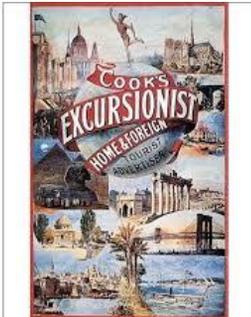




Janet Reuter

November 2019

➤ Here is some topical history for you about November:



My first adventure out of the UK when I was in school was to visit my pen friend in France - **alone**. With my hard earned savings from my Saturday job in a fashion shop changed into **Thomas Cook** travellers cheques I knew that my money was safe. On showing my passport I could change these in any bank to the currency of the country. Before the **EU** all these different currencies were a traveller's nightmare but the genius of Thomas Cook made it so much easier! No more worries about changing

pounds into francs, liras, drachmas or Deutschmarks! It was only later as a student when studying the history of the 19th century that I really learnt what an amazing man he was and what an incredible empire he had created. Today the Thomas Cook travel business has very sadly come to an end after **178 years**. He was the creator of organised group travel. And it all started for very different reasons than holiday makers have today. It was to spread the word of the 19th century **Temperance Movement**. The movement against the drinking of alcohol, **The Teetotalers!** who believed alcohol ruined peoples lives. Especially the working classes.

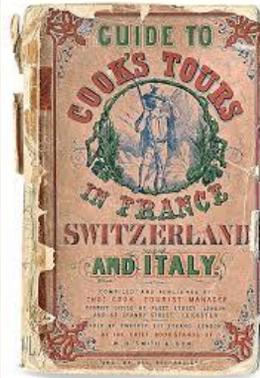
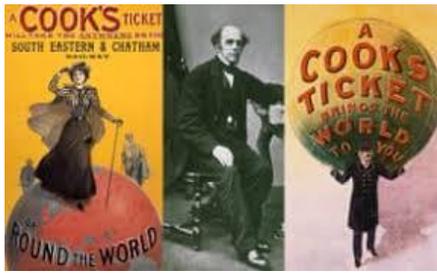
By today's standards of all-inclusive resorts with free bars and infinity pools, the first holiday, which whisked customers 12 miles by train from Leicester to a temperance meeting in Loughborough, sounds like a hard sell but these passengers thought it their moral duty to do this trip!



However, the excursion, organised in **1841** by the Derbyshire cabinet maker for **500** like-minded supporters, laid the foundations of a business that made him the father of modern tourism. The former Baptist preacher believed the ills of Victorian society stemmed largely from alcohol, and saw a chance to spread the word via Britain's flourishing rail network. Four years later Mr. Cook got into the tourist business proper, organising train trips from Leicester, Nottingham and Derby to Liverpool and this time to make a profit. Then, in **1846**, he ran the first of the Scottish tours that would soon become a lucrative operation. He took **350** passengers by train and steamboat to Glasgow, and for customers travelling for the first time, he offered guidebooks such as **Cook's Scottish Tourist Practical Directory**, which had a chapter headed "**Is It Safe for Ladies to Join in Highland Tours?**" When the group arrived at Glasgow, the city's guns were fired in their honour and a band played as they made their way to the town hall for a welcome party, the group were treated as "**conquering heroes**". After this success and reception, progress was really rapid and "**The Great Exhibition**" of London in **1851** gave Mr Cook the first of many outstanding triumphs as he managed to convey in total **165,000** people from all parts of the British Isles to the see this exhibition. The exhibition organized by **Prince Albert** was a sensation! In a most marvelously built **Crystal Palace** of glass and iron, it showed newly designed products not only from Britain but also from the new **Commonwealth** countries. Thanks to Mr. Cook so many ordinary people could visit it. When, two years later a big exhibition was held in Dublin, he was invited to arrange excursions for visitors and to arrange a comprehensive system of touring facilities in Ireland. More success!

November 2019

Thomas Cook continued.



Mr. Cook had always been interested in the idea of continental travel. He believed very strongly that this would give people who had been divided by war and politics a chance to meet each other, get to know their different cultures and live peacefully together. So after a decade of organising trips in Britain, Mr. Cook was running continental trips. He personally conducted a trip from Harwich to **Antwerp, Brussels, Cologne, Heidelberg and Strasbourg** that ended up in **Paris** for the **International Exhibition in 1855**. The highlight of the trip was to take visitors to this **Universal Exhibition** on the **Champs-Élysées**. **Napoleon III**, not to be outdone by the English, was putting on an equivalent show to the **Great Exhibition** at the **Crystal Palace, London** on a site of twenty-four acres with 20,000 exhibitors. Much to the surprise of many critics, **Victoria and Albert** accepted the invitation from **Napoleon III**, who was thought of as a the self-styled emperor. This was the first visit of a British monarch to France since **1431**. The Thomas Cook trip to Paris was an amazingly prestigious one that formally could only have been made by the very rich and aristocratic members of society!

Thomas Cook was however, still an extremely religious man with very strong Baptist beliefs. A trip to Paris therefore offered serious potential for the trippers from small towns and villages to fall into bad ways! So at this stage he decided to start producing his own continental travel guide books. These guides offered not only directions but very good advice. In Paris it was essential to avoid certain unsavoury districts and most definitely not to let ones' wives or daughters anywhere near the **Cancan** dancing! More guide books followed so that the moral standards of Mr. Cook could be upheld around the continent. In **1865**, Mr Cook set up his first London office at **98 Fleet Street** where as well as selling tickets and excursions, he obtained passports for his clients, an all round service.

He was joined in the business by his son **John Mason** and, in **1866**, John conducted his first tour to **America**. Cooks tours offered hotels as part of the package deal alongside the transportation, travel guides, travelers cheques and hotel coupons. The **package deal** holiday was born.

Thomas Cook's tours gradually extended all over Europe and into America and when he was 65-years-old, he undertook a private trip around the world. As a result, he was able to offer a world tour to guests in **1873** for the sum of **200** guineas.

This resulted in the expression a **"Cook's Tour"** which was an assurance of comfort and reliability. It is to Thomas Cook that we owe the revolution of the traveler's coupons as an international travel ticket which covered accommodation, events and fairs.



From then on he went from strength to strength passing his travel empire down to the future generations of sons who took it over. That is until **2019** when the whole business collapsed. Maybe the British Government should have decided to finance its future instead of letting a company with such an amazing history go to the wall!

Well, thank you Mr. Cook for providing me with the **travelers cheques** I needed to start exploring the continent myself all those years ago!

November 2019



James I supporters, Charles I and now Boris Johnson have all tried to impose their will onto the British Parliament but Parliament is greater!

The House of Commons in the Houses of Parliament in London must **now** be the best known historic site in Europe if not in the world! The coverage of Lady Diana sitting alone and cast aside by her beloved prince must now take second place! Almost every single day since the referendum in 2016, on whether Britain should remain within the EU or try to go it alone the TV channels have broadcast epic scenes of what is supposed to be debating political rivals whose position in the house is to come together to find the best possible solutions for the people in the country and as quickly as possible. Instead it has looked more like a film from Monty Python or Spitting Images. Well, what ever all this has cost the ordinary tax payer in the UK is was worth every penny on the entertainment stakes in Europe. Most especially Mr. Bercow, the speaker of the house who has taken his place in European history as a people's hero, never to be forgotten, especially his command **ORDER;ORDER;ORDERRRRR!** Well, now we are getting once again nearer the **5th of November**. The question may now be could another gunpowder plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament be on the minds of one or other of the sides of the House. They are divided by a swords length so a sword fight is no good any more if you want to get rid of your political rival.

Back in the **17th century** it was the **Palace of Westminster** which was the scene of the **Gunpowder Plot**. A group of Catholic noblemen planned to overthrow **King James I** by blowing up Parliament when the king was present on **November 5th 1605**. The leader of the plot was **Robert Catesby**. He and some other activists put 36 barrels of explosives under the Palace of Westminster. Another conspirator, **Guy Fawkes**, who was the only one who knew about explosives, stayed there and waited to light the fuse. Not a clever move because the King received an anonymous letter and **Guy Fawkes** was the first to be arrested. He was taken to the Tower of London where he was tortured and sentenced to death. On **30th and 31st January 1606**, **Guy Fawkes** and another seven men were executed. Not a pretty story!!!!

Then there was **King Charles I** born in **1600**. His battle to do away with Parliament cost him his head in **1649**. He did at least rule the country without Parliament for what was known as the "**Eleven Years Tyranny**" **1629 - 1640**. During this time he forced through new taxation laws to his own benefit. This he thought was absolutely right because as a king he had the **Divine Right** to do what he desired without any discussion or compromise. Charles tried to arrest five opposing leading members of the House and silence them at all costs! This put him at a hopeless disadvantage with his opponents who thought he had been dishonest, untruthful and unreliable which was all regarded as treasonous behavior. Later, however he was seen as a "**Royal Martyr**" but sadly without a head!

Well, what about **Boris Johnsons'** behavior in **2019**, how will his story be seen by history? Even he had to admit that Parliament is about more than one persons' single ambitions. Parliament has a long tradition in Britain. As far back as **1295** saw the creation of what is known as the "**Model Parliament**," which consisted of the members of the **Great Council** as well as two knights from each county, two burgesses from each borough, and two citizens from each city. **The House of Commons** began to form in the **14th Century** as knights of the shire and burgesses, more like commoners than the nobles and clergy, started to hold their own meetings separate from the more esteemed parliamentarians. The English parliament is known as the "**Mother of Parliaments**". **Let us hope it can regain the respect it deserves!**

November 2019

➤ [News about and for the English Ladies](#)

[Kleine Buchmesse der Bücherei Weddingen 2019](#)

02/03 November, evangelisches Gemeindehaus Neu-Anspach

Important theme for this year: [The relationship between humans and nature.](#)

This event also features the official launch of a multidimensional project for the future of the forest in Neu-Anspach.



WaldLiebe or Love of the Forest in English, draws on a multitude of existing and future activities and initiatives for our local forest.

Although these activities may be very valuable they often tend to get lost amongst today's flood of media messages and information.

By combining all these activities under one name, co-ordinating them and communicating them as part of a larger project they acquire a much stronger status.

And secondly, this creates a basis for a much stronger and effective involvement of individual Neu-Anspachers, schools, clubs, groups, local businesses and the town's administration for one common objective: the future of our forests.

WaldLiebe is accompanied by a photo project for long-term documentation, it will be supported by events and draw on co-operations with, e.g., the Hessenpark.

WaldLiebe was developed by our new head forest warden, Christoph Waehlert together with my husband Bernd. The logo was designed by our son James and the name was my own idea.

Let's hope this project will be successful and manage to protect the future of our so valuable forests.

The Lord Mayor of Neu-Anspach Thomas Pauli will be opening the book fair and announcing the launch of the WaldLiebe project at 12.00 noon on Saturday, November 2nd. And at 5.00 pm on Sunday afternoon, November 3rd, the head forest warden, Christoph Waehlert will be answering questions.

November 2019

➤ [News about and for the English Ladies](#)

Christmas Magic Schloss Laubach. 31. October to 03. November.

Live performance of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden at Kinopolis cinema in Bad Soden is a mixed program of classic and modern ballet on 5th November 2019



The Royal Ballet's classical origins in the ballet of Marius Petipa, to the home-grown choreographers who put British ballet on the world stage, this mixed program highlights the versatility of the Company. Petipa's *Raymonda Act III* is a Russian classical ballet summarized in one act, full of sparkle and precise technique, while Ashton's *Enigma Variations* is quintessentially British in every way – from its score by Elgar and period designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, to Ashton's signature style, the essence of British ballet. In *Concerto*, MacMillan shows a fusion of classical technique with a contemporary spirit.

The White Crow , a new film about the great ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev.



The White Crow is a feature film about Rudolf Nureyev's **1961** defection from the Soviet Union while on tour with the **Kirov Ballet**. Directed by Hollywood A-lister **Ralph Fiennes**, the movie follows Nureyev from his birth on a train in Siberia to his request for asylum at Paris' Le Bourget Airport. The film shows the incredibly tense atmosphere during the Kirov's Paris tour, with **KGB** agents following the rebellious Nureyev wherever he goes. The film cast a professional dancer, **Oleg Ivenko**, in the lead role, an Ukrainian who bears a striking resemblance to Nureyev. Fiennes portrays revered ballet master **Alexander Pushkin**, who taught

Nureyev at the Vaganova Academy and took a special interest in his talent, while French actress **Adèle Exarchopoulos** plays **Clara Saint**, the French socialite who helped orchestrate his defection. I hope that there are some scenes of the incredible dancing with Rudolf Nureyev and the brilliant British Prima Ballerina **Margot Fonteyn**.



Birthdays in November:

Martina Schütz

Happy Birthday Martina!!!!