

EASTBOURNE TIMELINE

Date	To Date	Event	Monarch
500BC		Celts settled on Eastbourne side of the South Downs	
410AD		Saxons invade and settle around the "Burne" (stream) in Motcombe Gardens. "Burne" was the original name of Eastbourne.	
1086		Domesday Book records "Burne" as "Borne"	William I "The Conqueror"
1114		Henry I stays in Borne (Saxon Chronicles)	Henry I
1180		The Lambe Inn was built opposite St. Mary's Church in Old Town	Henry II
13 th C.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "East" (or "Est") is added to "Borne" thereby stopping confusion with nearby West Bourne ◆ At this time the Eastbourne Hundred is in six "Borghs" (boroughs) : Upwick, Mill-Beverington, Chalvington, Upperton, Lamport and Esthall 	Various
1324		Edward II visits Bourne	Edward II
1450s		Eastbourne men "Thomas Profot - gentilman, Richard Burton - yeoman and Thomas Motard - yeoman" are all pardoned after Jack Cade's rebellion against the government in 1450.	Henry VI
1467		The Manor of Bourne is held by Baron de Roos, though it is later denied him due to his support of the Lancastrian movement.	Edward IV
Middle Ages		The area prospered as a major sheep farming and fishing area	Various
1555		East Bourne sold to three wealthy Sussex families - Burton, Gildredge and Selwyn.	Mary I
1556		Bourne Place (now Compton Place) was built	"
1605		"Estborne is charged to supply 200 loads of coal" for defence precautions	James I
1690		On 30th June the English and Dutch navies were unsuccessful as they fought the French off Beachy Head	William III & Mary
1717		Roman chequer-worked pavement, a bath and antiquities discovered near Sea Houses.	George I
1724		The Hon. Spencer Compton purchases Bourne (later Compton) Place	"
1747		Wreck of the prize ship Nympha Americana	George II
1752		Dr Richard Russell of Lewes published his 'Dissertation on the Use of Sea Water' and encouraged people to visit the seaside to improve their health.	"
1780		George III's children stay at the Round House	George III
1787		This year saw the first published guide for Eastbourne	"
1792		300 French emigres land at Eastbourne	"
1795		Circulating libraries and billiard rooms opened up at Sea Houses	"
1801		December 31st Thomas Pitman Born	"

1804	1805	Construction of Martello Towers	"
1806		Building of the Great Redoubt commenced	"
1814		St. Mary's schools opened in Old Town	"
1816	1817	William Figg's map of Eastbourne drawn and published	"
1822		Lifeboat and Coastguard services established	George IV
1828		Thomas Pitman became Vicar of Eastbourne	"
1834		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2nd Earl of Burlington inherited the Eastbourne Estate ◆ Belle Tout lighthouse brought into use 	William IV
1838		Trinity Church / Chapel	Victoria
1839		Trinity Church opened	"
1840		Blanche, wife of the 2nd Earl of Burlington, died	"
1841		The Round House is demolished - mosaic paving is discovered below.	"
1842		Frances Jane Pitman (Thomas Pitman's wife), died	"
1844		Motcombe Pond became a reservoir	"
1847		James Berry planned a new town	"
1848		Sea wall constructed under James Berry	"
1849		May 14th First train arrived at Eastbourne Railway Station	"
1851		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Burlington Hotel foundation stone laid. Builders became bankrupt. ◆ Vestry room built in Grove Road 	"
1852		First Gas Works built in Wharf Road	"
1853		Disastrous wreck of the Dalahausie off Beachy Head	"
1856		Eastbourne Chronicle began publication	"
1858		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Succession of the 2nd Earl of Burlington to the Dukedom of Devonshire ◆ Local Board set up 	"
1859		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Christ Church consecrated Parish assigned 1864 ◆ Eastbourne Water Works Company formed ◆ Eastbourne Gazette first published ◆ Henry Curry becomes architect to the Duke of Devonshire 	"
1862		Nicholas Whitley drew up plans for Upperton area for the Gilbert estate	"
1863		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pier Company set up ◆ Rev. Thomas Pitman (1st son) died aged 35 ◆ Eastbourne Providential Dispensary opened in Devonshire Place 	"
1864		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ William Leaf built the Workman's Hall in Seaside ◆ G.A.Wallis appointed Duke of Devonshire's Agent 	"
1866		Site of Railway Station moved.	"
1867		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eastbourne College founded ◆ Sewer opened ◆ St.Saviour's Church consecrated 	"
1869		All Saint's Convalescent Home opened in Meads	"
1870		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ St. John's Church ◆ Nicholas Whitley drew up first comprehensive plan of Gilbert Estate 	"

1871		First publication of Eastbourne's Directory by Gowland	"
1872		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Henry Curry plans Meads ◆ Pier completed 	"
1873		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cavendish Hotel opened ◆ Devonshire Park and Baths Company formed 	"
1874		Opening of Baths, Floral Hall and Devonshire Park	"
1875		Royal Sovereign lightship established	"
1876		Grand Hotel opened	"
1878		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Death of Princess Alice ◆ St.Andrew's Presbyterian (URC) Church opened 	"
1879		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further portions of the Roman Villa discovered under the Sea Wall that was erected in 1848 ◆ All Saint's Church consecrated 	"
1880	1883	Duke finances the construction of the Western Parades	"
1880		Queens Hotel Built	"
1881		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eastbourne Electric Light Company formed ◆ Bedford Well Pumping Station completed ◆ All Souls Church ◆ South of England Grass Court Tennis Championships first held in Devonshire Park 	"
1882		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Royal Parade and Sea Wall completed ◆ All Souls Church consecrated 	"
1883		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ St.Anne's Church consecrated ◆ Incorporation of the Borough of Eastbourne ◆ Prince of Wales visit June 30th ◆ Theatre Royal and Opera House built ◆ Princess Alice Memorial Hospital opened 	"
1884		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Devonshire Park Theatre opened ◆ Town Hall foundation stone laid 	"
1885		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ceylon Place Baptist Church built ◆ Town Hall opened 	"
1886		Saffrons Cricket and Football ground opened	"
1887		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Queen Victoria's Jubilee Year ◆ Royal Eastbourne Golf Course opened 	"
1888		Willingdon Railway Station opened (now Hampden Park)	"
1889		Fairfield Court built	"
1890		Thomas Pitman died	"
1891		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Death of 7th Duke of Devonshire ◆ Separate Eastbourne Police Force set up 	"
1892		Borough set up a committee to investigate possibility of constructing a Harbour at Langney Point	"
1894		St.Peter's Church designed by Curry	"
1895		Ashes of Friedrich Engels buried at sea off Beachy Head	"
1897		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Friston Water Works opened ◆ 8th Duke of Devonshire becomes Mayor 	"
1898		William Terriss Memorial Life-boat house built	"
1901		Hampden Park opened	Edward VII
1902		◆ Statue of William, 7th Duke of Devonshire, unveiled	"

		◆ Beachy Head lighthouse came into use	
1903		◆ King Edward VII stayed at Compton Place ◆ Novelist Edna Lyall died	"
1904		◆ Technical Institute opened. ◆ Gore Chalk pit constructed as Italian Gardens at Holywell retreat. ◆ Theatre Royal in Seaside changes name to Royal Hippodrome ◆ Library and museum opened	"
1906		◆ Gilbert recreation ground opened (Seaside) ◆ Tivoli Cinema opened	"
1907		8th Duke of Devonshire died at Cannes	"
1908		9th Duke of Devonshire gave Motcombe Gardens to Town	"
1910		Eastbourne Borough Council Act brings in Hampden Park (Willingdon Parish) re-applied for County Borough status 1991 County Borough status granted 1st April.	George V
1911		St.Michaels's church completed (10th C of E) in Upperton Road	"
1912		◆ Oceana sank off Beachy Head when it struck the barque Pisagua ◆ New church of St Andrew's Norway built	"
1913		◆ Carew Davis-Gilbert died Manor House up for sale. ◆ St.Andrew's Norway completed (11th C of E)	"
1918		◆ Municipal Secondary School moves to 'Evesley Court' girls to 'The Glen'. First council houses built on 140 acres off Victoria Drive 10 acres near Archery Tavern. ◆ Ratton Estate Sold	"
1919		Ald. J.C.Towner died leaving his pictures and money for building an Art Gallery.	"
1921		◆ Unemployed employed at Holywell - inc Tea Chalet, Princes Park inc Boating Lake, Gildredge Hospital, garden at the Redoubt. ◆ Eastbourne Herald first published	"
1922		Gilbert Manor House bought for £19,000	"
1923		◆ Towner Art Gallery opened by the Marquess of Hartington ◆ Devonshire Baths purchased by the town.	"
1926		◆ The Downland Act for the preservation of the Downland. ◆ Chatsworth Estates Company set up	"
1927		All Saint's Church nave burned down.	"
1929		◆ Duke and Duchess of York (King George VI) unveiled commemorative seat to the Downland purchase. ◆ Floral Hall purchased by the Borough	"
1930		St Mary's Hospital opened	"
1931		A22 Roadscheme started using unemployed miners	"
1935		◆ New Bandstand and Parade improvement ◆ King George V and Queen Mary stay at Compton Place	"

1937		RNLI museum opened at Grand Parade	George VI
1938		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Borough extended to include the purchased Downland; also Willingdon, Westham, Jevington, East Dean, and Friston. ◆ Police HQ opened in Grove Road. ◆ St. Elizabeth's consecrated (13th C of E) ◆ Death of 9th Duke of Devonshire 	"
1939	1945	World War II. 67 high explosives, 15 flying bombs, 3 enemy aircraft shot down, 200 killed, 506 severely injured, 581 slightly injured. 475 houses destroyed, 1,000 seriously damaged, 10,000 slightly damaged. The Seafront, Wish Tower are gun posts.	"
1940		September 11th - General evacuation of Eastbourne due to threat of German Invasion. First bombs fell 7th July. Technical Institute damaged by bombing. SS Barnhill bombed off Beachy Head.	"
1948		Freedom of the borough given to Sir Winston Churchill	"
1949		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Princess Margaret stayed at Compton Place ◆ The Beryl Tollemache lifeboat was launched ◆ Eastbourne College of Further Education founded 	"
1950		Death of 10th Duke of Devonshire at Compton Place	"
1957		Willingdon County Secondary School opened by Lord Hailsham	Elizabeth II
1960		Redoubt considered to be scheduled as an ancient monument	"
1961		Eastbourne Civic Society founded this year	"
1962		The Borough bought the Royal Hippodrome	"
1963		The opening of the Congress Theatre at Devonshire Park	"
1965		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New library opened ◆ Eastbourne Civic Society bought the Windmill at Polegate 	"
1966		South Cliff Tower, Meads completed	"
1967		The windmill reopened in working order	"
1968		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sussex Police formed ◆ Trust Houses Ltd bought the pier for £170,000 	"
1970		Fire leaves the Pier theatre badly damaged	"
1971		The Danish firm Christiani & Nielsen complete the building of the Royal Sovereign light tower at cost of almost two million pounds	"
1974		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Borough loses County Borough status ◆ Jack Jones lays the foundation stone at the TGWU building 	"
1975		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Duke of Devonshire promotes Crumbles Harbour and Village Bill but Parliament defeat the proposal ◆ Redoubt Restoration begins 	"
1976		Phase 1 of new District Hospital opened	"
1981		Arndale shopping centre opened by the Duke of Devonshire	"

		Fire damages part of Eastbourne College	
1987		October – many homes and trees in Eastbourne are devastated by an unpredicted, almighty storm.	
1985		Civic Society opens Eastbourne Heritage Centre	"
1988		Modified Eastbourne Harbour Bill passed	"
1990		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eastbourne voted 'Top Resort' by the English Tourist Board ◆ MGM Multiplex Cinema opens at The Crumbles Centre ◆ David F Bellotte member of the Liberal Democrats wins the by-election 	"
1993		Crumbles Sovereign Harbour opened	"
1994		Greenwich light vessel established	"
2001		Eastbourne Bonfire Society re-established	"