

## Something for the New Year

It will come as something of a surprise to many of you, especially those who have been members from the start, but 2007 marks the twentieth anniversary of the decision to form The Folly Fellowship. It was then that Gwyn Headley, Wim Meulenkamp and I first agreed the skeleton of an organisation and toasted its evolution with a glass of bubbly in the converted urinal of a subterranean Turkish Baths in London's Liverpool Street. A short time later we were joined by Mike Cousins and it's been non-stop ever since.



To mark this achievement we are launching the first of our e-Bulletins, which we will e-mail to all members who provide us with their address. For now the Bulletin will be issued six times per year, but the frequency will ultimately increase to one a month at some point in the future. In the meantime, to receive your copy simply add us to your e-mail allowed list, and tell us if your address changes at any time.

The Bulletin is supplemental to the Magazines and Journal that you will continue to receive in the normal way. Given their success we are keen to ensure that these reputable publications maintain their own identity, and for this new kid on the block not to trespass on their traditional content. The Bulletin will therefore focus on matters that are urgent or time-sensitive. It will also replace the annual events card so keep an eye open for details of our excursions and other events in this Bulletin as well as the website and magazine.

I have agreed to edit the first few editions, after which I hope that a volunteer will take over the job and develop it into something really special. So, if you are interested in taking over as Bulletin editor, or if you simply want to provide a comment, a contribution for publication or an offer of technical help, please write to me.

The trustees and committee hope you will enjoy this new venture and that together we can make it a valued addition to our stable of publications. In the mean, we wish you all a joyful New Year.

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## All change please!

Isn't it always the way? Just like London's buses you wait a long time for something new to come along and then three arrive together. In addition to this Bulletin, we have given our website a facelift and published a new membership leaflet.

The website was created by Malcolm Hole, who developed it from scratch. Even in its short lifetime it has been a huge success, with many thousands of hits registered. Now Alan Terrill has picked up the baton, cast a professional eye over its design, and given it an overhaul. So if you haven't yet seen the website, simply type [www.follies.org.uk](http://www.follies.org.uk) in your Internet Explorer search box and you will be taken straight there. Then make sure you add it to your favourites and call again to keep abreast of all that is going on in the world of follies. In time you will also be able to pay your subscription through it, and use the website to help sign up new members.

The last of the three arrivals is the development of a new membership leaflet, which has been produced by Ian Woodcock, Michael Cousins and Susanne Harding. Its fresh and simpler design gets straight to the point and tells readers why they should join and what they receive in return for their annual subscription. If you can help in distributing these to potential members, contact Ian Woodcock on [follies@ianwoodcock.com](mailto:follies@ianwoodcock.com)

The development of all three publications is not just the sign of an energised executive committee working throughout the day and night, but part of our commitment to keep in touch. It is also part of a much wider membership drive. And this is where you can help us. What we are asking you to do is tell someone about the Fellowship and encourage them to join. You can do this in two ways: either give them our website address and let them do the rest online, or hand them a copy of the new membership leaflet and help them complete and return it to the address shown. To encourage you in this mission we are giving you an opportunity to win a bottle of Laurent Perrier champagne, details of which are included later in this Bulletin.

## Folly of the month: The Knill Monument at St. Ives, Cornwall



**S**tanding on Worvas Hill above the historic port of St. Ives, is the simple pyramid mausoleum of John Knill, a bachelor and former Mayor of the town. It was erected in 1782 to be his final resting place, but he died unexpectedly in London and was buried at Holborn instead.

Known locally as the Knill Steeple or the Knill Monument, the giant pyramid stands 15-metres tall and is built in the local Cornish limestone. It is triangular in plan form, with each face inscribed with a different legend: the Latin *Resurgam* (I shall rise again) and Knill's Coat of Arms appear on one side; the testament *I Know that my Redeemer liveth* is on the second; and his name *Johannes Knill* and date *1782* on the third. Beneath his Coat of Arms is his family motto *Nil Desperandum* (Do not despair).

Knill was one of Cornwall's more successful sons, but is largely forgotten today. He was born in Callington on 1 January 1733, and later articled to a Penzance solicitor where he dealt regularly with the issues of harbour dues and excise duty. That experience led to his appointment as Collector of Customs at St. Ives in 1762, a post he held for two decades. This made him a prominent figure in the town and was instrumental in his being elected Mayor of the St. Ives in 1767, at the age of 34.

When John Knill died on 29 March 1811, he left a sum of money to maintain the pyramid, together with a second amount for celebrations to occur every quinquennium on St. James's Day (25 July). His instructions stated that £25 was to be spent on

the festivities, with £10 used to pay for a dinner for the trustees of the bequest (consisting the Mayor, Vicar and Customs Officer) at the George and Dragon Inn; £5 to be shared among ten young girls who are daughters of either local fishermen or tanners or seamen; £1 for the fiddler; £2 shared between two widows; £1 for white ribbons for breast knots; £1 for a Vellum book for the Clerk to the Trustees to enter a Minute of the proceedings; and £5 for the man and wife, widower or widow who raised the largest family of legitimate children who reached the age of ten years.

The people of St. Ives have been faithful to Knill's wishes ever since his death, with the five-yearly ceremony continuing even during war time. The event was celebrated earlier this year, and will next take place in 2011.

## Fancy a challenge?

**W**e are looking to boost our membership by 400 in the next two years, but need your help to do it. As an incentive, there is a bottle of champagne on offer to the person who introduces the greatest number of new members in 2007.



What is on offer is a boxed bottle of Laurent Perrier's *Grand Siècle* champagne, which is the epitome of Champagne blending. It is created from a blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes supplied by twelve of the most prestigious Grand Crus of the region, and aged for five years before being released. The result is a wine with subtle aromas of honey, grilled almonds and brioche.

To claim the prize, simply make sure that your new members specify your name when they join and we will do the rest. The champagne will then be awarded at the 2008 annual general meeting.

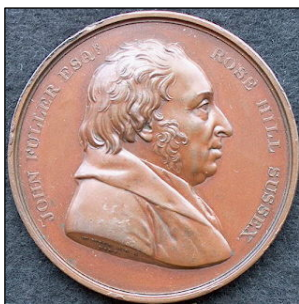
## AGM and other events for 2007



**O**ur first gathering of the year takes place at The Rev. Massey's Folly in the picturesque village of Farrington (nr Alton), Hampshire, on Sunday 11 February. We begin at 12.00 with our Annual General Meeting, followed by a tour of the building and presentation on its future by the head of The Massey's Folly Preservation Trust. A light lunch will also be provided.

Massey was a creative visionary who built for personal pleasure in the face of much criticism and derision, but who left an architectural treasure for us to wonder at and enjoy. His extraordinary brick edifice was started in 1870 and took 30 years to design and create what is a Victorian brick-lover's idea of paradise, with walls adorned by pressed and shaped bricks in the shape of flowers, diamonds, and much, much more.

Copies of the proceedings, annual report and accounts will be released in the next few weeks, and are available from [follies@ianwoodcock.com](mailto:follies@ianwoodcock.com)



Our excursion season opens in March with two trips at different ends of the southern counties.

The first is a visit to Mad Jack Fuller's dazzling follies dotted around his home at Brightling, East Sussex.

Writing in her first book *Follies and Grottoes*, Barbara Jones described the scene at Brightling, saying: *The atmosphere of follies is beyond dispute, but alas, also beyond analysis. At Barwick the unfamiliar shapes of the follies seem responsible, but Mad Jack Fuller's follies in Sussex immediately confound so simple an answer. True, he had no grotto, but he had a cone, a pyramid tomb, an obelisk, a hermit's tower, as well as much more normal adornments to an estate as an observatory and a rotunda (by Robert Smirke), and yet it is all jolly, one cheerful piece of nonsense after another, quite without alarm.*



Jack Fuller's Pyramid Mausoleum, Brightling Church

The visit will take place on 3 March, and tickets cost £5 per person. Places are limited, so early booking is essential if you want to join us: do so by writing to [andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk)

On 31 March Susanne Harding is leading a tour of the Shell House at Sherborne, plus other follies in the vicinity. Details are available from Susanne at [roomreview@hotmail.com](mailto:roomreview@hotmail.com)

#### Other events:

May	Trip to Northumberland
June	Treasure hunt in North Wales, ending at Brownhill House in Royton XI Towns
July	Colin's Barn and Gloucestershire follies
August	Annual Garden Party
September	Kensington Gardens and the Royal Parks of Central London
October	Trip to Edinburgh and Mid-Lothian
November	Croome Park, including a guided walk with Mike Smith, National Trust Manager, and Michael Cousins

## News from our friends



The Sea Pyramid at Branitz, East Germany

**T**he new edition of *Historic Gardens Review* includes an article on Prince Hermann von Pückler Muskau, and his gardens at Muskau and Branitz in what used to be East Germany. There is also an article on Alton Towers as well as the usual collection of fascinating news and features on historic parks and gardens from around the world. Details from The Historic Gardens Foundation [www.historicgardens.org](http://www.historicgardens.org)

## Help wanted

**I**f you are good at figures, and interested in helping us manage The Folly Fellowship, we are looking for a new treasurer to replace James Johnston who died so suddenly last March. Since then Dick Knight has been holding the fort but work commitments prevent him from doing so for much longer. Although it is one of the key positions, it is not a demanding job but does require someone

who is methodical and good with numbers. If you can help but would like to know more about it first, please contact Dick at [r.a.knight@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.a.knight@leeds.ac.uk)

Mike Cousins is also looking for help, this time for a co-editor to help him put together our highly praised Magazine. Again, further details can be obtained from [mcousins@grottoes.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:mcousins@grottoes.freeseerve.co.uk)

If you have trouble contacting Dick or Mike, or if you would like to help in another way, please write to [follies@ianwoodcock.com](mailto:follies@ianwoodcock.com)

## Folly items for sale

**A**ndrew Plumridge has a spare copy of Patrick M. Synges book **The Gardens of Britain – Volume 1: Devon and Cornwall**, published in 1978. The book is in good condition and available to the first person to offer a donation of £5.00 or more to The Folly Fellowship.

The phenomenally successful eBay website is always an excellent source for books, postcards and other material on follies and curios. Among the books that were for sale at the time of going to press are:

- **County Curiosities of England** by Lynn Parr (item 190056109007).
- **Odd Aspects of England** by Gary Hogg (item 200060455891)
- **Isle of Wight** by Barbara Jones (item 320064262348)

Among the many folly postcards that are available are:

- **Kingsgate Castle Folly, Kent**
- **Brusselton Folly at Shildon**
- **McCaig’s Folly, Oban**
- **Jezreel’s Folly, New Brompton, Kent**
- **The Folly, Pontypool**
- **Blackborough Tower, Devon**
- **Ralph Allen’s Folly, Bath, Somerset**
- **Old John Folly, Leicester**
- **Broadway Tower, Worcestershire**

Remember that you need to be quick if you are buying from eBay, because most sell quickly.

If you are one of the few people who have not yet been charmed, enlightened and entertained along the length of the A272 by Pieter Boogaart, or if you just want to get your hands on an updated version of Pieter, copies of his brilliant book **A272: An Ode to a Road** are available in a new and expanded form from [prboogaart@hetnet.nl](mailto:prboogaart@hetnet.nl).

## Competition – win a bottle of Beaujolais

**A**s if receiving this e-Bulletin is not enough of a reward, here is your chance to win another bottle of booze from Andrew’s fast diminishing cellar. This time it’s a scrumptious bottle of his favourite wine – Beaujolais. Simply find the answers to the six questions below to reveal the name of towering author!

1. The site of Sanderson Miller’s sham castle of 1747-8.
2. A decorative hole in the ground.
3. The name of a picnic garden in Dorset.
4. The Priory where Lord Boston’s folly stands.
5. A mid-eighteenth century Stand in Yorkshire.
6. A structure near Otley.

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The competition is open to all members of The Folly Fellowship, except its officers. To submit your entry, simply e-mail the six answers and name of the towering author to [andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk). The prize will awarded to the first person to submit by e-mail all seven correct answers.

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