They managed to break into the Tower of London and killed the Archbishop of Canterbury. A poll tax was introduced to help fund the war with France, led by John of Gaunt. Rich and poor had to pay the same amount.

Although the King did grant them manumission, he didn't keep his promise. Leaders were found and executed.

Some people who were involved were later granted pardons.

King Richard II (who was only 14) agreed to meet the rebels and listen to their demands. They met at Smithfield. During this meeting, the Mayor of London killed Wat Tyler. They attacked the property of rich people. In London, they even burnt down John of Gaunt's Savoy Palace.

The King spoke directly to the people and asked them to stay calm. He said that if they went home, he would give them their freedom.

They went to London and attracted more people to join them on the way.

A law called the Statute of Labourers kept wages for peasants low. People from
Kent and Essex
decided not to
pay. They
started to attack
rich and
powerful
people.

Leaders included Wat Tyler and John Ball.