

Amersham- a local history and geography study

Big Question: How did the arrival of the railway change Amersham?

1066: Amersham is mentioned in the Domesday book. 400 pigs, 19 farms, 19 ploughs, 152 oxen and 3 mills.

1200: A Royal charter to hold a Friday market and a September fair. Trades included **millers, blacksmiths, tanners, saddlers, carpenters, butchers, bakers, tailors.**

1580: Amersham is a busy market town. The King's Arms is built (1570) **Population 800- 900 people.**



1758: Work begins on the re-design of **Shardloeos.** **Population 2,171**



1775: The most wealthy and influential person in the town is Lord of the Manor, **William Drake.** Mr Drake owns most of the houses in the town.



1775: Amersham's prosperity grows. **Coaching Inns** provide accommodation and refreshment to travellers. Coaches travelling from London to Birmingham, Reading and Hatfield often stop in the town.



1789: Cotton Mill opens in Amersham.

1791: For many years, Amersham had many **lace makers.** Lace schools would teach children the complicated patterns. By 1791, Amersham was the centre of Black Silk Lace production.



1838: Amersham Union Workhouse was built. Poor men, women and children are sent to work here. Inmates work hard and their jobs include breaking flints, farming, shoe repairs and rug making.



1892: Women and children **plait straw** which is collected and used for hat making in Luton.



1st September 1892: First Metropolitan Line service runs from Amersham to Baker Street. **Population 2,613**



1920s and 30s: The town grows after WW1. Lots of shops and houses are developed around the station. **'Live in Metroland'** attracts middle class people from London.



1939: Outbreak of WW2. People migrate to Amersham from London. **Population 6,121**

1940s: There was a housing shortage after WW2. Pre-fabs were built in Amersham.



1964: Local industries thrive. Examples are Goya's Perfume Factory and Brazil's Sausage and Pie Factory.



2021: Chiltern Lifestyle Centre completed. **Population 24,938**



HS2: Work began in 2009. The train will go through Amersham under the ground. The line is due to be finished in 2033.

Vocabulary		
1	Domesday book	Britain's earliest public record of land ownership in the medieval period (more than 1000 years ago)
2	workhouse	A building where poor people used to work in the past in exchange for food and shelter.
3	population	The number of people living in a place.
4	migrate	To move from one place to another.
5	settlement	A place where people live.
6	coaching Inn	A resting point for people and horses.
7	Metropolitan Line	A London Underground Line between Aldgate and Amersham.
8	World War 2	A global war that happened between 1939 and 1945 that Britain was involved in.
9	pre-fab	Temporary homes built after World War 2 to house the population.
10	market town	A small town that obtained the right to host a regular public market during the Middle Ages.
11	River Misbourne	A chalk stream running through Amersham. Chalk Streams are globally rare habitats.
12	habitat	The natural home of an animals or plant.
13	Chiltern hills	Countryside Chalk hills in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.
14	countryside	Land not in towns or cities (fields, woods)
15	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Protected land to conserve the natural beauty.
16	HS2	Britain's new high speed railway being built from London to the North-West.



