

**VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK and THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF COMPUTING**  
**Near Milton Keynes, Bucks**

**Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

*“Make sure they have all they want extreme priority and report to me that this has been done”  
(Winston Churchill)*

In our current age of ‘data hacking’ a visit to Bletchley Park seems very timely! You may know Bletchley Park as “the Home of the Codebreakers” or Winston Churchill’s WW2 Intelligence HQ where around 10,000 people worked in total secrecy to crack Enigma and other seemingly impossible enemy codes. Our visit gives us the opportunity to explore various aspects of the top-secret work carried out here, from inside the austere Codebreaking huts to the Victorian mansion, with their WW2 ambience faithfully recreated. This is an invitation to step back in time to experience the extraordinary stories and achievements of the men and women who worked here – including names such as Alan Turing, Bill Tutte and Gordon Welchman - and whose efforts were vital to the Allied victory in WW2.

The Visitor Centre, exhibitions and excellent interactive multimedia guides allow everyone to enjoy the beautiful grounds, historic buildings, galleries and exhibitions at their own pace. We have also timed our visit to coincide with the opening next month of the exciting brand new exhibition located in the newly-restored Teleprinter Building: “*D-Day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion*” which marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings and which reveals Bletchley Park’s own secret role in co-ordination of the project.

The codebreaking process was enabled by machines such as the Turing/Welchman Bombe and the world’s first semi-programmable electronic computer, Colossus, designed by the General Post Office engineer, Tommy Flowers. Our afternoon private guided tour of The National Museum of Computing allows us to see the entire WW2 code-breaking process of the Lorenz encrypted (Tunny) messages between Hitler and his generals from signal intercept at the Knockholt receiving station in Kent to the production of the final decrypts on Tunny machines in Bletchley Park. We’ll watch working reconstructions of machines on display together with a look at the WITCH computer, the world’s oldest original working digital computer and many more which help to explain the development of our digital world today!

This day visit is extensive, brain-fuddling but brilliant! It is a fairly early start – but there is so much to see it is well worthwhile! Buildings and Huts at Bletchley Park are scattered around the estate and as there is a fair amount of indoor and outdoor walking we have suggested everyone enjoys the morning at their own pace. (Bletchley Park is a very accessible site for walking but manual wheelchairs can be booked in advance if required.) The National Museum of Computing is about a couple of hundred yards from the Visitor Centre.

**Additional Invitation – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May!**

To give us a flavour of what we will discover at Bletchley Park and The National Museum of Computing we are arranging a short introduction followed by a free viewing of the 2014 film “*The Imitation Game*” the night before our visit on **Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May**. This Oscar-winning film, starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley and Matthew Goode, tells how the English mathematical genius Alan Turing tries to crack the German Enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians. Come along to the Church Rooms in Stow for a 6.30 pm start and bring your own wine and refreshments to enjoy during the 114 minute screening.

**Itinerary for Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**09.15 a.m.** Depart Stow Square  
**10.45 a.m.** Arrive Bletchley Park

**Free morning to enjoy all the exhibitions, Victorian Mansion, Huts and buildings around the estate each with comprehensive and interactive multimedia guides together with entrance to the new “D-Day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion” exhibition**

**Free time for lunch\***

**2.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.** Private guided tour of The National Museum of Computing  
**4.00 p.m.** Depart Bletchley Park estate.  
**5.30 p.m. approx** Arrive Stow Square.

**Cost = £44 per person (includes Pulhams coach travel, entry fee to Bletchley Park\*\* and entry and fully guided private tour of The National Museum of Computing together with all gratuities. Lunch and refreshments not included. This also includes free invitation to a viewing of “The Imitation Game” on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> May.)**

\* Choices for lunch include:-

- the Coffee Shop in the Visitor Centre (hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, light snacks)
- Hut 4 Café (a range of hot and cold meals and drinks)
- Bring your own food and use the picnic benches around the site.

\*\* Entry ticket to Bletchley Park includes an annual season ticket giving you unlimited free returns for 12 months.

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**BOOKING FORM**

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**Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

**£44 per person**

To: Rachel Surman, “Zephyrs”, Fosse Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1EH  
Tel: 01451 833783

I/we enclose a cheque made payable to “Stow & District Civic Society” for £ .....

Full Name (s) .....

Tel: ..... Email: .....

Please delete below as appropriate:-

Yes, I would like to attend the viewing of “The Imitation Game” on 30<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 p.m.

No, I shall not attend the viewing of “The Imitation Game” on 30<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 p.m.