

# Follies of Nottinghamshire: Architectural Whimsy in the Shire of Robin Hood



## Follies of Nottinghamshire (Follies of England Book 28)

by Notes on Cities

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## **: Exploring the Follies of a Legendary English County**

Nestled in the heart of England, Nottinghamshire is a county steeped in history, legend, and architectural splendor. Beyond the tales of Robin Hood and the grandeur of ancient abbeys, Nottinghamshire boasts a unique collection of architectural follies that add a touch of whimsy and intrigue to the county's landscape.

Follies, by definition, are ornamental buildings or structures constructed primarily for aesthetic or amusement purposes, rather than practical use. They often embody architectural styles from different periods, creating an eclectic and visually captivating landscape.

In this article, we embark on a journey through the follies of Nottinghamshire, uncovering the stories behind these architectural treasures, their historical context, and their significance to the cultural heritage of the region.

### **Newstead Abbey: The Picturesque Folly of Lord Byron**



Perched on the banks of the River Leen, Newstead Abbey is one of the most iconic follies in Nottinghamshire. Originally a medieval monastery, the abbey was transformed into a picturesque folly in the 18th century by renowned poet Lord Byron, who inherited the estate at a young age.

Lord Byron's vision for Newstead Abbey was to create a romantic and evocative landscape, reminiscent of the ruined abbeys featured in Gothic

novels. He commissioned the renowned architect Anthony Salvin to design elaborate Gothic Revival structures, including a castellated tower, a cloister, and a chapel.

Today, Newstead Abbey is a beloved tourist attraction, offering visitors a glimpse into the whimsical imagination of Lord Byron and the architectural grandeur of the Gothic Revival period.

### **Rufford Abbey: Majestic Follies Amidst Ancient Ruins**

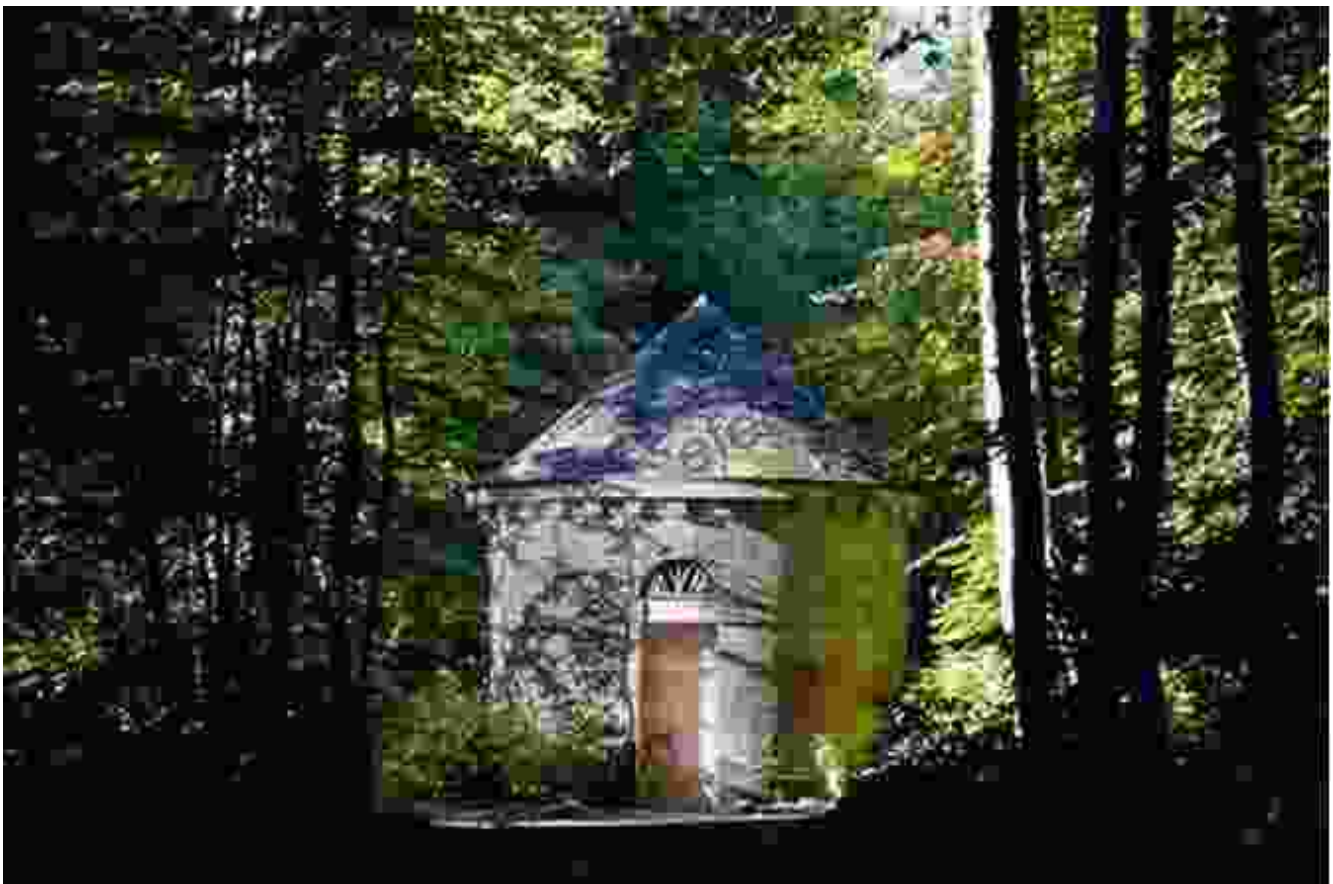


Set within the tranquil grounds of Rufford Abbey, a former Cistercian monastery, lies a collection of 18th-century follies that complement the historic ruins.

The highlight of the Rufford Abbey follies is the Gothic Arch, a majestic structure designed to resemble a Roman triumphal arch. Other notable follies include the Chinese Bridge, a delicate structure spanning a picturesque lake, and the Temple of the Four Winds, a classical-style pavilion perched atop a hill.

These follies were commissioned by the Earls of Scarborough, who transformed the abbey grounds into a fashionable landscape park, reflecting the prevailing taste for exoticism and architectural diversity.

### **The Hermitage: A Secluded Retreat in Sherwood Forest**



Nestled amidst the legendary Sherwood Forest, the Hermitage is a series of follies and hermitages created in the 18th century by Francis Willoughby,

the 5th Lord Middleton.

The Hermitage comprises various structures hidden within the forest, including a hermit's cave, a rustic hermitage, and a picturesque cascade. The follies were designed to create a sense of seclusion and tranquility, allowing Lord Middleton and his guests to escape the bustling world and commune with nature.

Today, the Hermitage is managed by the National Trust and remains a popular destination for hikers and nature enthusiasts, offering a glimpse into the whimsical and romantic landscapes of the 18th century.

### **Holme Pierrepont Hall: A Curious Combination of Styles**



Holme Pierrepont Hall, a country house dating back to the 16th century, is renowned for its unusual and eclectic range of follies.

The most striking folly is the Pepper Pot Tower, a conical structure with a crenellated top that resembles a giant pepper pot. Other follies include a Gothic folly, a classical temple, and a Chinese pagoda.

The diverse architectural styles of these follies reflect the changing tastes of the owners of Holme Pierrepont Hall over centuries, creating a unique and visually captivating landscape.

### **: Nottinghamshire's Follies as Architectural and Cultural Treasures**

The follies of Nottinghamshire are more than just architectural curiosities; they are testaments to the creativity, imagination, and cultural heritage of the county.

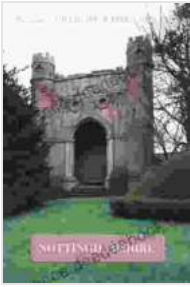
From the picturesque ruins of Newstead Abbey to the secluded hermitages of Sherwood Forest, these follies offer a glimpse into the architectural tastes and lifestyles of past centuries. They continue to captivate visitors with their charm, whimsy, and historical significance.

As we explore the follies of Nottinghamshire, we not only appreciate their aesthetic beauty but also gain a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical landscape that shaped them. These architectural treasures serve as a reminder of the enduring power of imagination and the enduring legacy of architectural diversity.

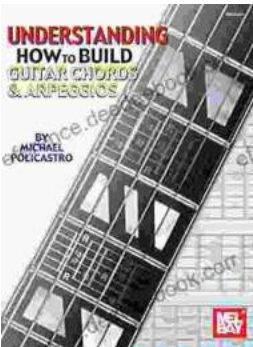
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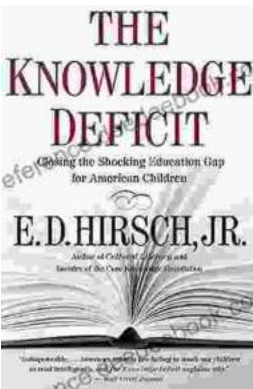


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