



# Middle Temple Library's Collection of Prime Minister Portraits



**From Robert Walpole  
to David Cameron**

## Portraits of British Prime Ministers

In 1975 Master Treasurer, Sir George Baker was approached by Michael Philips of Nottinghamshire, who had been admitted to the Middle Temple in the same year, as he wanted to find a home for his set of portraits of British Prime Ministers from Walpole onwards. His family had collected the portraits over several generations but the Philips family were downsizing from their large home to a cottage and would not have the space for such a large collection.

After several letters to both Master Treasurer and the Under Treasurer, Captain Morison, the Executive and Finance Committees decided to accept Mr Philips' generous offer and take the portraits and hang them in the library. There was a delay in receiving them, as Mr Phillips did not want to remove them until he had sold the larger house but they eventually arrived at the Inn, late in 1976.

Unfortunately, the portraits languished in the library attic for at least the next 20 years before it was decided to conserve and hang them. When they were eventually displayed, there were a number of portraits missing including the Earl of Shelburne, Lord Grenville, George Canning, and a several twentieth century PMs, which may have always been missing or they may possible have been too badly damaged in the loft, to restore.

Since they have been on display it has been the task of the Keeper of the Library to request a signed portrait of each new Prime Minister who takes office, but it was not until a member of our current Library and Archive Committee, Lord Hacking highlighted the missing PMs at a meeting last year that Members of the Committee and the Keeper of the Library, set about trying to complete the set. One glaring omission was a portrait of the Duke of Wellington which has generously been rectified by Master Wurtzel who donated a fine portrait of him. Others have been tracked down from other sources including using a couple of modern reproductions. They are all now grandly in place and now in the correct order!

As with many things that happen in the Inn, it takes quite a time, but eventually things are completed!

Vanessa Hayward  
Keeper of the Library  
February 2013

## **1. Sir Robert Walpole 1730 – 1742**

Born 26 August 1676, Houghton Hall, Norfolk

Died 18 March 1745, Arlington Street, London

Political Party – Whig

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Parliamentary Privilege Act 1737 – an act granting the Members of Parliament the right of Privilege
- Distress for Rent Act 1737 – an act for securing the payment of rents by tenants and preventing frauds
- Gaming Act 1738 – an act for preventing excessive and deceitful gaming

### Fascinating Facts

Walpole was originally impeached for corruption in 1712 and spent some months in the Tower of London for opposing the Tory administration of 1710 – 14. He became First Lord of the Treasury in 1720, and when he took over from Lord Townsend as leader of the cabinet in 1730 he became known as the First or Prime Minister. Known for his homely ways and Norfolk roots, in later life he was nicknamed the Fat Old Squire of Norfolk.

## **2. Spencer Compton 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Wilmington 1742 – 1743**

Born 1673/4, Compton Wynyates, Warwickshire

Died 2 July 1743, St. James's Square, London

Political Party – Whig

### Fascinating Facts

He was described by a contemporary as “a plodding, heavy fellow with great application but no talents” and failed to make a great mark during his ministry. However, the cities of Wilmington in Delaware, North Carolina and Vermont are named after him. He was also involved in the creation of the Foundling Hospital for Orphaned and Abandoned Children. He was admitted to the Middle Temple on 25 January 1687 (1686 by the old calendar). Compton died a premature death after only 18 months in office. He died unmarried and without children and his title became extinct.

## **3. Henry Pelham 1743 – 1754**

Born 1696 at Laughton, Sussex

Died 17 March 1754, Arlington Street, London

Political Party – Whig

### Significant Legislative Acts

- The Consolidation Act 1749 - reorganised the Royal Navy
- Reorganised the British Calendar in 1751 when 1<sup>st</sup> January became New Year's Day

### Fascinating Facts

As one of the most powerful statesmen of his century, Henry Pelham's nickname was King Henry the Ninth. At his old college in Oxford he is honoured by his drinking club still being called the Sir Henry Pelham's Gentleman's Sporting Society. He effectively shared power with his brother Thomas Pelham-Holles who was first Lord of the Treasury. He brought stability to England's foreign and domestic situation by crushing the Jacobite Rebellion in 1746 and bringing peace to France by ending the War of the Austrian Succession in 1748. Upon his death, his brother, The Duke of Newcastle, took over until the end of his term of office as PM.

#### **4. Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of Newcastle 1754 – 1756 and 1757 – 1762**

Born 21 July 1693, London

Died 17 November 1768, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London

Political Party – Whig

##### Fascinating Facts

He succeeded his brother as PM. George II did not get on with Newcastle. During a disagreement, the King (whose English was poor) thought that Newcastle had challenged him to a duel. He was the first Prime Minister to spend his entire career in the House of Lords. His nickname was Hubble Bubble as he was very fussy.

#### **5. William Cavendish Duke of Devonshire 1756 – 1757**

Born 1719/20 London

Died 2 October 1764 at Spa in the Austrian Netherlands (now Belgium)

Political Party – Whig

##### Significant Legislative Acts

- The Militia Act 1757 – establishing Militia regiments in all counties for home defence

##### Fascinating Facts

Cavendish owned many properties but his main residence was Chatsworth House. Before he became PM, he was appointed Master of the Horse, which meant he was responsible for all of the King's horses and hounds. It was one of the most important posts in the Cabinet. Although in office for a very short period, he raised money to support the Seven Years War. However, he was blighted with ill health resigned after 7 months in office and died aged just 44.

#### **6. John Stuart Earl of Bute 1762 – 1763**

Born 25 May 1713, Parliament Square, Edinburgh

Died 10 March 1792, Isle of Bute

Political Party – Tory

##### Significant Legislative Acts

- Cider Tax 1763 – a tax of 4/- a hogshead to raise revenue to pay for the Seven Years War

##### Fascinating Facts

He was deeply unpopular with the English, which led to verbal, written and physical attacks on him until he resigned in 1763. His nickname was Jack Boot. Although he married Mary Wortley Montagu, he had a liaison with the Dowager Princess of Wales, which caused further animosity. He retired to Hampshire where he took up botany and wrote several books on the subject. He died in 1792 by falling down some cliffs near his home.

#### **7. George Grenville 1763 – 1765**

Born 17 October 1712, Buckinghamshire

Died 13 November 1770, London

Political Party – Whig

##### Significant Legislative Acts

- Navy Act 1758 – speeding up of wages to seamen so they could send money home to their families
- Stamp Act 1765 – all legal documents, contracts, licences, newspapers, pamphlets etc. carried a tax
- Parliamentary Elections Act 1770 – changed the tradition of petitions to Parliament being dealt with a committee rather than the House

### Fascinating Facts

Grenville tried to get public spending under control by pursuing an assertive foreign policy, particularly aimed at the American colonies, which was most unpopular. King George III did not get on with Grenville, who reputedly said "once he has wearied me for two hours, he looks at his watch to see if he may not tire me for an hour more". Eventually the King sacked Grenville, which is rare in Parliamentary history.

### **8. Charles Watson-Wentworth 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess of Rockingham 1765 – 1766 and 1782 – 1782**

Born 13 May 1730, Wentworth near Rotherham

Died 1 July 1782, Wimbledon

Political Party – Whig

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Declaratory Act 1766 – for securing the dependency of George III's dominions in America on Parliament
- Repeal of the controversial Stamp Act 1766, in the face of protest from the Colonies
- The Catholic Relief Act 1778 – enabled Catholics to own land, inherit property and join the army
- The Parliament Act 1782 – disqualified all officers of Customs and Excise and the Post Office from voting in Parliamentary elections

### Fascinating Facts

The King did not like him and sacked him in favour of Pitt the Elder. However, he returned to power 16 years later in 1782 and opened peace negotiations with America but then died suddenly in office. Edmund Burke was his private secretary. He was passionate about horse racing and breeding and owned the horse that first won the St. Leger. Commissioned George Stubbs to paint another of his horses, Whistlejacket. His nephew renamed the pottery factory on his estate, Rockingham Ware.

### **9. William Pitt 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Chatham 1766 – 1768**

Born 15 November 1708, Westminster

Died 1 May 1778, Hayes, Middlesex

Political Party – Whig

### Fascinating Facts

His nickname was The Great Commoner. He was one of the most influential politicians of the 18<sup>th</sup> century serving as PM in all but name during the ministries of Devonshire and Newcastle. Credited with the birth of the British Empire as military campaigns conquered Canada, the West Indies and West Africa, setting up trade routes throughout. Developed mental illness and spent the rest of his time in the House of Lords where he made his dying speech in favour of the American Colonists on a stretcher.

### **10. Augustus Henry Fitzroy 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Grafton 1768 – 1770**

Born 28 September 1735

Died 14 March 1811, Euston Hall Suffolk

Political Party – Whig

### Fascinating Facts

His short period in office was taken up with America. He wanted all duties on the colonies to be removed except that on tea. His nickname was The Turf Macaroni (Dandy). He was a colourful character who attracted much scandal in his personal life although his career was saved by his wife's indiscretions, which allowed him to divorce her.

## **11. Lord Frederick North 1770 – 1782**

Born 13 April 1732, London

Died 5 August 1792, London

Political Party – Tory

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Tea Act 1773 – sparked the Boston Tea Party and led to the American Revolution in 1776

### Fascinating Facts

His nickname was Boreas (the north wind). He was known as the man who lost Britain the American colonies. His disastrous ministry included violent anti-Catholic feeling known as the Gordon Riots. He resigned in 1782 after a vote of no confidence.

## **12. William Petty 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Shelburne 1782 – 1783**

Born 2 May 1737, Dublin

Died 7 May 1805, London

Political Party – Whig

### Fascinating Facts

During his short term in office, he succeeded in securing peace with America, France and Spain and also put forward a programme of public service reform. His nickname was Malagrida (worthy man or Jesuit).

## **13. William Bentinck 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Portland 1783 – 1783 and 1807 – 1809**

Born 14 April 1738

Died 30 October 1809, Bulstrode, Buckinghamshire

Political Party – Whig

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Treaty of Paris 1783 – was a formal end to the American War of Independence

### Fascinating Facts

His first term in office was for just 8 months as he fell out with George III. He held a title of every degree of British nobility Duke, Marquess, Earl, Viscount and Baron. He is also the great-great-great-grandfather of HM Queen Elizabeth through her maternal Grandmother. There was a lengthy 24 years between his ministries but his second one saw a beginning to Britain's recovery after a difficult period with the beginning of the Peninsular War in 1809. The Portland Vase of Roman glass was owned by his family. Notwithstanding the Third Duke's many descendants, the Dukedom became extinct in 1990 on the death of the Ninth Duke. Had the inheritance been permitted through the female line it would have survived to this day with the current holder being an Italian prince.

## **14. William Pitt 1783 – 1801 and 1804 – 1806**

Born 28 May 1759, Hayes Place, Kent

Died 23 January 1806 Putney Heath, London

Political Party – Tory

### Significant Legislative Acts

- India Act 1784 – control over all British territories in the East Indies and over the affairs of the company
- Act of Union 1800 - Great Britain and Ireland joined to create the United Kingdom

### Fascinating Facts

His nickname was The Younger as he was the youngest ever PM. His was a momentous time in office in which he became very popular even though he was trying to reduce the national debt and stamp out smuggling. He passed The Regency Bill in 1789 to enable the crown to pass from George III to his son following George's increased spells of madness, but the King recovered to remain on the throne so it was never enacted. Pitt also fought a duel with an opponent in 1798. He was reprimanded by the King but luckily neither party was injured.

### **15. Henry Addington 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Sidmouth 1801 – 1804**

Born 30 May 1757, Holborn, London

Died 15 February 1844, London

Political Party – Tory

### Significant Legislative Acts

Treaty of Amiens 1802 – temporarily ended hostilities between the UK and France

### Fascinating Facts

His nickname was The Doctor as he had treated King George during one of his bouts of madness. He was the first middle-class PM being, when appointed, Speaker of the House of Commons. He was notably poor at speaking and his appointment as Prime Minister was very much a compromise appointment. He was eventually elevated to the Lords although he continued to serve in further Governments.

### **16. William Wyndham Grenville 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Grenville 1806 – 1807**

Born 25 October 1759, Buckinghamshire

Died 17 January 1834, Buckinghamshire

Political Party – Whig

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Slave Trade Act 1807 – abolished the slave trade in the British Empire

### Fascinating Facts

The son of George Grenville, he unfortunately shared his father's poor public image but was considered to be very able. The expectation was that he would have a lengthy term of office - yet he served only one year, because he fell out with the King over the perennial issue of Catholic emancipation.

### **17. Spencer Percival 1809 – 1812**

Born 1 November 1762, London

Died 11 May 1812, in the lobby of the House of Commons

Political Party – Tory

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Regency Bill 1810 – which, due to George III's continued ill health, appointed his son as Regent

### Fascinating Facts

Percival was the only PM to be assassinated. His nickname was Little P. His is thought to be one of Britain's most able PMs and could have stayed in office for some time. As it was, he governed during a deep economic depression, which although improving, was not enough to save him from John Bellingham, a merchant who had lost all of his money and who had tried unsuccessfully to gain compensation from the government. He shot Percival just outside the chamber of the House of Commons as he was on his way to an enquiry into the Luddite Riots.

Percival's last words were: "Oh, I have been murdered". His body rested at 10 Downing Street for 5 days, mourned by his wife and 12 children. Bellingham was tried and hanged for his murder.

### **18. Robert Banks Jenkinson Earl of Liverpool 1812 – 1827**

Born 7 June 1770, London

Died 4 December 1828, Surrey

Political Party – Tory

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Importation Act 1815 – prohibited the import of foreign wheat until the domestic price reached an accepted level

#### Fascinating Facts

He was responsible for a number of repressive measures during the unrest which followed the Napoleonic Wars. There were riots during which he passed the Corn Laws and suspended Habeas Corpus. Things came to a head in 1819 when a gathering in Manchester, calling for political reform was savagely put down by soldiers in what became known as the Peterloo Massacre. In 1820, a group of radicals plotted to murder Liverpool and his Cabinet in the Cato Street Conspiracy, but they were found out and either hanged or transported. Following that, Liverpool became more liberal and a period of prosperity followed.

### **19. George Canning 1827 – 1827**

Born 11 April 1770, London

Died 8 August 1827, Chiswick House, Middlesex

Political Party – Tory

#### Fascinating Facts

His nicknames were the Cicero of the British Senate, or The Zany of Debate. He only held office as PM for 119 days before dying from pneumonia in August 1827. His last words were "Spain and Portugal". He was known as an excellent public speaker but in 1809 as Foreign Secretary, he quarrelled with Castlereagh the War Minister, over the deployment of troops. They fought a duel, which was a bad idea as Canning had never before fired a pistol. He missed his target completely but was himself wounded in the thigh. Both men resigned office as a result. Canning returned to office as a successful Foreign Secretary following the suicide in 1822 of his rival Castlereagh. He holds the record for having served as PM for the shortest period of time.

### **20. Frederick Robinson Viscount Goderich 1827 – 1828**

Born 1 November 1782, London

Died 28 January 1859, Putney Heath, London

Political Party – Tory

#### Fascinating Facts

His nickname was Goody Goderich, and he was unpopular with his own party, thus lasting only a month longer than Canning in office, when he resigned before passing anything of note.

### **21. Arthur Wellesley 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington 1828 – 1830 and 1834 [interim PM]**

Born 1 May 1769, Dublin

Died 14 September 1852, Walmer Castle, Kent

Political Party – Tory

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829 – removed many of the restrictions on Catholics and giving them almost full civil rights

### Fascinating Facts

Nicknamed, The Iron Duke, Wellington was one of this country's great heroes, famous for his role in the Napoleonic Wars and The Battle of Waterloo. He gave his name not only to the Wellington Arch but also to Wellington boots. His father died young, his mother neglected him, and he failed to shine at Eton where he was shy and reserved. His mother also ignored his love of music and sent him to a military college. As PM, his stance was in favour of Catholic emancipation. However, this led to unrest in Parliament, with Lord Winchelsea challenging him to a duel over his action. The duel took place in Battersea Park, but both men deliberately missed each other and honour was satisfied. He lost the next election to the Whigs, but came back in 1834. He then chose to sit in the House of Lords and, on his death, was buried as a hero in St. Paul's Cathedral.

### **22. Charles Grey 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Grey 1830 – 1834**

Born 13 March 1764, Falloden, Northumberland

Died 17 July 1845, Howick, Northumberland

Political Party – Whig

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Reform Act 1832 – reformation of the electoral system
- Slavery Abolition Act 1833 – abolished slavery throughout the British Empire

### Fascinating Facts

He was famous for his blend of Earl Grey Tea, which reputedly was originally given to him as a gift. The tea was flavoured with bergamot oil and he enjoyed it so much he asked a merchant to recreate it for him.

### **23. William Lamb 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount Melbourne 1834 – 1834 and 1835 - 1841**

Born 15 March 1779, London

Died 24 November 1848, Brocket, Hertfordshire

Political Party – Whig

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Dissenters' Marriage Bill 1836 – which legalised civil marriage outside of the church

### Fascinating Facts

The city of Melbourne in Australia was named after him. He was also known for the great scandal of his wife's (Lady Caroline Lamb) very public affair with Lord Byron. He also mentored the young Queen Victoria who was so fond of him, she gave him an apartment in Windsor Castle. He remained an efficient politician. His wife Lady Caroline died aged 42 from an overdose of drink and drugs.

### **24. Sir Robert Peel 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet 1834 – 1835 and 1841 – 1846**

Born 15 February 1788, Bury, Lancashire

Died 2 July 1850, London

Political Party – Conservative

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Factory Act 1844 – improved factory working conditions for women and children

- Importation Act 1846 – removed trade barriers on imported corn which drove down prices
- Repealing the Corn Laws in 1846

#### Fascinating Facts

His nickname was Orange Peel as he was against Catholic emancipation although he later did a U-turn on this and pushed through the Catholic Emancipation Bill. During a period of great unrest due to failed harvests and the Irish Potato Famine, he eventually overturned the Corn Laws. However, he was most famous for founding the Metropolitan Police during his time as Home Secretary in 1829. They became known as Peelers and Bobbies. He died after falling off his horse on Constitution Hill to the great shock of the nation.

#### **25. Lord John Russell 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Russell 1846 – 1852 and 1865 – 1866**

Born 18 August 1792, Mayfair, London

Died 28 May 1878, Richmond Park, London

Political Party – Whig

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Factory Act 1847 – limited factory working hours
- Public Health Act 1848 – improved sanitary conditions in towns

#### Fascinating Facts

Born prematurely and small in stature, both his premierships were marked by weak leadership. As a third son of the Duke of Bedford, he was an instinctive reformer, helping to write the 1842 Reform Bill. Charles Dickens dedicated A Tale of Two Cities to him “in remembrance of many public services and private kindnesses”.

#### **26. Edward Smith Stanley 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby 1852 – 1852, 1858 – 1859 and 1866 – 1868**

Born 29 March 1799, Knowsley Hall, Prescot, Lancashire

Died 23 October 1869, Knowsley Hall, Prescot, Lancashire

Political Party – Whig / Tory

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- India Bill 1858 – transferred control of the East India Company to the Crown
- Jews Relief Act 1858 – allowed Jews to sit in Parliament

#### Fascinating Facts

His nickname was Scorpion Stanley and he was PM during the Opium Wars in China. He changed parties between serving as PM, starting out as Whig and then moving to Tory. There is a monument to him in Parliament Square. His last words, when asked how he was feeling, were “bored to utter extinction”.

#### **27. George Hamilton Gordon Earl of Aberdeen 1852 – 1855**

Born 28 January 1784, Edinburgh

Died 14 December 1860, St James, London

Political Party Conservative

#### Fascinating Facts

He was a cousin of Lord Byron and closely resembled him in dashing good looks. Having previously been Foreign Secretary for two years under the Duke of Wellington, he came to power when Derby's government was defeated in 1852, in a coalition of Whigs, Peelites, radicals and Irish members. His downfall, however, came when he was accused of conducting the Crimean War inefficiently and resigned on the threat of a public inquiry – the irony was

that he was always opposed to the country's involvement in the Crimea. In many ways Lord Aberdeen was a sad figure. He had a beautiful wife and three beautiful daughters – all dying before him and several of them in his arms.

## **28. Henry John Temple 3<sup>rd</sup> Viscount Palmerston, 1855 – 1858 and 1859 – 1865**

Born 29 October 1784, Westminster, London

Died 18 October 1865, Brocket Hall, Hertfordshire

Political Party – Tory / Whig

### Fascinating Facts

His abrasive style, led to the nickname Lord Pumicestone. Despite his many years serving in Parliament, he is the oldest person to have become PM for the first time, aged 71. He took over after Aberdeen's downfall and brought a successful conclusion to the Crimean War. He was out of office for 18 months in which time he helped to form the Liberal Party. His age did not prevent him from serving 8 years in office, nor being cited in a divorce case in 1863. He died in office aged 80, his last words were, "Die my dear doctor; that is the last thing I shall do". A much-loved character, he received a state funeral.

## **29. Benjamin Disraeli Earl of Beaconsfield 1868 – 1868 and 1874 – 1880**

Born 21 December 1804, London

Died 19 April 1881, London

Political Party – Conservative

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875 – decriminalised the work of the trade unions and allowed peaceful picketing
- Public Health Act 1875 – further improvement of sanitation and living conditions in towns

### Fascinating Facts

Disraeli was the first and only Jewish PM. Politician, writer and bon viveur, he was a man with many interests. Nicknamed Dizzy, he wrote the novel Vivien Grey, in which he caricatured a former business partner. His premiership saw many social improvements including the Climbing Boys Act 1875, which prohibited employment of children as chimney sweeps and the Artisans Dwelling Act 1875, which allowed local authorities to pull down slums. As an advisor to Queen Victoria, he soon won her over with his charm and flattery and she made him Earl of Beaconsfield in 1879.

## **30. William Ewart Gladstone 1868 – 1874, 1880 – 1885, 1886 – 1886 and 1892 – 1894**

Born 29 December 1809, Liverpool

Died 19 May 1898, Hawarden Castle, Flintshire

Political Party – Liberal

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Representation of the People Act 1884 – increased the number of men eligible to vote (those paying an annual rent of £10 or owning land worth £10). Women were still ineligible to vote.

### Fascinating Facts

Gladstone served for four separate periods, more than any other PM. His nickname was GOM – Grand Old Man. Queen Victoria disliked him intensely and he became more unpopular when he failed to rescue General Gordon at Khartoum, losing for Britain much of its control of

Sudan. He tried, and failed on a number of occasions to get home rule in Ireland and resigned on his last defeat in 1894.

### **31. Robert Gascoyne-Cecil 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquess of Salisbury 1885 – 1886, 1886 – 1892 and 1895 – 1902**

Born 3 February 1830, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire

Died 22 August 1903, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire

Political Party – Conservative

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Naval Defence Act 1889 – greatly enlarged the size of the Royal Navy to the combined size of the next two largest navies; those of France and Russia
- Workmen's Compensation Act 1897 – made employers liable for accidents at work

#### Fascinating Facts

Salisbury founded the London County Council in 1889 – a directly elected municipal authority for London, which was in existence until 1965. His resignation in 1902 came about during the Boer War, which began in 1899. He was one of our longest serving PMs who became a much-loved elder statesman. He served all three periods in office as PM in the House of Lords.

### **32. Archibald Primrose, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosebery 1894 – 1895**

Born 7 May 1847, London

Died 21 May 1929, Epsom, Surrey

Political Party – Liberal

#### Fascinating Facts

When Gladstone resigned in 1894, Rosebery accepted the post of PM with reluctance, regarding it as rather a poisoned chalice. He was quite correct and the in-fighting and Conservative dominance of the House of Lords led to his defeat 15 months later. However, his ambitions in life were to marry an heiress, own a horse that won the Derby and become Prime Minister and he achieved all three. He was the last PM to have served in office in the House of Lords.

### **33. Arthur James Balfour 1902 – 1905**

Born 25 July 1848, Whittingehame, London

Died 19 March 1930, Woking, Surrey

Political Party – Conservative

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Unemployed Workmen Act 1905 – enabled grants to be given to businesses or local authorities to employ more workers and decrease unemployment

#### Fascinating Facts

Balfour was the nephew of Lord Salisbury, whom he succeeded in office. He was against Home Rule for Ireland and helped bring down Gladstone's government. In 1917, after he returned to Government as Foreign Secretary he authored the Balfour Declaration "in favour of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" on the understanding that "nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine".

### **34. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman 1905 – 1908**

Born 7 September 1836, Glasgow

Died 22 April 1908, Downing Street, London

Political Party – Liberal

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Probation Act 1907 – founded the Probation Service, which enabled courts to release offenders on probation

#### Fascinating Facts

Sir Henry was the first to be given the official use of the title Prime Minister. Known as CB, he was a great believer in free trade, Home Rule for Ireland and the improvement of social conditions. A strong leader, he stopped the in-fighting in the Liberal Party and brought it together.

### **35. Herbert Henry Asquith 1908 – 1916**

Born 12 September 1852, Morley, Yorkshire

Died 15 February 1928, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire

Political Party – Liberal

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Old Age Pensions Act 1908 – provided for a non-contributory old age pension for eligible people over 70. To be eligible, people had to be earning less than £21.10s per year and pass a good character test.
- National Insurance Act 1911 – created a system of insurance for working people against illness and unemployment. All wage earners between 16 and 70 had to contribute 4d per week, with employers paying 3d and the state 2d. This entitled workers to receive free medical care and dole payment for up to 15 weeks.

#### Fascinating Facts

Asquith is the only PM to have taken office abroad. King Edward VII was in Biarritz at the time so Asquith travelled there for the official kissing of hands with the king. He was always known as Henry or HH. He was side-lined by Lloyd George who set up a small Cabinet to direct the war but excluded the PM. He resigned and lost his seat but stubbornly remained leader of the Liberal Party even though he was no longer in Parliament.

### **36. David Lloyd George 1916 – 1922**

Born 17 January 1863, Manchester

Died 26 March 1945, Llanystumdwy, Caernarvonshire

Political Party – Liberal

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Education Act 1918 – raised the school leaving age to 14
- Representation of the People Act 1918 – allowed women over 30 to vote if householders or married to householders
- Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act 1920 – prohibited the employment of children and others in railways, transport, building, engineering, and mines.

#### Fascinating Facts

Known as the Welsh Wizard, Lloyd George is the only PM to have spoken Welsh as his first language. In 1919, he signed the Treaty of Versailles, which established the League of Nations, but he continued to suffer from domestic problems. He had a scathing wit and called the House of Lords "a body of 500 men chosen at random from amongst the unemployed". Lloyd George was the last Liberal Prime Minister.

### **37. Andrew Bonar Law 1922 – 1923**

Born 16 September 1858, New Brunswick, Canada

Died 30 October, 1923, London

Political Party – Conservative

#### Fascinating Facts

Born in Canada, he grew up in Scotland. He became a wealthy industrialist with a great desire for politics. A great admirer of Lloyd George, he was awarded a post in his coalition war cabinet, but also rallied the Conservatives together at rousing speech at the Carlton Club. Although he had a long and successful career in politics he was only PM for 209 days (the shortest period for any PM in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century) and, when he was buried next to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, was described by Asquith as the “Unknown Prime Minister”. Following the death of his wife at a young age and the loss of two of his sons in the Great War he suffered ill health. He is the only Prime Minister who has not been born in the United Kingdom.

### **38 Stanley Baldwin 1923 – 1924, 1924 – 1929 and 1935 – 1937**

Born 3 August 1867, Bewdley, Worcestershire

Died 14 December 1947, Stourport, Worcestershire

Political Party – Conservative

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Trade Disputes Act 1927 – this followed the General Strike of 1926 and introduced limits on the power of Trade Unions
- Equal Franchise Act 1928 – gave the vote to all women over 21.
- Government of India Act 1935 – gave limited powers of self-government. It was heavily opposed by Winston Churchill
- Public Order Act 1936 – passed to deal with marches by the Fascist movement and its opponents

#### Fascinating Facts

Baldwin's father was a wealthy industrialist and his mother had many connections with arts and crafts. His uncles were Sir Edward Burne-Jones and Sir Edward Poynter and he was also a cousin of Rudyard Kipling. Baldwin's second term in office saw the introduction of votes for women in 1928 and further social and local government reform. During the 1930s he was part of a coalition to solve the financial crisis and realising the threat from Hitler, he ploughed money into armaments. He served under three monarchs and dealt with the abdication crisis of 1936. In 1938, he set up a fund to rescue Jewish refugees from Nazi oppression.

### **39. James Ramsay MacDonald 1924 – 1924 and 1929 – 1935**

Born 12 October 1866, Lossiemouth, Scotland

Died 9 November 1937 on a ship in the Atlantic Ocean

Political Party - Labour

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Unemployment Act 1924 – set up Unemployment Assistance Boards
- Special Areas Act 1924 – introduced regional assistance to areas of mass unemployment

#### Fascinating Facts

Ramsay MacDonald was the first Labour PM. He was from a working class background and became a teacher before joining the Independent Labour Party in 1896. He ruled a minority

government in 1929 and appointed Margaret Bondfield as the first woman minister. However, he was unpopular in his own party and he eventually resigned in 1935.

#### **40. Neville Chamberlain 1937 – 1940**

Born 18 March 1869, Birmingham

Died 9 November 1940, Heckfield, Hampshire

Political Party – Conservative

##### Significant Legislative Acts

- Factories Act 1937 – limited hours worked by women and children
- Holiday Pay Act 1938 – recommended a week's paid holiday which led to development of holiday camps
- Housing Act 1938 – encouraged slum clearance and rent control

##### Fascinating Facts

His nickname was The Coroner. He came to power at a difficult time. War was already underway in Spain and having lived through the First World War, he had no wish to repeat the horrors of that War and was deeply committed to peace. He famously met Hitler in 1938 returning home to give the declaration of Peace for our time. Appeasement, however, was brought to nought when Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia. In September 1939, on the invasion of Poland by Germany, Chamberlain in a radio broadcast declared that Country was at war with Germany. Unable to liberate Norway, Chamberlain resigned in 1940.

#### **41. Sir Winston Churchill 1940 – 1945 and 1951 – 1955**

Born 30 November 1874, Bleinheim Palace, Oxfordshire

Died 24 January 1965, London

Political Party – Conservative

##### Significant Legislative Acts

- Education Act 1944 – raised the school leaving age to 14 and introduced the 11+ examination

##### Fascinating Facts

Known as Winnie, Sir Winston Churchill was of aristocratic descent. Despite being dyslexic, he excelled in his early military career and became a Conservative MP in 1900. However, he later joined the Liberal Party and became successively Home Secretary and First Lord of the Admiralty. The failure of the Dardanelles campaign drove him from office and he joined the army as an officer fighting in France. He later became an Independent Conservative, Chancellor of the Exchequer but failed to get Britain back on to the gold standard. He heavily attacked the Government from the back benches on what he considered their appeasement policies over Germany and India. But upon declaration of war in September 1939, he was brought back into the Government as First Lord of the Admiralty, being welcomed by the Royal Navy in the famous signal going out to the Fleets "Winston is back". On the fall of Chamberlain's Government in 1940, he was chosen to be PM of the new National Government over which he presided throughout the Second World War. Labour's unexpected victory in 1945 saw him out of office but he returned in 1951. He became increasingly unwell and often directed matters of state from his bed. Roy Jenkins called him "gloriously unfit for office". When he died in 1965, Churchill was honoured with a State Funeral.

## **42. Clement Attlee 1945 – 1951**

Born 3 January 1883, London

Died 8 October 1967, London

Political Party – Labour

### Significant Legislative Acts

- National Health Service Act 1946 – followed the Beveridge Report, it came into force in 1948 and was the first service in the world to provide free healthcare available based on citizenship rather than the payment of fees or insurance premiums
- National Insurance Act 1946 – decreed that employed people had to pay a weekly contribution in return for a range of benefits including unemployment benefit, sickness benefit, retirement pension, death grants etc.

### Fascinating Facts

Nicknamed Clem, Attlee was born into a middle-class family and studied law at Oxford. He was called to the Bar of Inner Temple in 1906, but then moved to a political career. A quiet man, he still made and implemented decisions with great speed and thus almost all of his manifesto policies were implemented. Despite the country being on the verge of bankruptcy following the war, he managed to provide “cradle to grave” support for citizens through the creation of the NHS and nationalised a fifth of the nation’s industries including coal, electricity and the railways.

## **43. Sir Anthony Eden 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Avon 1955 – 1957**

Born 12 June 1897, Rushyford, County Durham

Died 14 January 1977, Alvediston, Wiltshire

Political Party – Conservative

### Fascinating Facts

Eden took over as PM following Churchill, but his approval rating fell dramatically within his first year due to his lack of leadership skills and poor health. He was made an Honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple in 1952. His controversial handling of the 1956 Suez crisis was to be his downfall. Following the nationalisation by President Nasser of Egypt of the Suez Canal, and fearing that an Arab alliance would cut off oil supplies to Europe, he colluded with France and Israel to retake the canal. There followed a badly executed invasion which brought condemnation from the rest of the world and Eden was forced into a humiliating retreat. He then made it worse by attempting to cover up the collusion, lying to Parliament and ordering Civil Servants to burn the incriminating evidence. He resigned shortly afterwards.

## **44. Harold Macmillan 1957 – 1963**

Born 10 February 1894, London

Died 29 December 1986, Chelwood Gate, Sussex

Political Party – Conservative

### Fascinating Facts

Super Mac, as he was known, was half-American but educated at Eton and Oxford. He served in both World Wars and then entered politics, rising quite slowly through the Conservative ranks not achieving high office until after World War II. When he became PM, it was to a very demoralised Conservative Party and he told the Queen that he did not expect the government to last more than six weeks. However, he quickly restored the country’s confidence and fortunes and repaired our relationship with the United States particularly with the good relations he enjoyed with President Eisenhower and the young President Kennedy. Joining

Kennedy he helped to lead the world out of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Through his Winds of Change speech to the South African Parliament in 1960 he changed the whole face of the Empire leading to rapid decolonisation. He was also keen to take Britain into the EU and was devastated in 1963 when the French President, Charles de Gaulle voted non to Britain's entry. Macmillan was latterly seen as becoming out of touch with his party, especially when he sacked 6 members of his cabinet at once, which became known as the Night of the Long Knives. He then became rocked by a series of scandals, the most damaging of which was the Profumo affair. He resigned later that year. He was made an Honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple in 1958.

#### **45. Sir Alec Douglas-Home 1963 – 1964**

Born 2 July 1903, London

Died 9 October 1995, Berwickshire

Political Party – Conservative

##### Fascinating Facts

Sir Alec Douglas-Home was the 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Home, but renounced his title on becoming PM in 1963. He did not seek to become PM but was greatly respected by his party although he was only in office for 363 days when a general election saw the Labour Party sweep to victory. He was criticised by Labour as an aristocrat, out of touch with the problems of ordinary families and he came over stiffly in television interviews by contrast with the Labour leader, Harold Wilson

#### **46. Harold Wilson 1964 – 1970 and 1974 – 1976**

Born 11 March 1916, Huddersfield, Yorkshire

Died 24 May 1995, London

Political Party – Labour

##### Significant Legislative Acts

- Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act 1965 – suspended the death penalty in England, Wales and Scotland

##### Fascinating Facts

On his first victory, Harold Wilson came to Parliament with a majority of just four, but increased this during a second election in 1966. His agenda was to modernise and this he did by liberalising laws on censorship, divorce, abortion and homosexuality and he abolished capital punishment. He also took steps towards tackling discrimination against women and ethnic minorities and created the Open University. He applied for membership of the European Community in 1967, but the application was again turned down. Believing his popularity was still increasing he called a general election in 1970, only to lose to the Conservatives. He returned to lead a hung parliament in 1974 (with a majority of three). He continued with his social and welfare reforms by raising the top tax level to 83%. However, he continued to try for membership into Europe, which caused divides within his party. He then shocked them by announcing his resignation on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### **47. Sir Edward Heath 1970 – 1974**

Born 9 July 1916, Broadstairs, Kent

Died 17 July 2005, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Political Party – Conservative

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Industrial Relations Act 1971 (repealed 1974) – controversial legislation designed to curb the power of the trades unions

### Fascinating Facts

Ted Grocer Heath oversaw the decimalisation of the British coinage, originally arranged by the previous Labour Government, and implemented major reform of local government. He also saw the UK entry into the European Union in 1972. However, rising unemployment and high inflation caused him problems and two miners' strikes were very damaging which led, in 1974 to the three-day week to conserve energy. In an attempt to face down the miners, he took the country to a general election, which resulted in a hung parliament and following a failed attempt to establish a coalition with the Liberals, he conceded power to Labour which won a small majority in a second election in October that year. Despite this, Heath vowed to continue as Conservative leader, but in 1975, Margaret Thatcher defeated him for leadership of the party. He returned to the back benches and became an active critic of Thatcher's policies when she was PM. He was a world-class yachtsman and musician of professional standard and he was also one of only four British PMs who never married.

### **48. James Callaghan 1976 – 1979**

Born 27 March 1912, Portsmouth, Hampshire

Died 26 March 2005, Ringmer, Sussex

Political Party – Labour

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Race Relations Act 1976 – dealt with discrimination on racial grounds and relations between people of different racial groups

### Fascinating Facts

Sunny Jim Callaghan was the only PM to come to the post after holding the other three great offices of state, that of Chancellor of the Exchequer, Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary. He was popular within his party and duly chosen as PM to follow Harold Wilson following his shock resignation. He had to rely on the support of both the Liberal and Scottish National Party to ensure his majority and he continued to bring in legislation that supported social welfare. This did not help the poor economy, however and inflation rose to 17% with high unemployment. His attempt to stabilise the position meant losing many public sector jobs, which led to many strikes in what became known as the 1978 Winter of Discontent. In the following March of 1979 he received a vote of no confidence in Parliament and stepped down immediately as PM.

### **49. Margaret Thatcher 1979 – 1990**

Born 13 October 1925, Grantham, Lincolnshire

Died 8 April 2013, Ritz Hotel, London

Political Party – Conservative

### Significant Legislative Acts

- Housing Act 1980 – gave security of tenure and the right to buy homes to tenants of local authorities and other bodies.

### Fascinating Facts

Margaret Thatcher known as Maggie when PM, studied law and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn before becoming the first female, and the longest serving, PM for over 150 years. Her first years in office were not easy as unemployment was still high, but the economy

gradually showed improvement. She became known as the Iron Lady, following her successful war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands. She went on to win the 1983 election by a landslide implementing Conservative policies on privatisation, tax cuts, reform of the trade unions, and bringing market mechanisms into health and education, which became known as Thatcherism. However, her deeply unpopular poll tax led to riots and eventually Michael Heseltine launched an unsuccessful leadership challenge in 1990. It was enough to cause her resignation, and power was given to John Major. She was elevated to the House of Lords as Baroness Thatcher.

### **50. John Major 1990 – 1997**

Born 29 March 1943, Carshalton, Surrey

Political Party – Conservative

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- National Lottery Act 1993 – set up the National Lottery
- Local Government Finance Act 1992 – brought in the Council Tax to replace the deeply unpopular Poll Tax

#### Fascinating Facts

John Major inherited a recession but then oversaw the country's longest period of continuous growth and the beginning of the Northern Ireland peace process, for which he was made a Companion of Honour. He also took a leading role alongside US President George Bush in the first Iraq war, and survived a mortar attack on 10 Downing Street by the IRA. He went on to win the 1992 election with the highest number of votes in history, although with a reduced majority. However, there was a fresh round of infighting in the Conservative Party over Europe, and despite his opting out of the single currency, it was not enough to win back enough party and national support. Following the death of Diana Princess of Wales, he was appointed special guardian of Princes William and Harry with responsibility for administrative and legal matters. On the day he stepped down as Prime Minister, he went to The Oval to watch a game of cricket – a sport he has loved all his life. In 1993, he was made an Honorary Bencher of Middle Temple. From 2005, he served on the Committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club. Also in 2005, in recognition of his services to the country, the Queen personally bestowed upon him The Most Noble Order of the Garter.

### **51. Tony Blair 1997 – 2007**

Born 6 May 1953, Edinburgh

Political Party – Labour

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- Civil Partnership Act 2004 – gave legal recognition of a relationship between two people of the same sex.
- Human Rights Act 1998 – gives fundamental rights and freedoms contained in the European Convention on Human Rights
- Freedom of Information Act 2000 – gives members of the public the right to ask any public body for information about their activities

#### Fascinating Facts

Tony Blair studied law and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, although he and his wife-to-be, Cherie, spent much of their study time together in Middle Temple Library. He then moved to a career in politics which saw him take over the leadership of the Labour Party on the untimely death of the then leader, John Smith. He won a landslide majority of 179 seats in the

1997 election. He became the longest serving Labour PM. He oversaw the Northern Irish peace process with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, public sector reform, increased funding for schools and hospitals and set a minimum pay level for all employed people. He also modernised the format of PM's Questions in the House of Commons, by creating a longer single session, which he felt was too stressful for two short sessions twice a week. He was responsible for constitutional change with Scottish and Welsh devolution. Labour won another landslide victory in 2001, which earned him the nickname Teflon Tony. The 9/11 terrorist attack later that year however, became a defining moment for Blair. He allied with the US and President Bush over the need to confront militant Islamism and then much more controversially in 2003 with the invasion of Iraq. The case for war had been built around the widespread belief that Iraq's leader Saddam Hussein harboured weapons of mass destruction, which were never found. With doubts over the legality of the UK's involvement in Iraq, his popularity plummeted but despite this, he led Labour to a third election victory in 2005. The 7/7 explosions in 2005 by British-born suicide bombers led him to try to tighten civil liberties. In 2006, there was a sizable rebellion against Blair involving Gordon Brown, leading to his eventual resignation in 2007.

## **52. Gordon Brown 2007 – 2010**

Born 20 February 1951, Glasgow

Political Party – Labour

### Significant Legislative Acts

- The Climate Change Act 2008 – set a target for the year 2050 for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 – conferred further powers to gather and share information for counter-terrorism purposes

### Fascinating Facts

Before becoming PM, Gordon Brown had been Britain's longest serving Chancellor of the Exchequer. Comparisons were made with William Gladstone's period of office as Chancellor of the Exchequer and it was claimed he had overseen the country's longest sustained period of growth. However, after initial rises in opinion polls, Labour performed poorly in the 2009 local elections. The global recession also took hold, and despite Brown offering the banks a £500m rescue scheme, lowering the rate of VAT and setting up a generous car scrappage scheme, the country slid inevitably towards recession. In 2010, a general election was held when Labour lost 91 seats, the largest loss since 1931, giving the Conservatives a hung Parliament. Gordon Brown stepped down as Labour leader and Ed Miliband took over. He had a number of nicknames, one of the more popular ones being Flash Gordon.

## **53. David Cameron 2010**

Born 9 October 1966, London

Political Party – Conservative

### Fascinating Facts

David Cameron is a fifth cousin to HM The Queen through a line of ancestry dating back to William IV. He became leader of the Conservatives in 2005 and at 43 in 2010, the youngest PM since the Earl of Liverpool almost 200 years earlier. He won 307 seats in a hung Parliament and after five days of intense negotiations, he formed an alliance with the Liberal Democrats and now leads the first Coalition Government since the Second World War. He was made an Honorary Bencher of Middle Temple in 2007.