

**Y**our reaction to our first e-Bulletin has been amazing, so thank you for all of your kind and encouraging comments. These will help to shape the future of the publication. The same was true of comments made at the Annual General Meeting where we were encouraged to make it a regular feature. One of the elements that I had not expected, however, was the high number of bounce-backs, which I am told is due to active anti-spam software. So if you want to receive future copies of the bulletin, please ensure we are on your list of welcome recipients.

Publications like this are hungry beasts so it would be helpful if you could keep me abreast of news, events and general gossip that surround follies, grottoes and garden buildings.

Andrew Plumridge  
[andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk)

## Home Sweet Home: Temple Bar, City of London

**A**lmost 130 years after it was moved to the Hertfordshire countryside, Sir Christopher Wren's gateway to Temple Bar has finally returned to its rightful home in the City of London, standing majestically at Paternoster Square, next to St Paul's Cathedral.



Built between 1669 and 1672, Wren's now famous gateway was one of eight defining the boundary between the Cities of London and Westminster. It stood on Fleet Street and was removed in January 1878 to allow the road to be widened. Thinking quickly, the stone was bought by the brewer Sir Henry and Lady Meux – I do hope their name is properly pronounced Muck, not Mew – and reassembled in 1889 as a grand entrance to their home at Theobald's Park near Cheshunt. In more recent years, it had become derelict and was neglected, standing largely to the mercy of vandals and decay. In November 2004, however, it was officially returned to the Lord Mayor of the City of London, restored and stands proudly on its new site.

The Temple Bar ceremony, occasionally re-enacted at a monument to the Bar, requires the Monarch to stop and request permission to enter the City, in response to which the Lord Mayor presents the Sword of State as a sign of loyalty. The gate was also the site of many more gory events, including the displaying on spikes of the heads and other body parts of traitors who had been caught, tried and executed within the City of London: the last head was exhibited here in 1745.



The derelict Temple Bar in Theobald's Park

The Temple Bar Trust was established in 1976 with the aim of returning the structure to the City of London. It acquired ownership of the gateway in 1984, and eventually received consent to move it back to its natural home. The restoration and reinstatement cost £3-million.

## Trip van Winkel

Earlier this Spring your Dutch correspondents went to see the Kremlin again, as it is being developed in the village of Winkel, in the northwest of the Netherlands. Those lucky few FF members who came to the excursion *Tiptoe through the Tulips* last year will remember it as one of the most impressive follies that they were able to see on that occasion. We talked to its builder Ger Leegwater and he was explaining to us how more and more people came to have a look at his work and even newly-wed couples were coming along nowadays to have their wedding pictures taken in front of the Kremlin. He saw that as a great compliment and appreciated it so much that he had begun to build a wedding chapel in the large wall to the right of the Kremlin.

We could see that this chapel was going to be rather small when it would be finished, but were quite startled to hear that he wanted to sculpt or build a great big crucifix inside.

He wanted a religious symbol in it and the first thing that came to his mind was Christ on the cross. We told him that we thought maybe this was not the most felicitous and happiest of symbols for a



wedding chapel and we asked if he wanted to make something religious, couldn't he fashion an angel instead. He was quite happy to relinquish the idea of a cross but he said he had no examples of angels handy and had no clue as to how to go about making one. Then we suggested that we send him photos of existing sculptures of angels, something like St Michael on Coventry cathedral, we thought.

This is what we did; we sent him some twenty pictures (from the Angel of the North downwards in size), and we were very pleased to read in a national newspaper that the last thing to be added to the new wedding chapel was going to be a sculpture of St Michael. We have yet to see it so don't know what it looks like but knowing Ger it will be splendid. The photograph (right) shows what we saw earlier this year, not the present-day situation – we live in the southeast and don't go to the northwest of our country on a monthly basis, which is what you need to do if you want to keep up with Ger Leegwater.

By the way: you read that correctly: it was a national newspaper which had an article on Dutch follies and folly-builders. Our most widely-read

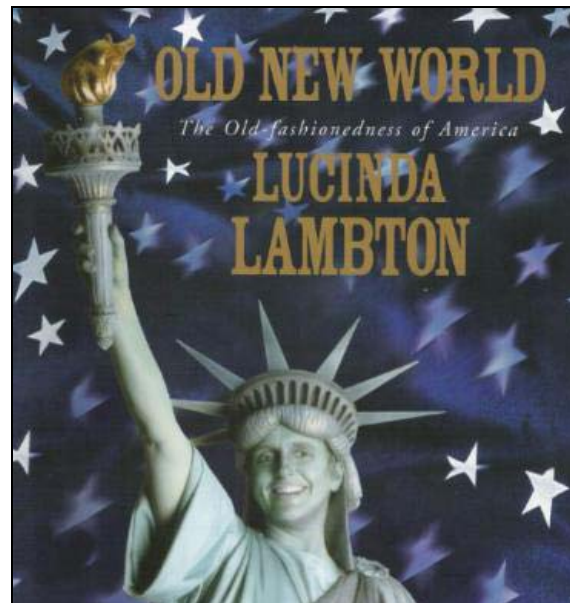


newspaper, *De Telegraaf* carried a full-page on it, with a huge picture of the Kremlin in full colour. Other follies were discussed and shown as well, like the Dream Castle in Heerlerheide, and even one we didn't know about. I personally had never thought *De Telegraaf* could teach me anything new, but there you go. The DonderbergGroep was also mentioned and its chairman Eric Denig correctly quoted. Why can't we see publicity like that in England?

Pieter Boogaart  
[prboogaart@hetnet.nl](mailto:prboogaart@hetnet.nl)

## An honour for Lucy

According to the AGM papers issued recently to its members, Lady Lucinda Lambton is to be elected President of the Garden History Society at its annual meeting and conference in Edinburgh in July. As a close friend and supporter of the Fellowship, the hope is that Lucy will further reinforce the link that has existed between our two organisations and see us working together again. Her election to replace Sir Roy Strong is warmly welcomed.



## Folly of the month: St David's Ruin at Bingley, West Yorkshire



**S**t. David's Ruin stands in part of an ancient woodland now known as Cottingley Park, on the outskirts of Bingley in West Yorkshire. It was originally intended to be an eyecatcher to Harden Grange (originally called St Ives) which was built in 1759 by the architect James Paine. Since then the folly has fallen into disrepair and been engulfed by dense woodlands. Still visible, however, is the inscription **B F 1796**, recording the initials of its creator (Benjamin Ferrand) and the year it was built.



The folly is built in rough stone blocks with ashlar dressings, and comprises a tall wall with a pointed arch and a short circular tower. It stands above Harden village, off the B6429, and must at one time have presented an impressive profile against the Yorkshire skyline. That profile has been lost against thick woodlands. It stands on private land with no public right of way, and is listed in grade II.

## Competition – win a bottle of Beaujolais

**C**ongratulations go to Graham and Norma Hebden who were the first to send in the correct answers to our January competition. A bottle of Beaujolais is theirs for correctly spotting that the answer was Archie GORDON and emerged from the following:

1	H	A	G	L	E	Y
2	G	R	O	T	T	O
3	L	A	R	M	E	R
4	H	E	D	S	O	R
5	H	O	O	B	E	R
6	T	U	N	N	E	L

This month's competition asks you to identify the pyramid shown below. Again there is a bottle of Beaujolais to the first person to e-mail the correct answer to [andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk).



## Forthcoming Events

**Sunday, 22 July** – A visit to see the follies of the Badminton Estate, Gloucestershire. **Please note that this is fully booked.**

**Saturday, 18 August** – The Annual Garden Party at Pelham Place, Newton Valence (near Alton) in Hampshire. It is an exciting new folly garden with more work by Vernon Gibberd and Derek Bruce, including an underground 'canal' grotto by the lake. Details from [follywaters@onetel.com](mailto:follywaters@onetel.com)

**Saturday, 08 September** – A tour of Mad Jack Fuller's follies at Brightling, East Sussex, which had to be postponed from earlier this year. Details available from [andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk)

**Friday, 05 to Sunday, 07 October** – A visit to see the fantastic follies of Edinburgh and surrounding Lothian countryside. Details available from [andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk) – volunteers wanted to drive a minibus.