

ABOUT : 1970's

- 1971** - Decimalisation involved changing our currency so that it was all easily divisible by 10. With the previous system of pounds, shillings and pence, there were 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. (Picture shows an old and new style penny)
- 1972** - Gravelly Hill Interchange on the M6, near Birmingham opened. Such an extensive intertwining of roads resembled a plate of spaghetti, hence the name.
- 1973** - Britain joins the EEC, known as the 'common market', along with Ireland and Denmark.
- 1974** - The American fast food company, MacDonalds opens its first restaurant in Woolwich, London. Started originally in California by Maurice and Richard MacDonald back in 1940.
- 1977** - After 25 years on the throne, the country celebrated the Queen's silver jubilee with street parties all over the country. She toured 36 counties throughout the UK during the year and after travelling around the Commonwealth too, had clocked up an estimated 56,000 miles of travelling.
- 1978** - With only 6 weeks previous experience, Naomi James completes a nine month journey around the world, (27,000 miles) single handed, beating the existing record by two days.
- 1979** - Former Conservative Education Secretary, Margaret Thatcher, became Britain's first female Prime Minister. She went on to win three consecutive terms in office. She was one of the most influential leaders in twentieth century Britain. Her policies and approach became known as 'Thatcherism'.

THE 1970's - *more information...*

FURTHER INFORMATION

During the 1970's Britain was in decline. Low investment, poor productivity and strike after strike brought the country almost to a standstill. A three day week was introduced for a while in 1972 to save electricity and strikes culminated with the 'winter of discontent' in 1979. The new female Prime Minister took on the unions through the early eighties, in order to get the country working again. In the seventies, 64% of homes had washing machines and consumers were presented with the Sony Walkman, microwave ovens and VHS video recorders. Glam Rock music was popular.

If you want to find out even more about the 1970's, use the links below :

70's Britain - <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/war/1970s.html>

Margaret Thatcher - http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/people/margaret_thatcher

Britain Joins EEC - http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/january/1/newsid_2459000/2459167.stm

(This document may need to be saved to a hard drive, before the links will operate)