



- 1689** William III and Mary II bought Nottingham House to escape the grime of Whitehall. They instructed Sir Christopher Wren to improve the house and it became Kensington Palace.
- 1691** A fire destroyed part of the southern range of the Great Court. This led to a complete remodelling of the approach to the Royal Apartments.
- 1695** William added The King's Gallery.
- 1704–1705** Queen Anne improved the gardens of Kensington Palace and built the Orangery.
- 1714** Queen Anne dies leaving no heirs. The crown passes to George, Elector of Hanover, the closest living Protestant relative.
- 1714–1727** The core of the old Nottingham House was replaced with three new state rooms; the Privy Chamber, the Cupola Room and the Withdrawing Room. William Kent devised decoration and hung pictures in nearly all the royal apartments as well as painting the King's Grand Staircase.
- 1727** George I dies, leaving his son, George Augustus to become King George II.
- 1727–1737** George II and his wife, Queen Caroline, have big parties at Kensington Palace. This is known as the 'golden age' of court at the palace, which ends when Caroline dies in 1737.
- Early 1830s** Queen Victoria's Mother, the Duchess of Kent extended her apartments into the unused State Apartments on the second floor.
- 1832** The Duchess of Kent partitioned the King's Gallery into 3 rooms for the use of Princess (later Queen) Victoria.
- 19th Century** The State Apartments were sadly neglected during the 19th Century. They were used as stores for various paintings and furniture from other palaces.
- 1897** Queen Victoria's love for the palace she grew up in saved Kensington. Parliament was persuaded to pay for the restoration of the State Apartments on the condition that they should be opened to the public.
- 1899** The State Apartments were opened to the public on Queen Victoria's 80th birthday (24 May 1899).
- 1911** The State Apartments were given over to the newly founded London Museum.
- 1914** The London Museum moved and the State Apartments were closed. During World War I (1914–1918) Kensington was used as offices by charitable organisations.
- 1923** The Palace re opened
- 1932–1933** The three rooms associated with Queen Victoria were restored and rearranged.
- 1939–1945** Bomb damage during World War II left the State Apartments badly affected, particularly the Queen's Apartments and the Palace was closed.
- 1949–1950** The Palace reopened and the London Museum returned, it remained at Kensington for a quarter of a century.
- Today** Kensington continues its long history as a residence for members of the Royal Family.