

Y & C Club Tour 2026 (Revised)

Commencing the second week of June **Monday 8th to Friday 12 June 2026**

A proposed Club tour visiting places of interest through the beautiful countryside, quaint villages and towns of Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire.

Accommodation

Our proposed hotel is a Premier Inn located around 3 miles east of Bedford. It has recently been completely renovated. It comes with double, twin or family rooms, each with tea and coffee making facilities, shower, hair dryer and desk. At an extra cost there are upgraded rooms with air conditioning and extra facilities. Car parking is free.



Adjacent to the hotel is a Beefeater pub serving breakfasts, lunches and evening meals. The hotel has lovely surroundings with the River Great Ouse running along the rear, Priory Marina to the west, Priory Lake to the south, and a country park to the east. A duck feeding area, a wildlife garden, totem pole and sailing club are nearby. For the energetic there are plenty of scenic walks to enjoy.



Days Out

Bletchley Park Once the home of top-secret WW 2 Codebreakers, located about 22 miles from the hotel. The museum and faithfully recreated WW 2 rooms take you on a journey through the top-secret operations which took place here. Learn about the brilliant minds and complex machines which made the vital work possible. Take a tour through the various huts where the activities took place including the hut



that houses the Alan Turing – Welchman “Bombe” machines. Plenty of interactive displays and films etc to view. Discover how Bletchley relied heavily on female staff. There are beautiful gardens and motor transport to explore. Also learn all about AI. Concessions are £25.50 or Adults £28. An hour-long guided tour available free of charge, bookable at the information desk upon arrival

Originally a Tudor house and the work of Ralph Montagu in 1683 then expanded to the “English Versailles”. There are extensive gardens and grounds. This will be a private visit for the Club, providing there are sufficient numbers wishing to attend. Minimum charge will be £250 as a whole (subject to change) including a tour of the Great Hall, 45 minutes long, and possibly a tour of the State Rooms. (stairs involved), 30 minutes long.

Shuttlesworth Collection & Garden Approx 12 miles. I appreciate this venue was included in a previous Club Tour; however, a couple of members have expressed they would like to revisit. This time it may be interesting to have a Guided Tour. They do two tours, one for the Collection, around 2 hours long, or for those who would rather view the Swiss Garden a 1 hour guided tour. **The Collection** houses a treasure trove of aircraft from 1909 to 1950, classic cars, cycles,



buses, carriages etc. **Swiss Garden** is Grade 2 Listed in the “Swiss or Alpine” style, with a range of quirky structures, resident peacocks, Grotto & Fernery, Chapel and more. **The Estate** with over 500 acres, over 250 trees, lakes and reservoirs. **The House** is well worth a visit (if open). Cost as a group is £10 per car inc. passengers. Each Guided Tour £10 extra / person.



There are many other places of interest for those who would prefer a different option to those proposed.

Please contact Stephen Whitley via email whitleystephen3@gmail.com or 15 The Drive Rochford Essex SS4 1QD 07724603381 if you wish to attend or require further details. Please also list the venues you wish to attend. The sequence of visiting the above venues may change. The hotel to be booked individually *very early* in the New Year; I will forward details as soon as they are to hand. Please note the hotel gets booked up quickly.

**Priory Country Park, Barkers Lane, Bedford
MK41 9DJ**

Sat Nav Directions: **MK41 9DJ**

What 3 Words: **///volunteered.alive.cooks**

Directions:

From M1 J13 follow the A421, then join the A6. Leave the A6 following signs for the A428 Cambridge. After crossing the River Ouse, turn right at the next roundabout onto Barkers Lane. Follow signs for the Priory Country Park. Hotel is next to the Priory Marina Beefeater.

Hotel contact information

Phone: 0333 777 3687