



Samuel Pepys' Diary

Find information about the man

Sunday 2nd September 1666

I was woken from my sleep by Jane, one of the maids who told me of a great fire in the city. Looking out of my window I saw a yellow glow in the sky but I thought the fire was far off so I went back to bed.

Monday 3rd September 1666

Jane told me she had heard that 300 houses were burned down and that now the fire was burning near London Bridge. I walked to one of the high places to see for myself and I saw the houses at the end of the bridge all on fire. I am told the fire began in a baker's shop in Pudding Lane. The poor people were staying in their houses until the houses themselves were on fire and then they fled to try to get to the boats to make their escape.

Tuesday 4th September 1666

I walked the streets and the fire is fierce. The fire has burned all day with buildings crashing down and the flames roaring. They are blowing up houses in Tower Street next to the Tower, it has frightened people more than anything but it has stopped the fire spreading in those places where it has been done. St Paul's has been destroyed. I wrote a letter to my father but the post house is burning and the letter could not go.

Wednesday 5th September 1666

About two o'clock in the morning I was woken and told there were new cries of "Fire! Fire!" coming from the area around Barkeing Church which is at the bottom of our lane. I got out of bed quickly and found it to be true. I took my wife and my gold away by boat. What a sad sight. The whole city seems to be on fire. When I returned I expected my own house to be on fire but it is not. The wind has dropped!

Thursday 6th September 1666

The last of the fires are gone. There is so much destroyed. It is a sad sight to see how the river looks - no houses nor church near it. St Paul's has gone, all its roofs fallen in. So many houses destroyed, my father's house also.