



TRENT PARK - HOUSE OF SECRETS

How a stately home became a weapon of war

Wednesday 2 December - £20 (admission fee plus small donation to the Society)

Just opened to the public after a massive reconstruction, this house is a must-see for two reasons. This imposing stately home was refurbished by Sir Phillip Sassoon in the 1920s as a week-end retreat for fashionable and famous guests. Newly restored state rooms on the ground floor have been recreated with original furnishings and artworks returning to the house for the first time since the war. Secondly, in WWII this 'other Bletchley Park' was transformed into a covert interrogation centre, where captured senior German officers — including dozens of generals — were held in comfortable surroundings. Unknown to them, their conversations were secretly recorded using an extensive network of hidden microphones embedded throughout the house, from light fittings to garden benches.

In a concealed basement, teams of "Secret Listeners" — many of them German-speaking Jewish refugees — worked on transcribing conversations and extracting valuable information that would aid the Allied war effort. 'Stool Pigeons' posing as German Officers were also introduced to draw out revelations on topics of interest to MI9.

We will be able to explore reconstructed listening rooms and hidden workspaces, alongside displays that explain the bugging techniques and intelligence-gathering methods used within the house. Original transcripts of recorded conversations also form part of the exhibits, offering an insight into what the prisoners revealed when they thought no one was listening.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The nearest station to Trent Park is Oakwood. There is a small café on site offering cakes and lunch.

Meet at Blackheath to catch the 09.51 train to Charing Cross. From there we will take the Northern Line to Leicester Square, picking up the Piccadilly line to Oakwood and meeting up with the pre-arranged Shuttle Bus. This bus can also take us back, or there is a pleasant walk. Other train options are available for the return journey. Please note this visit is not recommended to anyone with walking difficulties or unable to cope with stairs.

If you require further information or are unable to come on the day, please contact Janice on 07910 342683



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Pay by post, at the Visits Desk with cash or cheque or by Bank Transfer to Blackheath Decorative & Fine Arts Society, Sort Code 30-90-89 Account No 00001141 at Lloyds Bank; If paying by Transfer, please return the completed form or send documentation of the transaction to janicembrooke@gmail.com.

Mailing address: *Janice Brooke 53 Wallace Court, 42 Tizzard Grove, London SE3 9EP*

Name(s) in full for security reasons:	No of places:	Amount Paid £
E mail address:	Your Phone number:	
Emergency Contact(s) with phone no:		
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