

ISLINGTON U3A VISIT to BLETCHLEY PARK, near MILTON KEYNES, BUCKS. on TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

Bletchley Park, once the top secret Headquarters and workplace of the World War Two Codebreakers is now a fascinating heritage attraction. We will take a step back in time to learn the stories and experience the extraordinary achievements of the men and women who worked there.

Highlights of the visit include:

- the original Mansion, in which we can see the Library and Commander Dennison's Office as well as a complete archive of information about all the people who worked at the Centre;
- the restored codebreaking huts and Alan Turing's Office with their ambience faithfully recreated;
- exhibitions and galleries displaying original objects and memorabilia, including codebreaking machines and early computers, photos and films;
- hands-on activities and interactive displays;
- a gift shop selling a wide range of gifts and books exclusive to Bletchley Park.

Travel to the Park

We will meet behind the Information Kiosk on the concourse at Euston Station by 9:30 to take the 9:49 train, arriving at Bletchley at 10:23. There is a 5-6 minute walk from Bletchley station to the Park.

As there have recently been some alterations to train times, there may be more to come. We will keep you informed of any changes to these arrangements.

For those wishing to drive, there is a free car park with a limited number of spaces.

Travel Costs

Members will be responsible for purchasing their own train ticket. The return train fare Euston to Bletchley is currently £16.80 full price and £10.50 with Senior Railcard. There is an additional discount for passengers using the Freedom Pass or similar card from the end of Zone 6. There are also group cards for two or three travelling together which can be purchased from a ticket office. People who wish to use these tickets can organise them between themselves.

As we will meet at 9:30, the critical time for qualifying for senior rates, we suggest that members purchase their tickets a day or two in advance.

Admission Cost

- The group entrance fee is £14.50 per person.
- Holders of an Art Fund Card can enter the park as individuals at the slightly lower rate of £9.25 and join the group inside.

Tickets are issued as Annual Season Tickets, valid for readmission for 12 months from the purchase date.

Leaving the Park

The Park closes at 5p.m. Members who wish to travel back to London as a group should meet by the exit at 4:45 to walk back to the station.

Members are, of course, free to leave the Park earlier, but they should please inform one of the Group Leaders if they plan to do so.

Trains back to Euston depart every 20-30 minutes. Details of times will be made available on the day.

Our Visit

On arrival group leaders will walk with members around the grounds, visiting the House and other buildings at a leisurely pace, allowing them time to appreciate the many interesting exhibits and activities available. Of course, those members who prefer to guide themselves around the Park at their own pace and according to their personal interests will be free to do so.

There is step free access to all buildings and around the park. Wheelchairs are available to borrow on a first come first served basis. There are sound enhancement systems for users and non-users of hearing aids.

The following are also available, free of charge:

- A plan of the site giving key information.
- A multimedia guide.
- An official guided tour of the grounds lasting approximately 1 hour. (This is offered regularly throughout the day and can be booked near the entrance.)

It is also possible for group members to obtain an illustrated guide to the park at the reduced rate of £4.50 if they order in advance. The full price of the guide when purchased on site is £6.00.

There is a lot to see and do, so we recommend that you allow at least 3 hours for viewing the exhibits and wear comfortable shoes and clothing for walking and standing indoors and out. Rainwear/umbrellas may also be needed, depending on the weather forecast for the day.

Group leaders will suggest a suitable time and place for members to meet to take a lunch break. There is a variety of food options available onsite, including a café serving sandwiches, salads and a limited number of hot dishes, coffee shops, a seasonal snack kiosk and a tea room in the Mansion. If you wish to bring a packed lunch, there are also numerous picnic tables distributed around the grounds.

Important Notes

We anticipate a group of 20-30. All participants must be members of Islington U3A.

Bookings are recorded on a first come first served basis. Please book before 15 August, 2018.