Sir Guy Mackenzie in Cornwall is an ardent Folly Fan! Guy contacted us recently, and has kindly allowed us to reprint the invoice above - and the text below:

"Many years ago I had involvement with Faringdon Folly Tower which might be of interest.
Between 1960-3 I was educated at Stowe and left with an interest in music and Follies/unusual buildings but little else.
In late 1971, A friend who lived in Gloucestershire told me of a folly tower for sale near where he lived. I immediately went to view it but, sadly, it was sold by the time I arrived and due to be demolished and replaced by a telecommunications mast!
Somewhat downcast, on my way back to London, I was driving through Faringdon and noticed a a huge tower on the hill just outside the town. Of course i had to have a closer look and what i saw was a forlorn looking building with its lower windows and doorway bricked up. With a nothing ventured, nothing gained attitude, I asked around and located the owner Robert Heber-Percy.
I then contacted him about the possibility of purchasing it although, goodness knows how I might have raised the money to buy it.
He invited me to lunch and organised his estate workers to take me up it via a long ladder to an upper window.
Following this, and after some thought, Robert told me he wouldn't sell it as it had been built for him as a 21st birthday present. However he was prepared to lease it to me on a 21 year repairing lease at £50 pa.
Consequently I contacted a friend of a friend who was a chartered surveyor who agreed to survey it for me at a cost of £2 per hour! His advice was, effectively, "don't touch it with a barge pole" as it need total repointing. Nevertheless he did submit a planning application to Faringdon Rural District Council for change of use to residential.
However this was refused in May 1972 and effectively my interest in acquiring the building ended there.
But I still have the surveyors invoice which is dated 24th May 1972 & totals just £22--including the submission of the Planning Application!
With hindsight, I do think we were somewhat optimistic in our application as we might well have been better to apply for holiday use or not to even bother at all just and use it occasionally under the 28 day rule.
I just want to add that I really enjoy reading your Folly Flannery and hope to visit the Folly again soon. In fact my wife has suggested hiring it for my 80th birthday in 2026!
With my best wishes and congratulations for all you've achieved in saving the building,
Guy
(Sir J.W.G.Mackenzie Bt.)
P.S. I do now have my own folly--a (very) small folly tower in a remote corner of my land which so far has not troubled the local planning department! "

M. TOOGOOD, ARICS
CHARTERED SURVEYOR PROPERTY CONSULTANT

67 Bromfelde Road London SW4 Telephone 01-720 3042

Your Ref.

My Ref. MT/AVW

J.W.G. Mckenzie Esq.,
43a, Ashburnham Mansions,
Ashburnham Road,
London S.W.10.

24th May 1972

The Folly, Faringdon, Berkshire.

To Visiting site with you, gaining Access and making survey of the Premises and generally discussing suitability for conversion and meeting and discussing with the Planning Authority at Reading on January 25th 1972.

Subsequently making outline application to Faringdon Rural District Council for change of use to Residential and further advising you on Refusal of Permission.

Photocopies, Plans, other disbursments included.

Fee as agreed (11hrs @ £2) £22. 00.

With Compliments