

# JULY



Here's one I made earlier... After years of experiment, the French aircraft

*John Hancock*

July 1776 saw thirteen colonies in America break away from British rule.

John Hancock, a leading revolutionary, famously signed his name on the **Declaration of Independence** of 4 July 'large enough for King George to read without his spectacles'.



**Neil Armstrong's**

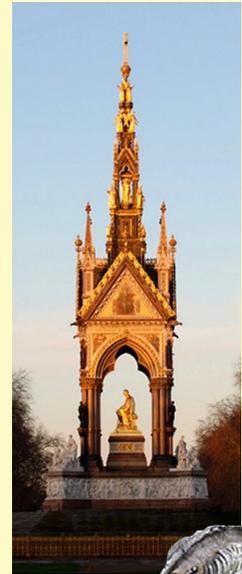
'That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind' speech on setting foot on the surface of the moon on the **21 July 1969** fulfilled President Kennedy's goal of **'landing a man on the moon'**. The first words

On Bastille Day, 14 July 1789, **the storming of the Bastille** – the state prison in Paris – kick-started the French Revolution and forms a central scene in Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*.

Each July – since 1903 – the **Tour de France** cycle race covers over 2000 miles in 21 stages. The Tour's most charismatic



hero, the Italian **Fausto Coppi**, had a career interrupted by three years as a prisoner of war. In 1949 Coppi, in a solo breakaway, led the field up the 2361m Izoard Pass in the Alps but waited at the finish line for nine minutes to hand the stage victory to his team mate Gino Bartali as a birthday gift.



Previously called *Quintilis* in the Roman calendar, July was renamed for **Julius Caesar**, who was born in that month in 100BC. Almost two thousand years later, in 1811, he shared his birthday, 13 July, with **Sir Giles Gilbert Scott**, architect of the Albert Memorial.



**Battle of the Boyne**, 12 July 1690. The deposed King James II was defeated by his nephew – and son-in-law – William III. The battle, outside Drogheda, on the east coast of Ireland, marked the end of James's hope of regaining his throne and virtually assured the triumph of the **Glorious Revolution**.



designer and aviator **Louis Blériot** made the first crossing of the English Channel by aircraft, in the early morning of 25 July 1909.

Following a dispute regarding his burial inside the cathedral, Saint Swithun, an early English Bishop of Winchester, is now best known for the weather lore proverb that if it rains on **Saint Swithun's Day, 15 July**, it will rain for 40 days



'When the clock strikes two, three and four If the band slows down we'll yell for more' Born 6 July 1925, **Bill Haley's** career had its finest hour – well, two minutes and eight seconds – in 1954 with **Rock Around the Clock**.



spoken after landing on the moon were more prosaic – Buzz Aldrin's report to mission control: 'OK. Engine stop. Shutdown'.



Fourteen years of **food rationing** in Britain ended when wartime restrictions on the sale and purchase of meat and bacon were finally lifted at midnight 3/4 July 1954.

