**ROMAN BRITAIN**

In 55 BC Julius Caesar invaded Britain, but the real conquest of the country took place in the years 43-47 AD under Emperor Claudius. They involved the conquered tribes in the administration of the province. The Romans encouraged the growth of towns near their army bases and established special towns as settlements for retired soldiers. The centre of town was the forum (civic centre), which gave access to the basilica (town hall) where courts of justice were held. Every town had public baths, which served as a healing spa and meeting place. Thery were open for both sex, obviously at different times of the day. Roads joined the towns together. They weren't always straight, but they were well built and made troop and commercial goods movement. Possibly the most important monument built by the Romans in Britain was Hadrian's Wall, from the east coast to the west coast. The beginnings of London can be dated to the invasion of the Romans in 43 AD. A bridge, later called “London Bridge” was built across the River Thames; it proved a convenient central point for the new network of roads . The Romans settlements on the north side of the bridge (Londinum) became important as a trading centre for goods.