

# Prime Minister Portraits

## INTRODUCTION

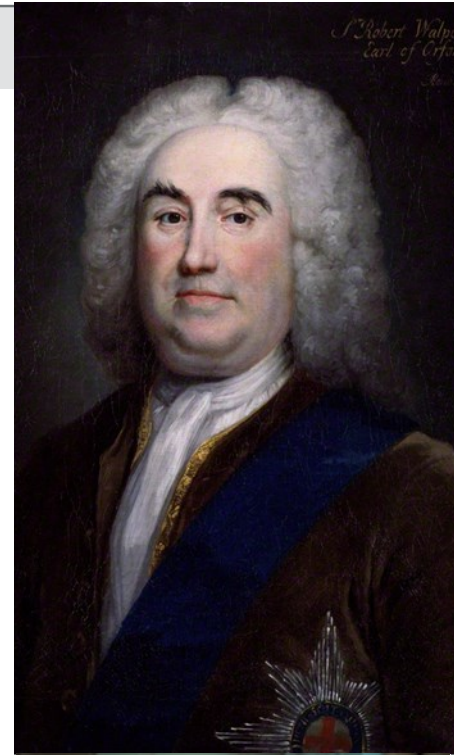
In 1975 Master Treasurer, Sir George Baker, was approached by Michael Philips as he wanted to find a home for his set of portraits of British Prime Ministers from Walpole onwards. Mr. Philips had been admitted to the Inn in 1975. His family had collected the portraits over several generations but the 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. It was decided that the portraits should hang in the Library and they arrived late in 1976.

The portraits languished in the library loft 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 several twentieth century PMs.

Since they went on display it has been the task of the Librarian (previously Keeper of the Library) to request a signed portrait of each new Prime Minister who takes office. It was not until 2012 that a member of the Library and Archive Committee, Lord Hacking, highlighted the missing PMs portraits, and the Members of the Committee and the then Librarian set about trying to complete the collection. One glaring omission was the Duke of Wellington – which was generously donated by Master Wurtzel.

In 2017 the portraits' nameplates were updated with brass tablets.



The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple  
The Library, Ashley Building  
Middle Temple Lane  
London EC4Y 9BT

Nov 2017



### No 10 Downing Street

10 Downing street has been the locale of British prime ministers since 1735. It is the prime minister's official residence as well as their office, and is the place where the prime minister entertains guests and hosts receptions and events.

The house was first presented to Sir Robert Walpole by King George II. Walpole asked the king to make it available to future First Lords of the Treasury—a title still engraved on the brass letterbox of the famous black front door, and a title still held by British prime ministers.

## THE PRIME MINISTERS

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

## 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

## 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

## 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

## 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

## 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

## 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

## 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

## No 10 Downing Street

Walpole engaged the architect William Kent to undertake work on renovating and redesigning aspects of the house.

Not all prime ministers have lived in the house. When Walpole left the house in 1742, it wasn't until over 20 years later, in 1763, that George Grenville took up residence, with the intervening prime ministers preferring to live in their own houses.

At the turn of the 19th century, the house was reportedly in a poor state and the prime minister lived elsewhere, although it still served as their office.

In the 1820s, Sir John Soane was employed to make the house a more suitable venue for the centre of government, designing the elegant State Dining Room and Small Dining Room.

## No 10 Downing Street

Over the years many more changes and improvements were made by prime ministers. Disraeli had the state pay for renovations to the public rooms and paid for the refurbishment of the private rooms himself.

In 1880, Gladstone spend a considerable sum on new furniture, and in 1884 electric lighting and the first telephones were installed.

During Ramsay MacDonald's first premiership, he set about creating a proper Prime Minister's Library, which was originally housed in the Cabinet Room. To this day, prime ministers and other ministers donate books to its collection.

By the 1950s, bomb damage had worsened existing structural issues: subsidence, sloping walls and twisting door frames. All these problems resulted in a large annual repair bill.

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 19. George Canning 1827 – 1827

Born 11 April 1770, London, died 8 August 1827, Chiswick House, Middlesex. Political Party – Tory

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

Born 1 November 1782, London, died 28 January 1859, Putney Heath, London. Political Party – Tory



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

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

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

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

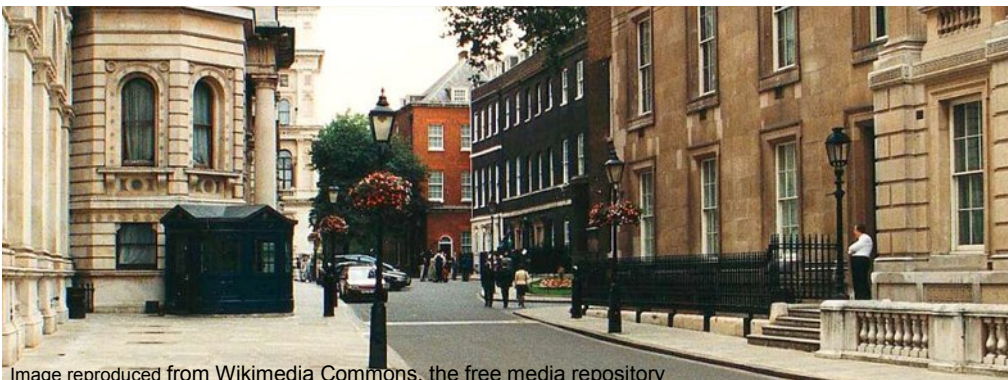


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#### **No 10 Downing Street**

After much to-ing and fro-ing amongst various prime ministers, Harold Macmillan set up a committee which concluded that drastic action was required to repair centuries of damage. One proposal was to completely demolish numbers 10, 11 and 12 to be replaced by a completely new structure.

This proposal was rejected, with only number 12 being rebuilt with numbers 10 and 11 preserved and foundations strengthened. The whole of number 10 was gutted, with walls, floors and columns replaced. The famous black brickwork was discovered to be yellow, discoloured due to centuries of pollution.

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

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. 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

27. George Hamilton Gordon Earl of Aberdeen 1852 – 1855

Born 28 January 1784, Edinburgh, died 14 December 1860, St James, London. Political Party Conservative

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, Brompton Hall, Hertfordshire. Political Party – Tory / Whig

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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.



### 19th century Prime Ministers

(clockwise) Lord Liverpool, George Canning, Earl Grey, Robert Peel

#### 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.

#### 37. Andrew Bonar Law 1922 – 1923

Born 16 September 1858, New Brunswick, Canada, died 30 October, 1923, London. Political Party – Conservative

#### 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



### 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

### 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 lead to development of holiday camps
- ◆ Housing Act 1938 – encouraged slum clearance and rent control

### 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

### 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 and sickness benefits, retirement pension, death grants.

### 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

### 44. Harold Macmillan 1957 – 1963

Born 10 February 1894, London, died 29 December 1986, Chelwood Gate, Sussex. Political Party – Conservative

45. Sir Alec Douglas-Home 1963 – 1964

Born 2 July 1903, London, died 9 October 1995, Berwickshire.  
Political Party – Conservative

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

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

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

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.

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

### 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

### 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

### 53. David Cameron 2010 - 2016

Born 9 October 1966, London. Political Party – Conservative

#### Significant Legislative Acts

- ◆ European Union Referendum Act 2015 – legislated for a referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union
- ◆ Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 - legalised marriage between people of the same sex

### 54. Theresa May 2016

Born 1 October 1956, Eastbourne. Political Party - Conservative



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