

Follies of Nottinghamshire: Unveiling the Eccentricities of English Architecture



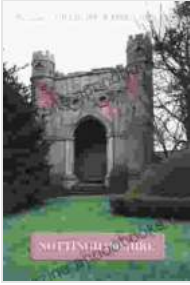
Follies of Nottinghamshire (Follies of England Book 28)

by Notes on Cities

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Wollaton Hall, a magnificent folly perched on a hilltop overlooking the city of Nottingham

Nestled amidst the rolling hills and verdant landscapes of Nottinghamshire, England, lies a captivating array of architectural wonders known as follies. These eccentric and often whimsical structures, built primarily for ornamental purposes, stand as testaments to the imagination, eccentricity, and architectural experimentation of past eras.

In this article, we embark on a journey through the enchanting world of Nottinghamshire's follies, delving into their fascinating stories, architectural intricacies, and the enigmatic characters who brought them to life.

The Enchanting Folly of Newstead Abbey

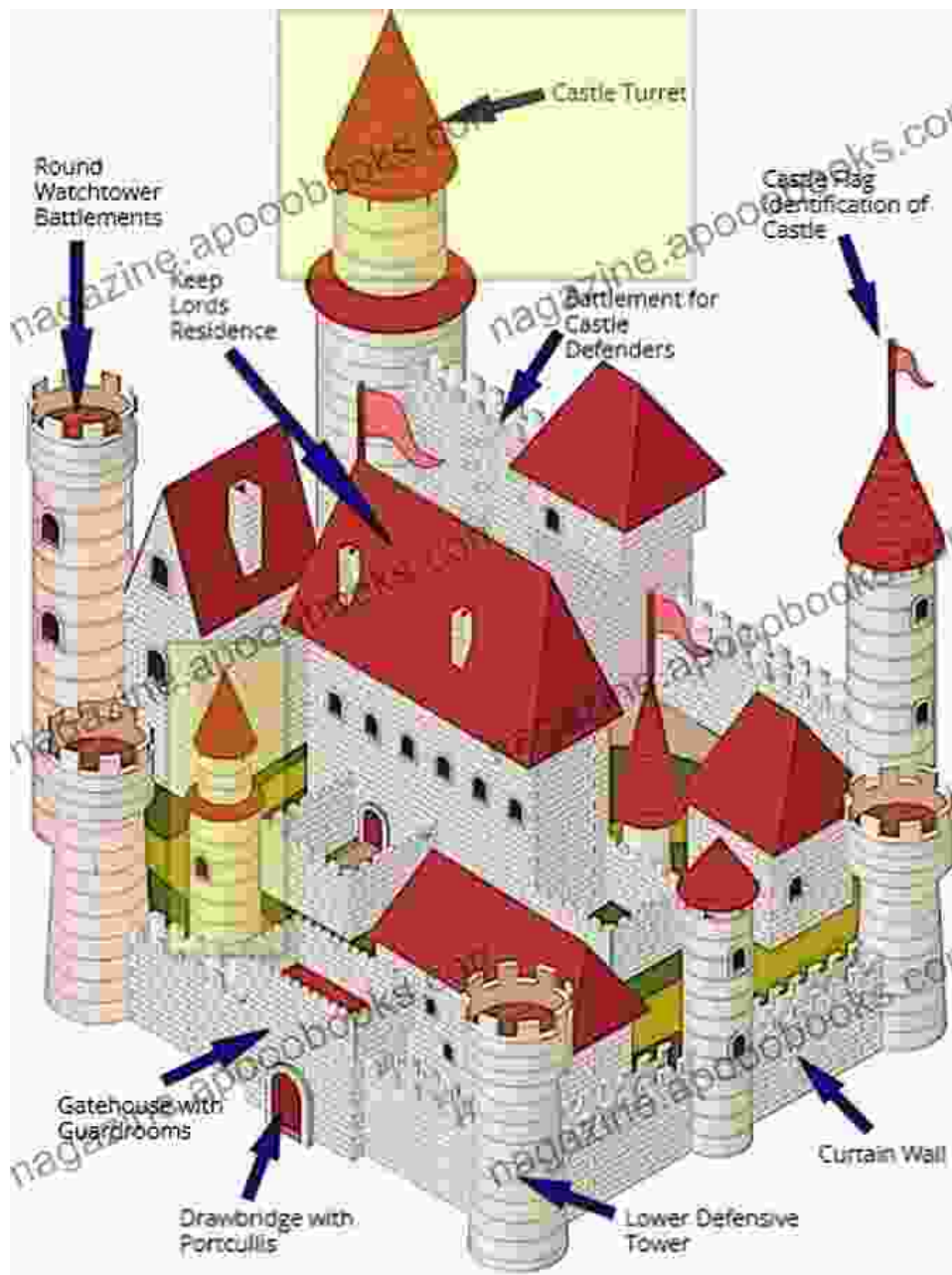


Newstead Abbey, a captivating folly with a rich literary heritage, associated with the legendary poet Lord Byron

Among the most renowned follies of Nottinghamshire is the enchanting Newstead Abbey. Originally a medieval monastery, this architectural marvel was transformed into a Gothic-style folly in the 18th century by the eccentric Lord Byron, who inherited the estate at the tender age of 10.

Lord Byron's fondness for romance and mystery is evident throughout Newstead Abbey. The folly features a labyrinth of ivy-covered corridors, secret passages, and crumbling towers, creating an atmosphere that is both alluring and enigmatic. It is said that Lord Byron's ghost still haunts the halls of Newstead Abbey, adding to its captivating mystique.

The Majestic Folly of Rufford Abbey



Rufford Abbey, a magnificent folly built in the 19th century, showcasing a blend of Gothic and Tudor architectural styles

Another architectural marvel of Nottinghamshire is the majestic Rufford Abbey. Built in the 19th century, this folly was designed to resemble a medieval castle, complete with grand turrets, crenelated walls, and a moat. The brainchild of the eccentric Duke of Newcastle, Rufford Abbey is a

testament to his passion for Gothic architecture and his desire to create a grand centerpiece for his vast estate.

The folly's opulent interior features a lavishly decorated chapel, a grand library, and a Great Hall adorned with intricate stained-glass windows. Rufford Abbey stands as a testament to the architectural prowess of its time and the Duke of Newcastle's boundless imagination.

The Intricate Folly of Southwell Minster



Southwell Minster, a stunning folly designed to resemble a cathedral, featuring elaborate Norman and Gothic architectural details

The enchanting village of Southwell is home to one of the most exquisite follies in Nottinghamshire: Southwell Minster. Built in the 12th century, this folly was originally intended to be a grand cathedral but was never completed due to a lack of funds. Despite its unfinished state, Southwell Minster is an architectural masterpiece, showcasing a harmonious blend of Norman and Gothic styles.

The folly's interior is a work of art in itself, featuring intricate carvings, magnificent stained-glass windows, and a soaring spire that dominates the surrounding landscape. Southwell Minster stands as a testament to the architectural ambition of its builders and a reminder of the enduring beauty of medieval craftsmanship.

The Grand Folly of Wollaton Hall



Wollaton Hall, a grandiose folly inspired by Italian Renaissance architecture, showcasing opulence and architectural splendor

Perched atop a hill overlooking the city of Nottingham, Wollaton Hall is a magnificent folly that exudes grandeur and architectural splendor. Built in the 16th century, this folly was designed to resemble an Italian Renaissance palace, complete with symmetrical facades, elaborate turrets, and sprawling gardens.

The brainchild of Sir Francis Willoughby, Wollaton Hall is a testament to his wealth and status. The folly's interior is as opulent as its exterior, featuring a Great Hall adorned with intricate plasterwork, a grand staircase, and a vast collection of Renaissance paintings and sculptures. Wollaton Hall stands as a symbol of the architectural aspirations of the Elizabethan era and a reminder of the opulence enjoyed by the wealthy during that time.

The Enigmatic Folly of Hardwick Hall



Hardwick Hall, a captivating folly known for its enigmatic architecture and association with the formidable Bess of Hardwick

Nestled amidst the rolling countryside of Derbyshire, Hardwick Hall is an enigmatic folly that stands as a testament to the architectural vision of Bess of Hardwick, one of the most remarkable women of the Elizabethan era. Built in the 16th century, this folly is renowned for its unique architectural style, characterized by tall, narrow windows, intricate stonework, and a symmetrical facade.

Bess of Hardwick was known for her intelligence, ambition, and unwavering determination. She oversaw the construction of Hardwick Hall, ensuring that every detail reflected her impeccable taste and love of architecture.

The folly's interior is equally captivating, featuring grand chambers, lavishly decorated ceilings, and a collection of fine furniture and tapestries. Hardwick Hall stands as a tribute to the ingenuity and spirit of Bess of Hardwick, a woman who defied societal norms and left an enduring legacy on English architecture.

Sherwood Forest: A Realm of Legendary Follies



Sherwood Forest, a magical realm of ancient trees and hidden follies, evoking the spirit of Robin Hood and medieval lore

The legendary Sherwood Forest, renowned for its association with the legendary outlaw Robin Hood, is home to a captivating collection of follies and architectural curiosities. Scattered throughout the forest are follies that range from whimsical to grand, each with its own unique story to tell.

One such folly is the Major Oak, an ancient tree that is said to have been Robin Hood's hideout. This majestic tree is a popular attraction for visitors to Sherwood Forest, who come to marvel at its size and bask in the atmosphere of legend and folklore that surrounds it.

Another notable folly in Sherwood Forest is the Edwinstowe Folly, a picturesque tower built in the 18th century. This folly offers panoramic views of the forest and is a popular spot for picnics and walks. The folly's elegant design and idyllic setting make it a perfect spot to escape the hustle and bustle of modern life and immerse oneself in the tranquility of the forest.

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