H.G. (Herbert George) Wells was a British writer, best known for his science fiction novels. Wells was born on 21 September 1866 at Bromley. He was the fourth and last son born to working class parents. When he was eight years old, he was bedridden with a broken leg. To pass the time, he started reading and soon became devoted to the other worlds and lives to which books gave him access; it also stimulated his desire to write. As a young man he had unhappy apprenticeships in various trades including draper and teacher. In 1883, he won a scholarship to what was then known as the Normal School of Science but he failed to pass all his subjects and lost his scholarship. He turned to writing from 1888. His early novels, called “scientific romances”, invented a number of themes now classic in science fiction in such works as The Time Machine, The Invisible Man, and The War of the Worlds (which have all been made into films). Wells died on 13 August 1946.

For more than a hundred years, science fiction writers around the world have captured our imaginations with speculations about journeys into the past or future. Countless novels, short stories, movies and TV shows have used or adapted the theme of time travel.

However, all of them owe a debt to Herbert George Wells. In this, his first major novel, published in 1895, the concept of a time machine was introduced. It is considered by many to be one of the greatest science fiction novels of all time.

In this story, the un-named Time Traveller spins forward from late 19th century London to the year 802,701 where two rival species of human descendants co-exist in tension. The Eloi live in an apparent paradise, although constantly fearful of their nocturnal subterranean predators, the Morlocks.

This classic novel has itself been the subject of two major movies: the first, in 1960, starred Rod Taylor as the Time Traveller. The second, in 2002, starred Guy Pearce.