



## Under threat of demolition



## Please save me from destruction

**I**t is not every year that a new folly is built, and thanks to a sea change of opinion over the past twenty years, it is rarer that one is demolished. However, this is exactly the fate that is facing a new sham castle at Packington Hayes, outside of Lichfield, Staffordshire.

The small folly was built by Richard Barnes, whose family has owned the land at Packington Hayes for generations, and marked their presence by erecting a series of obelisks and smaller garden buildings around their grounds. In this case, their new folly does not have planning permission and stands in the Green Belt that embraces this part of

Lichfield. As a result, the district council has served an Enforcement Notice requiring the folly to be demolished within 2 months.

At 4.2 metres high and using salvaged stone and a stained glass panel rescued from other buildings, the folly is so charming that a family of bats has already moved in and taken up residence causing something of a headache for Lichfield Council because it makes the folly a protected roost under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The council is nonetheless pressing ahead and calling for demolition to take place, even though its actions would endanger a protected species.



In an attempt to save the folly, an appeal has been made to the Secretary of State and will be heard at a public inquiry on 9 December 2008. Our own Andrew Plumridge is acting as expert witness for the owner, and is one of a small team being led by Janet Hodson of JVH Town Planning Consultants asking for the Notice to be dismissed and for planning permission to be granted.

You can also help in this process. How? Well, if you feel that the folly should not be demolished, you can register a letter of objection and ask for the folly to be saved. You need to act soon, however, because time is very short: all you need to do is e-mail the Planning Inspectorate at [teame2@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:teame2@pins.gsi.gov.uk) giving your reasons why the folly should be saved and quoting the address of the site (Land to the South of Packington Hayes, Whittingham Heath, Staffordshire) and the appeal reference number APP/K3415/C/08/2072397. Your letter should ideally arrive before the first week in December when the inquiry starts, so it can be taken into account by the Planning Inspector.



If you prefer to send a letter, you can do so by writing to The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/26 Hawk, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN or fax it to 0117-372 6153.



An update on the appeal will be reported in the Bulletin as soon as more details are known.

## Hyding Away

**T**ucked away in the grounds of 239 Mottram Road, in the Cheshire village of Hyde is a little-known Grade II listed sham castle eye-catcher built in the Gothick style. Set above the two-centre arched doorway as part of a stepped parapet is a lead coat of arms and a dressed stone giving the date of 1767, but the general consensus is that this is too early and that the folly was more probably erected in the mid-nineteenth century.

It is believed that the folly was at one time attached to a glasshouse, where a panel of brickwork is painted white. As such it is possible that the sham castle originally housed a boiler providing warm air to assist in the growing of fruit and exotic plants. It still retains remnants of a glazed pitched roof concealed behind the machicolated parapet, suggesting that the upper chamber was also used as a summerhouse or banqueting house.

The sham castle is built mainly with coursed rubble sandstone with some areas of red brick. On the north-west corner is a cylindrical tower, with each face flanked by square corner turrets. It even has a basement, which may have been where any boiler was located.

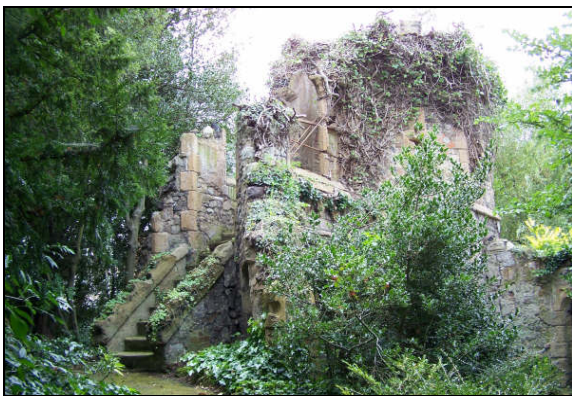
239 Mottram Road is home to the Treetops Pre-School run by Karen Tunstall. It means that a

new generation of children is growing up knowing about and enjoying follies, which must be a good thing. Now, if only Tameside Metropolitan Council could encourage some much needed conservation work.



Location = OS Ref: SJ 95974 95011  
Off J3 of the M67

## Folly of the Month: Tate Tower, Streatham, London SW16



**P**ark Hill House and its gardens stand on the north side of Streatham Common, within the London Borough of Lambeth (SW16). Built around 1830 for William Leaf, a local banker and silk merchant, the 6-acre private gardens contain a Doric temple, a rustic seat, a sunken rockery garden, and a "Garden of Gethsemane" grotto. But its main feature is a 25-foot (7.62 metres) octagonal ruined folly tower with an archway and steps leading up to the top and over the archway.

In 1874 Park Hill was bought by the sugar magnate Sir Henry Tate (Tate and Lyle) who lived there for 25 years and died in Streatham in December 1899. He made his fortune refining sugar and processing it as sugar cubes instead of the less convenient 'loaves' which people had to first break into pieces to use. With his great wealth Henry Tate became an art collector and philanthropist. His art collection was housed originally in part of Park Hill House, which in effect became the first Tate Gallery.



The house was converted to St. Michael's Convent in 1923, and used by the Nuns to take in "disadvantaged women". In 1999 the Convent was sold and in 2001-02 the building and grounds were redeveloped under the watchful eye of English Heritage because the main building is listed Grade II. The development has now become a luxury residential complex and goes by the name of Henry Tate Mews. As befits its status an 8-foot high metal fence surrounds the whole development with access through electronically controlled entrance gates. Unfortunately thieves got into the grounds recently and stole the lead from the roof of the Doric temple – for the second time! It only needs a 10-foot ladder to get over an 8-foot fence!

Derrick Green

## Samphire Ho!

**D**igging the Channel Tunnel left Kent with a problem – what to do with the 4.9 million cubic metres of chalk marl excavated from beneath the sea? In the end, the solution was to create a new landmass on the coast outside of the village of Farthingloe (near Folkestone), which is now called the Samphire Hoe Country Park.

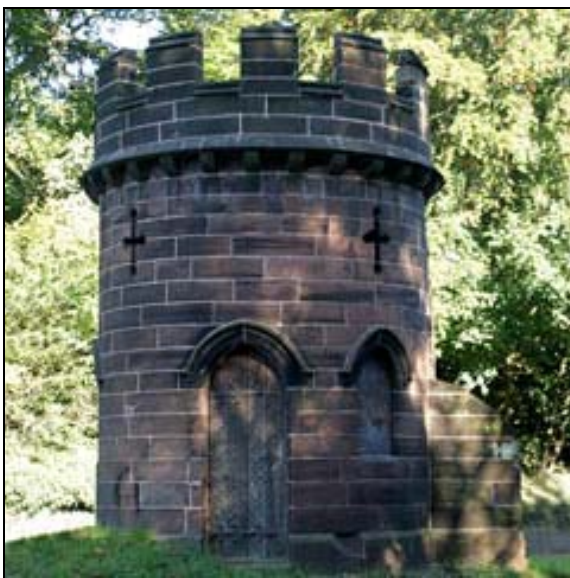
At the centre of the Park is a new 10-metre tall folly built in oak and clad in larch, and designed to echo the beach huts and small rowing boats that are often seen along this stretch of the coast. It was commissioned by Sustrans, the National Cycle Network charity to be a marker point on the Chalk and Channel Way, and was designed by Pippa Taylor and Jony Easterby. Inside they included a brass telescope that is used to trigger sounds and compositions to evoke memories of the history of the English Channel.



The Park has been sown with wild flower seeds collected from the nearby cliffs and chalk grasslands, and now boasts 164 different varieties, including the Early Spider Orchid. It also attracts a number of butterflies, dragonflies and birds. Owned by Eurotunnel and managed in partnership with the White Cliffs Countryside Project, information on the Park can be obtained from [www.samphirehoe.com](http://www.samphirehoe.com).

Location = OS Ref: TR 294 390

## The Stranded Castle

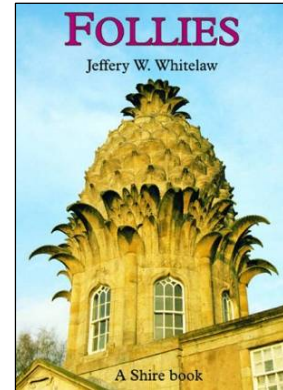


**The Round Tower** Lodge at Sandiway, in Cheshire, was part of Vale Royal estate, but was stranded in the central reservation of the

A556 when the road was built in the 1930s: it was left in the middle of one of Britain's first dual carriageways after local people petitioned against its demolition. It is now listed in Grade II.

## For sale for Christmas

**A**s Christmas draws nearer, and we all start fumbling for present ideas, e-Bay has some answers in the shape of items for sale. At the moment they include copies of Jeffery W. Whitelaw's book and the National Benzole Book of Follies for as little as £5 plus postage. There is also a copy of Jonathan Holt's book on Somerset Follies for £10, and old postcards from £1 upwards.



The Shire books always represent great value for money and there are a number of them that will be of direct interest to folly lovers, including Peter Hansell's book on Dovecotes, Tim Buxbaum's books on Icehouses and Scottish Dooocots, Lynn Pearson's book on Mausoleums and Hazelle Jackson's book on Shell Houses and Grottoes. All these are available for as little as £5 plus postage, and can be ordered from [www.shirebooks.co.uk](http://www.shirebooks.co.uk).

## Gobbets:

**Congratulations** – Our warmest congratulations and love is sent to Pieter and Rita Boogaart who celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary this year and took a second honeymoon in the Eternal City of Rome. They are pictured below at the Borghese Park, with the lake and temple as their backdrop.



Picture credits: *Tate Tower (x2)* – Derrick Green; *The Round Tower at Sandiway* – [www.midcheshireair.org.uk](http://www.midcheshireair.org.uk); *Pieter and Rita Boogaart* – P+R Boogaart. Other pictures by the editor or from the Folly Picture Library: our grateful thanks to all for the use of their excellent pictures.