

1966

Let's look back at 1966 from 2026. Labour are in power. A spacecraft made a record breaking trip around the moon. Enough of 2026 though. Here's what happened in 1966:

January 20

The Radio Caroline ship *Mi Amigo* ran aground on the beach at Frinton-on-Sea in Essex. It was a pirate radio ship. In those days the BBC didn't have its finger on the pulse as much as it does these days. One of their stations, *The Light Programme*, played the sort of music that would have been on Radio 2, had it been around in those days. There was no equivalent to Radio 1, so pirate radio filled the gap by playing the music that the youth wanted. They would transmit from ships or sea forts in international waters, so outside of the jurisdiction of the UK government. DJs like Tony Blackburn and Jonnie Walker started their careers in pirate radio.

March 4

John Lennon said, in an interview with Maureen Cleave of the *London Evening Standard*, that, "we're more popular than Jesus now". This didn't cause much fuss in the UK, but did in the US, particularly in the South. There were protests, records were burnt, and radio stations banned the Beatles. John Lennon apologised in several press conferences, saying that he wasn't comparing himself with Jesus. The protests were a significant factor in the band's decision to stop touring.



March 20

The men's football World Cup trophy was stolen whilst in an exhibition. It was found seven days later by a dog called Pickles. (Useful fact for a pub quiz.) Credit must also go to his owner, David Corbett. It was found wrapped in a newspaper in a garden in south London.

April 30

A regular hovercraft service began across the English Channel. The service ran until the year 2000.

May 7

Irish bank workers went on strike. This didn't have the disastrous effect upon the economy that you might have thought. People would write cheques to pay for things and they would be accepted even though the person receiving the cheque didn't know when they would be able to cash it. They were then passed around as they were effectively paper money. Some people wrote their own cheques on plain paper and put stamps on them. The pub became the place where these were exchanged, and reputation and trustworthiness counted for a lot.

1966

May 16

The Beach Boys released their album *Pet Sounds*. It is widely regarded as their best album, in a similar way to the *Dark Side of the Moon* is for Pink Floyd or *Party Time* by the Cheeky Girls. Some critics consider it to be one of the best albums ever. They had moved beyond their surf music with simplistic lyrics and the songs contain sophisticated instrumentation and thoughtful lyrics. *Wouldn't it be nice* and *God only knows* were released as singles from the album.



June 27

The birth day of one of the nicest men ever. He would grow up, get married and have three children. He is known for his creativity and hard work. JJ Abrams is also known for the TV series, *Lost*.

July 30

England beat West Germany 4-2 at the final of the FIFA men's World Cup. Since then their supporters think just because England invented Association Football they should be winning more often. In fact the mens' team have never got higher than fourth place, in Italy in 1990. The women's team have reached at least the quarter finals each time they've competed and reached the final in 2023.

The rest of the year

After all that excitement, anything else in 1966 seems boring in comparison.

Born in 1966

20 January - Rainn Wilson, actor in *The US Office*
6 February - Rick Astley - singer
2 April - Teddy Sheringham - footballer
11 April - Lisa Stansfield - singer
10 May - Jonathan Edwards - athlete
16 May - Janet Jackson - singer
26 May - Helena Bonham Carter
26 May - Zola Budd - athlete
27 May - Heston Blumenthal
27 June - JJ Abrams - producer
28 June - John Cusack - actor
30 June - Mike Tyson - boxer
7 August - Jimmy Wales - co-founder of Wikipedia
12 August - Les Ferdinand - footballer
14 August - Halle Berry - actress

1966 Prices

In 2013 David Cameron was asked if he knew the price of a value loaf of bread. He confessed that he didn't know and guessed that it was "north of a pound". In fact it was about 47p at the time. Here are the prices of various things as they were in 1966 and how much they would be allowing for inflation. Do you know if they've gone up or down in real terms since then?

The answers are on the bucket list page.

Item	1966 Price (Actual)	1966 Decimal Equiv.
Loaf of Bread	1s 3d	£0.06
Pint of Milk	9d	£0.04
Pint of Bitter	1s 10d	£0.09
Gallon of Petrol	5s 3d	£0.26
Average Car (Ford Cortina)	£670	£670
Average House	£3,840	£3,840
Weekly Wage	£20	£20

Born in 1966

7 September - Toby Jones - actor

12 September - Ben Folds - singer/songwriter

9 October - David Cameron - politician

2 November - David Schwimmer - actor

8 December - Sinéad O'Connor - singer

21 December - Kiefer Sutherland - actor