

# The Prime Minister



**Robert Walpole** was Britain's first prime minister in the present sense of the word, although he regarded it as a term of abuse because he was criticised so often for his use of patronage

He was also a country squire and, since he hunted every Saturday, the House of Commons was always assured the weekend off. As the king's chief minister from 1721 to 1742, he still holds the record as our longest serving prime minister