Imagination takes flight in lockdown

WHAT do we have in common from the 17th century? Thanks to Covid-19 and the lockdown, more than you might imagine. The 17th century was a time of constant turmoil – from the English Civil Wars and the beheading of a monarch, to constant conflict with our European neighbours.

The Great Plague of London (1665) sent those who could afford second homes scurrying off to their country retreats (sound familiar?).

At that time, most people strayed little from their home town – a bit like us in the Covid-19 lockdown.

But it was also an era of adventure for some, like the Somerset-born explorer and pirate William Dampier, who kept the nation enthralled with books about the exotic places they saw.

Suddenly the coronavirus has made the world seem as dangerous and distant as it must have to our 17th century ancestors. When the prospect of even a summer holiday with our ancestors from the 17th century?

What makes a country worth visiting, from the 17th century?

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