

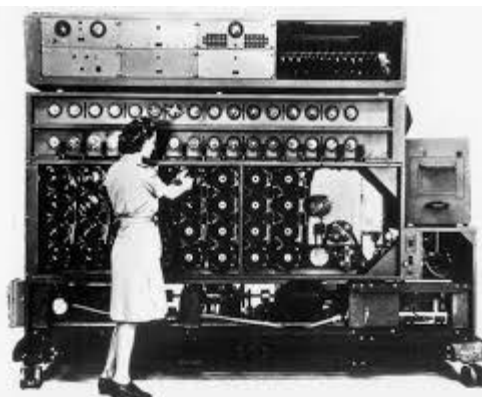
# Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

## BLETCHLEY PARK – Home of WWII Codebreakers on Thursday 25 October 2018

This visit has been organised by Ken Poulter.



Bletchley Park Mansion



Original Bombe machine



An Enigma machine

### Description

**Bletchley Park** was the central site for British (and subsequently, Allied) codebreakers during World War II. It housed the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), which regularly penetrated the secret communications of the Axis Powers – most importantly the German Enigma and Lorenz ciphers. According to the official historian of British Intelligence, the "Ultra" intelligence produced at Bletchley shortened the war by two to four years, and without it the outcome of the war would have been uncertain.

Today Bletchley Park is maintained as a heritage attraction focusing on the people, processes and equipment used at Bletchley Park to decipher Axis coded communications.

The displays vary from time to time but we should be able to visit the huts which housed the code breakers, a reconstructed code breaking machines (the Bombe machine), examples of the Enigma and Lorenz machines and displays on the work of Alan Turing, Gordon Welchman, and many others.

Further details about Bletchley Park can be found at [bletchleypark.org.uk](http://bletchleypark.org.uk)

Note – This visit will not include the National Museum of Computing to which a separate visit is planned.

### Where and when to meet

We will assemble close to the ticket desk inside the visitors centre at 11.15 am. In the visitors centre there is a cafe where early arrivals can buy tea or coffee and toilets are available.

### Getting there - by car

The full postal address of Bletchley Park is Bletchley Park, The Mansion, Bletchley Park, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6EB. Car parking is available on site.

**Bletchley Park advise that when using a Sat-Nav that you enter Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, MK3 6DS, as the postal address may take you to the wrong location.**

### Getting there -by train

Bletchley Station is only about short 5 minutes walk from Bletchley Park and is well signposted by the usual brown heritage signs. Trains for Bletchley leave from London Euston about twice an hour and the journey takes about 40 mins – suitable trains leave Euston at 9.54 and 10.13. There is also a direct cross London train run by Southern and the start of the visit is timed to allow members to catch the 9.39 from Clapham Junction which

arrives at Bletchley at 10.57. (**Times of trains are based on the published May 2018 timetable; please check nearer to the date of the visit for any timetable changes.**)

### **Lunch**

Lunch can be purchased on site in “Hut 4”. Hot or cold meals are available.

**Provisional Timetable** ( I will provide a more detailed timetable to those attending nearer the time.)

10.30 to 11.15 assemble in the visitors centre cafe.

11.30 Join a conducted tour of the site and hear the story of the work there.

12.30 Lunch at Hut 4, Bletchley Park.

13.30 to 15.00 You are free to visit the exhibitions in the various huts and building as you wish

15.00 Optional - Meet up in Hut 4 for refreshments before the journey home.

**Size of party:** The minimum size for the visit is 12 and the maximum is 20. Bletchley Park require confirmation of the numbers in a group visit 14 days prior to a visit so the **deadline for booking for this visit is Friday 5 October.**

**Cost:** The cost of the visit is £14.50

**Contacts:** Before the day please contact Ken Poulter at [kennethf.poulter@btopenworld.com](mailto:kennethf.poulter@btopenworld.com) or Tony Colclough at [tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk) .

**Late arrivals:** Please contact Ken Poulter on 07778 933 663 who will advise you on how to catch up with the group.