The Norman Invasion.

Edward The Confessor, the man who had restored the Royal house of Wessex, died childless in 1066. Harold Godwineson was his brother-in-law had himself crowned. William, Duke of Normandy, asserted he had earlier been promised the throne by Edward, so William prepared to invade Britain. The fought in Hastings on 14th October, Harold died and William won.

He imposed his own authority and brought changes. He built castle-buildings and new churches. He imposed an administrate system based on feudalism: a hierarchical system in which the Pope was he most important, followed by the king, vassals, knights and yeomen. The Pope was the highest personality because the most important value of Middle Ages was religion.

Henry II was the successor of William and he was the first king of House Plantagenet. He introduced the ‘common law’: the basis of the actual English jury system. He demanded that all clergy convicted of a crime should be judged by royal courts.