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things to do

far from the madding beaches



Gerald Hugh Tyrwhitt-Wilson, 14th Baron Berners 1883 - 1950

Called the 'last great eccentric' he was a composer, painter, and novelist, who dyed his flock of doves different colours. He often put up silly signs such as 'Please do not feed the giraffes'.

He wrote his own epitaph

Here lies Lord Berners
One of the learners
His great love of learning
May earn him a burning
But praise to the lord
He seldom was bored

Lord Berners' ashes are buried in the lawn near Faringdon House.

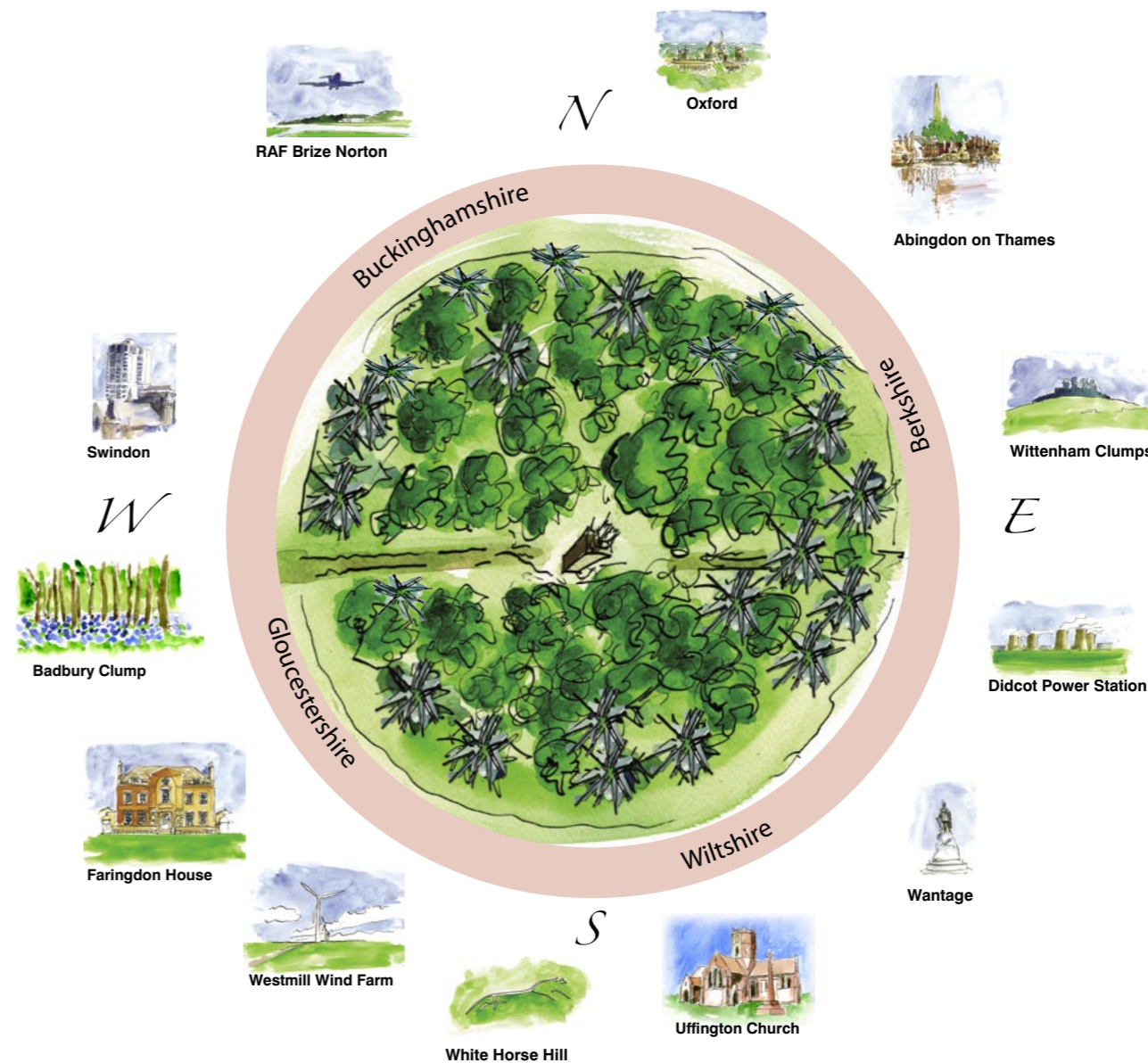
A quote by Lord Berners

'There is a good deal to be said for frivolity. Frivolous people, when all is said and done, do less harm in the world than some of our philanthropisers and reformers. Mistrust a man who never has an occasional flash of silliness.'

During the 1930s and 1940s Faringdon House was known to host some of the best weekend parties in the South of England. Lord Berners visitors included: Stravinsky, Salvador Dali, George Bernard Shaw, John Betjeman, Nancy Astor and the Mitford sisters.

Lord Berners, built the Folly Tower for his friend Robert Heber-Percy. It was opened on 5th November 1935.

In 1982 Robert Heber-Percy gave the tower and woodland to the people of Faringdon. Faringdon Folly Trust have opened it to the public since 1985.
www.faringdonfolly.org.uk



The Folly Tower, standing on Folly Hill, is a wonderful viewpoint and a landmark that can be seen for miles around.

The 104ft high tower was built in 1935 by Lord Berners, the then owner of Faringdon House, for his young friend Robert Heber Percy.

Directions

Folly Path:
Postcode: SN7
7AQ
house number 1
WGS84 : N51 39'
27" W001 34' 41"
OSGB36 : SU
29285 95497

**From Oxford
direction**

Take A420 towards Faringdon. About 2 miles after Littleworth, Take right off A420, signed Faringdon. Market Square, Folly Hill. Soon after Sudbury House Hotel, take a turning left. You will see a high pavement on the left. The footpath to the Folly is off this by the railings. You can park further up this road(it is dead end) or in a car park in the town
From Swindon direction