

The Follies of Surrey, England: A Comprehensive Guide

The county of Surrey, nestled in the picturesque region of South East England, boasts a rich architectural heritage that extends beyond its charming towns and stately homes. Scattered throughout the county's verdant landscapes lie a series of intriguing and enigmatic structures known as follies.



Follies of Surrey (Follies of England Book 35)

by Eduardo Furtado

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Follies are architectural curiosities, often built during the 18th and 19th centuries, that serve no practical purpose beyond aesthetic enjoyment or as a symbol of status. These whimsical structures take on a variety of forms, from towering spires to mock ruins, and offer a glimpse into the eccentric tastes and architectural fancies of their time.

History of Follies

The origins of follies can be traced back to the Renaissance period, when wealthy landowners adorned their estates with elaborate gardens and ornamental structures. In the 18th century, the fashion for follies flourished, particularly in England, as part of the Picturesque movement that sought to create idealized landscapes.

During the Victorian era, follies reached their peak of popularity. The Industrial Revolution brought about new wealth and leisure time, and landowners indulged in the construction of elaborate and imaginative follies as a way to express their individuality and indulge their passions.

Follies of Surrey

Surrey is home to a remarkable collection of follies, many of which have been lovingly preserved and restored. These structures offer a fascinating insight into the county's history, architecture, and the unique characters who commissioned them.

The Obelisk, Chertsey

Standing proudly in the grounds of Chertsey Abbey, the Obelisk is a towering sandstone monument that was erected in 1765 to commemorate the victory of Admiral Lord Hawke over the French at the Battle of Quiberon Bay.



Chobham Tower, Chobham

Perched atop Chobham Common, Chobham Tower is a folly in the form of a medieval castle keep. Built in 1825 by the eccentric Colonel John Burgoyne, the tower offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.



Chobham Tower, Chobham

The Temple, Claremont Park, Esher

Concealed within the tranquil grounds of Claremont Park, the Temple is a stunning classical folly that was built in 1750 as a summerhouse for the

Prince of Wales. Inspired by the Temple of Vesta in Rome, it features an elegant colonnade and a shallow dome.



The Hermitage, Frensham Great Pond

Nestled on the banks of Frensham Great Pond, the Hermitage is a charming cottage folly that was built in the 18th century as a retreat for the Bishop of Winchester.



The Hermitage, Frensham Great Pond

The Mausoleum, Painshill Park, Cobham

Painshill Park is home to a magnificent folly known as the Mausoleum. This elaborate pyramid was built in 1774 as a memorial to the park's creator, Charles Hamilton. The interior features a vaulted ceiling and a marble sarcophagus.



Visiting the Follies of Surrey

Many of the follies of Surrey are open to the public, offering visitors the opportunity to explore their unique architecture and delve into their fascinating histories.

Chertsey Abbey, Chobham Tower, and Claremont Park are all accessible during regular park hours. The Hermitage is accessible by boat from Frensham Great Pond, and Painshill Park offers guided tours of the Mausoleum.

Visiting the follies of Surrey is a captivating way to discover the county's architectural heritage and indulge in the whimsical imagination of its past inhabitants. These curious and enchanting structures are a testament to

the enduring power of creativity and the enduring fascination with the follies of the past.

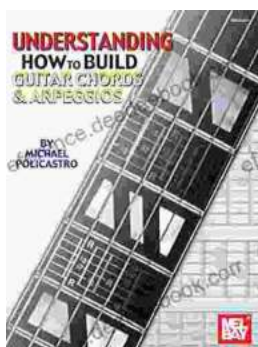


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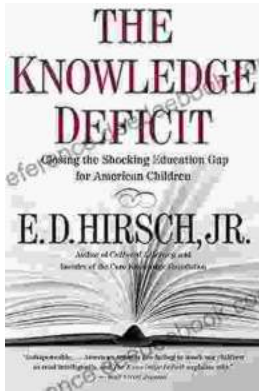
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