







































































































25 April 1884

Sydney Larkin born (Lichfield, Staffordshire)

10 January 1886

Eva Emily Day born
(Littleborough,
Lancashire)

6 August 1906

Eva and Sydney meet for the first time (Rhyl, North Wales)

5 October 1911

Eva and Sydney marry (Leigh, Lancashire)

21 August 1912

Catherine Emily Larkin (Kitty) born (Birmingham) 9 August 1922 (Wednesday)

Born 2 Poultney Road, Radford, Coventry, England

14 September 1922

Baptised Philip
Arthur Larkin at
the Cathedral of St.
Michael, Coventry

September 1930

Enters King
Henry VIII School
(Preparatory
Department)
Coventry, where he
meets Jim Sutton for
the first time

September 1932

Moves up to King Henry VIII Senior School

April 1939

'Summer Nocturne'
Larkin's first
published poem
appears in the King
Henry VIII School
magazine The
Coventrian

9 October 1940

Enters St. John's
College Oxford
to read English
Language and
Literature, where he
meets Kingsley Amis
for the first time

November 1940

'Ultimatum'
published in The
Listener (Vol. XXIV.
No.620); Larkin's
first poem published
in a national weekly

4 July 1943

Graduates with a
Bachelor of Arts
(English, First
Class) from Oxford
University

16 November 1943

Appointed Librarian at Wellington,
Shropshire where he meets Ruth Bowman for the first time

July 1945

The North Ship,
Larkin's first
collection of poems,
published by R.A.
Caton of the Fortune
Press (London)

June 1946

Offered post of
Assistant Librarian
at University College
Leicester where he
meets Monica Jones
for the first time
(1947)

October 1946

Jill, Larkin's first novel in print, published by the Fortune Press (London)

21 February 1947

A Girl in Winter published by the Fortune Press (London)

26 March 1948

Sydney Larkin dies, aged 63

17 May 1948

Becomes engaged to Ruth Bowman

17 June 1950

Proposes marriage
to Ruth Bowman
(withdraws the
proposal two weeks
later on 2 July)

First day as
Sub-Librarian at
Queen's University
Belfast where he
meets Winifred Arnott
and Patsy Strang for
the first time

27 April 1951

XX Poems privately printed for Larkin in an edition of 100 copies by Carswells of Belfast

March 1954

The Fantasy Poets,
Philip Larkin,
No. 21 published by
the Fantasy Press,
Swynford, Eynsham
(Oxford)

21 March 1955

First day as Librarian at University of Hull where he meets

Maeve Brennan for the first time

November 1955

The Less Deceived published by George and Jean Hartley of the Marvell Press (Hessle)

13 July 1956

John Shakespeare article 'Four young poets - 1. Philip Larkin' (heavily re-drafted by Larkin himself) appears anonymously in the Times Educational

20 May 1957

Betty Mackereth becomes Larkin's secretary

1960

—

Begins relationship with Maeve Brennan

6 March 1961

Collapses during a
Library Committee
meeting, but tests
at Hull Kingston
General hospital are
inconclusive

10 April 1961

Admitted to the London Hospital, Whitechapel under the care of neurologist Sir Russell Brain

20 June 1962

The Queen Mother opens Stage 1 of a new Library at the University of Hull, a development overseen by Larkin

28 February 1964

The Whitsun
Weddings published
by Faber and Faber
(London)

15 December 1964

Down Cemetery
Road, the BBC
TV Monitor
documentary
directed by Patrick
Garland, broadcast
for the first time

26 April 1965

Awarded Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry

9 February 1970

All What Jazz is published by Faber and Faber (London)

June 1970

'The Explosion' as
a single-leaf
broadsheet
published by The
Poem-of-the-Month
Club Ltd. (London)

12 December 1970

Lord Cohen of
Birkenhead opens
Stage 2 of the new
Library at the
University of Hull,
a development
overseen by Larkin
from start to finish

29 March 1973

The Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse chosen by Philip Larkin, published by Clarendon Press (Oxford)

3 June 1974

High Windows published by Faber and Faber (London)

27 June 1974

Moves out of 32
Pearson Park and in
to 105 Newland Park

8 May 1975

Receives notice
that he is to be
awarded the CBE;
the investiture takes
place at Buckingham
Palace in
November 1975

17 July 1976

Guests on Desert Island Discs (BBC Radio Four)

17 November 1977

Eva Larkin dies, aged 91

29 November 1977

Completes 'Aubade'

published in the Times LiterarySupplement, 23

December 1977

1978

—

Breaks off relatonship with Maeve Brennan

10 April 1983

Returns with Monica
Jones (suffering with
shingles) from her
cottage in Haydon
Bridge. After a short
stay in hospital, she
moves in with him
permanently

21 November 1983

Required Writing:
Miscellaneous
Pieces 1955-1982
published by Faber
and Faber (London)

2 December 1985 (1.24 a.m. Monday)

Dies
Philip Larkin was
63 at the time of
his death from
cancer — the same
age (as Larkin had
predicted) at which
his father died

9 December 1985

Larkin's funeral service takes place at St Mary the Virgin, Cottingham

1 February 1986

Larkin's memorial service takes place at Westminster

Abbey

Philip Larkin:
Collected Poems edited by
Anthony Thwaite
(Faber and Faber)

Selected Letters of
Philip Larkin
1940-1985 - edited
by Anthony Thwaite
(Faber and Faber)

Philip Larkin:
A Writer's Life,
Andrew Motion
(Faber and Faber)

15 February 2001

Monica Jones dies (aged 78)