

About this script

Please note that this is not a word for word transcript of the programme as broadcast. In the recording and editing process, changes may have been made which may not be reflected here.

关于台词的备注:

请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

English Eccentrics: The Final Folly 没用的建筑

William: What colour are pigeons?

Helen: What liquid do horses drink?

William: What is the point of building a tower?

Helen: 如果你觉得你知道所有的答案，那么就错了！这个星期我们将听到有关 Faringdon House 的介绍，这是一个令人迷惑的地方。

William: Yes – Faringdon House was the grand country home of Lord Berners, an aristocrat.

Helen: An aristocrat – 一个贵族。

William: Berners was a talented composer, painter and writer but nowadays he is best remembered for being.... A great eccentric!

It was 1918 when Gerald Tyrwhitt's uncle died and he became Lord Berners.

Helen: 他对历史一点都不感兴趣。所以他把家里的庄园都给卖了，还把老一辈的肖像上都画上了胡子。

William: In 1931 he moved into Faringdon House. We're going to hear this strange house being described by the TV presenter John Craven. He visited the property for the BBC programme Countryfile.

Helen: 好了我们有机会锻炼一下我们的听力。在第一段采访中，我们将听到 Lord Berners' bowler hat 硬礼帽。这顶帽子可神奇了，自己能走路。这是怎么回事儿呢？

Insert

Lord Berners trained his pet parrot to walk inside his bowler hat so that guests thought the hat was moving of its own accord.

William: Did you hear? Berners trained his parrot to walk inside his hat.

Helen: 现在让我们听听下一段采访。你能听出来在 Faringdon House 里的鸽子 pigeons 是什么颜色吗？

Insert

And he dyed his fantail pigeons the colours of the rainbow, a tradition which still goes on today – and don't worry, it's a harmless vegetable dye that they use; the birds get dipped in it once a year.

William: The pigeons at Faringdon House are dyed the colours of the rainbow.

Helen: 不得了，鸽子都给染成彩虹的颜色了，真是五彩缤纷。

William: Apparently Lord Berners thought about painting his cows purple!

Helen: Wow. I think that would have been going too far!

William: Well, wait till you hear this!

Insert

And Lord Berners even used to invite his horse, Motty, to tea in the house.

Helen: 什么！他把马请进了他的房子来陪他喝茶！真有意思。

So William, was Lord Berners actually insane?

William: Well no, he used to do these things to amuse himself and his society guests. The 1930s and 1940s were difficult times with the financial depression and then the war, so it was a way for him to cheer himself up.

Helen: So he just enjoyed being wacky... 古怪的。

William: Yeah. But what was the most dramatic example of his wackiness?

Insert

And this is probably the most dramatic example of his wackiness: Faringdon Folly.

Helen: Faringdon Folly. Folly 的意思是愚蠢，傻事，但是在这里 a folly 指一幢造价高而毫无实用价值的房子，仅仅是给人看的。

William: There are many follies in England. Faringdon Folly was the very last one to be built. Lord Berners said of it: "The great point of the tower is that it will be entirely useless."

Helen: Let's listen now to John Craven talking to Eddie Williams from the Faringdon Folly Tower Trust. How many steps are there in the tower?

Insert

John Craven: So how high is it then?

Eddie Williams: The building's 104 feet high and 153 steps to the top.

John Craven: And why on earth did he build this if it's going to be no use at all?

Eddie Williams: Well it of course is of no use, but he'd owned this land, which was called Folly Hill, way back for hundreds of years and he was overheard to say "Wouldn't it be nice to build a tower here?"

John Craven: Some people I know would say: "You've got more money than sense."

Eddie Williams: Of course!

Helen: Did you hear it? 这座塔有 153 级台阶。

William: You may have also heard a useful English phrase then...

Insert

John Craven: Some people I know would say: "You've got more money than sense."

Helen: To have more money than sense. 这个短语的意思是指那些有钱的人，他们有钱没处花，专做那些烧钱没用的项目。

William: Let's listen to our final clip. Lord Berners died in 1950, but if he was alive today he would be very upset – he would be devastated. But why is that?

Insert

Eddie Williams: It is a building designed for no purpose at all, but actually the townsfolk use it more and more these days: we've had engagements here and parties; we have a folly newspaper, we have a folly park.

John Craven: So if he was alive today, his Lordship would be devastated because his folly is being put to useful purpose!

Eddie Williams: Put to useful purpose!

Helen: 是啊，Lord Berners 要被气死了，他本来是要修一幢毫无用处的建筑，但现在大家都在频繁的使用这座塔 put to a useful purpose, 这座塔的实用价值相当高。

William: Just time for a recap before we finish.

Helen: 哪个词有古怪的意思？

William: Wacky.

Helen: 一幢高价建造但毫无用处的建筑叫什么？

William: A folly.

Helen: 最后，我们可以怎样形容那些超级有钱的人，他们乱糟蹋钱。

William: To have more money than sense.

Helen: See you next week for another English Eccentric.

William: Bye!

Helen: Bye.