the Viet Minh had military backing from China. **9** Chancellor Adenauer announced that West Germany would join the Council of Europe. The French proposed a European Federation. **12** Czechoslovakia renounced its cultural agreement with Britain. **18** A 6-point NATO programme was adopted in London. **22** Chairman Mao offered Tibet regional autonomy within China. **25** The Viet Minh attacked French troops in Dong Khe. **26**

Petrol rationing ended heralding a motoring boom. **29** A 'day of mourning' was planned in South Africa in protest at racial legislation.

June 1 Petrol prices went up to 3 shillings a gallon. **3** A French expedition climbed Annapurna in Nepal. **6** Australian premier Menzies agreed to compromise on banning communists. **7** East Germany recognised the Oder-Neisse Line border with Poland. **9** An inquiry into the killing of 20 Nigerian miners found the police to blame. **14** General Smuts resigned as leader of the South African United Party. **17** The first kidney transplant operation was carried out in the US. **18** Egypt formed an alliance with Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. **23** East Germany renounced its rights to the Sudetanland. **25** The Korean war began as the communist North invaded the South. The UN, without Russia, called for their withdrawal to the 38th Parallel and Truman sent in US troops. **28** England lost to USA in the World Cup in Brazil. At the same time **the West Indies' first test match victory over England at Lord's was celebrated by Lord Beginner in 'Cricket, Lovely Cricket' and Lord Kitchener's calypso procession to Piccadilly Circus. Sam Selvon, the author of 'The Lonely Londoners', arrived from Trinidad and found a basement room in Notting Hill.** General MacArthur arrived at the front in Korea from Japan.

July 5 US troops failed to hold back the North Korean advance. **10** Soap rationing ended. **11** Frank Sinatra made his London debut at the Palladium. **14** The North Korean advance continued. **15** Churchill warned of World War 3. **16** Uruguay beat Brazil 2-1 in the World Cup final. **20** King Leopold returned to Belgium causing the socialist government to resign. **25** Production of TV sets increased by 250%. **26** British troops were sent to Korea. **31** The first Sainsbury's self-service store opened in Croydon. General MacArthur and Chiang Kai-shek had talks on Korea in Formosa. Belgian King Leopold abdicated.

August 1 Australian troops were sent to Korea. **3** China's entry to the UN was blocked by the Security Council. **5** The government announced that arms production would be doubled. **6** Non-communists were purged in Hungary. **7** The US launched a major offensive against the North Koreans at Chinju. **11** Churchill's proposal for a European army was accepted by the Council of Europe. **12** North Korean troops crossed the Naktong river. **15** Princess Elizabeth gave birth to Princess Anne. **17** Adenauer called for a West German army. **27** TV pictures were transmitted across the English Channel for the first time. Britain won 8 golds at the European Games in Belgium. **29** British troops arrived in Korea from Hong Kong.

September 1 The North Koreans launched a new offensive against UN/US forces. **3** 250 people were reported dead after a typhoon hit Hokkaido in Japan. **4** The US said it had shot down a Russian bomber off Korea. **6** Russia vetoed a UN motion condemning North Korea. **8** Foreign communists were deported from France. **11** The former South African leader General Jan Smuts died. Trapped miners were freed from a pit in Ayrshire. **16** US led UN troop landings were made at Inchon in Korea. **18** In Indo-China the Viet Minh took Dong Khe. **22** In Korea UN forces advanced to Suwon south of Seoul. **26** NATO adopted the idea of a European defence force including West Germany. **28** The South Korean president Syngman Rhee returned to Seoul. China threatened to enter the war if North Korea was invaded. 80 miners were killed in a colliery fire in Derbyshire. **29** UN troops reached the 38th Parallel.

October 1 South Korean troops crossed the 38th Parallel. **6** The longest pipeline in the world was completed from the Gulf to Lebanon. **10** The Viet Minh overwhelmed French troops at Kaobang. **13** The North Koreans were pushed back to Pyongyang. **15** Truman met MacArthur as the UN advance continued in Korea. **16** The French abandoned the Vietnam-China frontier zone. **17** 28 people died when a plane crashed at Mill Hill in north London. **19** The austerity chancellor Stafford Cripps was succeeded by Hugh Gaitskell. **21** China invaded Tibet. **23** Al Jolson died. An investigation was launched into the case of the Harwell atomic scientist Pontecorvo reported in Leningrad. **26** George VI opened the restored House of Commons. **27** South Korean forces advanced towards the Manchurian border. **30** Chinese troops advanced through Tibet into Lhasa. **31** 28 died in a plane crash at Heathrow in thick fog.

November 1 President Truman survived an assassination attempt by Puerto Rican nationalists. Trygve Lie was re-elected as UN secretary-general. **2** George Bernard Shaw died. **6** General MacArthur reported an attack by Chinese troops near the Manchurian border. **7** A US F86 fighter shot down a MIG 15 over Korea. **14** Jack Gardner became the new Empire heavyweight boxing champion. 58 died in a plane crash in the French Alps. **16** King Farouk of Egypt demanded the withdrawal of British troops from the Suez Canal zone. **17** Libya gained independence. **22** A meeting of Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian rebel groups took place. 75 died in a train crash in Long Island, New York. **27** The Chinese drove UN troops back from Manchuria. **30** Russia vetoed a UN resolution calling for the withdrawal of Chinese troops.

December 1 The number of drive-in cinemas in the US doubled in a year to 2,200. **5** In Korea UN troops withdrew from Pyongyang. **8** Truman assured Attlee that he would not drop an atomic bomb on Korea. **10** Bertrand Russell won the Nobel prize for literature for 'Marriage and Morals'. **11** In Malaya the return of

'jungle girl' Bertha Hertogh to her Dutch parents led to rioting in which 19 died. **16** Truman declared a state of emergency as UN forces were driven back in Korea. **19** Eisenhower became chief of NATO forces. **23** Pope Pius XII announced that the tomb of St Peter had been found under the Vatican. **25** Scottish nationalists stole/reclaimed the Scone stone from Westminster Abbey.

The hits of 1950 were 'I've Got A Lovely Bunch Of Coconuts', 'Music! Music! Music!' and 'Mona Lisa'. The films were 'All About Eve', 'The Asphalt Jungle', 'Sunset Boulevard', 'The Diary Of A Country Priest', 'The Enforcer', 'The Happiest Days Of Your Life', 'Harvey', 'The Men', 'Panic In The Streets', 'La Ronde'. 'Listen With Mother' was launched with "Are you sitting comfortably, then we'll begin." The Old Vic reopened. Books included 'Boswell's London Journal' and Ezra Pound's '70 Cantos'.

1951

January 1 Chinese forces launched an offensive across the 38th Parallel. **2** The Arabian American Oil Company agreed to share profits with Saudi Arabia. **4** The North Koreans took Seoul. **8** West German premier Adenauer agreed to talks on German reunification. The communist advance in Korea continued. **9** Britain dropped its east African ground-nut scheme writing off a £36 million debt. **11** The Viet Minh launched an offensive against the French in Tonkin. **15** Truman asked Congress for a \$60 billion defence budget. **17** Aneurin Bevan became minister of labour. **18** The French counter-attack drove the Viet Minh back from Hanoi. **21** The death toll rose in a series of avalanches in the Alps. **23** Truman created the Commission on Internal Security and Individual Rights. **25** The UN began naval bombardment of North Korean forces in Inchon. **26** The Chinese/North Korean advance was halted. **27** The meat ration was reduced fuelling the blackmarket. **28** The US tested a nuclear bomb in the Nevada desert. **29** The government announced plans to spend £5 million and recall reservists. **30** The UN named China as an aggressor in Korea. The car designer Ferdinand Porsche died.

February 1 Coal prices went up as the winter fuel crisis worsened. **7** The BBC announced successful tests of VHF transmission. **9** Greta Garbo became an American citizen. **14** Sugar Ray Robinson defeated Jake La Motta in New York. **17** UN forces reached the 38th Parallel. **20** The Gold Coast parliament was opened in Accra. **21** The British Canberra jet fighter crossed the Atlantic in a record 4 hours 40 minutes. **26** The 22nd Amendment limited presidential terms to 2 (8 years). **28** England won their first test match in Australia since 1936.

March 2 The government was defeated in a debate about the raw materials shortage. **4** The first Asian Games opened in New Delhi. **6** Ivor Novello died. **7** Iranian premier Ali Razmara was assassinated by an Islamic extremist as Iran voted to nationalise its oil industry. Martial law was subsequently declared in Teheran. **9** Labour right-winger Herbert Morrison (Mandelson's grandfather) replaced Ernest Bevin as foreign secretary. A law passed making lengthy separation grounds for divorce was subsequently withdrawn. **16** 14 people died in a coach crash in Doncaster. **19** The European Coal and Steel Company was founded. **20** Montgomery became Eisenhower's deputy at Supreme HQ Allied Powers Europe. **24** Oxford sank in the boat race. **27** UN/South Korean forces crossed the 38th Parallel. **30** Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were found guilty of spying for the Russians and sentenced to death. As General MacArthur was threatening to invade China, Indian premier Nehru offered to mediate in the Korean war.

April 2 Eisenhower took over at SHAPE. **5** The government approved the withdrawal of British troops from Suez. **11** Truman fired MacArthur to avert World War 3 and replaced him with General Ridgway in Korea. The Stone of Scone was recovered in Forfar. **12** 8 Britons were killed in rioting at the Abadan oil refinery in Iran. **14** Ernest Bevin died. **16** The British submarine Affray with a crew of 75 went missing off the south coast. **22** Aneurin Bevan and Harold Wilson resigned over planned health charges beginning left-right split in the Labour government. **23** UN forces were driven back by a Chinese offensive in Korea. **28** Newcastle beat Blackpool 2-0 in the cup final, and Tottenham became league champions. **29** China seized the assets of the British Asiatic Petroleum Company.

May 1 Radio Free Europe began broadcasting from Munich to the eastern bloc. **2** Syrian troops crossed the demilitarized zone into Israel. **3** The Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall were opened by George VI on the South Bank, featuring the disappointing Dome of Discovery and Skylon – the symbol of the festival representing Britain with no visible means of support. A ceasefire between Israel and Syria only lasted 3 hours. **9** The government lowered the age of OAP entitlement. **10** The Tories made further gains in the local elections. **14** The South African parliament voted to end 'coloured' voting rights. **18** The Vickers Valiant bomber jet made its maiden flight. **20** Britain warned Iran not to nationalise the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Iranians demonstrated in favour of oil nationalisation. **25** Burgess and MacLean went AWOL from the Foreign Office. **27** The Dalai Lama surrendered control of the Tibetan army to China.

28 The Festival of Britain pleasure gardens were opened at Battersea. **29** 80 miners died in an explosion in Durham.

June 7 British diplomats/spies Burgess and MacLean were reported missing. Princess Elizabeth stood in for the King at trooping the colour. **9** The last Nazi war criminals to be convicted at the Nuremberg trials were hanged. **11** Belgian king Leopold III announced his abdication in favour of his son Baudouin. **13** UN troops took Pyongyang in Korea. De Valera returned to power in Ireland. **18** Britain gave the go ahead for a US airforce base at Greenham Common. **19** Iran ended talks with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. **24** Peter Walker won the Le Mans grand prix. **25** The Metropolitan Police training college at Hendon opened. **26** Russia proposed a ceasefire in Korea.

July The state of war with Germany officially came to an end. **1** Juan Fangio won the European grand prix. **8** Preliminary ceasefire talks began in Korea. **9** US writer Dashiell Hammett was jailed for contempt of court. **10** Randolph Turpin defeated Sugar Ray Robinson at Earl's Court to become world middleweight champion. **15** 9 people were killed in anti-British riots in Iran. **16** Len Hutton scored his 100th century. **20** King Abdullah of Jordan was assassinated. The US Hawker Hunter jet made its maiden flight. **26** Ceasefire talks began in Korea.

August 1 Truman ended the tariff privileges of Commonwealth countries. **6** Britain-Iran oil dispute talks began. **10** Britain signed a trade deal with Cuba. **12** Anti-US demonstrations in East Berlin. **14** The US media tycoon Randolph Hearst died. **21** 130 people reported dead after Jamaica was hit by a hurricane. **23** The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company ordered foreign staff to leave. **24** Kenyan police reported the spread of Mau Mau black nationalist oath-taking. 50 people died when a DC-6 airliner crashed in California. **27** The first US airforce F-86 Sabre jets arrived in Britain. **28** British girls reported smoking Indian hemp reefer cigarettes. **31** Deutsche Grammophon launched the first 33rpm long playing LP record.

September US marines made the first helicopter-borne assault in Korea. **1** The US, Australia and New Zealand signed a defence treaty. **2** The US reported that Russia had exploded a second atomic bomb. **8** World War 2 officially ended as Japan signed a peace treaty. **9** China occupied Lhasa in Tibet. **10** Anti-British rioting in Egypt as 1936 alliance was ended. 25 anti-communist refugees escaped on a train from Czechoslovakia. **12** Randolph Turpin was defeated in his return fight with Sugar Ray Robinson. **18** George VI was diagnosed with lung disease and subsequently had one removed. **19** Attlee called another election on October 25. **20** Greece and Turkey were invited to join NATO. **27** The West German Bundestag voted to make restitution to Jews for Nazi war crimes. Iran seized the Anglo-Iranian oil refinery at Abadan. Britain asked for UN intervention. **30** The Festival of Britain ended.

October Korean peace talks resumed **2** Barbara Castle joined Labour's national executive committee. **3** Britain carried out its first atomic bomb test in the Indian ocean. **6** The Malayan high commissioner Hugh Gurney was assassinated by communists. **11** Lord Mountbatten became British commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean. **15** Egypt turned down a British defence treaty proposal. **16** The Pakistan premier Ali Khan was assassinated by a Muslim. **17** The German Porsche car was unveiled at the motor show. **19** British troops occupied the Suez Canal zone. **26** The Tories won the election and Churchill began his second term as prime minister. **27** Rocky Marciano defeated Joe Louis.

November 2 More British troops arrived in Suez. Egypt declared a state of emergency. **14** The French took Hao Binh in Vietnam. **20** The British evacuation of the Suez Canal Zone began. **23** A Korean truce-line along the 38th Parallel was agreed in principle and an unofficial ceasefire began. **25** Egyptian troops took Ismailia and the British agreed to withdraw. **27** The Czech vice-president Rudolf Slansky was arrested for spying. **29** The Syrian government was overthrown in a military coup.

December 4 Fierce fighting was reported in Suez. 23 marine cadets were killed in a bus accident at Chatham. **6** Anti-British rioting broke out in Iran. **11** The Viet Minh launched a new offensive in Tonkin. **18** The UN were given a list of 3,000 POWs held by North Korea/China. **23** The UN accused North Korea/China of not accounting for 50,000 POWs. **24** Libya declared independence. **29** The US Atomic Energy Commission announced that electric power can be produced from nuclear energy. A reputed footprint of a Yeti 'abominable snowman' was found in Himalaya. Ivor Novello's 'Gay's The Word' opened.

'The Lavender Hill Mob' Oscar winning Ealing comedy was released, starring Alec Guinness and Stanley Holloway – the car chase through Notting Hill concludes with the police radio-cars crashing at the junction of Bramley Road and Freston (then Latimer) Road. Books included the **'Rotting Hill'** short-stories, state of the nation address by Wyndham Lewis, and 'The Catcher In The Rye', JD Salinger's teenage bible of disaffected youth.

'A Streetcar Named Desire' starring Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh, 'An American In Paris' starring Gene Kelly, 'Ace In The Hole', 'The African Queen' starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn, 'Death Of A Salesman', 'Early Summer', 'Fourteen Hours', 'The Man In A White Suit', 'Othello', Akira Kurosawa's 'Rashomon', 'Scrooge', 'Strangers On A Train'. The hits of '51 were 'Shall We Dance' and 'If'. 'Kiss Me Kate' and 'South Pacific' opened in London. 'The Archers' radio series began.

1952

January 7 General Eisenhower announced that he would stand for president. **9** Churchill agreed to the US using British bases at Washington talks with Truman. **12** The British Vickers Valiant prototype jet crashed. **13** The Iranian government closed British consulates. **17** Churchill addressed the US Congress. **25** British troops killed 46 Egyptian policemen in Ismailia. **26** 17 people were killed in anti-British rioting in Cairo. **29** Chancellor Butler announced new austerity measures including NHS charges.

February 6 George VI died and the reign of Elizabeth II began on safari in Kenya. **17** West Germany's full NATO membership was postponed. **21** Liz Taylor married Michael Wilding. Identity cards were abolished in Britain. British troops killed 22 Malayan insurgents. **26** Churchill announced that Britain had developed an atomic bomb. **27** The first UN session was held in its new building in New York.

March 7 China claimed that the US was using germ warfare in Korea. An artificial heart was used for the first time in the US. **10** Cuban president Socarras was ousted by General Batista. **11** The first Tory budget raised tax allowances and profits tax and cut food subsidies. **14** The US announced a doubling of defence aid to Britain to £214 million. **17** The government utility scheme ended and the BSI 'Kite mark' came in. **20** The South African apartheid premier Malan refused to accept a supreme court ruling invalidating the law banning coloured voting rights. **21** In the Gold Coast Kwame Nkrumah became the first African prime minister south of the Sahara. **22** 200 people were killed by a tornado in the US mid-west. 44 people died in a plane crash at Frankfurt airport. **27** 'Singin' In The Rain' starring Gene Kelly opened. The cheese ration was cut. **29** Truman pulled out of the presidential race.

April 1 The US began a series of atomic bomb tests in the Nevada desert. 10 MIG-15 jets were shot down in Korea. Britain offered Sudan a self-rule treaty. **4** Labour won the London County Council elections. The US airforce unveiled the YB-60 jet bomber. **7** The government announced that it would bolster textile manufacturers. **9** The Queen announced that the royal family would retain the name Windsor. **15** Truman announced the official end of the Pacific war. **16** The new NATO HQ in Paris opened. **21** The austerity chancellor Stafford Cripps died. **22** The biggest atomic explosion yet in Nevada was televised. **24** The Nuremberg tribunal on the 1940 Katyn massacre began. **26** The French launched a new offensive in Vietnam. **28** General Ridgway was appointed Eisenhower's successor as NATO chief. **30** The British pharmaceutical industry adopted the metric system.

May 2 The first scheduled passenger airliner flew from Heathrow to South Africa. **3** Newcastle beat Arsenal 2-1 in the cup final, and Manchester United became league champions. **5** West Germany adopted an edited version of 'Deutschland Uber Alles' as its national anthem. A Rhodesian federation with Nyasaland was agreed in principle. **8** The UN launched a massive airstrike on the North Koreans, bombing and napalming Suan. **9** Labour made gains in the local elections. **15** The government announced an increase in the meat ration. **16** The Commons agreed to equal pay for women on principle. **21** A £200,000 mail van robbery took place in London. **29** The South African law banning coloured voting rights went through. **30** Ridgway succeeded Eisenhower as NATO chief and General Clark took over in Korea.

June 1 'Iron curtain' border controls were established around West Berlin. The African National Congress campaign began against South African apartheid laws. **3** 30 communist POWs were killed by US troops in Korea. **4** Eisenhower began his presidential campaign. **8** Chinese reinforcements were reported moving to the front in Korea. **11** Denis Compton got his 100th century. **12** Chris Chataway beat the 2 mile record. **14** The USS Nautilus atomic submarine was launched. **15** 'The Diary of Anne Frank' was first published. **20** The government announced that zebra crossings would be marked with orange beacons. **26** **The McCarran-Walter Act restricted the number of immigrants allowed into the US.** **27** British, French and US foreign ministers met in London. **29** The RAF Gloster GA-5 fighter jet prototype crashed.

July 4 The Egyptian government declared a state of alert in Cairo. **5** The last London tram ran from Woolwich to New Cross. Mo Connolly won the women's singles final at Wimbledon. **7** The United States liner crossed the Atlantic in a record 3 days. **11** Britons were reported living longer, marrying earlier, divorcing more and drifting away from manufacturing industries. Eisenhower won the Republican nomination. **14** 700 arrests were made in a crackdown on marijuana trafficking in Jamaica. **19** The

Helsinki Olympics opened. **23** General Neguib seized power in the young officers' military coup in Egypt. **26** Eva Peron, the first lady of Argentina, died. King Farouk of Egypt abdicated. Adlai Stevenson was chosen to run as the Democrat candidate for president. **28** Andrei Gromyko became Russian ambassador to Britain. **31** Following riots in Iran Mossadegh assumed emergency powers from the Shah.

August 2 The European Defence Community was incorporated into NATO. **3** Britain only won one gold at the Helsinki Olympics in show jumping. **5** Japan resumed diplomatic relations with nationalist China. **7** The Arab League denounced Israeli-West German diplomatic relations. **10** The European Coal and Steel Community was inaugurated. **11** The reign of King Hussein of Jordan began. **14** Foreign secretary Anthony Eden married Churchill's niece Clarissa. **16** 30 people died in a flash flood at Lynmouth in Devon. The Bristol Britannia airliner made its maiden flight. **24** The Kenyan government introduced a curfew as the Mau Mau uprising began with Kikuyu tribesmen burning huts of those who had refused to take the Mau Mau oath to drive out whites. **26** The first 'short, sharp shock' detention centre opened in Oxfordshire. A British Canberra bomber jet made a trans-Atlantic round trip in a record time of under 8 hours. **28** Harold Macmillan gave the go ahead for council tenants to buy their own homes. **29** The UN bombed Pyongyang in Korea. **30** The Avro Vulcan jet bomber made its maiden flight. 16,000 people fled East Germany.

September 1 The US launched the biggest bomber raid of the Korean war near the Russian border. **5** Eisenhower pledged to have a black cabinet member if elected. **6** A jet fighter crashed at the Farnborough air show killing 26 spectators. **7** General Naquib became premier of Egypt. **10** West Germany agreed to pay Israel £293 million for Nazi war crimes. **15** Britain left Eritrea to be federated with Ethiopia. **18** Egypt was reported to be planning to nationalise the Suez Canal. **23** Charlie Chaplin visited London for the first time in 23 years as he was investigated for being a subversive in the US. **24** Richard Nixon refuted an illegal fund charge on TV. **29** The land-speed record holder John Cobb died in a speed boat crash on Loch Ness.

October 1 US troops killed 52 rioting Chinese POWs in Korea. **3** Britain's first atomic bomb test took place in the Monte Bello islands. Tea rationing ended. **7** A Kenyan chief was murdered near Nairobi after denouncing the Mau Mau. **8** 112 people died when 3 trains collided at Harrow and Wealdstone station. **9** A servant at the Earl of Derby's home shot dead 2 butlers and wounded the countess. **11** Attlee attempted to control the left-right split in the Labour party. The Viet Minh launched a new offensive in the Thai highlands. **16** Charlie Chaplin's 'Limelight' premiered in London. Teheran broke off relations with Britain over the oil dispute. **19** The government announced that troops would be sent to Kenya. **21** British troops arrived in Nairobi as the Kenyan government declared a state of emergency and began rounding up suspected Mau Mau after 40 murders. **23** The dying Nazi Field Marshal Kesselring was released from prison. **25** China was refused entry to the UN again. **29** As the colonial secretary Lyttelton arrived in Kenya 500 Mau Mau suspects were rounded up.

November 4 The Queen opened parliament for the first time. **5** Eisenhower won the US election and Nixon became vice-president. **9** South African police shot dead 17 black rioters and an Irish nun aid worker. The Israeli president Chaim Weizmann died. Maria Callas appeared at the Royal Opera House. **10** Trygve Lie resigned as UN secretary general. The first airliner flight over the North Pole was completed. **11** Right wing Herbert Morrison beat left wing Nye Bevan in the Labour deputy leadership vote. **14** 'Here In My Heart' by Al Martino was number one in the first British singles chart and stayed there for 9 weeks, 'Walking My Baby Back Home' by Johnnie Ray was number 12. The Kenyan governor closed the schools of the Mau Mau Kikuyu tribe. **18** Jomo Kenyatta was charged with being the leader of the Mau Mau uprising. **23** 10 people were killed in anti-western riots in Iraq. **24** The US accused China of arming the Viet Minh. **25** Agatha Christie's 'The Mousetrap' opened. 2,000 Kikuyu tribesmen were rounded up to contain the Mau Mau rebellion. **30** The US carried out the first hydrogen bomb test in the Pacific.

December 5 Eisenhower visited the front in Korea. **11** Derek Bentley was controversially sentenced to death for being an accomplice to the murder of a policeman in Croydon. Bentley said "Let him have it", meaning the gun or bullet? **16** Lord Mountbatten became chief of allied forces in the Mediterranean. **17** Eisenhower had talks with General MacArthur about Korea. **19** 'Faith Can Move Mountains' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart. **20** A US airforce transport plane crashed in Washington state killing 84. **25** The Queen made her first Christmas TV speech. **27** 10 Muslims were killed in a car bomb attack in Malaya.

1952 was the year of the Great Smog. **The first Teddy boys appeared around Elephant and Castle.** 'The Greatest Show On Earth', 'High Noon', Alfred Hitchcock's 'Niagara' starring Marilyn Monroe, 'The Quiet Man', 'The Titfield Thunderbolt', 'Barefaced Flatfoot', 'The Happy Time', 'Viva Zapata', Cinerama. 'East Of Eden' by John Steinbeck. 'Singin' In the Rain', 'I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus'. Contraceptive pills were first produced and the De Havilland jet fighter broke the sound barrier.

1953

January 1 The country singer Hank Williams died. China's first 5 year plan came into force. The RAF commander Arthur 'Bomber' Harris was knighted, and the RAF's first supersonic fighters arrived. **3** Samuel Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot' play premiered in Paris. **12** The trial of SS men for the 1944 Oradour massacre began in Bordeaux. **13** 6 Jewish doctors were arrested in Russia. **14** Josef Tito became president of Yugoslavia. **25** Egyptian army officers were arrested as a coup attempt was foiled in Cairo. **16** 'You Belong To Me' by Jo Stafford number one. **18** The Kenyan governor Evelyn Baring imposed the death penalty for administering the Mau Mau oath. **20** Eisenhower was inaugurated as president. **23** 'Comes A-long A-love' by Kay Starr number one. **26** After the murder of white farmers by Mau Mau rebels colonial whites marched through Nairobi calling for more extreme measures from Governor Baring. **28** Derek Bentley was hanged in spite of a plea from 200 MPs for a reprieve. **30** 'Outside of Heaven' by Eddie Fisher number one. **John Christie murdered 3 prostitutes at 10 Rillington Place in Notting Hill.** Eisenhower withdrew the US fleet from Formosa so the Chinese Nationalists could attack communist China. **31** 130 people died when a car ferry sank off Stranraer.

February 1 20th Century Fox announced that its films would now be made in Cinemascope. **3** 300 people died when the east coast of England was flooded. Over a thousand people drowned in Holland when dams burst. **5** Sweet rationing ended. Plans for a federal Rhodesia were announced. **6** 'Don't Let The Stars Get In Your Eyes' by Perry Como number one for 5 weeks. **11** Eisenhower turned down the Rosenbergs' plea for a reprieve. **12** Magistrates voted to restore corporal punishment. **16** HMS Hermes naval carrier was launched. **28** Hungary offered to exchange captured spies with Britain.

March 5 Joseph Stalin died, after ruling Russia for 30 years, to be succeeded by Malenkov. The Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev died on the same day. Cambodia proclaimed independence. **10** West Germany banned the neo-Nazi Freikorps. **13** 'She Wears Red Feathers' by Guy Mitchell number one for 4 weeks. **15** Yugoslav premier Tito became the first communist head of state to visit Britain. **20** Vivien Leigh returned from Hollywood to go into rehab. **24** **After the last Christie murders West Indian tenants of 10 Rillington Place discovered the bodies of 3 prostitutes concealed in a kitchen cupboard. Police found the remains of 3 more women on the premises and launched a man hunt for Christie.** **25** George VI's wife Queen Mary died. Successful polio vaccine tests were carried out by Dr Jonas Salk. **31** **John Christie was arrested by Putney bridge.** Queen Mary's funeral took place. Sweden's Dag Hammarskjold was chosen to succeed Trygve Lie at the UN.

April 1 British troops killed 25 Mau Mau rebels in Kenya. **4** The Jewish doctors arrested in Stalin's last purge were released. **8** The Mau Mau leader Jomo 'Burning Spear' Kenyatta was jailed. 8 people died in a tube train crash near Stratford. **10** 'Broken Wings' by the Stargazers number one. **15** **Christie was charged with murder.** In Argentina 6 people died in a bomb attack on a rally addressed by President Peron. **16** The Queen launched the new royal yacht Britannia. **17** A thousand suspected Mau Mau rebels were rounded up. 'How Much Is That Doggie In The Window' by Lita Roza number one. **20** POWs were exchanged in Korea. **24** 'I Believe' by Frankie Laine number one for 18 weeks, 'Somebody Stole My Gal' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart. **25** Cambridge scientists announced the discovery of DNA genetic structure. **27** Talks began between Britain and Egypt over the Suez Canal.

May 1 Arsenal become league champions. British POWs arrived back from Korea. **2** Stanley Matthews' Blackpool beat Bolton Wanderers 4-3 in the cup final. 43 died in a BOAC plane crash near Calcutta. King Hussein of Jordan and Faisal II of Syria were crowned. **4** Refugees marched to West Berlin as food shortages worsened in East Germany. Ernest Hemingway won the Pulitzer prize. **8** A more powerful atomic bomb was exploded in the Nevada desert. **15** Rocky Marciano retained the world heavyweight title. **18** **Police exhumed the bodies of Beryl Evans and her baby regarding the Rillington Place murders case.** **29** Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing climbed Mount Everest. **31** US secretary of state John Foster Dulles warned of a communist 'domino effect' if the Viet Minh defeated the French in Indo-China.

June 2 The Coronation of the Queen took place at Westminster Abbey, with accompanying 'Coronation Calypso' by Young Tiger, closely followed by the royal scandal of Princess Margaret's affair with the divorced Captain Peter Townsend. **4** An even more powerful atomic bomb was exploded in Nevada. **5** The Senate voted to bar China from the UN. **9** **Randolph Turpin beat Charles Humez in a world middleweight fight at White City stadium.** **14** King Sihanouk fled Cambodia. **15** Chinese troops launched a final offensive in Korea. **17** Russian tanks suppressed a workers uprising in East Berlin. **18** 129 US troops died in a plane crash near Tokyo. Egypt was declared a republic. **19** The spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg went to the electric chair at Sing Sing prison. **22** **The trial of John Christie of 10**

Rillington Place began at the Old Bailey. 23 Prime Minister Winston Churchill suffered a stroke. **25** Christie duly received the death penalty. **26** 'I'm Walking Behind You' by Eddie Fisher number one.

July 1 MPs decided against suspending the death penalty. **4** The liberal Imre Nagy became prime minister of Hungary. **9** 99 Mau Mau rebels were killed by British troops in Kenya. **10** The Russian secret police chief Beria was arrested. **11** The US announced that South Korea had agreed to an armistice. **12** Martial law ended in East Berlin. **15** **John Christie was hanged at Pentonville. The government inquiry into the Timothy Evans case found no miscarriage of justice. A Kensington Post article entitled 'Rotting Hill' refuted 'allegations that Notting Hill is London's crime black spot number 1 and is ridden with teenage gangs.'** 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes' starring Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell premiered in New York. Production of the B-52 bomber was under way. **16** The writer Hillaire Belloc died. **26** The Cuban rebel leader Fidel Castro was jailed after an attack on an army base. **27** The Korean war ended after 3 years and over 2 million deaths.

August 5 'From Here To Eternity' opened in the US. **13** Over a thousand were killed by tidal waves on the Greek Ionian islands. France was brought to a standstill by a general strike. **14** Malenkov announced that Russia had caught up with the US in the nuclear arms race by exploding an H Bomb in Siberia. 'Moulin Rouge' by Mantovani number one. **19** England won back the Ashes from Australia. **20** The Moroccan sultan was ousted by the French. **22** East Germany announced that they would cease paying reparations to Russia. The Shah of Iran returned to Teheran after a military coup.

September Khrushchev became first secretary of the Communist Party. **2** A Larger 27 inch TV set appeared at the Radio Show. **11** 'Look At That Girl' by Guy Mitchell number one for 6 weeks. **12** Senator John F Kennedy married Jacqueline Bouvier. **24** Rocky Marciano beat Roland La Starza to retain the world heavyweight title. **28** The Polish cardinal Stefan Wyszynski was arrested.

October 14 Israel invaded Jordan causing international protest. More British POWs returned from Korea. **18** Polish street protests took place over the arrest of Cardinal Wyszynski. **21** Randolph Turpin lost the world middleweight title to Carl Olsen. **23** Troops were called in to operate petrol tankers when drivers went on strike. 'Hey Joe' by Frankie Laine number one. **27** Members of the People's Progressive Party were arrested in British Guiana.

November 5 The government announced that rationing would end in 1954. The Israeli prime minister Ben-Gurion resigned. **6** 'Answer Me' by David Whitfield number one. **9** Dylan Thomas died aged 39 at the Chelsea Hotel in New York. **13** Plans for a new commercial TV channel were announced. 'Answer Me' by Frankie Laine number one for 8 weeks. **16** Anti-smog masks became available on the NHS. **21** Piltown man was found to be a hoax. **25** Ferenc Puskas's Hungary beat England 6-3 at Wembley. **29** The French took Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam. **30** Diplomatic relations were restored between Iran and Britain.

December 1 **Harold Macmillan announced that 300,000 new homes had been built in 1953. This included the Henry Dickens Court estate in Notting Hill, which was opened by the Queen Mother and Charles Dickens' councillor grandson on the site of the Notting Dale slum. The Portobello Court estate was also opened on Portobello Road, and Peter Rachman moved to Bayswater.** **7** The US Supreme Court considered ending racial segregation in schools. **9** The government announced a £10 million aid plan for Kenya. **10** Churchill was awarded the Nobel prize for his history books. **23** The Russian secret police chief Beria was executed, and the security clearance of the US atomic bomb scientist Oppenheimer was suspended. **29** The Viet Minh reached the Mekong river in Laos. **31** A British expedition to find the abominable snowman began in Nepal.

'The Adventures Of Robinson Crusoe', 'Call Me Madam', 'Hobson's Choice', 'Shane', 'The Wages Of Fear', 'The Band Wagon', 'Be Gone Dull Care', 'Genevieve', 'Monsieur Hulot's Holiday', 'Tokyo Story'. 'Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend', 'I Love Paris', 'Rags To Riches', 'The Robe' – the first film in Cinemascope. 'The Goon Show', 'Panorama'. Ultra-high stiletto shoes. The first James Bond novel 'Casino Royale' by Ian Fleming. Elvis Presley first appeared at Sun Records studios in Memphis.

1954 THE ROCK'N'ROLL YEARS

January 2 Pope Pius XII warned that TV was a threat to the family. **8** 'Oh Mein Papa' by Eddie Calvert number one for 9 weeks. **11** 35 people died when a BOAC Comet jet crashed in the Mediterranean. **12** The Queen opened the New Zealand parliament. **13** Muslim fundamentalists were rounded up in Egypt. **14** Marilyn Monroe married the former baseball player Joe DiMaggio. **15** The Mau Mau leader 'General China' was captured. **21** The first nuclear submarine, the USS Nautilus, was launched. **31** An east-west

split developed on Germany at the Berlin foreign ministers' conference. 23 people died in accidents on frozen roads in Britain.

February 2 The Senate voted extra funds to McCarthy's anti-communist crusade. **3** The Queen visited Australia. **5** Kingsley Amis's 'Lucky Jim' novel was published. **12** The British Atomic Energy Authority was set up. A link between smoking and lung cancer was confirmed. **15** The 800th episode of 'The Archers' series was broadcast. **17** The government announced that meat rationing would end in July. **18** McCarthy's anti-communist committee began investigating the US army. **19** In Vietnam the French prepared for the battle of Dien Bien Phu. **22** Indian premier Nehru called for a truce between the French and Viet Minh. **23** IBM announced a method of transmitting information down telephone lines. Salk's polio vaccine was first administered in Pittsburgh. **24** Billy Graham's US evangelist crusade began in Britain. **25** Eisenhower defended General Stevens against McCarthy's accusations. **28** Dylan Thomas's 'Under Milk Wood' was premiered at the Old Vic.

March 1 A second US H-bomb test was carried out at Bikini Atoll, Japanese fishermen suffered radiation sickness. The British Atomic Energy Authority bill went through. **4** 'Skin Deep' by Duke Ellington entered the chart. **9** After 2 more Mau Mau leaders were captured in Kenya the government attempted to organise a mass Mau Mau surrender. **12** 'I See The Moon' by the Stargazers number one for 6 weeks. **14** The Viet Minh launched another offensive against the French at Dien Bien Phu. **17** 17 Israelis were killed in a bus bomb attack. **21** Rumours that a 'third man' tipped off the spies Burgess and MacLean were reported. The chief suspect Harold 'Kim' Philby was recalled from Washington. **25** The Television bill went through establishing the ITA Independent Television Authority. **31** Eisenhower committed the US to preventing the spread of communism in South-East Asia.

April 2 Indian premier Nehru called for an end to the nuclear arms race. **7** The US announced a massive increase in arms production. **9** BOAC Comet jets were grounded after another crashed in the Mediterranean. **12** **Bill Haley and his Comets recorded 'Rock Around The Clock', the follow up to 'Crazy, Man, Crazy'. The DJ Alan Freed popularised the term 'rock'n'roll' for the new rhythm'n'blues dance beat.** The former premier of British Guiana Jagan was jailed. **14** Bevan resigned from the shadow cabinet over defence, to be replaced by Harold Wilson. **16** 'Secret Love' by Doris Day number one for 9 weeks. **18** Colonel Nasser became prime minister of Egypt. **24** British and Kenyan troops began rounding up 40,000 Mau Mau suspects. **25** On re-election the Argentine president Peron arrested opposition leaders. **29** The anti-British People's United Party won the election in British Honduras. **30** 'Such A Night' by Johnnie Ray number one.

May 1 West Brom beat Preston 3-2 in the cup final, and Wolves become league champions. **3** The Geneva conference on Vietnam began. **4** Macmillan announced plans to make house buying easier. **6** Roger Bannister ran the first 4 minute mile. **The home secretary played down reports of widespread (Edwardian-style) Teddy boy delinquency.** **8** In Vietnam Dien Bien Phu fell to the Viet Minh and the French surrendered. **9** 25,000 Mau Mau suspects were reported rounded up in Nairobi. **10** The Viet Minh demanded freedom for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. **11** Thailand offered to host UN bases to fight communism. **14** As Communist China became an Olympic nation Nationalist China withdrew from the next games. **17** The US Supreme Court banned racial segregation in schools; southern states threatened resistance. **22** Billy Graham's last evangelist rally at Wembley was attended by 180,000. **24** IBM announced the development of proto-computers for offices. **26** The Mau Mau burnt down the Treetops Hotel in Kenya where Princess Elizabeth was staying when she became Queen.

June 1 The A bomb scientist Oppenheimer was found to be loyal but still a security risk. **2** Senator McCarthy claimed that communists had infiltrated the CIA and nuclear plants. Lester Piggott became the youngest jockey to win the Derby at 18. **4** A state of emergency was declared in Rhodesia due to a rail strike. **6** 'The Lord Of The Rings' by JRR Tolkien was published. Eisenhower moved to stop McCarthy investigating the CIA. The pope launched a new Eurovision TV network. **7** Alan Turing, the mathematician who solved the Enigma indicator system, committed suicide after being found guilty of gross indecency. **10** Edith Sitwell was made a dame. Iris Murdoch's first novel 'Under The Net' was published. **15** UEFA, the Union of European Football Associations, was formed. **18** Pierre Mendes-France became French premier calling for peace in Vietnam. **29** Churchill and Eisenhower signed the Potomac Agreement.

July 3 Food rationing came to an end in Britain after 14 years, ration books were torn up in Trafalgar Square. Mo Connolly won the women's singles championship at Wimbledon for the third time in succession. 'Cara Mia' by David Whitfield and Montovani number one for 10 weeks. British rabbits were facing extinction from myxomatosis. **4** West Germany beat Puskas's Hungary 3-2 in the Switzerland World Cup final. **5** The government released civil defence plans in case of nuclear attack. **9** 'Young At Heart' by Frank Sinatra entered the chart. **15** The Boeing 707 airliner made its maiden flight from Seattle. **19** Elvis

Presley recorded his first single 'That's All Right Mama'. **20** The expansion of Gatwick airport was approved. **21** The French Indo-China war ended with Vietnam split along the 17th Parallel into North and South at the Geneva conference. **24** The Chinese government apologised for accidentally shooting down a British airliner. **27** The British government agreed with Nasser to withdraw troops from Suez.

August 1 The British Automatic Energy Authority was established. **4** The ITA was set up under Kenneth Clark. Britain's first supersonic fighter the P-1 Lightning made its maiden flight. **8** At the Empire/Commonwealth Games in Vancouver Bannister beat Landy in the mile of the century. **9** Chinese nationalists sank communist gunboats off Formosa. The Dutch ended political ties with Indonesia. **12** The UN officially withdrew from Korea. **17** With Attlee in China for talks the US prepared to stop a communist invasion of Formosa. **20** The Greek Cypriot Enosis movement marched on the British embassy in Athens. **22** Argentina's Juan Fangio won the world motor racing championship. **24** Eisenhower banned the US communist party. The Brazilian president Vargas resigned amidst corruption allegations and committed suicide. **26** Tolkien's 'The Fellowship Of The Ring' was published. **27** French premier Mendes-France offered Tunisia and Morocco autonomy.

September 5 Red Chinese bombarded the nationalist island of Quemoy killing US army officers. In response the nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek attacked the communist island of Tateng. **9** A thousand died in an earthquake in Algeria. **10** 'Little Things Mean A Lot' by Kitty Kallen number one. **17** 'Three Coins In A Fountain' by Frank Sinatra number one for 3 weeks. Rocky Marciano retained the world heavyweight title in New York. **24** A Roman temple to Mithras was discovered near London's Mansion House. **27** Chairman Mao was re-elected by the People's Congress in Peking. 1,700 were reported drowned when a Japanese ferry sank. **28** Labour voted in favour of German rearmament. The Austin Cambridge car was unveiled.

October 2 West Germany was admitted to NATO without nuclear arms. **5** Marilyn Monroe began divorce proceedings against Joe DiMaggio. **8** The Viet Minh occupied Hanoi as the US evacuated refugees to South Vietnam. 'Hold My Hand' by Don Cornell number one for 4 weeks. **13** **Chris Chataway broke the 5,000 metres world record at White City.** **14** Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia visited Britain. **15** 'Lord Of The Flies' by William Golding was published. **16** 118 people died when Hurricane Hazel hit the US. **19** Britain agreed to withdraw from Suez by 1956. **20** Britain's sea trade was halted by a dock workers' strike. **25** British and US troops left Trieste split between Italy and Yugoslavia. **26** After an assassination attempt on Nasser the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood HQ was attacked by a mob.

November 1 The Algerian revolution against French rule began. The dock workers strike officially ended. **3** The artist Henri Matisse died. **5** 'My Son My Son' by Vera Lynn number one for 2 weeks. **12** Mitterand announced that French reinforcements would be sent to Algeria. **13** In Egypt Nasser ousted General Nguib. **26** 'This Ole House' by Rosemary Clooney (George's aunt) number one. **29** The comedian Sir George Robey died. **30** Winston Churchill became the first 80 year old British prime minister.

December 2 The US Congress condemned Senator McCarthy's excessive anti-communist zeal, but Senator Jenner claimed that communists had infiltrated the Republican party. **3** 'Let's Have Another Party' by Winifred Atwell number one for 5 weeks. **10** Ernest Hemingway won a Nobel prize for 'The Old Man Of The Sea'. **17** **Bill Haley and his Comets first entered the British chart with 'Shake, Rattle and Roll'.** The British Petroleum Company formed with 40% of the National Iranian Oil Company. **18** Greek Cypriots attacked British bars in Cyprus.

'The Wild One' and 'On The Waterfront' starring Marlon Brando, 'A Star Is Born' starring Judy Garland, 'Rear Window' starring Grace Kelly and James Stewart, 'The Caine Mutiny', 'The Seven Samurai', 'Les Diaboliques', 'Father Brown', 'The Barefoot Contessa'. 'Fly Me To The Moon'. The first transistor radio was produced. **As 24,000 West Indians came to Britain concern about increased immigration from the Caribbean was voiced and an anti-black riot took place in Camden.** A record 347,605 new homes were built in Britain.

1955

January 2 President Jose Remon of Panama was assassinated. **7** **'Rock Around The Clock' by Bill Haley and his Comets first entered the chart,** 'Finger Of Suspicion' by Dickie Valentine number one for 3 weeks. **9** **400 Jamaicans arrived in London.** **10** Marian Anderson became the first black singer to appear at the New York opera house. **13** The Chase National and Manhattan banks announced that they were to merge. **14** 'Mambo Italiano' by Rosemary Clooney number one for 3 weeks. **19** The Kenyan governor Evelyn Baring offered an amnesty to Mau Mau insurgents causing further white protest. **23** 17

people died in a train crash at Sutton Coalfield station. **More Jamaican immigrants arrived in Britain.** **25** The government announced that women civil servants would get equal pay by 1961, and plans to electrify the railways. **31** The synthesiser was demonstrated in New York by RCA.

February 1 Tornadoes in Mississippi left 29 dead. **2** The government announced plans for a motorway network system. **4** Pakistan got the go ahead to be a republic within the Commonwealth. **7 An increase in firms refusing to employ black workers was reported.** **8** In Russia Nikita Khrushchev and Marshall Bulganin succeeded Malenkov. London Transport announced plans for the Victoria Line. **10** South African police evicted 60,000 people from a black township of Johannesburg. MPs voted to keep the death penalty. **15** The government announced plans for 12 nuclear power stations. **17** Plans for Hydrogen bomb construction were announced. **18** Anthony Wedgwood Benn's bid to renounce his Viscount Stansgate title was rejected by the Lords. 'Softly Softly' by Ruby Murray number one for 3 weeks. **23** French premier Mendes-France was defeated on his north African policy and replaced by Faure. **28** Israeli forces killed 42 Arabs in a raid on the Egyptian held Gaza Strip.

March 1 Christian Dior unveiled new A-line style below the knee skirt and belt. **2** 200 people and 300,000 sheep died in flooding in Australia. **3** Plans for London to become a smokeless zone were released. **8 Bus crews in West Bromwich re-imposed a colour bar after strikes.** **11** 'Give Me Your Word' by Tennessee Ernie Ford number one for 7 weeks. **20 'The Blackboard Jungle' starring Sidney Poitier and Glenn Ford premiered featuring Bill Haley and his Comets' 'Rock Around The Clock'.** **21** Philip Larkin became the librarian at Hull University. **22** A new 'Highway Code' was published. **24** Tennessee Williams' 'Cat On A Hot Tin Roof' premiered in New York. **26** Newspaper production was halted by an electricians and engineers strike. **30** Grace Kelly, Marlon Brando and 'On The Waterfront' won Oscars.

April 3 The football European Cup was inaugurated. **5** Winston Churchill resigned as prime minister. **7** Anthony Eden took over and the former housing minister Harold Macmillan became foreign secretary. **8** 'If You Believe' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart. **10** 'East Of Eden' starring James Dean was released in the US. **15** 'Mambo Rock' by Bill Haley and his Comets entered the chart. **12** The Salk polio vaccine was first introduced. **18** Albert Einstein died in New Jersey. The Hungarian premier Imre Nagy was sacked. Israel and Jordan set up a neutral zone in Jerusalem. **21** 2 English boys were found murdered by the Mau Mau in Kenya. **At the time of reports of Mau Mau murders PC 'Nick of Notting Hill' Nixon and the Jamaican boxer Lloyd Barnett joined forces to avert a race riot on Lancaster Road between 'a Teddy boy faction and hot-headed coloured men.'** The Fleet Street newspaper strike ended. **22** Eden called an election for May 26. **29** 160 died in fighting between rival South Vietnamese factions in Saigon. 'Cherry Pink And Apple Blossom White' by Perez Prado number one for 2 weeks.

May 2 Tennessee Williams won a Pulitzer prize for 'Cat On A Hot Tin Roof'. **5** West Germany gained full sovereignty. **7** Newcastle beat Manchester City 3-1 in the cup final, and Chelsea won the league championship. **8** Hiroshima victims went to California for plastic surgery. **13** 'Stranger In Paradise' by Tony Bennett number one for 2 weeks. **14** The Warsaw Pact eastern bloc alliance was formed. **15** The military occupation of Austria ended. **16** 'The Dam Busters' premiered. **20** 'Paths Of Paradise' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart. **27** Anthony Eden's Tories defeated Clement Attlee's Labour in the general election. 'Cherry Pink' by Eddie Calvert number one for 4 weeks. **28** 16 Teddy boys were arrested in Bath after another rock'n'roll riot dance hall disturbance. **29** A railwaymen's strike began over pay. **31** The government declared a state of emergency as the dock strike continued. The US Supreme Court ordered southern states to end racial segregation. Khrushchev visited Yugoslavia.

June 3 'The Seven Year Itch' starring Marilyn Monroe premiered. **10** The Kenyan governor withdrew the terms of the Mau Mau amnesty. **11** In the Le Mans 24 hours disaster, the worst ever motor racing accident, 80 spectators and the driver Pierre Levegh were killed when 3 cars crashed. **14** The rail strike was called off. **17** 200 people reported killed in Argentina in an uprising against President Peron. **21** Ruth Ellis received the death penalty for the murder of her lover, the racing driver David Blakely, outside the Magdala pub in Hampstead. **24** 9 Mau Mau rebels were executed in Kenya for the murder of the 2 white boys. 'Unchained Melody' by Jimmy Young number one for 3 weeks. **26** South African police broke up a meeting of the African National Congress attended by the missionary Trevor Huddleston. **30** A series of bomb attacks and riots in Cyprus after the jailing of Greek Cypriot rebels were followed by more arrests.

July 1 The dock strike ended. **13** Ruth Ellis became the last woman to be hanged in Britain, causing further campaigning against capital punishment. **15** A Ban the Bomb declaration signed by Albert Einstein was published by Bertrand Russell. 'Dreamboat' by Alma Cogan number one for 2 weeks. **17** In Morocco French troops put down rioting in Casablanca. Sterling Moss won the British grand prix. **18** Disneyland opened in California. The 'Big 4' Geneva summit on the re-unification of Germany began. **23** Duncan Campbell's Bluebird hydroplane beat the world water speed record on Ullswater. **27** The Clean Air Act

was published. **29** 'Rose Marie' by Slim Whitman number one for 11 weeks. The European Parliament met for the first time in Strasbourg. A 14 year old boy was lynched in Mississippi.

August 3 'This Is Your Life' was launched. **4** Tight jeans were the top selling style for women. **8** An atomic energy conference began in Geneva. 'Waiting For Godot' by Samuel Beckett opened in London. **12** The German author Thomas Mann died. **15** 12 Indian nationalist protesters were killed in the Portuguese enclave of Goa. **20** Over 500 were killed in the nationalist uprising against the French in Algeria. **21** After over a thousand deaths in Morocco the French opened peace talks. **24** A US airman shot dead 3 people in Broadstairs, Kent. **29** Israeli and Egyptian fighters clashed over the Gaza strip.

September 1 Argentine students rioted against President Peron. **6** British troops were sent to Cyprus as talks between Britain, Greece and Turkey were suspended and the Greek Cypriot EOKA group was banned. **13** Russia established relations with West Germany. **15** 'Lolita' by Vladimir Nabokov was published. **18** The Foreign Office admitted that Burgess and MacLean were spies. **19** The Argentine president Juan Peron was deposed. **22** ITV the first commercial television station began broadcasting, the first ad was for SR toothpaste. **24** Eisenhower had a heart attack. The new Argentine military junta exiled Peron to Paraguay. **30** James Dean died in a car crash aged 24. A general strike and further demonstrations took place against British rule in Cyprus.

October 7 'Hernando's Hideaway' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart. **8** Hitler's pilot confirmed that he committed suicide on his release from prison in Russia. **11** Russia handed over Port Arthur to China. **14** 'Rock Around The Clock' by Bill Haley and his Comets re-entered the chart, with 'Hey There' by Johnnie Ray, 'The Man From Laramie' by Jimmy Young number one for 4 weeks. **19** At the end of the 3 year long Mau Mau uprising 13,000 people were reported dead and 70,000 jailed. The BBC bought Ealing Film Studios. **20** Colour TV was demonstrated by the BBC at Alexandra Palace. The South African delegate walked out of the UN over criticism of apartheid. **26** 'Rebel Without A Cause', starring James Dean as the archetypal teenager, opened in the US. South Vietnam was declared a republic. **28** The 'Big 4' foreign ministers meeting on German reunification ended in deadlock. 'Song Of The Dreamer' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart. **31** Princess Margaret called off her proposed marriage to Captain Peter Townsend. 'The Less Deceived' by Philip Larkin was published.

November 1 US Secretary of State Foster Dulles met Franco in Spain. **2** Ben-Gurion became prime minister of Israel. **4** Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie introduced a more liberal constitution. **7** The US said it would supply arms to Israel. **11** The suspected 'third man' spy Kim Philby denied he was a communist at a press conference in his Kensington flat. 'Hernando's Hideaway' by the Johnston Brothers number one for 2 weeks. **12** The West German army was founded. **16** Duncan Campbell set another world water speed record in his Bluebird speedboat. **18** 'Ain't That A Shame' by Pat Boone entered the chart. **20** Talks with Egypt began in Washington on the financing of the Aswan Dam on the Nile. 10 people died in a train crash at Didcot in Oxfordshire. **22** Rioting broke out in Nicosia and Larnaca on Cyprus. **25** **'Rock Around The Clock' by Bill Haley and his Comets number one for 3 weeks. Teddy boys were pictured in the press hanging around in Elephant and Castle. The future film director Ken Russell photographed 'bombsite Boadicea' Teddy girls in Notting Hill.** **26** In Cyprus British troops fought running gun battles on Formosa's murder mile. Russia exploded a more powerful H Bomb. **28** A state of emergency was declared in Cyprus after British troops were killed and Governor John Harding survived an assassination attempt. **30** The first floodlit international took place at Wembley v Spain.

December 1 Rosa Parks was arrested for sitting in the whites only section of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. **2** 12 people were killed in a train fire at Barnes. Rootes Motors took over Singer Motors. **4** An anti-segregationist bus boycott began in Montgomery, Alabama. **9** Sugar Ray Robinson retained the world heavyweight title defeating Carl Olson. **10** No Nobel peace prize was awarded. **12** The US evacuated its consulate in Hanoi. **14** Hugh Gaitskell succeeded Clement Attlee as leader of the Labour Party. **16** 'The Christmas Alphabet' by Dickie Valentine number one for 3 weeks. **20** Cardiff became the capital of Wales. **22** A British home guard was formed in Cyprus to fight communists. **28** Britain was reported to be arming Israel and Egypt. **29** Russia announced an H Bomb carrying rocket. **30** 'Rock-A-Beatin' Boogie' by Bill Haley and his Comets entered the chart.

'Invasion of the Bodysnatchers', 'Kiss Me Deadly', 'The Ladykillers', 'Bad Day At Black Rock', 'The Lady Is A Tramp', 'Marty', 'The Red Balloon', 'Richard III', 'Davy Crockett', 3-D movies. 'Howl' by Allen Ginsberg, the principal work of the Beat Generation, 'The Quiet American' by Graham Greene, 'Moonraker' by Ian Fleming, 'Bonjour Tristesse' by Françoise Sagan. 'Bo Diddley', 'I'm A Man' and 'Pretty Thing' by Bo Diddley. An outbreak of flying saucer sightings was reported.

The Commonwealth Immigration Act (passed in 1962) was first drafted as Caribbean immigrants coming to Britain increased to 27,000 a year and Indians to 30,000. The US civil rights activist Claudia Jones was deported to the UK. Peter Rachman founded his slum property empire in Notting Hill, where a lot of the immigrants ended up. 'The Man On Your Conscience' by Michael Eddowes demolished the case against Timothy Evans of 10 Rillington Place.

1956

January US secretary of state Foster Dulles made 'brink of war' speech. **1** Sudan became an independent republic. **5** 'Heartbreak Hotel' was recorded by Elvis Presley. **6** 'Rock Around The Clock' by Bill Haley and his Comets returned to number one for another 2 weeks, and 'Rock Island Line' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. **11** A home guard unit in Bath refused to disband. **12** More British troops were sent to Cyprus after a Turkish policeman was killed. **15** A new heavy industry 5 year plan was announced for Russia. **17** Plans for a nuclear attack warning system were announced. **20** 'Sixteen Tons' by Tennessee Ernie Ford number one for 4 weeks. **23** The film producer Alexander Korda died. **26** Heroin was banned in the UK. **27** 'Only You' by the Hilltoppers entered the chart. **29** The Queen visited Nigeria. **31** The writer AA Milne died. 'Chain Gang' by Bobby Scott in the US chart.

February 'Heartbreak Hotel' by Elvis Presley entered the US chart and went on to top the charts of 14 countries as conservative sensibilities were outraged by Elvis's gyrations. **6** The new socialist French premier Guy Mollet received a hostile reception in Algeria. **8** Britain agreed to Malayan independence. **14** The 20th Congress of the Communist Party opened. Khrushchev denounced Stalin in his speech. **16** MPs voted to abolish capital punishment. **17** Chancellor Harold Macmillan announced a credit squeeze. 'Who's Sorry Now' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart, 'Memories Are Made Of This' by Dean Martin number one. **18** The first provincial ITV stations started broadcasting. **23** The West German army banned goose-stepping. **29** Civil rights activists clashed with segregationists in the Alabama bus boycott. In Cyprus there were more EOKA bomb attacks as colonial secretary Lennox-Boyd discussed a Greek-Turkish power-sharing agreement with Archbishop Makarios.

March 1 The first black student at Alabama University Autherine Lucy was expelled for her own safety after pro-segregationist riots. **2** French Morocco gained independence. King Hussein dismissed the British commander of the Jordanian army General Glubb. **4** Footballers demanded extra fees for appearing in televised matches. **5** The US Supreme Court upheld the ban on racially segregated schools. **9** 'See You Later Alligator' by Bill Haley and his Comets entered the chart. Makarios was implicated in EOKA terrorist activity and deported to the Seychelles, causing further Greek Cypriot rioting. **15** The musical 'My Fair Lady' starring Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews opened in New York. **16** 'It's Almost Tomorrow' by the Dreamweavers number one for 3 weeks, 'Chain Gang' by Jimmy Young entered the chart. **18** French troops were sent to Algeria. **20** Greek shops were attacked in Turkish Cypriot riots. **22** Martin Luther King was convicted of organising the Alabama bus boycott in which 115 blacks were arrested. The 1955 balance of payment deficit of £103 million was announced. **23** Pakistan became the first Islamic state. **25** A curfew was imposed in Cyprus after the governor Harding survived another assassination attempt. **26** The French withdrew from Saigon. **30** 'Rock And Roll Waltz' by Kay Starr number one.

April 1 The first U2 US spy planes arrived in Britain. In Cyprus the first British civilian was killed by the EOKA and King Paul of Greece declared support for Archbishop Makarios. **7** Spanish Morocco gained independence. **10** Nat King Cole was attacked by whites on stage in Birmingham, Alabama. Polish communist prisoners were released as part of Soviet de-Stalinisation. **11** The French dissolved the Algerian parliament as the Arab nationalist FLN uprising continued with over 100 Europeans and over a thousand loyal Arabs killed since 1954. **13** 'Poor People Of Paris' by Winifred Atwell number one for 3 weeks. **14** A video tape recorder prototype was unveiled in Chicago. **17** Chancellor Harold Macmillan introduced premium bonds. **18** The Russian leaders Khrushchev and Bulganin visited Britain. The wartime diving hero Commander Lionel Crabb disappeared by the Russian ship in Portsmouth harbour. **19** Grace Kelly married Prince Ranier of Monaco. **20** 'Ain't Misbehavin' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart. **23** The Montgomery Alabama bus company ended segregated seating. **25** The undefeated world heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano announced his retirement. Floyd Patterson became the new world champion. **27** 'Lost John'/'Stewball' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart.

May Manchester City beat Birmingham 3-1 in the cup final, and Manchester United became league champions. Self-service shops were introduced. **1** Berliners demonstrated for German reunification. **4** 'No Other Love' by Ronnie Hilton number one for 6 weeks. Ceylon asked for the removal of British bases. **9** 'Look Back In Anger' by John Osborne opened at the Royal Court Theatre, introducing the anti-establishment market trader 'Jimmy Porter' (Richard Burton in the film). **11** 'Heartbreak Hotel' by Elvis

Presley and 'Too Young To Go Steady' by Nat King Cole entered the chart. **18** 'Blue Suede Shoes' by Carl Perkins entered the chart. **21** The US dropped the first H-bomb over Bikini Atoll. Fighting continued in Cyprus. **24** The Eurovision Song Contest was first held. **25** 'Blue Suede Shoes' by Elvis Presley and 'The Saints Rock'n'Roll' by Bill Haley and his Comets entered the chart.

June 1 Molotov resigned as Russian foreign minister. **3** British Rail ended Third Class coaches. **13** The last British troops left their Suez Canal bases. Real Madrid won the first European Cup final beating Reims 4-3 in Paris. **15** 'Songs For Swinging Lovers' by Frank Sinatra entered the chart, 'I'll Be Home' by Pat Boone number one for 5 weeks. **16** The US vice-consul was killed in a restaurant bombing in Cyprus. Nasser had arms talks with Russia. Britain and the US withdrew funding of the Aswan Dam. The Commons voted against abolishing the death penalty. **25** John F Kennedy began his campaign for the Democrat vice-president nomination. **28** All Egyptian assets in Britain were frozen. **29** Marilyn Monroe married Arthur Miller and visited Britain on honeymoon. **38** died in anti-communist rioting in Poland.

July 1 Indian premier Nehru and New Zealand's Sidney Holland were given the freedom of the City of London. **5** The Clean Air Act was passed. **6** 'Skiffle Session' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. **10** Eisenhower announced that he would run for a second term. The Lords voted against the abolition of the death penalty. **13** 'Be Bop A Lula' by Gene Vincent and 'I Want You I Need You I Love You' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. Hungarian students hijacked a plane to West Germany. **18** The Stalinist Hungarian premier Rakosi resigned. **20** 'Why Do Fools Fall In Love' by the Teenagers featuring Frankie Lymon number one for 3 weeks, 'The Fool' by Sanford Clark in the US chart. **23** Nasser became president of Egypt. **26** Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal, the western oil supply route from Port Said. **27** Jim Laker took a record 19 wickets against Australia at Old Trafford. 'Long Tall Sally' by Pat Boone and 'I'm In Love Again' by Fats Domino entered the chart. **30** Britain imposed an arms embargo on Egypt.

August The art exhibition 'This Is Tomorrow' opened at the Whitechapel Gallery. **1** Britain, France and the US held talks on the Suez crisis. **4** More British troops were sent to Cyprus. **10** 'Whatever Will Be Will Be' by Doris Day number one for 6 weeks. **11** The artist Jackson Pollock died in a car crash. **12** Nasser turned down an invitation to the London Suez conference. **14** The writer Berthold Brecht died in East Berlin. **16** The Suez crisis conference began in London. The Hungarian 'Dracula' actor Bela Lugosi's dead. **17** Adlai Stevenson was chosen as the Democrat candidate for president and Estes Kefauver as vice-president rather than JFK, to run against Eisenhower and Nixon. 'Rockin' Through The Rye' by Bill Haley and his Comets and 'I Almost Lost My Mind' by Pat Boone entered the chart. **23** Eden condemned Nasser. **25** The American sociologist Alfred Kinsey died. **28** Nasser expelled 2 British envoys for spying. **29** British and French troops were sent to Suez. **30** Britain expelled 2 Egyptian diplomats. The introduction of traffic wardens was announced.

September 2 Nasser said he would accept any solution to the Suez question that did not affect Egyptian sovereignty. **5** Israel condemned Egypt over Suez. **7** 'The Great Pretender'/'Only You' by the Platters and 'Bring A Little Water'/'Dead Or Alive' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. **8** A state of emergency was declared in Clinton, Tennessee, as violent protests against desegregated schools continued. **9** **Elvis Presley performed 'Hound Dog' and 'Love Me Tender' on the Ed Sullivan Show, causing teenage hysteria and moral majority outrage at his hip movements. US TV was subsequently forced to censor Elvis's gyrations by only showing him from the waist up. Nasser rejected the US plan for international control of the Suez Canal. 11 The 'Rock Around The Clock' film, featuring Bill Haley and his Comets, Little Richard and the Platters, caused a series of cinema riots in several countries and a Teddy boy media moral panic: 'Police have been called to eject youths who 'jive' in the aisles, clapping and chanting to the music. After being ejected they continue dancing in the streets outside. The dialogue of the film is inaudible for cries of "We Want Bill" or "Rock, rock, rock". Some youths in 'Teddy boy' clothing have let off fireworks in cinemas.' The local teenage rampage took place at the Prince of Wales cinema on Harrow Road, and the Ted pub was the Elgin on Ladbroke Grove.** Eisenhower ordered southern states to end schools segregation. **12** Nasser rejected Eden's 3-power Suez Users' Association plan. **14** 'Razzle Dazzle' by Bill Haley and his Comets entered the chart. **10** Jordanians were killed in a raid on Israel. **19** Another Suez conference began in London. **21** 'Hound Dog' by Elvis Presley entered the chart, 'Lay Down Your Arms' by Anne Shelton number one for 4 weeks. The Suez conference set up the Canal Users Association. **22** The Nicaraguan president Somoza was assassinated in Panama. **27** In Cyprus there were further anti-British attacks. **28** 'Giddy-Up-A-Ding-Dong' by Freddie Bell and the Bellboys entered the chart. Russia and Japan resumed diplomatic relations. The American air pioneer William Boeing died. **29** Eden flew to Paris for talks on Suez with Mollet.

October 1 The Suez Canal Users Association was inaugurated. A Catholic report proposed legalising homosexual acts in private between consenting adults. **7** The American frozen food pioneer Clarence Birdseye died. **10** Anti-British riots broke out in Hong Kong. **12** 'Race With The Devil' by Gene Vincent

entered the chart. **13** Russia vetoed the proposal for Anglo-French control of Suez at the UN. **15** The RAF retired the last Lancaster bomber. **17** The Queen opened Calder Hall atomic power station. **19** **Railwaymen protested about the number of black drivers, after the government gave the go-ahead for recruitment from the Caribbean to ease the post-war labour shortage.** 'Blue Jean Bop' by Gene Vincent entered the chart, 'A Woman In Love' by Frankie Laine number one, 'Mona Lisa' by Carl Mann in the US chart. **23** The Hungarian uprising against Russian rule began with massive student protests in Budapest and throughout the country calling for independence. **25** Demonstrations took place in Poland in support of Hungary against Russia. 15 people died in anti-British riots in Singapore. **26** 3,000 were reported dead in Hungary in 3 days of street fighting with Russian tanks, as premier Imre Nagy called for the withdrawal of Russian troops and democracy. The British rocker Tommy Steele first entered the chart with 'Rock With The Caveman'. **29** Israel invaded Egypt, sending troops into Sinai, British troops were mobilised to support Israel and France. **30** An Anglo-French ultimatum called for the withdrawal of Egyptian and Israeli troops. **31** Britain and France began bombing Port Said to force the Egyptians to re-open the Suez Canal, infuriating the US and causing anti-war demos.

November 1 The first Premium Bonds were issued. **2** 'My Prayer' by the Platters entered the chart. **3** Israel took Gaza and Sinai. **4** An 'Eden Must Go' demo in Trafalgar Square was addressed by Aneurin Bevan. **5** Russian tanks crushed the Budapest uprising. Imre Nagy made a lay down your arms plea then shooting was heard over Budapest radio as he was marched out of the parliament. **6** British and French forces invaded Egypt. President Eisenhower was re-elected. Foster Dulles ceased calls for the west to liberate eastern Europe. **7** Eden agreed to pull out of Suez if a UN force took over. **8** The 9 Days War in Suez came to an end with a UN brokered ceasefire. **9** 'Rip It Up' and 'Rock'n'Roll Stageshow' by Bill Haley and his Comets entered the chart. The UN told the Russians to pull out of Hungary. **After Hungary British communists quit the party and formed the New Left group.** **13** The US Supreme Court invalidated Alabama's bus segregation law. **16** 'Just Walkin' In The Rain' by Johnnie Ray number one for 7 weeks, 'Blue Moon' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. **20** Rab Butler took charge as Eden went to the West Indies to recuperate. **21** Britain's first nuclear reactor began operating at Harwell in Berkshire. **22** The Melbourne Olympics opened amidst political controversy over the British and French invasion of Suez and the Russians in Hungary. Chris Brasher won gold in the 3,000 metres. **23** Eden reluctantly agreed to pull out of Egypt under pressure from the US, as petrol rationing began in Britain brought on by the Suez crisis. 'I Don't Care If The Sun Don't Shine' by Elvis Presley and 'Rudy's Rock' by Bill Haley and his Comets entered the chart. **30** Cuban rebels under Fidel Castro launched an attack on rural police stations. 'Blueberry Hill' by Fats Domino entered the chart.

December 2 The Cuban president Batista claimed Castro was dead. **3** Britain and France announced that they would withdraw from Suez. The US suspended its cultural exchange programme with Russia. **7** 'Love Me Tender' by Elvis Presley and 'Friendly Persuasion' by Pat Boone entered the chart. British and French troops withdrew in Egypt. Rioting and strikes resumed in Budapest. **10** The IMF authorised \$1,300 billion to bolster the British economy. No Nobel peace prize was awarded again. **14** 'Rip It Up' by Little Richard entered the chart. Eden returned from Jamaica. **20** Israel refused to return Gaza to Egypt. **21** 'Lonnie Donegan Showcase' entered the chart. **27** British and French troops evacuated the Suez Canal zone and work began to unblock the canal. 'Ain't Got No Home' by Clarence 'Frogman' Henry in the US chart.

Roger Mayne began photographing bombsite boys, Teds and West Indians in Notting Hill, around Notting Dale and on Southam Street in Kensal. Michael de Freitas (the future Michael X) arrived on the Notting Hill underworld scene. 'The Lonely Londoners' by Sam Selvon on the 50s black British experience, 'The Outsider' by Colin Wilson, 'History Of The English-speaking Peoples' by Winston Churchill. 'A Blues For Shindig' by Mo Foster is set in 1956/7 Notting Hill. 'The Outsider' author Colin Wilson lived on Chepstow Villas with other 'angry young men' including John 'Room At The Top' Braine and a bevy of beat girls.

'Giant' starring James Dean, Rock Hudson and Liz Taylor, 'The Girl Can't Help It' starring Jayne Mansfield and Little Richard etc, 'The Man With The Golden Arm' starring Frank Sinatra as a heroin addict, 'Yield To The Night' starring Diana Dors as a woman sentenced to hang, 'High Society' starring Grace Kelly, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong featuring 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?', 'Doctor At Sea' starring Dirk Bogarde and Brigitte Bardot, 'Around The World In 80 Days', 'Baby Doll', 'The King And I', 'Carousel', 'The Searchers', 'Rock Pretty Baby', 'A Town Like Alice'.

'Who Do You Love' by Bo Diddley. 'What The Papers Say' was first broadcast. 'The Quare Fellow' by Brendan Behan. The English Stage Company opened at the Royal Court Theatre. The Ministry of Labour and Musicians' Union ban on foreign musicians was lifted. The Russian athlete Nina Ponomareva caused an international incident shoplifting 5 hats from a London store.

1957

January 1 Egypt denied Britain military use of the Suez Canal. **4** 'Singing The Blues' by Guy Mitchell number one for 3 weeks. **9** Anthony Eden resigned as prime minister. TV detector vans were introduced. **10** Harold Macmillan took over as prime minister rather than Rab Butler. **11** Eden resigned as an MP. 'Singing The Blues' by Tommy Steele number one. **14** Humphrey Bogart died aged 57. **15** Egypt nationalised British and French banks. **16** The Cavern Club opened in Liverpool and the Royal Ballet is founded. Britain repelled a Yemeni invasion of Aden. **18** 'Don't You Rock Me Daddy-O' by Lonnie Donegan and 'You Don't Owe Me A Thing' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart. **23** Pakistan's Hanif Mohammed got 337 runs in the longest ever innings v West Indies. **25** Kashmir became part of India against a UN ruling. 'Ain't That A Shame' by Fats Domino and 'You'll Never Know'/'It Isn't Right' by the Platters entered the chart, 'Rock Around The Clock' re-entered the chart again, 'Garden Of Eden' by Frankie Vaughan number one for 4 weeks. **28** Prince Charles started at boarding school.

February 1 UN and Israeli troops clashed in Sinai. 'Rock The Joint' by Bill Haley and his Comets, 'Honey Chile' by Fats Domino and 'Don't Forbid Me' by Pat Boone entered the chart. **5** Bill Haley was greeted by thousands of fans at Southampton and in London as he arrived for the first rock'n'roll tour of Britain. **7** Bill Haley and his Comets made their British debut at the Dominion Theatre. 'Rock Around The Clock' spent a total of 20 weeks in the chart to become the UK's first million-selling record. The Bill Haley lyric, '*See you later, alligator, in a while, crocodile*', was popular with Princess Margaret's set. **8** 'Don't Knock The Rock' by Bill Haley and his Comets, 'Long Tall Sally' by Little Richard and 'Look Homeward Angel' by Johnnie Ray entered the chart. **9** Israelis protested against the UN demand that they get out of Gaza. **15** 'Mystery Train' by Elvis Presley and 'Knee Deep In The Blues' by Tommy Steele entered the chart. **21** Israel ignored UN and US demands to withdraw from Gaza. **22** 'Tutti Frutti' by Little Richard entered the chart, 'Young Love' by Tab Hunter number one for 7 weeks. **23** Fidel Castro was reported to be continuing his campaign against the Batista regime from the Cuban jungle. 10,000 Hungarian refugees fled to Britain.

March 1 Israel finally agreed to quit Gaza and Aqaba. **6** Ghana, formerly the Gold Coast, gained independence from Britain. **8** Egypt reopened the Suez Canal. 'Rip It Up' by Elvis Presley and 'She's Got It' by Little Richard entered the chart. **11** Nasser claimed Gaza for Egypt. **14** In Cyprus an EOKA ceasefire proposal was rejected by the British. **22** died in a plane crash at Manchester airport. **15** 'The Girl Can't Help It' by Little Richard entered the chart. Egypt barred Israeli ships from the Suez Canal. **20** Greece refused to talk with Turkey on the future of Cyprus. Eisenhower and Macmillan had talks in Bermuda. **22** San Francisco was hit by an earthquake. **25** The Treaty of Rome was signed setting up the EEC Common Market. **28** Archbishop Makarios was released on condition that he stayed away from Cyprus. **29** 'Blue Monday' by Fats Domino entered the chart, 'Sittin' In The Balcony' by Johnny Dee in the US chart.

April 4 The government announced that National Service would end in 1960. The state of emergency in Cyprus was relaxed. **8** 3 leaders of the 1956 Hungary uprising were sentenced to death. **11** John Osborne's 'The Entertainer' starring Laurence Olivier opened. Singapore was granted autonomy from Britain. **12** 'Cumberland Gap' by Lonnie Donegan number one for 5 weeks, 'Freight Train' by the Charles McDevitt Skiffle Group featuring Nancy Whiskey entered the chart, 'CC Rider' by Chuck Willis in the US chart. Saudi Arabia barred Israeli ships from the Gulf of Aqaba. **14** King Hussein of Jordan foiled a military coup attempt. **17** Makarios was welcomed in Greece. **19** 'Butterfly' by Charlie Gracie, 'When I Fall In Love' by Nat King Cole and 'I'm Walkin' by Fats Domino entered the chart. **24** 'The Sky At Night' was first broadcast. Chairman Mao proposed greater freedom in China. A pro-west government was formed in Jordan. **25** King Hussein declared martial law in Jordan. **26** Churches and universities in South Africa reported defying apartheid laws. New council estates in the East End were reported to be unpopular with residents. 'Why Baby Why' by Pat Boone entered the chart. **30** The US 6th Fleet arrived at Beirut.

May 1 31 troops died in a plane crash at Blackbush airport in Hampshire. **2** The anti-communist senator Joe McCarthy died. 'The Curse Of Frankenstein' was released in the UK. **3** South Africa dropped 'God Save The Queen' as its national anthem, 'Butterfingers' by Tommy Steele entered the chart. **4** Aston Villa beat Manchester United 2-1 in the cup final, but United became league champions again with an accompanying 'Busby Babes' calypso song. The cover of 'Punch' featured a cartoon of West Indies cricketers celebrating an English wicket. **6** Eugene O'Neil won a Pulitzer prize for 'Long Day's Journey Into The Night'. **9** Labour made gains in the local elections. **10** 'Too Much' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. **14** The Suez crisis petrol rationing ended. **15** The first British hydrogen bomb test took place over the largely uninhabited Christmas Island. Prince Phillip launched International Geophysical Year. **17** 'Rockabilly' by Guy Mitchell number one, 'I'm Sorry' by the Platters entered the chart. **24** 'Butterfly' by Andy Williams number one for 2 weeks, 'Over The Mountain, Across The Sea' by Johnnie and Joe in the US chart. **26** The Algerian Muslim leader Ali Chekkal was assassinated at the French cup final. **29** Real

Madrid retained the European Cup beating Fiorentina 2-0 in the final, and Stanley Matthews made his last international appearance aged 42. **31** The US playwright Arthur Miller was convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to name names to the House of Representatives Un-American Activities committee.

June 7 'Yes Tonight Josephine' by Johnnie Ray number one for 3 weeks. Benidorm in Spain was reported to be a favourite holiday destination. **9** 10 people were killed in a bomb attack on a casino in Algiers. **13** 'The Prince And The Showgirl' starring Laurence Olivier and Marilyn Monroe premiered in New York. Martin Luther King met vice-president Richard Nixon. **14** 'Fabulous' by Charlie Gracie entered the chart. **19** 'The Army Game' comedy series was first broadcast on ITV. **21** 'School Day' by Chuck Berry entered the chart. **25** The African National Congress called a strike against apartheid laws. **26** An anti-smoking campaign was launched. The body of the missing frogman Commander Crabb was found. **28** 'All Shook Up' By Elvis Presley and 'Lucille' by Little Richard entered the chart, 'Gamblin' Man'/'Putting On The Style' by Lonnie Donegan number one for 2 weeks. **30** 3 Britons arrested for spying in Egypt were released.

July The Tory Rent Act came into operation, lifting restrictions on how much rent landlords could charge, in some accounts causing an escalation of 'Rachmanism' in Notting Hill. **1** John F Kennedy called for Algerian independence. **3** Khrushchev foiled a coup and expelled Molotov and Malenkov from the Politburo. **4** MPs voted themselves an extra £750 a year expenses. **5** 'Love Letters In The Sand' by Pat Boone and 'When Rock'n'Roll Came To Trinidad' by Nat King Cole entered the chart. The Commonwealth conference expressed concern over Hungary. **6** John Lennon first met Paul McCartney at a church fete gig in Liverpool. Althea Gibson became the first black women's singles champion at Wimbledon. **8** Irish premier de Valera declared a state of emergency, introducing internment and rounded up IRA men. **9** The disgraced former Russian premier Malenkov was posted to Kazakhstan. **12** 'All Shook Up' by Elvis Presley number one for 7 weeks as his next single 'Teddy Bear' and 'Bye Bye Love' by the Everly Brothers entered the chart. **19** **Derek Ibbotson broke the mile record at White City stadium.** 'Valley Of Tears' by Fats Domino entered the chart. **20** Harold Macmillan announced that "Most of our people have never had it so good." Sterling Moss won the British grand prix, the first home victory since 1923. **22** British troops put down an uprising against the sultan of Oman. Shell and BP quit Israel. **23** A national bus strike began. **27** The Situationist International radical art movement was founded.

August 1 An expansion scheme for Heathrow airport was announced. **3** Abdul Rahman became the first premier of independent Malaya. **6** 2,000 people a week were reported to be emigrating to Commonwealth countries. **7** Oliver Hardy of Laurel and Hardy died. **13** The BBC reported a rise in TV viewing at the expense of radio. **15** The dockers' strike spread. **16** 'Water Water'/'Handful Of Songs' by Tommy Steele entered the chart. **17** After a policeman was killed in Northern Island by a booby-trap bomb 20 arrests were made. **23** 23 communist rebels were arrested in Singapore. 'I Love You So Much It Hurts'/'Wanderin' Eyes' by Charlie Gracie entered the chart. **30** 'Diana' by Paul Anka number one for 9 weeks, 'Paralysed' by Elvis Presley and 'Shiralee' by Tommy Steele entered the chart. **31** After the foiled Russian coup attempt Molotov ended up as ambassador to Mongolia.

September 4 Rioting broke out in Little Rock, Arkansas, as Governor Faubus sent in state troops to prevent black pupils attending a white school. The first black pupils at Little Rock high school were forced to run a gauntlet of protesters, some parading with Ku Klux Klan banners, before being turned away by National Guardsmen. The Wolfenden Report called for the decriminalisation of homosexual acts and a clampdown on prostitution. **6** 'Build Your Love' by Johnnie Ray, 'Wanderin' Eyes' and 'I Love You So Much It Hurts' by Charlie Gracie entered the chart separately. **7** 'On The Road' by Jack Kerouac, the bible of the beat generation, was published. The US Federal Court refused to put back desegregation of schools. **8** Sterling Moss won the Italian grand prix at Monza. **13** 'Jenny Jenny' by Little Richard entered the chart. **23** The death toll from an outbreak of Asian flu rose. **25** A thousand federal troops forced through desegregation at Little Rock Central High School. **27** 'Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On' by Jerry Lee Lewis, 'Remember You're Mine' by Pat Boone and 'Searchin' by the Coasters entered the chart, 'Deep Purple' by Billy Ward and his Dominos in the US chart.

October The Queen visited the US and addressed the UN. **2** 'The Bridge On The River Kwai' was released in the UK. **3** The Labour party conference voted against a ban the bomb motion. **4** The space age began with the launch of the Russian Sputnik 1. Student rioting broke out in Poland. 'Party' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. **11** 'Be My Girl' by Jim Dale and 'My Dixie Darling' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. **12** Egyptian troops were sent to Syria to ward off attack from Israel and Turkey. **18** 'Got A Lot O' Livin' To Do' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. The Queen visited the White House. **19** After an emergency at the Windscale atomic plant milk was condemned. **22** US troops and civilians were injured by bomb attacks in Saigon. **24** The French designer Christian Dior died. **25** The first nuclear civil defence manual was published. **28** British troops fired teargas to quell an EOKA demonstration in Cyprus.

November 1 'That'll Be The Day' by the Crickets number one for 3 weeks. 'Loving You' and 'Trying To Get To You' by Elvis Presley entered the chart, accompanying Elvis's appearance in the film 'Loving You', 'Rock'n'Roll Music' by Chuck Berry in the US chart. **3** Russia launched Sputnik 2 containing Laika the dog, the first animal in space and the first intercontinental ballistic missiles. **8** 'Lawdy Miss Clawdy' by Elvis Presley, 'Wake Up Little Susie' by the Everly Brothers, 'I Love You Baby' by Paul Anka and 'He's Got The Whole World In His Hands' by Laurie London entered the chart. **12** The Post Office announced plans to introduce post codes. **14** The Queen announced the end of court presentations of debutantes. The Church of England backed the Wolfenden Report. **15** 43 died in a plane crash on the Isle of Wight. 'Santa Bring My Baby Back To Me' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. **22** 'Mary's Boy Child' by Harry Belafonte number one for 7 weeks, 'Hey You' by Tommy Steele entered the chart. **29** 'Keep A Knockin' by Little Richard entered the chart. A British expedition led by Vivian Fuchs set out to cross Antarctica.

December 4 92 people died when 2 trains collided in thick fog at Lewisham. The government rejected the liberal findings of the Wolfenden Report on homosexuality and prostitution. **6** 'Peggy Sue' by Buddy Holly and 'April Love' by Pat Boone entered the chart. The US failed to launch a satellite. **13** 2,000 were reported dead after an earthquake in Iran. 'White Christmas' by Pat Boone entered the chart. **19** The first NATO conference agreed to US nuclear missile bases in Europe. **20** Elvis Presley received his US army call up papers. 'Jack O'Diamonds' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. **25** The Queen made her first Christmas speech on TV. **26** Anti-west demos took place at the Afro-Asian Solidarity conference in Cairo. **27** 'Oh Boy' by the Crickets entered the chart, 'Don't Let Go' by Roy Hamilton in the US chart.

A massive earthquake in Mongolia literally moved mountains. 7 people were killed in a bus queue accident on Oxford Street. The average household spent £1 8s 1d a week on food. The proto-CND National Council for Abolition of Nuclear Weapon Tests was formed. **The 30s fascist leader Oswald Mosley re-launched the Union Movement at Kensington Town Hall.**

The Notting Hill bedsit recording tradition was founded by Joe Meek at 20 Arundel Gardens, which was visited by the likes of Lonnie Donegan and Petula Clark. Meek then set up Denis Preston's Lansdowne recording studios on Lansdowne Road. The 'Six-Five Special' on BBC and 'Oh Boy' on ITV rock'n'roll TV shows, 'Champion The Wonder Horse', 'Wells Fargo', 'The Burns And Allen Show'.

'And God Created Woman' starring Brigitte Bardot, 'Saint Joan' starring Jean Seberg, 'The Three Faces Of Eve', 'Paths Of Glory', 'Night Of The Demon', '12 Angry Men', Ingmar Bergman's 'The Seventh Seal' and 'Wild Strawberries', 'Sweet Smell Of Success', 'Throne Of Blood', 'The Golden Age Of Comedy', 'Rock Rock Rock', 'Don't Knock The Rock', 'Rock All Night', 'Untamed Youth' featuring Eddie Cochran.

Wyndham Lewis the author of 'Rotting Hill' died, 'City Of Spades' by Colin Maclnnes, 'Room At The Top' by John Braine, 'The Sandcastle' by Iris Murdoch, 'The Habit Of Loving' by Doris Lessing, Albert Camus won the Nobel prize for literature, Norman Mailer used the term 'white negroes' in an article on hipsters, the beat generation were represented by Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs, the existentialists by Samuel Beckett and Camus. 'Mona Lisa' by Bo Diddley.

1958

January 1 The EEC European Economic Community (Common Market) was established by the Treaty of Rome. Albania shot down a British plane that allegedly went into their airspace. **3** **The British West Indies Federation was created with an accompanying calypso.** The New Zealand team led by Edmund Hillary reached the South Pole. **4** Sputnik 1 disintegrated on re-entry to the earth's atmosphere. Senator Lyndon Johnson called for the US to overtake Russia in the space race. **7** Tory treasury ministers including Enoch Powell quit over government spending levels. **8** The last US communist paper, the Daily Worker, was closed down. **9** Russian premier Bulganin called for east-west talks. **10** 'Great Balls Of Fire' by Jerry Lee Lewis reached number one and stayed there for 2 weeks, 'Cool Baby' by Charlie Gracie and 'Just Born' by Jim Dale entered the chart. **12** Eisenhower called for a ban on space warfare. **14** Vickers signed a contract with BOAC to build the VC10 airliner. **16** Pre-war 'suburban neurosis' was diagnosed in new housing estates. **17** 'At The Hop' by Danny and the Juniors, 'Crazy Dream' by Jim Dale, 'You Send Me' by Sam Cooke, and 'I'm Left You're Right She's Gone' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. **20** The first radar speed checks were introduced in London. The British expedition led by Vivian Fuchs reached the South Pole. **23** The archbishop of Cape Town denounced the South African apartheid system. The Venezuelan dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez was ousted in a coup. **24** 'Jailhouse Rock' by Elvis Presley became the first record to enter the British chart at number one, and stayed there for 3 weeks. **26** The Israeli army commander Moshe Dayan resigned. **28** Several people were killed during anti-British rioting by Turkish Cypriots in Nicosia. **29** The BMA reported that cigarette smoking was the main cause of lung

cancer. **30** 10 people were killed in a train crash at Dagenham. Yves St Laurent was hailed as the heir to Christian Dior. **31** 'You Are My Destiny' by Paul Anka entered the chart.

February 1 The US launched its first satellite. Egypt and Syria formed the United Arab Republic. **5** Plans were announced for the first parking meters in Britain to be installed in Mayfair. **6** In the Munich air disaster 23 people were killed including 8 Manchester United players when their plane crashed as it attempted to take off from the snow-covered runway. **7** 'Witchcraft' by Frank Sinatra entered the chart. **9** Samuel Beckett's 'Endgame' was refused a license due to alleged blasphemy. **12** The Tunisian president Bourguiba demanded the removal of French troops. **14** Iraq and Jordan formed an alliance backed by the US. 'The Story Of My Life' by Michael Holliday number one for 2 weeks. **17** CND, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, was formed at a meeting in Westminster's Central hall from the former National Council for Abolition of Nuclear Weapon Tests. **20** The government announced plans to close the Isle of Sheppey docks. An Atlas rocket exploded at Cape Canaveral. **21** Nasser became president of the United Arab Republic. Manchester United's Duncan Edwards died. 'Stood Up' by Ricky Nelson entered the chart. **23** Cuban rebels seized the Argentine racing driver Juan Fangio in Havana. **24** The government announced the deployment of US missiles at British bases. **25** The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) was launched by Bertrand Russell. **27** 35 people were killed in a plane crash near Bolton. **28** 'Magic Moments' by Perry Como number one for 8 weeks, 'Good Golly Miss Molly' by Little Richard and 'Don't' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. 28 died when a school bus plunged into a river in Tennessee. The first issue of 'Women's Realm' magazine was published.

March 1 200 drowned when a ferry sank off Turkey. President Eisenhower recovered from a stroke. 'He's Got The Whole World In His Hands' by Laurie London number 1 in the US. **2** The first overland Antarctic crossing was completed by Vivian Fuchs' British team. West Indies cricketer Garfield Sobers broke the record test match score with 365 against Pakistan. Greek premier Karamanlis resigned. **6** The Labour party and TUC called for an end to H-bomb tests. **7** 'Nairobi' by Tommy Steele and 'Sugartime' by Jim Dale entered the chart. **8** Yemen joined the United Arab Republic. **12** Cuban president Batista suspended the constitution to fight Castro's rebels. **14** As Buddy Holly and the Crickets toured Britain, 'Maybe Baby' by the Crickets and 'Listen To Me' by Buddy Holly entered the chart. The Shah of Iran began divorce proceedings against Princess Soraya. **16** The Bishop of Woolwich criticised working mothers. **20** Debutantes were presented to the Queen for the last time. The bank rate was cut from 7 to 6%. **21** The London Planetarium opened. **24** Elvis Presley joined the army. The press reported Elvis 'posted to Europe - strong hopes of British concerts.' According to Tommy Steele, Elvis secretly visited London in '58. **25** Sugar Ray Robinson became world middleweight champion for the 5th time. **26** The first parking tickets were issued in the UK. **27** Khrushchev became premier of the Soviet Union, ending his partnership with Bulganin. 'Bridge On The River Kwai' won 3 Oscars. **28** 'The Big Beat' by Fats Domino entered the chart.

April 4 The first 'Ban the Bomb' CND march from Trafalgar Square to Aldermaston began, featuring 'students, bearded men and brightly-stockinged women, also earnest pram-pushing parents', a calypso band and a skiffle group playing 'When The Saints Go Marching In'. At Hammersmith Bridge the march was ambushed by fascists from Oswald Mosley's Union Movement. 'A Wonderful Time Up There' by Pat Boone entered the chart. **6** Arnold Palmer won the US Masters golf tournament. **7** The CND march reached Aldermaston in Berkshire for a rally outside the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment. The Church of England backed family planning. **9** 40 people died in rioting in Havana. **10** A Roman mosaic was discovered in Sussex. **11** 'Breathless' by Jerry Lee Lewis, 'Grand Coolie Dam' by Lonnie Donegan and 'It's Too Soon To Know' by Pat Boone entered the chart, 'You' by the Aquatones and 'Chanson D'Amour' by Art and Doty Todd in the US chart. **15** Chancellor Heathcoat Amory cut purchase tax and wine and cinema duties in the budget. **17** The World's fair opened in Brussels. The Nationalist Party were returned to power in the South African election. **18** Treason charges against the fascist sympathiser poet Ezra Pound were dropped. **21** The Maltese premier Dom Mintoff resigned over limited British aid. The British governor Robert Laycock assumed power and declared a state of emergency. 49 people were killed when 2 planes collided in Nevada. **22** The British West Indies Federation parliament in Trinidad was opened by Princess Margaret. **25** 'Sweet Little Sixteen' by Chuck Berry and 'Happy Guitar' by Tommy Steele entered the chart, 'Whole Lotta Woman' by Marvin Rainwater number one for 3 weeks. **27** The Comet IV jet made its first flight. **28** Harold Pinter's 'The Birthday Party' play was first performed. **29** The musical 'My Fair Lady', starring Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews, opened at the Drury Lane Theatre to critical acclaim. Egypt agreed to pay £29 million compensation to the Suez Canal Company.

May Capitol Records ended the production of 78 rpm singles. **2** The Governor of Yemen William Luce declared a state of emergency. 'Wear My Ring Around Your Neck' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. **3** Nat Lofthouse's Bolton Wanderers beat Manchester United 2-0 in the FA Cup final; Wolverhampton Wanderers became League champions, and Real Madrid won the European Cup for the third consecutive year beating AC Milan 3-2. **4** A nuclear-free central Europe plan was rejected by Eisenhower. **5** A seven

week long bus strike began in London. **7** The new St Paul's altar was dedicated as the Empire War memorial. **9** The premier of Pakistan Khan Sahib was assassinated. **13** French nationalists rebelled in Algiers against any deal with Algerian nationalists, forming a Committee of Public Safety and calling for the return of General de Gaulle. **14** US vice-president Richard Nixon was forced to abandon his South American tour by anti-US protests. **16** 'Who's Sorry Now' by Connie Francis number one for 6 weeks, 'Twilight Time' by the Platters entered the chart. **18** Jerry Lee Lewis began his British tour amidst controversy over his 13 year old bride. After just two gigs the tour was abandoned and Lewis returned to the States. **19** Harold Pinter's 'The Birthday Party' play premiered. **20** The Austin Healey Sprite car was unveiled. **22** Alfred Hitchcock's 'Vertigo' was released, starring James Stewart and Kim Novak. **23** The invention of the Hovercraft by Christopher Cockerell was announced. 'Swingin' Shepherd Blues' by Ella Fitzgerald entered the chart. **27** Sheila Delaney's 'A Taste Of Honey' play, dealing with sexuality and race, was first produced. **28** The state of Alaska was approved. **29** With France on the verge of civil war over Algeria, de Gaulle agreed to become premier. The CEGB announced the site of the next nuclear power station to be Dungeness. **31** Russia agreed to an East-West summit on ending nuclear bomb tests.

June 1 Charles de Gaulle became prime minister of France in the wake of the Algeria military rebellion. Alfred Hinds, 'the British Houdini', escaped from prison for the third time. **4** De Gaulle disappointed the 'pieds-noir' French nationalists with a conciliatory speech in Algiers. **7** Groundbreaking article on ultrasound by Ian Donald was published in the Lancet. **8** 4 people were killed in rioting in Cyprus. **9** The Queen opened Gatwick airport. **12** The government announced that troops would be sent to Jordan. **14** Britain won the Wightman Cup tennis tournament for the first time since 1930. **16** 'Dracula' was released starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee. The Hammer Horror classic was said to bring 'eroticism and excess to a cinema more associated with repression and restraint.' The former Hungarian premier Imre Nagy was executed causing international condemnation. Tony Brooks won the European Grand Prix. Yellow 'no waiting' lines were introduced in London. **18** Benjamin Britten's 'Noye's Fludde' opera was first performed. **19** The bank rate was cut from 6 to 5%. **20** 'Rave On' by Buddy Holly entered the chart. Cyprus was put under curfew as the exiled Greek Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios rejected the British interim government plan. **25** Lebanon called on the US to stop the United Arab Republic arming rebels. **27** 'On The Street Where You Live' (from 'My Fair Lady') by Vic Damone number one for 2 weeks, 'I'm Sorry I Made You Cry' by Connie Francis and 'Sugar Moon' by Pat Boone entered the chart. The Clean Air Act came into force banning the emission of black smoke. **29** The teenage Pele's Brazil won the World Cup in Sweden; England drew with Brazil but were knocked out by Russia. **30** The Ceylonese Tamil minority called for independence.

July 3 Chancellor Heathcoat Amory relaxed the credit squeeze. **4** 'All I Have To Do Is Dream'/'Claudette' by the Everly Brothers number one for 7 weeks, 'Sick And Tired' by Fats Domino entered the chart. **5** Althea Gibson won the women's singles championship at Wimbledon. **6** Mike Hawthorn won the French Grand Prix. **8** The government announced that Britain would get a US nuclear submarine plant. **9** Parking meters come into operation in Mayfair. **11** 'Endless Sleep' by Marty Wilde, 'Ooh My Soul' by Little Richard and 'Sally Don't You Grieve'/'Betty Betty Betty' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. **13** 30 people were reported killed in a week of fighting in Cyprus. **14** The pro-west King Faisal II of Iraq, the crown prince and prime minister were assassinated in a military coup in Baghdad inspired by Nasser. Lebanon called for US aid. **15** As the Middle East crisis flared up US marines landed near Beirut to protect the pro-west Lebanese government. **16** Peter Shaffer's 'Five-Finger Exercise' play opened. **17** British troops arrived in Jordan at the behest of King Hussein to ward off Syrian attack. Gaitskell and Bevan expressed doubts about the action. Russia called for the withdrawal of US and British troops. **18** 'The Only Man On The Island' by Tommy Steele entered the chart. The Empire Games at Cardiff opened. **19** United Arab Republic president Nasser formed an alliance with the new Iraqi government. **20** King Hussein of Jordan cut off relations with the United Arab Republic. **21** The government announced mass polio vaccinations. **23** Life peerages began in Britain including 14 women. Khrushchev agreed to a UN summit meeting. **25** 'Hard Headed Woman' by Elvis Presley and 'Think It Over' by the Crickets entered the chart. **26** Prince Charles was made Prince of Wales. **29** NASA, the National Aeronautical and Space Administration, was set up. **30** The future decathlon champion Daley Thompson was born. **31** As China's disastrous Great Leap Forward economic programme began, the death toll in the Tibetan revolt against Chinese rule was estimated at 300 a day. 8 died in further fighting in Cyprus. President 'Papa Doc' Duvalier of Haiti put down an army coup and assumed dictatorial power. **Reports of racist attacks in Notting Hill increased in seriousness, but calls for measures to curb the violence went unheeded by the authorities.**

August 1 Britain officially recognised the new Iraqi regime. King Hussein dissolved Iraq-Jordan union. Red Chinese bombardment of the Quemoy and Matsu islands began. **3** The US submarine Nautilus reached the North Pole. British driver Peter Collins died in a crash in the German Grand Prix. **4** The Greek Cypriot EOKA leader George Grivas called a truce. Syria closed its border with Jordan. **7** The conviction of the writer Arthur Miller for contempt of Congress was overturned. The Nautilus submarine completed

the first crossing of the North Pole ice-cap. **12** Macmillan returned from a peace mission to Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. **14** A plane carrying 100 people went missing off the coast of Ireland. **15** 'Yakety Yak' by the Coasters entered the chart. **20** The Arkansas governor Orval Faubus refused to enforce the Supreme Court order to end schools segregation. 2,000 Greek Cypriots were held after the British crackdown on the EOKA. **22** 'When' by the Kalin Twins number one for 5 weeks, 'Poor Little Fool' by Ricky Nelson entered the chart. **23** **The Nottingham race riots begin. On the same night in west London a gang of white youths carried out a series of racist attacks around Notting Hill and Shepherd's Bush.** **24** The South African prime minister Strijdom died. Sterling Moss won the Portuguese Grand Prix. **25** The classical composer Vaughan Williams died after completing his 9th Symphony. Midland became the first bank to offer personal loans. **27** High Fidelity/hi-fi, the latest advance in stereophonic recording, dominated the Radio Show as stereo recording began. The crew of the Nautilus submarine received a ticker-tape welcome in New York. **28** Attempts to ward off the 'Cod war' between Britain and Iceland ended in failure. **Friday 29** **The incident that sparked the Notting Hill race riots, a domestic dispute between a Jamaican man and his Swedish wife, took place outside Latimer Road tube station. Meanwhile the Nottingham race riots continued.** Michael Jackson was born, 'If Dreams Came True' by Pat Boone and 'Early In The Morning' by Buddy Holly entered the chart. **Saturday 30** **The Notting Hill race riots began. On day 1 a West Indian house on Bard Road and a blues party on Blechynden Street were attacked by a local mob. Police escorted West Indian partygoers to safety out of Notting Dale, but this gave the mob the impression they could 'ethnically cleanse' the area.** **Sunday 31** **Day 2 of the riots mostly consisted of the mob milling around Latimer Road station.**

Monday September 1 **On day 3 of the Notting Hill riots, once sufficiently encouraged by the fascists, the Latimer Road mob crossed Ladbroke Grove to attack West Indian houses in the Powis and Colville area.** The Cod War between Britain and Iceland began with British trawlers defying the Icelandic 12-mile fishing limit. The apartheid hardliner Hendrik Verwoerd became the new premier of South Africa. **Tuesday 2** **On day 4 of the Notting Hill riots there was no further violence as the police finally got to grips with the situation.** **3** **Relative calm was restored to the streets of Notting Hill. Macmillan said impartiality would be enforced with "utmost strictness" in dealing with those arrested in the riots.** Martin Luther King was arrested for loitering in Alabama and fined \$14 for not obeying a police officer. **5** 'Rebel Rouser' by Duane Eddy entered the chart. **7** In Cyprus EOKA leader Grivas called off the truce. Tony Brooks won the Italian Grand Prix. **12** **A West Indian club was attacked in a mini race-riot on Bell Street off Edgware Road. The Jamaican first minister Norman Manley visited Notting Hill and spoke at Kensington Town Hall. Claudia Jones, the editor of the West Indian Gazette, and Norman Manley organised a fund to pay the fines of the black and white youths arrested in the riot. Prince Phillip visited the area. After the riots the New Left Club launched a survey of housing conditions and support for Mosley in the area, and various black groups formed including the West London Committee for Inter-Racial Unity, the West Indian Standing Conference and the Coloured People's Progressive Association.** 'Move It' by Cliff Richard and 'Bird Dog' by the Everly Brothers entered the chart. The Arkansas governor Orval Faubus (predecessor of Bill Clinton) closed desegregated high schools in Little Rock. **Holland Park School, the first comprehensive, opened on Campden Hill.** **15** **9 white youths received 4 year prison sentences for racist assaults in Notting Hill.** **17** In Cuba Fidel Castro launched his offensive against the Batista regime. The rebels' radio station reported that 6 columns had left Castro's mountain fort, one led by Che Guevara. **19** **5 youths were given 2 year prison sentences for causing affray during the Notting Hill riots.** The RAF received the first US-built Thor missiles. **20** Martin Luther King was stabbed by a woman in Harlem. **22** CND protesters led by Donald Soper staged a protest outside Aldermaston. **24** 30 people were killed in street clashes in Beirut. **26** 'Carolina Moon'/'Stupid Cupid' by Connie Francis number one for 6 weeks, 'Lonesome Traveller' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. The British army commander in Cyprus General Kendrew survived an EOKA assassination attempt. In Burma premier U Nu was ousted in a military coup. **28** General de Gaulle won the French election and achieved almost absolute power. French Guinea rejected new constitution. 'Hideaway' by the Four Esquires in the US chart. **29** The CEBG announced that its 6th nuclear power station would be built at Sizewell in Suffolk. The government was reported to be about to implement its interim government plan for Cyprus.

October 3 'King Creole' by Elvis Presley entered the chart. **4** BOAC began the first passenger plane service across the Atlantic. **9** Pope Pius the 12th died. **10** In Cyprus 26 suspected EOKA terrorists were captured. In the Congo Patrice Lumumba formed the MNC Congolese National Movement. **14** Henry Cooper beat Zora Folley on points. **15** Tunisia split from the United Arab Republic. **16** 'Blue Peter' was first televised. 8 Israeli policemen were jailed for massacring 48 Arabs. **19** Mike Hawthorn became the world motor racing champion, though he finished behind Sterling Moss in the Morocco grand prix. Bubble-cars were unveiled at the motor show. **20** German president Theodor Heuss began a 4 day state visit, the first by a German leader in 51 years. **21** The first female peers took their seats in the House of Lords. **23** Russia agreed to loan Nasser £100 million for the Aswan Dam. **22** The government announced that

compulsory arbitration in industrial disputes was to end. **25** US troops left Beirut. **26** British troops returned from Jordan. **28** The progressive pope John Paul the 23rd was elected. The state opening of Parliament was first televised by the BBC and ITV. Samuel Beckett's 'Krapp's Last Tape' premiered with 'Endgame' at the Royal Court Theatre. **31** Boris Pasternak turned down the Nobel Prize for 'Dr Zhivago' to avoid being exiled from Russia. Dr Ake Senning implanted the first internal heart pacemaker in Stockholm. 'I'll Get By' by Connie Francis entered the chart.

November 2 The last British troops left Jordan. **4** Pope John the 23rd was crowned. **5** The Democrats won their biggest majority in Congress since the 30s. **6** De Gaulle honoured Churchill in Paris. The Lord Chamberlain ended the ban on plays about homosexuality. **7** 'Summertime Blues' by Eddie Cochran and 'Someday' by Ricky Nelson entered the chart, 'It's All In The Game' by Tommy Edwards number one for 3 weeks. **9** Castro freed 25 people held on a hijacked plane. **10** Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record. **12** The medical officer warned against the increasing use of sedatives by housewives. **13** George Brown was dropped from the Labour shadow cabinet. **14** 'Come On Let's Go' by Tommy Steele, 'Mr Success' by Frank Sinatra and 'Lonnie's Skiffle Party' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. **15** The actor Tyrone Power died. **19** The Greek Cypriot leader Kyriakos Matsis was killed by British troops. **20** The bank rate was cut from 5 to 4%. **21** 'High Class Baby' by Cliff Richard, 'I Got A Feeling' by Ricky Nelson, 'Tom Dooley' by Lonnie Donegan and 'Fallin' by Connie Francis entered the chart. **23** Ghana and Guinea formed an alliance of West African states. **26** Richard Nixon attended the dedication of the American memorial chapel at St Paul's. **28** John Profumo, Julian Amery and Hugh Frazer were given junior posts in a cabinet reshuffle. 'Hoots Mon' by Lord Rockingham's XI number one for 3 weeks, 'White Bucks And Saddle Shoes' by Bobby Pedrick Junior and 'Philadelphia USA' by the Nu Tornados in the US chart. **30** De Gaulle won nearly half the seats in the National Assembly. Chad, Congo, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal became republics in the French Union.

December 1 90 died in a Chicago school fire. **3** The closure of 36 coal mines was announced. **5** The first motorway in the UK, the Preston by-pass, was opened. The Queen made the first subscriber trunk dialling call. A cheap home loan plan was unveiled. 'Gee But It's Lonely' by Pat Boone entered the chart. **6** Ban the Bomb protesters clashed with RAF police at Swaffham Thor rocket base. The world's largest oil tanker was launched from Japan. **8** The US, USSR and Britain agreed on a draft nuclear test ban treaty in Geneva. **10** The British scientist Frederick Sanger was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work on the structure of proteins especially insulin. **13** The UN rejected a motion calling for Algerian independence. **18** John Betjemen won the Duff Cooper Prize. **19** 'It's Only Make Believe' by Conway Twitty number one for 5 weeks, 'To Know Him Is To Love Him' by the Teddy Bears, produced by Phil Spector, entered the chart, 'Lucky Ladybug' by Billy and Lillie in US chart. **The Stars for Inter-racial Friendship campaign organised a televised inter-racial children's Christmas party in Notting Hill. The Inter-racial Friendship campaign featured Colin MaInnes, Johnny Dankworth, Cleo Laine, Lonnie Donegan, Tommy Steele and Frankie Vaughan.** **21** Charles de Gaulle was elected the first president of the 5th Republic. Ivory Coast, Niger, Central Africa, Upper Volta and Dahomey became republics in the French Union. **21** anti-nuclear protesters were arrested at the Swaffham rocket base. **22** Russia agreed to give aid to the United Arab Republic. **23** Nasser accused Syrian communists of opposing Arab nationalism. **26** 'You'll Always Hurt The One You Love' by Connie Francis entered the chart. **30** The sons of the Cuban president Batista fled to New York. **31** Batista fled to the Dominican Republic as Fidel Castro's rebels entered Havana. Baby deformities were found to be caused by the Thalidomide drug.

Leonard Bernstein's 'West Side Story' opened. 'Rumble' by Link Wray, 'Lollipop' by the Chordettes, 'Get A Job' by the Silhouettes. 'So What' by Miles Davis, 'Soultrane' by John Coltrane, 'Blues And Roots' by Charlie Mingus, Duke Ellington toured Britain and recorded 'Black, Brown and Beige'. Miles Davis's cool modern jazz style was acclaimed at the Newport, Rhode Island jazz festival. His progressive jazz evolved from the bop style of Charlie 'Bird' Parker, extenuating the split between mod jazz practitioners, like Coltrane, Thelonius Monk, Ornette Coleman, Art Blakey, John Lewis and Oscar Peterson, and trad classicists such as Count Basie and Louis Armstrong. The trad revival began at Humphrey Lyttelton's 100 Club at 100 Oxford Street. 'A Movie' b-movie clip proto-pop video by the beat Bruce Conner. Shostakovich's Symphony #11, Vaughan Williams' 9th Symphony.

The first 'Carry On' film, 'Carry On Sergeant', High School Confidential' anti-pot smoking hysteria featuring Jerry Lee Lewis, 'Room At The Top' starring Laurence Harvey, 'A Night To Remember', Orson Welles' 'Touch of Evil', 'Gigi', 'The Big Country', 'Ashes And Diamonds', 'The Face', 'The Vikings', 'Justine', Jacques Tati's 'Mon Uncle', 'Rock A Bye Baby', Mike Todd (Liz Taylor's husband) died in a plane crash. **The first 'Paddington Bear' book by Michael Bond was published,** 'Saturday Night And Sunday Morning' by Alan Sillitoe heralded as a groundbreaking portrayal of working class life, 'Our Man In Havana' by Graham Greene, 'The Affluent Society' by JK Galbraith.

Henry Moore's reclining figure for the UNESCO building was unveiled. The Seagram Building and the Pirelli Tower in Milan were completed. The Van Allen radiation belt was discovered by the first US Explorer satellites. The silicon chip was developed in the US. The Litter Act became law. Cigarettes sales rose from £10 million in 1957 to £18 million. Clean cut contemporary design replaced traditional chintz. 'New Surf washes shining white!' ad. The crime rate in London in 1958 reportedly rose by 21% from the 1957 figures. Paul Raymond opened what was thought to be the first striptease club in the UK, the Raymond Revuebar in Soho. Christine Keeler moved to London from Slough, to get a job as a dancer in a Soho nightclub. The Situationist International defined psychogeography as 'the study of the geographical environment on the emotions and behaviour of individuals.'

1959

January 1 News of Batista's defeat was greeted by jubilant scenes in Havana. **2** Castro established a communist government in Cuba with Manuel Urrutia as president. 'Baby Face' by Little Richard entered the chart. **7** Britain recognised the new Cuban government. **8** De Gaulle became president of France. Irish prime minister De Valera announced that he will run for president. **9** Tube chiefs warned against strikes following sit-ins on the Northern Line. **12** As a Russian Lunik satellite went into orbit round the Sun, the US announced plans for a manned capsule. Henry Cooper defeated Brian London to become Empire heavyweight champion. **14** Indira Gandhi, daughter of Nehru, announced that she would stand for president of India's ruling Congress Party. **16** 'Heartbeat' by Buddy Holly and 'I'll Remember Tonight' by Pat Boone entered the chart. Egyptian assets were unfrozen as Britain made a financial agreement with the United Arab Republic. John Profumo joined the Foreign Office. **20** Obesity was said to be a worse problem than malnutrition. **21** The Hollywood movie mogul Cecil B de Mille died. BMC workers went on strike in Birmingham. The Preston bypass motorway was closed due to frost damage. **22** The motor racing world champion Mike Hawthorn died in a car crash near Guildford. The BBC reported a dramatic rise in the number of people owning TV sets. **23** 'The Day The Rains Came' by Jane Morgan number one, 'High School Confidential' by Jerry Lee Lewis and 'Problems' by the Everly Brothers entered the chart. An investigation was launched into links between leukaemia outbreaks and the Windscale power station. **26** The government announced plans to improve care of the mentally ill. **27** Khrushchev claimed the lead in the space race. **29** The worst fog since 1952 brought the UK transport system to a standstill. **30** **The first Caribbean Carnival, organised by Claudia Jones, the editor of the West Indian Gazette, took place in Euston at St Pancras Town Hall featuring Cleo Laine.** 'One Night'/'I Got Stung' by Elvis Presley number one for 3 weeks, 'Livin' Lovin' Doll' by Cliff Richard entered the chart. **The Kensington News asked 'Will Too Many Do-gooders Pave the Path to Notting Hell?' The local councillor Donald Chesworth and Michael de Freitas began a campaign to encourage slum tenants to take Rachman to the rent tribunal.** Gail Bradley retained her hula-hoop spinning record at Hammersmith Palais. Alaska became the 49th state of America.

February 2 Indira Gandhi was elected president of the ruling Indian Congress Party. Khrushchev proposed another east-west summit on Berlin. **3** *'The day the music died'*: Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa. Plans for the Victoria Line were unveiled. **4** Borrowing controls were dropped ending the credit squeeze. An arms raid took place at the Tidworth army base. **5** Richie Benaud's Australia won back the Ashes. **6** 'Does Your Chewing Gum Lose It's Flavour' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. **7** The South African white supremacist architect of apartheid Dr Malan died. **10** The age limit for the Cuban president was reduced to 30 to accommodate Castro. **11** Unemployment figures stood at 620, 728. **13** 'My Happiness' by Connie Francis entered the chart. **15** Archbishop Makarios arrived in London for talks with Macmillan on Cyprus. **16** Fidel Castro became Cuban premier. John McEnroe was born. **17** Turkish premier Menderes survived a plane crash at Gatwick in which 12 died, on his way to the Cyprus peace conference. **20** 'As I Love You' by Shirley Bassey number one for 4 weeks. British troops arrived in Nyasaland to quell rioting. **21** Macmillan visited Russia for talks with Khrushchev in Stalin's dacha. **23** The Cyprus peace deal was agreed in London after 500 deaths in 4 years of fighting, ending 80 years of British rule but causing further EOKA protest. **26** A state of emergency was declared in Rhodesia, banning African nationalist parties. **28** Britain and the United Arab Republic came to a settlement over Suez.

March 1 Archbishop Makarios made a triumphant return to Cyprus. Further east-west talks took place in Moscow between Andrei Gromyko and Selwyn Lloyd. **3** The senate approved the state of Hawaii. The comedian Lou Costello died. **4** A state of emergency was declared in Nyasaland following the arrest of the nationalist leader Hastings Banda and further rioting. **5** A BMA booklet was banned for discussing whether chastity is outmoded. **6** 'Donna' by Marty Wilde entered the chart. **9** The Greek Cypriot EOKA accepted the London peace deal. **13** 'C'mon Everybody' by Eddie Cochran entered the chart. **17** Government plans for a road expansion scheme were announced. The EOKA leader Colonel Grivas was given a hero's

welcome in Athens. **19** 'Supermac' Macmillan arrived in Washington for talks on the Berlin summit. **20** 'Smoke Gets In Your Eyes' by the Platters reached number one. **22** Castro refused to side with the US against Russia. **23** The Macmillan-Eisenhower talks ended. **26** Raymond Chandler, the author of 'The Big Sleep', died. **27** Thousands were reported dead after a hurricane hit Madagascar. 'Side Saddle' by Russ Conway number one for 4 weeks, 'Charlie Brown' by the Coasters entered the chart, 'The Happy Organ' by Dave 'Baby' Cortez number 1 in the US chart. **31** The Dalai Lama fled from Tibet to India after the Tibetan revolt against Chinese rule was suppressed. £10,000 was stolen from Winston Churchill's London home. Dior red cabbage dress with toque and beads was in vogue.

April 1 The government announced that the economy was the strongest it's been for years. **3** Work began on a prospective Channel tunnel. 'By The Light Of The Silvery Moon' by Little Richard entered the chart. **5** The Iraqi government announced plans to nationalise foreign oil companies. **6** **The fascist leader Oswald Mosley announced that he would stand as the Union Movement candidate for North Kensington in the election. On the 'ugly election' campaign trail Mosley appeared at the Argyll Hall on Lancaster Road and a series of street meetings around Notting Hill.** **7** The budget cut income and purchase tax. David Niven and Wendy Hiller won Oscars. **8** Shadow chancellor Harold Wilson attacked the budget. **9** The first American astronauts were named by NASA. West German premier Adenauer refused to talk to East Germany. The American architect Frank Lloyd Wright died. **10** 'With The Wind And The Rain In Your Hair' by Pat Boone entered the chart. **11** Billy Wright won his 100th cap as England beat Scotland 1-0 at Wembley. **14** The TV presenter Robin Day was chosen as the Liberal candidate for Hereford. **15** US secretary of state Foster Dulles resigned due to poor health. Fidel Castro arrived in Washington; during his visit he denied being a communist and promised the US could keep its Cuban base at Guantanamo Bay. **16** The first Hovercraft was under construction on the Isle of Wight. **17** 'It's Late' by Ricky Nelson entered the chart. Malaya signed a peace treaty with Indonesia. **19** The Dalai Lama reached India. **20** Churchill announced that he would stand again as an MP aged 85. **21** The government announced a trade mission to Russia. **22** Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother met Pope John the 23rd. The ballet dancer Margot Fonteyn arrived in New York after being implicated in a Cuban-backed coup attempt in Panama. **24** 'It Doesn't Matter Anymore' by Buddy Holly number one for 3 weeks, 'Love's Made A Fool Of You' by the Crickets entered the chart. **25** The US St Lawrence Seaway project was completed. **27** China announced that Liu Shao-chi was to succeed Chairman Mao as head of state. **29** Dockworkers went on strike at the Birkenhead shipyard. **30** The government approved plans for British space research.

May 1 Cuban troops surrendered in Panama. **2** Nottingham Forest beat Luton Town 2-1 in the cup final; Wolverhampton Wanderers retained the league championship. **5** The World Bank warned that the poverty gap threatened the world more than the Cold war. **6** Britain protested about Icelandic gunboats firing warning shots at British trawlers. A Picasso painting was sold for a world record £55,000 for a living artist. **7** The Tories made gains in the local elections. British Rail plans to close 230 stations were announced. **8** 'Mean Streak' by Cliff Richard and 'Fort Worth Jail' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. **10** USSR census found the total population to be over 200 million. **11** The 'Big 4' foreign ministers met in Geneva to discuss German reunification. **14** Donald Campbell beat the water speed record again. Mortgage rates dropped to 5.5%. **15** 'A Fool Such As I'/'I Need Your Love Tonight' by Elvis Presley number one for 5 weeks, 'Never Mind' by Cliff Richard and 'Never Be Anyone Else But You' by Ricky Nelson entered the chart. Jodrell Bank transmitted radio messages to the US via the moon. **16** **A West Indian man called Kelso Cochrane was stabbed to death by white men on Southam Street in Kensal. Despite plenty of witnesses no one was convicted of the crime and Mosley held a street meeting at the murder scene.** **18** Castro announced land reform plans for Cuba. **22** A children's book was banned in Alabama for depicting a black and white rabbit marriage. 'Take A Message To Mary' by the Everly Brothers, 'For A Penny' by Pat Boone and 'Margie' by Fats Domino entered the chart. **24** Foster Dulles died. **25** The US Supreme Court ruled against the Louisiana ban on mixed-race boxing. **27** **A black delegation called on the home office to defuse the racial tension in Notting Hill. Colin MacInnes recruited Donald Cammell (the future 'Performance' director) to drive him round the riot zone delivering Inter-racial Friendship newsletters. Rather than starting another riot the murder of Kelso Cochrane turned the tide against the fascists.** An increase in cigarettes sales was reported. **28** **The Kensington News reported that the West London rent tribunal was told of threats to tenants of Rachman properties.** 2 monkeys Able and Baker became the first creatures to go into space and return alive. **29** 'Poor Jenny' by the Everly Brothers entered the chart, 'Everybody Out'ta The Pool' by the Lifeguards in the US chart.

June 1 Macmillan launched World Refugee Year. Iraq turned down US military aid. **2** Able the space monkey died. **3** Real Madrid won the European Cup for the 4th year in a row beating Stade de Reims 2-0. **5** 'A Teenager In Love' by Marty Wilde and 'Kansas City' by Little Richard entered the chart. The Queen opened the NATO conference in London. **8** Lester Piggott was suspended for rough riding. **9** The US George Washington submarine, the first equipped with Polaris missiles, was launched. **11** **Black and white mourners lined the route of Kelso Cochrane's funeral cortege proto-Carnival procession**

along Ladbroke Grove to Kensal Green cemetery. **12** 'Please Don't Touch' by Johnny Kidd and the Pirates entered the chart. **13** Adlai Stevenson announced that he would not run for president in 1960. **17** Liberace won £8,000 damages from the Daily Mirror who had implied he was gay. **18** Several thousand black South African women rioted over planned slum clearances. Brigitte Bardot married Jacques Charrier. **19** 'Roulette' by Russ Conway number one for 2 weeks. **20** Labour's Herbert Morrison announced that he would not stand at the election. **22** Debenhams launched a £33 million bid to take over Harrods. **23** Louis Armstrong suffered a heart attack. Hammersmith Hospital announced plans for a spare parts bank for transplants. The Russian spy Klaus Fuchs was released from prison. **25** Eamon de Valera became president of Ireland. **26** 'Teenager In Love' by Dion and the Belmonts and 'Battle Of New Orleans' by Lonnie Donegan entered the chart. Ingemar Johansson beat Floyd Patterson to become world heavyweight boxing champion. On tour in the States the Queen danced with the mayor of Chicago and opened the St Lawrence Seaway with Eisenhower. 68 people died in a plane crash in Italy. **28** Margot Fonteyn was reunited with her husband Roberto Arias after the Panama coup attempt. **30** The US expressed concerns regarding Castro's Cuban land reforms. Singapore gained independence.

July 1 Heinrich Luebke was elected president of West Germany. The TUC ordered striking Birkenhead dockworkers to return to work. **3** 'Dream Lover' by Bobby Darin number one for 4 weeks, 'Lipstick On Your Collar' by Connie Francis entered the chart. **4** In the Wimbledon men's singles final Rod Laver lost to Alex Olmedo, in the women's singles final Maria Bueno beat Dorothy Hard. **6** The Dadaist George Grosz died. Russia reported that a rabbit and 2 dogs had returned alive from space. **7** The BBC announced that Hugh Carleton Greene, the brother of Graham Greene, would be the next director-general. House of Fraser launched a bid for Harrods. **8** Eisenhower said there was no reason why a Catholic should not run for president, paving the way for JFK. British Rail announced a 50% fare rise. **12** Castro accused the US of interfering in Cuban affairs. **17** Billie Holiday died aged 44. The Congolese National Movement split in two. **18** Castro became president of Cuba. **21** The government announced a commission to review the Rhodesian constitution. **25** US vice-president Richard Nixon was in Moscow for talks. **27** The average worker was earning £13 2s 11d a week. **28** A judicial review criticised forces' handling of the Nyasaland riots in which 51 died, and the deaths of 11 Mau Mau prisoners in Kenya. The first post codes and post code sorting machine came into operation in Norwich. **30** Communist revolution was reported in Laos. Yves St Laurent raised hemlines in Paris. **31** 'Living Doll' by Cliff Richard and the Drifters number one for 6 weeks, 'Midnight Shift' by Buddy Holly and 'Twixt Twelve And Twenty' by Pat Boone entered the chart.

August 1 Young working men were reported to have circa £5 a week to spend. Nixon arrived in Warsaw on his eastern bloc tour. **4** Barclays became the first UK bank to order a computer for its branches. **7** Buckingham Palace announced that the Queen was expecting her third child. **10** The south of England was lashed by violent storms. **11** The US denied having bases in Laos. **12** Police crackdown on further protest at the desegregated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. **13** A fire at the Rolls Royce factory in Leicester caused damage estimated at £1 million. **14** 'Only Sixteen' by Sam Cooke and 'Tallahassee Lassie' by Tommy Steele entered the chart. **18** The Mini was unveiled, sodium road lighting was first tested, and the route of the M1 was changed to save a forest. **19** The Coal Board announced plans to close pits in the early 60s. The sculptor Jacob Epstein died. **20** The anti-apartheid Progressive Party was set up in South Africa. **21** Flooding in London as three quarters of an inch of rain fell in an hour. **24** House of Fraser took over Harrods. **25** Indian prime minister Nehru warned off China from attacking Bhutan and Sikkim. **26** Transistor radios were unveiled at the Earl's Court radio show. **27** Eisenhower arrived in London for talks with Macmillan. **28** 'High Hopes' by Frank Sinatra entered the chart. **31** 'The Ike and Mac Show' Eisenhower and Macmillan talks at Downing Street were broadcast on TV. Hawaii became the 50th state of America.

September 1 Mini production was halted by a strike at the BMC works in Birmingham. Yorkshire won the county cricket championship. **2** The Paphet Lao communist rebels launched an offensive against the government of Laos. **4** The number of people going to university had doubled since before the war. 'Sweeter Than You' by Ricky Nelson entered the chart. **7** A review of the Nyasaland and Rhodesia constitutions by Lord Monkton was announced. **8** Macmillan called a general election for October 8. The opera singer Maria Callas announced that she was leaving her husband, but denied having an affair with Aristotle Onassis. **11** 'Only Sixteen' by Craig Douglas number one for 4 weeks, 'Peggy Sue Got Married' by Buddy Holly, '(Till) I Kissed You' by the Everly Brothers, 'Just A Little Too Much' by Ricky Nelson, 'Sal's Got A Sugar Lip' by Lonnie Donegan and 'Plenty Good Lovin' by Connie Francis entered the chart. **12** The unmanned Russian Lunik 2 was launched at the moon. **13** Sterling Moss won the Italian Grand Prix. **14** Lunik 2 landed on/hit the moon. **15** Khrushchev visited America. **16** De Gaulle announced a referendum on Algerian independence. **17** The Rank Organisation announced a decline in cinema audiences due to the increasing popularity of TV. **18** 47 miners were trapped in a colliery near Glasgow. **20** The last Spitfire to fly in a Battle of Britain air display crashed. Khrushchev was reported to be angry that he wasn't allowed to visit Disneyland. **22** China prevaricated about joining the UN. **24** The new Rolls Royce Phantom V is

launched. **25** 'Sea Of Love' by Marty Wilde entered the chart. Eisenhower-Khrushchev talks on Berlin began.

October 1 Labour made an election pledge to abolish purchase tax. **2** The Allied Film Makers group was set up by amongst others Richard Attenborough. **6** The Russian Lunik 3 went into orbit around the moon. **7** Mario Lanza died. The skull of the oldest known precursor of man was exhibited in London. **8** A rhino was elected in Sao Paolo, Brazil. **9** Harold Macmillan's Tories were returned to power at the general election defeating Hugh Gaitskell's Labour. Macmillan was immortalised for his '59 election slogan, 'You've never had it so good.' **The fascist Oswald Mosley failed in his bid to become MP for North Kensington and held his last rally on Kensington Park Road.** New MPs included the Tory Margaret Thatcher. 'Here Comes Summer' by Jerry Keller number one, 'Dynamite' by Cliff Richard entered the chart. **14** Errol Flynn died aged 50. Macmillan's new ministers included Ted Heath. **16** 'Mack The Knife' by Bobby Darin number one for 2 weeks, 'Somethin' Else' by Eddie Cochran and 'I Want To Walk You Home' by Fats Domino entered the chart. French senator Francois Mitterrand narrowly avoided an assassination attempt by right-wing gunmen. A Labour spokesman said nationalisation was not a vote winner. **20** A Royal Mint report on decimalisation was published. **21** A third of 15 year old boys were reported to be smokers. **23** An LSE report recommended a new governing body for Greater London to replace the LCC. **17** Indian troops were killed in a clash with the Chinese on the Kashmir border. **26** The first pictures of the dark side of the moon were sent back from Lunik 3. **27** A housing official reported that slum clearance and re-housing caused undue misery. Independence for Cyprus and Nigeria was promised in the Queen's speech. **30** 'Travellin' Light' by Cliff Richard and the Shadows number one for 5 weeks, 'Poison Ivy' by the Coasters entered the chart, 'High School USA' by Tommy Facienda in the US chart.

November 1 The Congolese nationalist leader Patrice Lumumba was arrested after anti-white rioting. **3** Ben-Gurion's Labour party won the Israeli election. The M1 opened. **5** The Nobel peace prize went to the Labour MP Phillip Noel-Baker, who helped set up the League of Nations and campaigned for an international arms control treaty. **6** 'Teen Beat' by Sandy Nelson entered the chart, 'Teardrop' by Santo and Johnny in the US chart. 2 lorry drivers were killed in the first fatal crash on the M1. **8** Belgian troops were flown into the Congo. Sightseers had picnics on M1 approach roads. **10** The Kenyan state of emergency was ended. **11** 'Ben-Hur' opened in Britain. The ITA rejected complaints that ITV showed too many adverts. **13** 'Rawhide' by Frankie Laine entered the chart. **16** The government pledged £20 million for new hospitals. **17** Police chiefs criticised the M1 design and operation. Duty-free wine and spirits became available at Prestwich and Renfrew airports. **18** The home secretary called for an enquiry into police relations with the government and public. **19** The government announced that £10 notes would be reintroduced featuring the Queen's head for the first time. The Archbishop of Canterbury said adultery should be a criminal offence. **20** Western Europe split into the European Economic Community and the European Free Trade Association. The UN banned French nuclear tests in the Sahara. **26** Che Guevara became head of the Cuban national bank. The Lords opposed the introduction of commercial radio.

December 1 A treaty was signed declaring Antarctica a scientific reserve with no military bases or tests. British talks began with Nasser. **3** 300 people were reported to have died when the Malpasset dam collapsed in France. **4** 'What Do You Want To Make Those Eyes At Me For' by Adam Faith number one for 3 weeks, 'Little White Bull' by Tommy Steele, 'San Miguel' by Lonnie Donegan and 'Among My Souvenirs' by Connie Francis entered the chart, 'Rockin' Little Angel' by Ray Smith in the US chart. The Chinese Supreme People's Court pardoned 33 war criminals including the last emperor Pu-Yi. **11** 'Bad Boy' by Marty Wilde entered the chart. **14** Archbishop Makarios became president of the republic of Cyprus. The artist Stanley Spencer died. An archaeologist refuted the theory that Stonehenge was built by druids. **16** The Hawker Siddeley and de Havilland aircraft groups announced that they were to merge. **18** 'What Do You Want To Make Those Eyes At Me For' by Emile Ford and the Checkmates number one for 6 weeks, 'Be My Guest' by Fats Domino entered the chart. Chinese premier Chou-En-Lai proposed talks with Nehru over the Kashmir border dispute. The Royal Fine Art Commission, including John Betjemen and Henry Moore, criticised nuclear power stations, suburbs and inner city building developments. **21** The Shah of Iran married Farah Diba. Oven-ready turkeys became popular. **25** Khrushchev called for an east-west summit. **26** Governor Rockefeller announced that he would not be running for president, making Nixon the Republican favourite. **28** De Gaulle denied that France was trying to scupper the NATO pact.

'**Absolute Beginners**' by Colin Maclnnes was published featuring the '58 riots, 'The Loneliness Of A Long Distance Runner' by Alan Sillitoe, the Manchester Guardian became The Guardian, and a new Obscene Publications Act came out. '**Sapphire**' examined racial prejudice during the course of a murder investigation in Notting Hill, '**Peeping Tom**' featuring Michael Powell's Holland Park house, filming of '**It Happened Here**' Nazi occupation docu-drama began in Notting Hill, '**Look Back In Anger**' starring Richard Burton, 'Anatomy Of A Murder' starring James Stewart and Lee Remick, 'I'm All Right Jack' starring Peter Sellers, 'Some Like It Hot' starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack

Lemmon, 'Espresso Bongo' starring Cliff Richard, 'Go Johnny Go' featuring Eddie Cochran, 'The Sound And The Fury', 'North By North West', 'The Nun's Story', 'When Comedy Was King'. Arnold Wesker's 'Roots' opened.

The Guggenheim museum, and **Raymede and Treverton towers on Ladbroke Grove were completed. The Labour MP Roy Jenkins moved to 33 Ladbroke Square.** The first edition of 'Whicker's World' was broadcast from Hong Kong. BOAC launched the first round the world service. The first Hovercraft channel crossing was made. A severed leg was grafted back on to a patient in the US. According to youth crime figures offences committed by under 21 year olds rose to 45,000 from 24,000 in 1955. British teenagers spent £830 million on clothes, cigarettes, cosmetics and records. Motown Records was founded and the rock'n'roll DJ Alan Freed was fired for taking payola.

Sources: 'British Hit Singles', 'Chronicle Of The 20th Century' Longman from Daily Telegraph reports, 'The Fifties' by Peter Lewis, 'Halliwell's Film Guide', 'Hard To Find Jukebox Classics', 'The Rock'n'Roll Years'.