

Welcome to the Folly Fellowship,
the amenity society set up in 1988
to protect, preserve and promote
awareness of Britain's unique
heritage of follies, grottoes and
garden buildings in our environment.

What is a folly?

In Britain alone, the Folly Fellowship has recorded over 1,500 sites which boast follies, grottoes or garden buildings. However, it is impossible to define absolutely where architectural extravagance ends and true folly begins. Few areas of expertise will have so many varied and borderline cases. The folly is to be found in a state of mind, rather than in architectural style or function. If you believe a particular building to be a folly, then folly it is. Folly is in the eye of the beholder; after all, when creating a folly, "the builders threw away the rules."

Lord Berners commented of his folly at Faringdon, Oxford: "The great point of this tower is that it will be entirely useless."



What is the Folly Fellowship?

The Folly Fellowship was founded in 1988 to protect, preserve and promote follies, grottoes and garden buildings. Initially a group of enthusiasts keen to record what was at first seen as a peculiarly British aspect of architecture, it has grown into a serious conservation and consultative architectural heritage charity, while not losing sight of the basic fact that these buildings are meant to be fun – they were built for pleasure before purpose.

An early realisation was the international flavour of the genre. Although the British Isles can count more follies per square mile than any other region, there are examples to be found all over the world and the Fellowship has organised visits to outstanding folly sites in Continental Europe as well as across the United Kingdom.

Existing members come from all walks of life – from academics, architects and artists to photographers, plumbers and postmen – with one key link: a common interest in where architecture, landscape, history and the eccentric collide.

How do I join?



Membership of the Folly Fellowship is open to all. There are various categories of membership; please check this list to see which applies to you, then fill in the form, make out your cheque or money order to "The Folly Fellowship" and send it to:

The Membership Secretary
The Folly Fellowship
35 Queensfields West
Bognor Regis, West Sussex
PO21 5SG

UK membership rates

☐ £40

☐ Donation

Life, Corporate, European and International rates (and details of Gift Aid) are available on request.

Name

Address

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Post code/ZIP

Tel

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Profession

Where did you hear about the Folly Fellowship?

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The Folly Fellowship is a charity registered in England and Wales, number 1002646.

Your name and address will not be sold to a direct mail organisation.