

St Anne's Park Follies



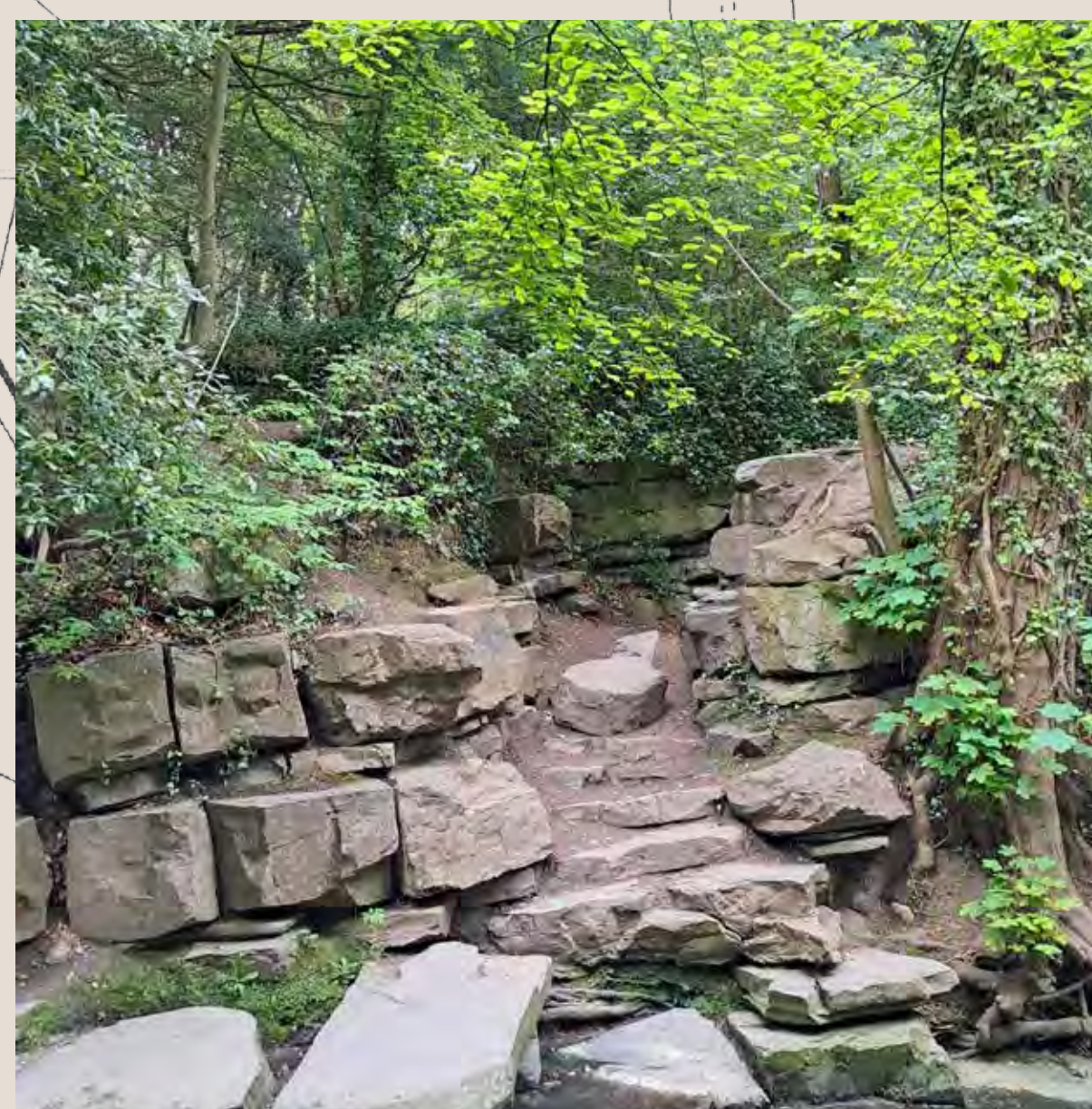
Herculanean House or Temple

This folly, inspired by houses and temples of the Classical world, merges many forms of Neoclassical architecture. In 2018, conservation works revealed a tiled floor with 348 tiles from the historic Giustiniani ceramic manufacturer in Naples.



Bridge and Hermitage

Two ornamental bridges span the gorge of the Naniken River. The most elaborate is a gothic-style calp stone footbridge, which dates to c. 1865. Composed of Dublin calp limestone, it forms a single pointed arch over the river with two smaller pointed arched openings, one leading to a vaulted walkway off which a hermit's cell is located.



Rockeries

Rockeries became fashionable throughout the nineteenth century with the introduction of artificial rocks known as Pulhamite. A series of grottoes, caves and garden ornamentation constructed with Pulhamite were built along the Naniken River.



Ornamental Bridge and Grotto

Located further downstream a second ornamental bridge leads to a grotto. The bridge is decorated with stalactite rustication with carved limestone spandrels either side. The grotto is a domed structure of calp limestone with a rusticated stone front.



Roman Tower

The Roman Tower originally formed part of St Anne's house and probably functioned as a belvedere or viewing tower to enjoy views over Dublin Bay. It is depicted on the house on a sketch by architect Henry Hill dated to 1837 but was relocated to its present position in the 1870s.



St Anne's Well

The ancient holy well, for which the house was named, is historically associated with St Anne. The well is depicted on the 1843 Ordnance Survey map. Today it is defined by a rustic arch erected c. 1865. It is similar to the design and materials of the grotto and ornamental bridge along the Naniken River.

Walled Garden and Clock Tower

In 1850 Benjamin Lee Guinness developed the walled garden and four-storey clock tower. This served as a vegetable garden and included a range of glasshouses and outbuildings. The brick clock tower houses a large bell on which Benjamin Lee Guinness's name and family motto, *Spes Mea in Deo* (My Hope is in God) is inscribed.



Yew Circle

The yew circle, accessed from the walled garden, was defined by a central basin and sculptural fountain, surrounded by a circular yew hedge which originally had arched openings housing marble statues. Dublin City Council Parks Department has undertaken conservation works to the fountain and yew hedge in recent years.



The Rustic Arched Grotto

Experiencing the gardens at St Anne's started from the conservatory at the rear of the house, with a linear walk that led to this rustic grotto. The grotto is set within an artificial embankment and comprises three rustic arches faced with rubble conglomerate stone. It dates to c. 1855-1860.



Tower Bridge

The Tower Bridge was the earliest folly, built in 1839 to commemorate the birth of Anne Lee Guinness. The gothic structure is defined by a castellated tower leading to a narrow footbridge above the former carriage road which ran between the house and the coast road.



Pompeiiian Temple

The Pompeiiian Temple was also designed in a Neoclassical style inspired by ancient temples. It overlooks an artificial pond fed by the Naniken River and originally functioned as a tea house.



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