

# ABOUT : 1901- 1919

**1908** - The forth modern Olympic games took place at the White City Stadium in London. It was due to be held in Rome, but the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, put back preparations and so it was transfered to London, which only had two years to prepare for the event.

**1912** - On 14th April 1912, the RMS Titanic struck an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean, on her maiden voyage, from Southampton to New York. 1,500 people died, 2/3rds of those onboard. Described as 'unsinkable' at the time, the Titanic was also the largest liner of its day, requiring 10,000 light bulbs and 830 tons of coal per day for it to operate.

**1914-1918** - The First World War, was started after the assassination of Franz Ferdinard, Archduke of Austria-Hungary and it claimed the lives of 13 million people and profoundly changed our society. It saw the use of the tank and U-boat for the first time and areoplanes were used to support the army for the first time, too.

During this period, society changed dramatically, largely as a result of the war. Prior to the war, about 20% of people were middle class and 25% lived in poverty, mainly due to low wages. A family had to have at least one servant to be regarded as middle class. Though electric lights had been invented, many homes still used gas for lighting. The theatre was a popular social activity as was the new silent movies. Cameras became available for the first time. The Liberal Government of 1906 introduced measures to help the poor, including free school meals, the old age pension and labour exchanges, to help people find work. After the war, many jobs were now carried out by women, who had had to go out to work, due to a shortage of men during the war. There was a decline in the aristocracy after the war and enhanced status and wage levels for the working class.

## 1901 - 1919 - *more information...*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you want to find out even more about the start of modern Britain, use the links below.

**Further information :**

**Life in Britain :** <http://www.localhistories.org/life1912.html>

**WWI** - <http://www.theweek.co.uk/world-news/first-world-war/59782/how-did-the-first-world-war-start>

<http://wwiimpactonsociety.blogspot.co.uk/>

<http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/westn/effectww1.html>

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